

IAM · AIM

VOICES

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VOL 1 NO 1

WHAT WAS

WOMEN BLAZING TRAILS
THELMA CHALIFOUX

WHAT'S NEXT

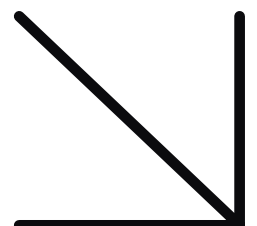
WOMEN LOOKING AHEAD
WOMEN IN A GREEN ECONOMY

WHAT IS

WOMEN LEADERS
MARY SHORTALL
MELISSA MARSMAN

WHAT'S NOW

WOMEN IN THE WORLD
CRIMINALIZING GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE



TAKE A LOOK

WELCOME!!



HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY! WHAT BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE THAN BY LAUNCHING THE IAM'S VERY FIRST NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO WOMEN'S ISSUES! VOICES HIGHLIGHTS STORIES AND INITIATIVES IN OUR LOCAL LODGES, AND FROM AROUND THE WORLD; VOICES IS ABOUT STORIES THAT INSPIRE US AND SHOW US THAT A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE- ONE OF EQUITY, JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY.

THIS ISSUE OF VOICES IS DEDICATED TO WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. YOU'LL FIND ARTICLES ABOUT SOME OF THE KEY FIGURES IN CANADIAN WOMEN'S HISTORY, WOMEN MAKING HISTORY AS WE SPEAK AND WHAT AWAITS US IN THE FUTURE. WE'VE ALSO INCLUDED A STORY ON EU'S LEGISLATION CRIMINALIZING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AND THE IMPACT OF THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY ON WOMEN.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, MANY THANKS GO TO ZITA HILDEBRANDT FROM LOCAL LODGE 2797 IN HALIFAX, NS FOR HER EFFORTS IN MAKING THIS IDEA A REALITY!

WHAT WAS

Thelma Chalifoux 1929-2017



THEMLA CHALIFOUX WAS BORN IN 1929 IN CALGARY, ALBERTA. IN THE LATE 1960S, SHE WENT TO THE EDMONTON OFFICE OF THE MÉTIS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA TO UPDATE HER MEMBERSHIP AND WAS OFFERED A JOB AS A FIELDWORKER. SHE SET UP THE ASSOCIATION'S WELFARE AND LAND DEPARTMENTS. WORK AND CO-FOUNDED THE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE IN SLAVE LAKE, ALBERTA. SHE RAN THE FIRST SHELTER FOR WOMEN FLEEING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. SHE SERVED IN THE COMPANY OF YOUNG CANADIANS, WORKING ON INDIGENOUS HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. SHE ALSO HOSTED A WEEKLY RADIO SHOW.

IN 1997, PRIME MINISTER JEAN CHRÉTIEN APPOINTED HER TO THE SENATE. AFTER SHE RETIRED FROM THE SENATE IN 2004, SHE FOUNDED THE MICHIF CULTURAL INSTITUTE (NOW THE MICHIF CULTURAL CONNECTIONS), A MUSEUM AND RESOURCE CENTRE DEDICATED TO PRESERVING AND PROMOTING MÉTIS CULTURE. SHE DIED IN SEPTEMBER 2017.

THELMA CHALIFOUX WAS THE FIRST INDIGENOUS WOMAN AND THE FIRST MÉTIS PERSON TO BE APPOINTED TO THE CANADIAN SENATE.

Source: rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca

WHAT IS Mary Shortall



MARY SHORTALL WAS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN 2023 AND IS A PASSIONATE PROGRESSIVE ACTIVIST WITH MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF WORKING PEOPLE, FIGHTING TO GET EQUALITY FOR WOMEN, AND CHAMPIONING BOLD ACTION TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT WE ALL RELY ON. NOW, SHE IS STANDING WITH JAGMEET SINGH AND THE NDP TEAM TO BUILD A FAIR, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR EVERYONE.

MARY IS DELIGHTED BY THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FIGHT FOR A MORE EQUAL FUTURE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL – TO BE PART OF A PROGRESSIVE TEAM WITH BOLD SOLUTIONS FOR A FAIRER, MORE HOPEFUL CANADA. SHE IS PROUD TO STAND WITH THE NDP TEAM AND TO BE WORKING WITH SO MANY OTHERS OF LIKE MIND TO “BE THE CHANGE” WE ALL WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD.

Source: ndp.ca

PEOPLE ARE SEEING THAT VOTING NDP ACTUALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND THAT THE NDP ARE THE PARTY THAT IS SPEAKING OUT, ESPECIALLY FOR ORDINARY FAMILIES.

Melissa Marsman




WHAT IS



MELISSA MARSMAN, MEMBER OF LOCAL LODGE 2797 IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, IS A LIFELONG ADVOCATE FOR UNIONISM, FAIRNESS, AND WORKERS' RIGHTS. A UNION ACTIVIST OF 22 YEARS, HER ACTIVISM STARTED AT THE NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT & GENERAL EMPLOYEES UNION (NSGEU) WHERE SHE HELD VARIOUS POSITIONS, INCLUDING LOCAL PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER, AND 3RD VICE-PRESIDENT OF NSGEU. ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023 SHE WAS ELECTED SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF LABOUR (NSFL).

FOR 20 YEARS SHE WORKED AS A SENIOR ACCOUNTING CLERK AT THE IWK HEALTH CENTRE UNTIL, IN 2021, SHE BEGAN WORKING AT THE NSGEU OFFICE IN THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT.

SHE SERVED ON THE NSFL'S ANTI- RACISM HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE FOR 10 YEARS, AND AS THE ALTERNATE TO THE VP REPRESENTING WORKERS OF COLOUR AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLE.



ON NOVEMBER 7, 2023 SHE WAS ELECTED SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF LABOUR.

Women in a Green Economy

WHAT'S NEXT

FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY JOBS HAVE BEEN MALE-DOMINATED FOR YEARS. THOSE JOBS WILL DISAPPEAR AS CANADA UTILIZES GREENER ENERGY SOURCES. FOR THE GOVERNMENT, THEY MUST ENSURE A BALANCE OF CREATING JOBS FOR WORKERS PUSHED OUT OF THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY AND MAKING SURE THAT WOMEN AREN'T LEFT BEHIND A SECOND TIME.

WE NEED POLICIES THAT REDUCE BARRIERS, INCLUDING FUNDING FOR TRAINING, RE-TRAINING, ADDRESSING INDUSTRY-WIDE BIASES, AND INCLUDE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION QUOTAS, ACCORDING TO SONIA KANG, THE CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR ON IDENTITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION.

THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION IS CURRENTLY PRODUCING A REPORT ANALYZING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S CLIMATE POLICIES FROM A GENDER LENS.

WHENEVER THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S NEW AND EXCITING, IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE BIG SHIFTS. ~
SONIA KANG



ACHIEVING THIS PLAN WILL ULTIMATELY HELP PROTECT THOSE THAT ARE MOST AT RISK OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, AND RESIDENTS OF RURAL AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES.

INDUSTRIES AND SECTORS ARE IMPACTED BY THE SHIFT TO A GREEN ECONOMY AND AUTOMATION, IT'S CRITICAL THAT WOMEN ARE EQUIPPED WITH SUPPORT AND RESOURCES TO TRANSITION INTO JOBS THAT PAY WELL, AND INTO NON-TRADITIONAL SECTORS, RATHER THAN, REMAINING IN SECTORS THAT PAY LOW WAGES. UNIONS AND GOVERNMENTS HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY THAT NO ONE GETS LEFT BEHIND IN THE TRANSITION.



I THINK THAT AS A SOCIETY, WE HAVEN'T DONE YET A GOOD ENOUGH JOB OF SHOWING WOMEN ALL THE PLACES WHERE THEY COULD BE AND SHOULD BE ~ BEA BRUSKE, PRESIDENT, CLC

Criminalizing Gender-Based Violence

WHAT'S NOW

MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE EU HAVE AGREED ON A LAW TO CRIMINALIZE VARIOUS FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING CHILD MARRIAGE, GENDERED CYBERVIOLENCE, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, AND NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING OF INTIMATE IMAGES.

ON FEBRUARY 6, 2024, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THAT THE BLOC HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON THE LAW THAT AIMS TO PROTECT WOMEN IN THE 27-NATION EUROPEAN UNION FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE. INCLUDED IN THE LEGISLATION WILL BE THE CRIMINALIZATION OF CYBERSTALKING, CYBERHARASSMENT AND CYBER INCITEMENT TO HATRED OR VIOLENCE ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION.

THE EU AGREEMENT SENDS "A CLEAR MESSAGE ACROSS THE UNION THAT WE TAKE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SERIOUSLY." ~ EU LAWMAKER FRANCES FITZGERALD



THIS WAS FIRST PROPOSED TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, THE EU'S EXECUTIVE ARM, ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO TO MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT THE COMMISSION WILL REPORT EVERY FIVE YEARS ON ANY POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE RULE THAT NEED TO BE MADE.

IN CANADA, THE FEDERAL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GVB) STRATEGY ADDRESSES GAPS IN SUPPORTS FOR DIVERSE POPULATIONS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND GIRLS; INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS; BLACK AND RACIALIZED WOMEN; IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE WOMEN; TWO-SPIRIT, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, INTERSEX, AND ADDITIONAL SEXUALLY AND GENDER-DIVERSE (2SLGBTQI+) PEOPLE; WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES; AND WOMEN LIVING IN NORTHERN, RURAL, AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES.

THE 10-YEAR NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WAS LAUNCHED ON NOVEMBER 9, 2022 BY THE FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, AND TERRITORIAL (FPT) MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

EU'S LEGISLATION IS INSPIRING AND GIVES US A POSITIVE EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE CAN STRIVE TOWARDS. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS TAKING IMPORTANT STEPS TO DEAL WITH GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, BUT WE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND THIS TO A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK THAT TRULY PROTECTS WOMEN. WE ENCOURAGE OUR WOMEN'S COMMITTEES TO TAKE THIS ISSUE ON AS PART OF THEIR MANDATE; ONLY THROUGH ACTIVISM CAN WE ACHIEVE THE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



THE EU AGREEMENT IS "A DIRECTIVE THAT THE WOMEN AND GIRLS ALL ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION HAVE ASKED FOR FOR OVER 30 YEARS." ~ SWEDISH SOCIALIST MEP AND EU LAWMAKER, EVIN INCIR

LEADS

Leadership Excellence Assembly of Dedicated Sisters

**IAM
FOSTERS
LEADERSHIP
IN WOMEN**



**WE WORK
FOR CHANGE
WE EMPOWER
WOMEN
WE ENCOURAGE
WE SPEAK OUT**