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P.O. Box 38
Station E
Toronto, Canada
466-7457/862-1530

Dear Sisters,

Last month's conference call sparked a lot of discussions, long distance phone calls, etc. throughout the network! The result is the following proposed agenda which we've prepared here in Toronto. We hope it will be useful in the pre-conference discussions most groups are having. The attached conference documents -- and those being sent out by Black Women for Wages for Housework (New York) should also be read and studied carefully.

The Chicago women are busy pulling last-minute details together, and the set-up there sounds terrific. We'll have to raise travel money for some of the sisters -- it's a political investment for all of us, so be prepared to put in as much as you can.

See you soon!

Judy Ramirez
Toronto Wages for Housework
Committee

P.O. Box 38
Station E
Toronto
466-7457/465-6822
March 23, 1977

Dear Sisters,

We've heard from many of the lesbian women in the network over the past months. We're all feeling the need for one or more separate meetings at the conference to discuss better communication among ourselves. The framework will be set by the report by Wages Due Lesbians of Toronto on our role in the development of the Campaign here in Canada, and by Wilmette Brown's presentation on the autonomy of black women. Lesbian women should give special attention to Wilmette's speech from the July Wages Due conference, "The Autonomy of Black Lesbian Women", which is being set out as a conference document by New York.

We sent out a packet of Wages Due materials recently -- one per group. Pass it around since familiarity with the contents will help discussion considerably.

We suggest our separate meeting take place on Saturday evening. See you soon.

Francie Wyland
Wages Due Lesbians
Toronto

PROPOSED AGENDA

April 9, 10, 11, 1977

Friday 12.00 - 5.00pm

"WINNING OUR WAGES" (Judy Ramirez, Toronto)

1. Campaign Report: How we've developed the various stages of the Campaign, internationally
 - a) Why the focus is, and must continue to be, welfare
 - b) How we have expressed that organizationally, so far e.g., NY welfare conference, Family Allowance Protest, defence of prostitutes etc.
 - c) How our forces determined the choice of instruments created for particular struggles: petitions, marches, bulletins, etc.; and our relations with other organized forces (women's movement, unions etc.)
 - d) How we have built continuity and scope in the Campaign, along with political criteria for assessing how far we have moved in winning our wages.
2. Learning from specific struggles
 - a) Family Allowance Protest: focusing on the most visible and extensive attack on women to build a feminist offensive against all Government cut-backs (Frances Gregory & Suzie Fleming, Canada & England)
 - b) Nellie's: drawing various sets of women together -- residents, staff, social service workers etc., by linking one particular fight for money to the Campaign as a whole. (Paula Fainstat, Toronto)
 - c) SEEK: consolidating what was begun at the NY Welfare conference with the formation of Black Women for Wages for Housework and their leadership in initiating specific welfare struggles (student stipends). (Margaret Prescod-Roberts New York)

Saturday 10.00 - 1.00pm

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"HOW DOES AUTONOMY WORK"

1. The Role of Wages Due Lesbians in the Campaign:
(Francie Wyland and Ellen Agger, Toronto)

The increasing emergence of lesbian struggles in every aspect of the Campaign, and the organizational relationships between lesbian and straight women in the network.

2. The Autonomy of Black Women: (Wilmette Brown, N.Y.)

The black rebellion in the 60's, the leadership of of black women in the welfare movement, and the organizational conclusions for the Campaign.

Saturday 2.00 - 6.00pm

"HOW DOES AUTONOMY WORK" cont'd...

3. Using Points of Reference (Judy Ramirez, Toronto)

A) Internal Organization -- beginning with autonomy as the first condition and result of our daily struggles, how do we develop leadership which is not bureaucratic but always a reflection of who is actually furthering the struggle?

- a) Why the International Feminist Collective?
- b) Relations between Network groups and points of reference: use of political materials, "home-growing" the Campaign in each area, what a point of reference can and cannot do, avoiding dogmatism, developing stable contacts.
- c) Autonomy of individual members of the Campaign: making a personal connection with wages for housework (wages now and not in 20 years!), political discipline and growth of personal autonomy.

D) Leadership in Special Areas: Turning geographical barriers into political capital. (Suzie Fleming England)

- a) Falling Wall Press -- printing, distributing financing -- a campaign asset for the whole network.
- b) Publications -- developing "issue" pamphlets e.g. Unemployment Insurance, welfare, ERA etc., and popular materials (bulletins, media articles etc.) which must be immediately useful to as many groups as possible.
- c) Arts: Boo Watson (music), Lorna Boschman (comedy), movies, videos etc., part of campaign instruments available to every group.

Sunday 10.00am - 2.00pm

"WHAT IS THE STATE UP TO?"

Analyzing specific issues and points of struggle in order to move organizationally.

1. The ERA (Boston women)
How the strategy of "equality" is backfiring because it doesn't see wagelessness as our fundamental weakness.
2. Busing (Wilmette Brown, New York)
Identifying the interests of black/white women/children, and basing our organizing on the least powerful.
3. Prostitutes (Beth Ingber, Los Angeles)
How direct cash for sex is a form of the wage that must become a power for all women, and developing organizational links with prostitutes' organizations like COYOTE, the English Collective of Prostitutes, etc.
4. Welfare (Wilmette Brown, N.Y. & Judy Ramirez, Toronto)
 - a) Trends in State planning in the US and Canada, e.g. pitting wages and taxes against welfare, and shifting welfare to "family income" (guaranteed annual income)
 - b) Campaign's need to stress how welfare has raised wages and is, therefore, an immediate source of power to the rest of the working class and how the cuts and "reforms" are aimed at destroying the autonomy women have built in relation to men, employers, and the State.

Evenings

A number of special organizational meetings have been requested by various groups in the Network (see attached letter from Wages Due Lesbians, Toronto), so evening time is being set aside for:

1. Separate meetings of lesbian women, black women, and others who want to organize autonomously within the Campaign.
2. A meeting of Canadian individuals and groups to set up regular contact and coordinate activities.
3. Workshops for groups who want to discuss their specific resources, problems, and possibilities, with one of the points of reference.

Conference Documents

Toronto -- Nellie's and Family Allowance packets
New York -- Wilmette Brown's Toronto speech, "Autonomy of Black Lesbian Women"
-- SEEK documents
-- Prostitute statement "Money for Prostitutes is Money for Black Women"

CALLING ALL WOMEN CALLING ALL WOMEN

Hands Off the Family Allowance

No increase in Baby Bonus

The \$220,000,000. Baby Bonus increase we were all expecting has fallen victim to the government's "anti-inflation program". Why have they seen fit to make one of their biggest cutbacks from the pittance they give mothers? As always, we women are the ones expected to do without, to put ourselves last, and sacrifice "for the good of others". WHAT BETTER WAY FOR TRUDEAU TO LAUNCH HIS "LOWERED EXPECTATIONS WAY OF LIFE" THAN BY TAKING MONEY AWAY FROM MOTHERS, THE SYMBOLS OF SELF-DENIAL!

We refuse to be a good example

We know it means EVEN MORE WORK, AND LESS FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN. It also means we are more of a discipline on the men so many of us depend on. Nurses said "dedication won't pay the rent" and have fought for well-earned increases across the country. Teachers are refusing the blackmail of paying for cutbacks in education and are going on strike. All around us others are demanding their share of society's wealth which OUR UNPAID WORK IN THE HOME HELPS CREATE.

We want our increase too

And we need it more than most. Many of us are sole-support mothers and \$36.00 a year per child- little as it is- does make a difference. Much more than anyone with a 10% surtax on their \$30,000. salary can begin to imagine! And for those of us with husbands, the Family Allowance is often THE ONLY MONEY WE CAN CALL OUR OWN, the only recognition that we WORK in our homes.

**Our house work is worth money
like any other work**

Trudeau's cutbacks in Family Allowance represent a widespread effort to make women pay for the present crisis. On top of all the unpaid work we do in our homes, we are faced with:

- HIGHER PRICES which mean more work shopping for bargains and more time in the kitchen
- A GROWING WAGE GAP between women and men in the paid labour force, and tougher policing of women on UIC
- ELIMINATION OF GOVERNMENT-FUNDED PROJECTS (LIP, CYC, OFY) which provide wages for young people (many of whom are women) and sustain community services for children, old people, immigrants, etc.
- CUTBACKS IN DAYCARE SUBSIDIES which mean more work finding adequate childcare or looking after our children ourselves
- CUTBACKS IN SOCIAL SERVICES which jeopardize the wages of many women and throw the burden of the work back in the home
- MORE HARDSHIPS FOR WOMEN ON FIXED INCOMES like the sick and the aged who are expected to live on next to nothing after a lifetime of hard work

WE WOMEN ARE AN EASY TARGET BECAUSE WE ARE SO USED TO WORKING WITHOUT PAY IN OUR HOMES AND FOR LOW PAY OUTSIDE. But we don't intend to stay at the bottom. Let the government go after the banks and the corporations - they have more than us!

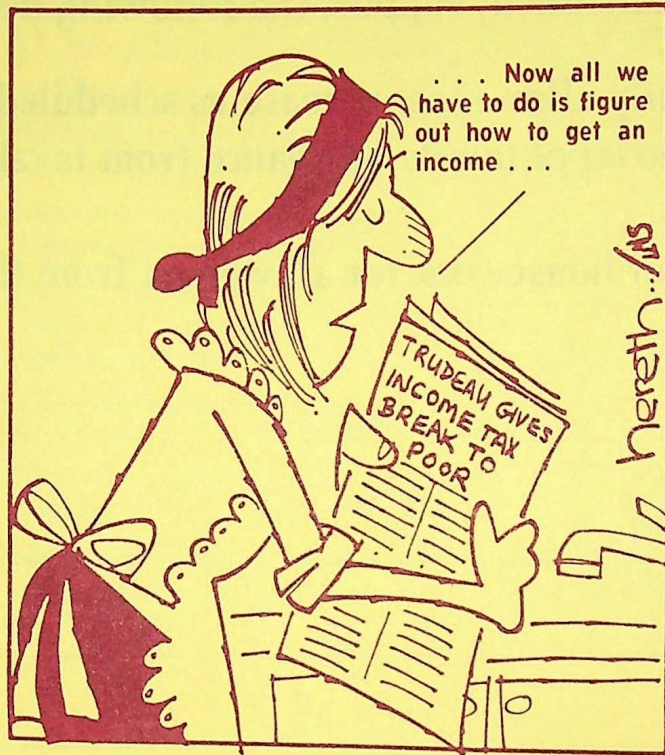
We demand:

the family allowance increase as scheduled
the removal of family allowance from taxable income

And we won't be satisfied with only a pittance for mothers - all women need more money, MORE POWER, to fight against the lower standard of life Trudeau has in mind for us all.

We demand wages for housework for all women from the government

Wages for Housework Committee
Toronto



STAMP

SEND TO:

WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK COMMITTEE
745 DANFORTH AVE., SUITE 301,
TORONTO, ONTARIO



LESBIANS JOIN THE FAMILY ALLOWANCE PROTEST

Wages Due Lesbians is a group of lesbian women active in the Wages for Housework Campaign, and the Family Allowance Protest. Since January 1976, we have distributed 10,000 copies of our original endorsement of the petition across the country. We've also spoken about the protest to women's, community, trade union and gay groups, local media, rallies against the cutbacks, door-to-door, and at shopping centres.

We endorse the petition because the freeze on the family allowance is the biggest in a number of cuts that deepen the crisis in our standard of living. We, as lesbian women, feel the attack of higher prices, lower wages, and disappearing social services, in a number of ways:

- * many of us, without a man's wage behind us, must support ourselves entirely on the low pay of 'women's jobs'. We've often had to fight to keep them, and been forced to hide our lesbianism. Now those same jobs, in health and social services and some industries, are being eliminated. We're having to accept lower wages and longer hours in the ones we're 'lucky' enough to find. Cuts in welfare and unemployment benefits make it harder for many more women. This attack on our income undermines the possibility of our making it on our own, independently of men.
- * as a result, many single women are being pushed to look for a man, for economic security. Many married women are finding it harder to 'come out' of their marriages. And for those of us who remain single, or with another woman, this reduction in our money and leisure time severely strains our relationships.
- * if we have children, or want to, we have even fewer choices. If there's a separation, with or without a court battle, we often lose the kids to the men, who have more money. If we keep them, our low standard of living drops even lower.

As lesbian women, we have fought long and hard for the rights denied us under this system. These latest measures make it even more difficult for us to fight publicly. That's why, whether we have children or not, we are fighting to win the family allowance increase and wages for housework for ourselves and all other women. We don't accept that it's our nature to look after men. Demanding to be paid for the housework we now do makes it harder to harass or fire us for being 'unnatural' women. If we had that money, and didn't have to hide our lesbianism, the scare of being 'queer' couldn't be used to keep women 'in their place'.

Wages for housework would mean the power to run our own lives: to have and keep the children we might want; to have a real choice in the jobs we might want; to live with whoever we want, not having to hide our lesbianism; and to have the time to build relationships we want.

We urge all women to sign this petition. For further information, and if you'd like us to speak to you or your group, phone (416) 466-7457 or (416) 465-6822.

Wages Due Lesbians
Box 38, Station E,
Toronto, Ontario
July 1976

EMERGENCY OCCUPATION AT NELLIE'S WOMEN'S HOSTEL

Thursday, August 26, 1976

The crisis is hitting women from all angles with overwork, lack of money, lack of daycare, welfare cutbacks, rising prices - and LACK OF HOUSING! As financial tensions increase in the home, more and more women are leaving or being kicked out of intolerable home situations to find themselves with little or no money of their own and with no place to stay. Short-term housing is overloaded and underfunded. Long-term housing does not exist. In the search for permanent housing, women are discriminated against as mothers, as pensioners, as lesbians, as immigrant and native women, as women who are physically and mentally handicapped or simply as women who as unwaged workers in the home, are least likely to afford the rent. The housing situation is desperate.

Amidst this general crisis where women are also bearing the brunt of the cutbacks in social services, Nellie's Women's Hostel, as one emergency shelter, faces an immediate financial crisis. The hostel is understaffed with the staff forced to work up to 30 hours a week overtime without pay. The budget runs at a deficit while the hostel runs out of food. More money is needed, not more pats on the back for dedication. Dedication doesn't pay the rent!

Staff and residents have signed the following declaration:
(We strongly urge others to show their support by signing)

- 1) NO WOMAN SHALL BE TURNED AWAY FROM NELLIE'S DUE TO LACK OF SPACE OR FINANCES;
- 2) NO WOMAN SHALL BE ASKED TO LEAVE ONCE HER SHORT LENGTH OF STAY, FOR WHICH THE HOSTEL IS FUNDED, HAS EXPIRED;
- 3) WE DEMAND MORE HOUSING FACILITIES FOR WOMEN AND MORE MONEY SO THAT THOSE SERVICES ARE NO LONGER RUN ON THE BACKS OF OTHER WOMEN;
- 4) OVERCROWDING CONTRAVENES HEALTH AND FIRE REGULATIONS BUT WE REFUSE TO ALLOW LACK OF HOUSING AND LACK OF MONEY TO FORCE WOMEN TO RETURN TO INTOLERABLE HOME SITUATIONS OR TO THE STREETS AND PARK BENCHES;
- 5) THIS EMERGENCY OCCUPATION SHALL CONTINUE UNTIL MORE MONEY IS RECEIVED.

SIGNED:

Name

Staff/ Resident/ Supporter

For more information, please contact:

Nellie's Women's Hostel, 275 A Broadview Ave., (behind the Y) 461-1084

WHY AN EMERGENCY OCCUPATION AT NELLIE'S

At Nellie's Women's Hostel, we are facing a financial crisis. But our situation is only the tip of the iceberg of how the government is making its cutbacks on the backs of women. At Nellie's, we attempt to reduce the brutality on women's lives by providing a temporary place where women can come when they need a place to stay and don't have enough money in their pockets to afford a place of their own. But women have NEVER been the government's priority. As more and more women feel the effects of the cutbacks in our pockets, our emergency shelter is only one social service to face the firing line.

When servicing other people, both in the home and out of it, is the role of women in this society, we can see who the attack is being waged against most directly when the government picks social services as the focus of its cutbacks. The push is on to throw those social services back into the home to save money. How does it save money? Because there they get it for free - from us women! So now there's less daycare space, fewer beds in hospitals, less time allowed for recovery, fewer psychiatric beds and fewer counselling facilities. Nursing goes back into the home right after nurses fought hard and won decent wages for themselves in the hospitals. The freeze on new nursing and old-age homes and the earlier hospital discharges mean even more work for women, looking after the elderly and the ill in our homes. And those who don't have others to call upon to take care of them for free are left to fend for themselves. While our social service jobs are threatened, the servicing of others - the nursing, "mothering" and counselling - is thrown back into that "private sphere", the home. Here, we women, as wives, mothers, girl-friends, and daughters are expected to pick up the slack on our 'free time'. Our load of housework is increased all round.

At Nellie's emergency hostel, the staff is basically doing housework for other women. We keep a house open where women can find food, shelter and a sympathetic ear - if we have the time. But housework comes cheap and we feel the cutbacks hitting us from all angles, on top of the shortage of money we women have ALWAYS had to put up with. We feel it with our low wages; we feel it with our long shifts; we feel it when we are exhausted at the end of a shift because the hostel is understaffed, but we can't afford to hire anyone else. And those of us who are mothers frequently have the double load of keeping our children at work because adequate daycare is not available. The separation between the staff and the residents is rapidly diminishing.

It has become increasingly difficult for women who stay at our short-term hostel to find places they can afford to live in within a short period of time. For some, this means returning to an intolerable home situation where beatings may be the order of the day. For many, it means ending up in a run-down rooming house resulting in poor health, a return to drinking or having to put up with break-ins and illegal evictions and eventually having to return to Nellie's. And because there aren't long-term residences, many women are forced to move out on their own without any ongoing support before they have the resources to survive.

IN SUPPORTING NELLIE'S, WE SUPPORT OURSELVES

The emergency occupation at Nellie's Women's Hostel was called by the staff and residents after many months of coping with short-staffing, lack of funds, and the consequent need to turn more and more women away. This is at a time when Government cutbacks are creating more of a demand for emergency shelter, and other services, because more and more women are being thrown into crisis. It is the money and the services that go to women that have been the hardest hit.

The federal government set the trend by cutting back \$221 million from the Family Allowance, at the expense of mothers, while increasing defense spending by \$2.5 billion! The province of Ontario followed suit by cutting back welfare, and freezing daycare. At the same time it spent \$130 million accumulating land for the Pickering airport site. And the Metro Council chose to give \$20,000 to the Shriners, while cutting the equivalent amount from the daycare budget.

The result has been to make it harder and harder for women to have money of their own -- and to have the choices that go with it. We think twice now before leaving an intolerable home situation, because the alternative is the street. And we're forced to accept jobs outside the home at disgraceful wages if our welfare is cut off. Many of us have to steal to feed ourselves and our children.

The situation at Nellie's is a mirror image of women's lives, and of the crisis that many community services run by and for women, are facing. Most of these services were set up to meet basic needs: housing, welfare, daycare, legal problems, paid employment, family planning, health and disability, immigrant or native status, rape and suicide prevention, wife battering, etc. etc.

No level of government presently accepts responsibility for funding these services. As a result, most community services go from one financial crisis to another, operating with only partial and temporary funding, and are shunted back and forth between various departments and levels of government. As if that weren't enough, the recent tightening of government purse strings (at least where women are concerned!) has meant a new layer of work going after money from corporations and private foundations, usually with meagre results. Many services have been forced to close or to operate on a steady diet of low-paid and unpaid (volunteer) work, long hours, bad working conditions, and curtailment of services.

Both the women who staff these services and those who use them -- and the difference is blurring -- are caught in an increasingly precarious situation because of the government's cutbacks. The consistent refusal to recognize these services as a social necessity which deserve adequate funding betrays the fact that they are seen as mere "women's work" and are run unceremoniously on a pool of cheap female labour -- the same one that works for nothing in the home.

The men who work in or use these services are also affected by the weakness of women, as are the young, the elderly, the sick, and others who are thrown into poverty, whether male or female.

It is high time the different levels of government re-order their priorities and begin recognizing the value of the services which "women's work" provides. The first imperative is to institute long-term adequate funding policies which guarantee decent wages and working conditions to the women, and men, who work in them, and adequate services to those who use them.

WE DEMAND:

- (1) PERMANENT ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR NELLIE'S WOMEN'S HOSTEL
-- So it's not run on the backs of the staff, and the residents get a decent service.
- (2) FUNDING FOR A LONG-TERM RESIDENCE FOR WOMEN
-- So we aren't forced to return to intolerable home situations, or to park benches.
- (3) NEW GOVERNMENT POLICIES TOWARD LONGTERM ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES
-- So the value of "women's work" is recognized with hard cash, and not pats on the back for dedication.

ENDORSERS OF THIS STATEMENT

Activities & Information Centre	Ontario Anti-Poverty Association
Alexandra Park Community Health Centre	Open Door Centre and Rooms Registry Service
Anduhyun House	Parkdale Jobs Office
Black Education Project	Parkdale Legal Services
Bloor Bathurst Information Centre	Elizabeth Patterson (International Students Centre)*
Cherill Cheda (Hotline on Women)*	People and Law -- Staff
Christian Resource Centre	Rape Crisis Centre
Detox Centre	Residents of Nellie's
Development Education Centre	Revolutionary Feminists
Don Vale Community Centre -- Staff	Rooming House - Tenant Project
Downtown Action	SAC Women's Commission - U of T
East General Crisis Unit	Susan Seaby (Neighbourhood Information Post)*
Families and Friends Centre	Silent Voice
FOCAS	The Other Woman
Fourth Annual Gay Rights Conference	Times Change Women's Employment Centre
Pauline Harper (Toronto Warriors Society)*	Toronto Women's Bookstore
Hassle Free Clinic	Transition House
Immigrant Women's Centre	Trigger Centre for Unemployed Youth
Interval House	Wages Due Lesbians
Jamaican-Canadian Association	Wages for Housework Committee
Men Against the Family Allowance Cutbacks	Women Like Me
Metro Work Group	Women's Anarchist Group
Mother Led Union	Women's Communication Centre
Native Canadian Friendship Centre	Women's Community Counselling and Referral Centre
Ontario Voice of Women	Women's Travelling Medicine Show
North York VD & Birth Control Centre	Working Women
Emergency Librarian	Youth Services Network

* Name of group for identification purposes only.

Nellie's Hostel
275A Broadview Avenue
Toronto
461-1084

FACTS...FACTS...FACTS...FACTS...FACTS...FACTS...

"Everyone has a little suffering to do."

-- Jean Luc Pepin, Dec. 5, 1975.

"In this struggle, we must accomplish nothing less than a wrenching adjustment of our expectations."

-- Pierre Trudeau, Oct. 13, 1975.

"I've made damn sure I'm not hurting the people in true need." !!??

-- James Taylor, Aug. 7, 1976.

NELLIE'S FINANCIAL STATE

Ever since Nellie's Women's Hostel opened in June, 1974, the hostel has been struggling to survive financially. The following represents some of the blocks the hostel has had in obtaining adequate funding:

1976 budget: \$168,000
Metro Social Services: \$85,000 ceiling on funding
United Community Fund: \$7,000 temporary grant, expected to cover the cost of one counsellor for a year

Funding refused from federal government:

Marc Lalonde, Minister of Health and Welfare
Jessica Hill, Non-Medical Use of Drugs

Funding refused from provincial government:

James Taylor, Minister of Community and Social Services
Frank Miller, Minister of Health

A five-month appeal to 100 private corporations and charitable foundations netted \$600. The following are among those who refused to fund us:

Corporations:	Foundations:
Canadian Bank of Commerce	Atkinson Foundation
Eaton's	H. G. Betram Charitable Foundation
Ford	Garfield Weston Charitable Foundation
Gulf Oil	Laidlaw Foundation
I.B.M.	E. P. Taylor

Result: Staff and residents pay for the lack of funding with understaffing, low wages, and exhaustion. Sanitary conditions are deteriorating; mice and scabies are not unheard of; lack of security precautions means continued break-ins and physical danger for the residents and the staff working overnight. Several staff have already been beaten up.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT EMERGENCY BEDS IN TORONTO

Men	1,184	Women	77
Mothers plus their children	38	Mothers or fathers plus their children	75

NUMBER OF DETOXIFICATION BEDS IN TORONTO

Men	80	Women	60
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SITUATION OF OTHER WOMEN'S HOSTELS IN TORONTO

I. WOMEN IN TRANSITION - hostel for mothers with children

- * July/76 - received 103 calls, only able to place 30 at their hostel.
- * Waiting period is occasionally up to a week.
- * Funded for 16 people, but usually take in 18.
- * Over the past 2½ years, out of 257 mother-led families, 65 returned directly back to their previous intolerable home situations, often because their only alternative was isolation and the hardship of having sole financial responsibility for their children.

II. INTERVAL HOUSE - hostel for mothers with children

- * The hostel has just been forced by lack of funds to cut their staff in half and eliminate their childcare programme.
- * 22 residents is the maximum number allowed by the health department, but often there are up to 26 people staying there as emergencies arise.
- * Waiting period is often up to a week, meaning sometimes there is no available space when a woman is most in need.
- * Only one mother who works outside the home can stay there at any time, because of the smaller subsidy received for her from Metro Social Services, along with the lack of adequate daycare facilities.
- * About 1/3 of the mothers return to the previous home situations from which they've fled.

III. STOP 158 - hostel for women under 25

- * Funded for 13 residents but frequently take in 17.
- * During the spring, the hostel turned away, on the average, 3 women per night.

IV. ANDUHYAUN - hostel for native women

- * Funded for 16 women, but because of emergency situations, they take in an average of 3 more women per week.
- * Director's salary ran out in June (thanks to the provincial government) and she has had to work since then without a wage.
- * Recently the hostel has had to refuse more young women and mothers because of a lack of space.

V. STREET HAVEN - hostel for women of all ages

- * Because of insufficient funding from Metro Social Services, bulk of funds come from private solicited donations.
- * In order to obtain these funds, 2 campaigns must be carried out each year.
- * During the last fund-raising campaign, services were cut back due to a lack of money.

LONG TERM WOMEN'S RESIDENCES IN TORONTO

I. EMILY'S - a long term residence for women that didn't happen

- * Work was started to set up the residence in November 1975 under a LIP grant and a CMHC start-up grant.
- * Ministry of Health designated monies for the operating costs but then reneged on their promise, saying that because of the cutbacks, there was no money for new projects.

II. CHRISTIAN RESOURCE CENTRE HOUSING PROJECT

- * The CRC is searching for funds to set up men's and women's homes which can provide an alternative to rooming houses for people who aren't able to function in this society.
- * Since May, they have been negotiating with the federal Dept. of Health and Welfare for funding.
- * Will this much needed project go the way of Emily's?

III. HOUSING FOR ADOLESCENTS

- * Children's Aid Society has tightened up its intake policy and no longer admits children over 13 into care except in an extreme and explicit case of physical or emotional abuse.
- * At the same time, the counselling staff has not been increased to deal with the growing number of adolescents who are forced to remain at home, stay at temporary hostels, or turn to hustling and shoplifting in order to survive.

GOVERNMENT CUTBACKS

The financial crisis and the overloading experienced by women's hostels in the city is not an isolated occurrence. It's part of the government's attack on women and the whole area of social services.

I. FAMILY ALLOWANCE

- * Federal government is eliminating the 10.8% cost of living increase mothers were to receive beginning January 1, 1976, for a saving of \$22.1 million.
- * This was the largest single saving in the government's cutback programme.

II. HOSPITALS

- * Provincial government shut down a number of hospitals and cut back beds in many others, causing 5,000 workers, mostly women, to lose their jobs.
- * In addition to worse medical care for everyone, it means more time spent for women lining up in emergency wards with sick children, and taking care of the sick at home.

III. WELFARE

- * Municipal government has disqualified persons under 18 years of age from assistance, unless "special circumstances" can be justified.
- * Rent supplement of \$20 has been removed for single "employable" recipients, leaving them with a maximum rental allowance of \$75 a month.
- * The government has passed legislation forcing any "able-bodied" recipient to work, whether it's part-time, seasonal or suitable to the person.
- * This legislation is being aimed at women and at youth, who previously could leave intolerable home situations and collect welfare.

IV. DAYCARE

- * At the same time as women are being forced off welfare, and into a second job (the first one being a housewife and mother), daycare is being cut back. The government has:
 - * Frozen the number of subsidized children.
 - * Doubled the subsidized fee from 25¢ to 50¢ per day.
 - * Frozen expansion in the number of daycare centres.
 - * In effect, reduced the operating budget of subsidized centres by allowing only a 5.5% increase this year.
 - * Set up a programme to pay women less than 7¢ per day to look after a child in their own homes.

V. NURSING AND OLD AGE HOMES

The government has:

- * Frozen capital expenditures on nursing.
- * Increased the fees in nursing homes, leaving old people with 1/3 of their former monthly allowances.
- * Reduced the staff and services in old age homes.

SHOPLIFTING

A 1975 survey by Retail Security Agencies released the following information:

- * Most frequently stolen items are food and clothing by a wide margin.
- * Old age pensioners represented only 0.5% of those caught, but are responsible for 13% of the food stolen.
- * Housewives are one of the largest individual groups in cash terms, shop-lifting more than white-collar and blue-collar workers combined.

Looking after ourselves and our families is turning many women into "criminals".

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

While Nellie's is continually being told that there isn't enough money around, or we don't fit into the "right" category, there seems to be plenty of money around when the government wants some:

The Federal government announced that they are spending \$1 billion on 18 airplanes for the Armed Forces; \$5 billion on Defense (a 100% increase over last year's budget); \$88 million on a building to be used for the Armed Forces in Quebec to learn French; and \$2.4 million to celebrate the U.S. Bicentennial.

The provincial Ministry of Housing spent over \$130 million on the accumulation of land for the Pickering airport site.

Metro Government gave \$20,000 to the Shriners, equivalent to the \$20,000 they cut from the daycare budget.

Not to be forgotten is the \$100,000 TROUT POND being built on the Toronto Islands for which Metro is paying \$33,000, and Wintario; another \$33,000!! Do we get the message -

"Let them eat fish?"

Nellie's Women's Hostel
275 A Broadview Ave.
Toronto # 461-1084
August, 1976.

(Many of these facts were taken from the Family Allowance Protest fact sheet, Toronto Wages for Housework Committee.)

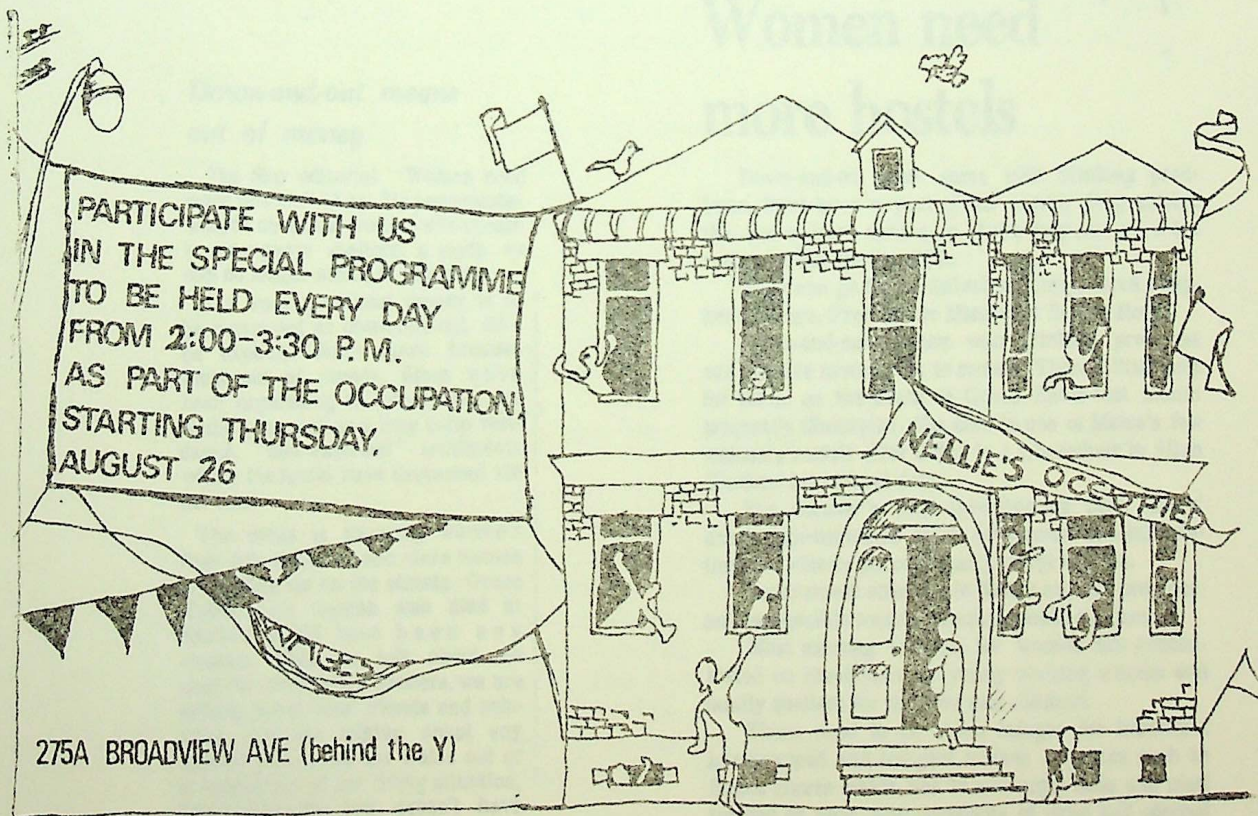
AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO WIN MONEY FOR WOMEN, THE WAGES FOR HOUSEWORK COMMITTEE IS SUPPORTING THE STRUGGLE AT NELLIE'S WOMEN'S HOSTEL.

After many months of coping with poor housing, overwork, rising prices, and lack of money, the staff and residents of Nellie's have joined forces to fight back!

WHAT WOMAN DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

We are all trained from childhood to work for nothing in the home, accept hardship, and keep quiet. The present Crisis has given us an even steadier diet of stretching tight money, working harder for longer hours, and making due with less and less. Everyday we put our welfare and our nerves on the line - in the home and outside.

IN SUPPORTING NELLIE'S, WE SUPPORT OURSELVES!



FILMS, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, COMEDY, DISCUSSION OF THE OCCUPATION.

Bring your kids and your friends to Nellie's, 275a Broadview Ave. (behind the Y)

If you have talent or money for the special programme, contact Ellen through the hostel, 461-1084.

largest loss stirs Mirvish to push

Globe & Mail Sat. SEPT. 4/76

duce its normal six weeks of playing time to three and a half weeks. This is definitely no cause for optimism.

The \$1-million that taxpayers spend to subsidize O'Keefe's foreign, commercial productions would be much better spent on the Canadian Opera, the Toronto Symphony, Canadian ballet, and Canadian produced theatre at the St. Lawrence Centre, and all the struggling small theatre companies.

Let Canadian taxpayers' dollars support the Canadian arts. Let private business gamble on imported commercial shows. I know that I keep belaboring this point year after year, but who knows, perhaps some day, someone will listen. It is high time that the politicians get their priorities straight. After all, they vote the money.

Ed Mirvish, Executive Director
Royal Alexandra Theatre, Toronto

Women's hostels

The crisis at Nellie's Women's Hostel has shown the desperate need for more housing for women in Toronto. But the need extends

beyond emergency accommodation, and even beyond the setting up of long-term housing for a few down-and-out women. Because of the economic crisis and the governments' programs of cutbacks it is becoming increasingly difficult for all women to obtain decent housing. We are all becoming down-and-out.

We are faced with less access to welfare and unemployment insurance, more dependence on the wages of men (who don't have enough themselves), and fewer and lower-paid jobs. The crisis at Nellie's represents the crisis we are all in: a crisis of housing, a crisis of overwork and lack of money.

Our experience at Trigger backs this up. The young women who use our job-finding service are in the weakest and most vulnerable position. Minimum wage is the average wage for the jobs they can find, and they have to fight to get even those.

Our own funding is also far from secure. Next year, when our Government grant comes up for re-evaluation, we will be faced with the same uncertainty as Nellie's.

Will our service be considered a priority by the Government? How expendable are services for women and youth? Will the staff at Trigger be sitting on the other side of the counsellor's desk next year?

Ellen Agger
Trigger-Centre for
Unemployed Youth
Toronto

Political strikes

The report (Aug. 31) of the actions of the New Zealand Government is taking to restrain political strikes includes a little bit of tremendous importance and potential wider application relating to the cost of providing services to fill the gap left by the strikers. The Government says, "We are going to charge the cost to the trade union."

The archaic strike method of settling disputes between employers and employees, extended to the rest of the population would justify abolishing the courts as sanctioning mortal combat as a means of settling disputes. Unions can do things to

Editorial, Tor. Star, Tues, Aug 31/76 Women need more hostels

Down-and-out means out of money

The Star editorial, "Women need more hostels" (Aug. 31) perpetuates a myth about the woman who comes to emergency shelters, a myth we can no longer afford to live with.

If a woman without money is to be portrayed as down-and-out, let's be explicit. She's down because she's out of money. Since we've been organizing to win money for Nellie's, as well as a long term residence, "down-and-out" sentiments within the hostel have decreased 100 per cent.

The crisis is throwing women's lives into upheaval and more women are ending up on the streets. Grace Bates, the woman who died at Nellie's, could have been any woman. When we talk about the need for emergency shelters, we are talking about your friends and relatives; we are talking about any woman who, once she walks out or is kicked out of her living situation, finds that she just doesn't have enough money to live.

Toronto Star PAULA FAINSTAT
Sept. 8/76 Nellie's Hostel
Toronto

Down-and-out men, some with drinking problems, have been a part of our society long enough that places have sprung up where they can get a hot meal and bed for the night.

They can go to the Salvation Army, Good Shepherd Refuge, Fred Victor Mission or Seaton House.

Down-and-out women with drinking problems are relative newcomers to society. There's little help for them, as the death of Grace Bates last month tragically illustrated. She died in one of Metro's few women's hostels after living in a wheelchair in Allan Gardens for several days.

The coroner's jury investigating Mrs. Bates' death recommended more permanent accommodations for elderly persons, particularly women.

Government officials, in Metro and the province, and responsible social agencies, should pay heed.

Most existing services for women are concentrated on residences for young working women and family shelters for mothers and children.

There need to be more refuges for homeless, handicapped and indigent women — places such as Street Haven which has 16 overnight beds and staff trained to cope with problems of drug and alcohol addiction. And there needs to be better financial support for hostels such as Nellie's, currently \$8,000 in debt.

It's likely that, as society continues to change, the down-and-out woman will turn up more often. We should offer her at least the same services we now offer men.

REPORT ON THE DELEGATION OF NELLIE'S SUPPORTERS, SEPTEMBER 8, 1976

This report on the delegation is being sent out to you as a supporter of Nellie's to help keep you up to date. Many of you were among the over 60 participants in the delegation representing community and social service groups across the city. The event called attention to the fact that the issue is not simply one of funding for Nellie's, but represents a much broader crisis in social services.

On Wednesday afternoon, September 8, a delegation of community social service groups went to City Hall and Queen's Park to present a statement (enclosed) by over 50 of these groups, supporting the Nellie's occupation and demanding new government policies toward long-term adequate funding for all community-based services.

Following an impromptu rally at Nathan Phillips Square, members of the delegation crowded into Mayor Crombie's office to personally present a copy of the statement to the Mayor. The Mayor received the statement and responded by briefly explaining the City's and Metro's proper channels of (in)action. The delegation then moved on to the Metro Chairman's office, where we were told that Chairman Paul Godfrey was not available to see us.

The next stop was Queen's Park where over 60 people gathered with support placards on the steps to listen to songs and a "Speak Out". During the Speak Out, women spoke from the Toronto East General Crisis Unit, Trigger Centre for Unemployed Youth, Rape Crisis Centre, Immigrant Women's Centre, Interval House, the Family Allowance Protest, North York Birth Control and VD Centre, Wages Due Lesbians, Christian Resource Centre, Times Change Women's Employment Centre, Women's Travelling Medicine Show, Metro Work Group, and Nellie's. Everyone spoke about their particular situation and the way in which it reflected the general financial crisis in social services. Speakers emphasized how the crisis extended beyond social services and into the homes and lives of all women.

When the Speak Out was over, the delegation attempted to deliver the statement in person to the Premier. The doors of the Legislature were locked however, and guards prevented all but two of the delegates from entering the building. Premier Davis was in a cabinet meeting, and although the delegation waited over three hours, no one from the Premier's office took the time out to receive the statement in person. The Premier had been invited to Nellie's at the beginning of the occupation. Given that he never came or sent anyone else to the hostel, people weren't surprised when he didn't turn up to accept the statement, but were quite angry. The statement was finally left for him at his office.

The media was present throughout the afternoon. The delegation received news coverage on CBC, CFTO and CITY-TV, as well as on many radio stations throughout Metro. This was the most media coverage Nellie's had received on any single day since the beginning of the occupation, and was invaluable in keeping our crisis before the public.

If your group has not already endorsed the statement and would like to, please call Nellie's at 461-1084.

P.S. At the Metro Social Services Committee meeting on the following day, September 9, the politicians tried to put Nellie's on the defensive by attacking our ability to manage on a pittance, and by delaying a decision to give Nellie's emergency funds for two more weeks. To keep the pressure up on the government, we'll clearly need the continued help of our supporters -- please keep writing letters to the newspapers.

Lesbians struggle at Nellie's women's hostel

Nellie's is a short-term hostel in Toronto for women in crisis: battered and runaway wives, transient women, women without money or a place to stay. The staff and residents at Nellie's have organized an emergency occupation to win long-term stable funding. Since they opened in 1974, they've had to cope with short-staffing, lack of funds, and the consequent need to turn more and more women away.

Now the Government cutbacks are creating more of a demand for emergency shelter, and other services, because more and more women are being thrown into poverty. *The money and services that go to women have been the hardest hit.* The cutbacks have come from every level of government: the Family Allowance freeze, wage controls, and Unemployment Insurance (federal); daycare, welfare, and health care (provincial); daycare, housing, etc. (municipal).

In Toronto, there are only 77 emergency beds available to women, compared to 1,200 for men! Nellie's, one of six women's hostels, had a minimal budget for 1976 of \$168,000, and a ceiling of \$85,000 from Metro Social Services. The search for private funds has yielded little, which means that Nellie's will be at least \$35,000 in debt by the end of the year. Under these circumstances, the staff is often forced to work 30 extra hours per week without pay; lack of security precautions have meant assaults on the staff and residents; there are bad sanitary conditions, a lack of space, facilities, and counselling for the women who come to Nellie's doors.

Growing support for their fight is making it possible for the women at Nellie's to say they'll continue the occupation until they win. The crisis there is the same crisis facing many community services run by and for women. Most of these services were set up to meet basic needs: employment centres, immigrant services, hostels, rape crisis centres, etc. Because they have never been recognized as a social necessity deserving adequate funding, too many are now being forced to close or to operate on a steady diet of low-paid and unpaid (volunteer) work. Workers must endure long hours, bad working conditions, and face curtailment of services. These services are seen as mere 'women's work' and are run largely on a pool of cheap female labor - the same one that works for 'love' in the home.

Nellie's supporters are demanding permanent adequate funding for Nellie's,

a long-term residence for women, and new government policies toward long-term adequate funding for community-based services.

Lesbian women are among the strongest supporters of the occupation. One of the possibilities that's becoming less and less open to women because of the economic crisis is lesbianism. Those of us who have been able to avoid or leave marriages have to subsist on low 'women's' wages, welfare or unemployment insurance, all of which have been systematically cut back. Most lesbians are trapped in dependent relationships with men or our families by the lack of our own money.

All of us are more vulnerable than ever to the constant pressure to hide our lesbianism - at home, on the job, in the streets, and in the courts. How many more women might 'come out' of unendurable home situations if we could afford food, clothing, medical care and decent housing for ourselves and our children?

Lesbian women among the staff, residents, and supporters of Nellie's have helped build the occupation by writing letters to the newspapers and carrying our own placards in a large delegation to Queen's Park. We have spoken as lesbians on behalf of the struggle at Nellie's about how fed up we are with the cutbacks. The government has counted too long on women's 'natural' capacity for self-sacrifice.

Wages Due Lesbians was planning to go to the 4th Annual Gay Rights Conference and to give a workshop on the Wages for Housework Campaign. We cancelled because Nellie's took precedence. In the leaflet we wrote to explain our choice we said "... the struggles of lesbian women and gay men will be connected on our terms."

The fact that the Gay Conference endorsed the aims of the struggle at Nellie's is a real confirmation of the importance of lesbian women setting up our own priorities and having the men support us. When we are subsumed in the men's organizations we have nothing to offer but our weakness as women - we just 'serve time' while others define our goals. As we build, with struggles like the occupation at Nellie's, the power of a movement of women - lesbian and straight - which is based on our need for time and money of our own, we will end our subordination within the gay movement and have some power to offer the men.

by Wages Due Lesbians

Body Politic Oct. '76

Letters to the editor

Women's hostels

All of Toronto's women's hostels face drastic budget deficits this year.

At Interval House, a hostel for battered women and children, we have had to lay off half of our staff of 10 in order to keep the doors open, but the service has been crippled in the process and we still face a \$8,000 deficit.

The staff of Women in Transition, another hostel for women and children in crisis situations, have decided to take a cut in already low salaries to maintain their service.

Nellie's Emergency Hostel is full to overflowing with women badly in need of the service and the underpaid and overworked staff are barely able to offer food to the residents because of budget deficiencies.

Stop 158, a planning house for young women, and Anchuyaun, a residence for native women, are both overcrowded and unable to expand their services to keep pace with community need.

When Ontario Community and Social Services Minister James Taylor recommended budget restraints in social services spending, he promised that no one in need would suffer. This doesn't seem to be the case.

At Interval House the cutbacks are a physical reality. With only five staff left, counselling and child care have gone by the boards. Money management is simply a question of paying rent, utilities and food bills. If there's enough left that week we pay the staff and give some carfare to the residents.

We now have to refuse admission to working women because we do not receive a full subsidy for women who work. This comes at a time when the Ministry of Community and Social Services has decided to put pressure on sole-support mothers to work instead of receiving family benefits.

We don't know what to do about the huge hole in our living-room ceiling, and Metro Toronto housing inspectors have told us we will lose our lodging house licence if we

don't install an air vent in our third-floor bathroom and rebuild the back porch.

We try to keep the cockroaches and mice at bay with sprays and mousetraps because we can't afford the cost of fumigation. There is no money to replace our supply of linens and blankets before winter and new mattresses will have to wait another year. The stuffing is coming out of the new living room furniture we recently purchased from the Salvation Army Thrift Store.

Mr. Taylor has suggested that agencies affected by the provincial restraints should canvass the community for money to meet budgets, but United Way member agencies, such as Interval House, are prohibited from door-to-door, corporate, and mail canvassing. This leaves us with government as the remaining source for money. Unless the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services and Metro Toronto Social Services co-operate to increase the per diem subsidies for all women's hostels in Metro To-

ronto, residential crisis services for women will grind to a halt.

Lynn Zimmer, Judy Gordon, Trudy Don,
Blanche Polk, Christine Currlin
Staff of Interval House
Toronto

other women's services all the more necessary.

Francie Wyland
Wages Due Lesbians
Toronto

The Globe + Mail
Sept. '76

The acute shortage of emergency and long-term housing for women in Toronto is an especially urgent problem for lesbian women, old or young, married or single. Many of us have to subsist on low "women's" wages, or welfare or unemployment insurance, all of which are being systematically cut back. Most lesbians are trapped in dependent relationships with men or our families by our lack of money of our own.

All of us, because of our poverty and lack of time, have become more vulnerable than ever to the constant pressure to hide our lesbianism—at home, on the job, in the streets and in the courts. How many more women might leave unendurable home situations if we could afford food, clothing, medical care and decent housing for ourselves and our children?

This is our economic crisis. It makes the continuation and expansion of Nellie's and

It is 2½ months since we declared an emergency occupation at Nellie's and where are we at now? In bringing our financial crisis before the public, we immediately showed the government that we were prepared to fight rather than "make do" with its cutbacks. Thus far, we have succeeded in winning some IMMEDIATE gains, opened the way for changing the whole basis of funding for women's hostels and have forced the need for specialized emergency and long-term housing facilities for women to be dealt with.

Only by obtaining so much public support were we able to force the Metro Government to negotiate with us in a way that wasn't possible before. And not accidentally, most of our visible support came from women's groups and community social services facing similar crises. The issues can no longer be as easily pushed aside—neither the crises of the women's hostels nor the crises of the many individual women being hit by the cutbacks, lack of money, the housing shortage and by violent relationships with men.

Our only guarantee of winning adequate LONGTERM funding is to continue building our struggle. The solution to our situation ultimately has to be based on the struggle to recognize ALL women's work. Along with most other community social services, our major budgetary expense is staff. Only to the extent that all the work we do is recognized by the government will we put an end to being underpaid, understaffed, and exhausted. Up to now, the government has only been willing to recognize and fund Nellie's as a hostel (bed and board). Meanwhile, even their own departments and agencies use us as a crisis centre, halfway house, and information centre. This means that the counselling, crisis intervention and referrals that are necessary we basically do for free.

As a result of our struggle which gave public recognition to the need for emergency housing services, politicians gave us verbal assurances that Nellie's would not be allowed into a position of having to close due to lack of funding. What remains to be assured, though, is that the government will take financial responsibility for the hostel so that we no longer will have to pay the price of our underfunding by making do with understaffing, low wages and a lack of enough money for capital expenditures. This means funding us according to NEED.

We know that as things stand, the government is saving a bundle of money off our backs at Nellie's and the other hostels. As the Commissioner of Social Services, Mr. Tomlinson, said to us, "If the hostels close tomorrow the city would have to pick up the services likely at a higher cost." (The staff at the city-run hostels are paid significantly more.) Given our growing desperation in the face of the cutbacks, we have little doubt that our struggle at Nellie's will be only one of a growing number of women's struggles against exhausting and low-paid work outside the home and for adequate services that meet our needs.

IMMEDIATE GAINS

* Publicity, Donations, Supports - Many groups supported our struggle by helping to organize the occupation, writing letters to the papers and making deputations in support of our demands. Groups that were particularly supportive were the Wages for Housework Committee, Trigger - Centre for Unemployed Youth, and the Christian Resource Centre. From the organizing efforts and resulting publicity came material and financial donations which helped us out significantly. Our prospects for getting more funding from corporations and foundations in the future have also been increased.

- * Long-term Housing - The Metro Government has been authorized to initiate a study with hostel representatives on the need for longer-term housing for women with physical and emotional problems and to examine how such a service could be funded. (They were advised that many studies on the need for such services have already been done!)
- * Association of Women's Hostels - As a result of the occupation at Nellie's opening up the question of the financial needs of all the women's hostels, an Association of Women's Hostels was formed to examine and put forth our case collectively.
- * Money - Nellie's funding scheme from the Metro Government has been altered to provide us with an additional estimated \$6,900. Three of the other women's hostels received increases totalling \$3,600. These piecemeal (peacemeal) increases were geared to get the hostels out of debt and enable us to make it through to the next year at the same level of operation (i.e. no money for more staff or urgently needed capital expenditures). General publicity on Nellie's service and financial situation also resulted in the hostel obtaining a \$20,000 L.I.P. project for this year.

PROSPECTS FOR 1977:

- * Metro Social Services Committee, in consultation with the Province, the hostels and funding bodies for the 1977 budget process are to be developing a set of criteria and standards of operation to be used as a basis for determining funding of the women's hostels starting in 1977. This motion came in response to a deputation by the Association of Women's Hostels requesting that Metro Council make a commitment in principle to adequately plan for the hostels in 1977 and to fund them according to need. Whether this report is used in our favour or against us to evaluate the number of staff necessary and therefore to establish our workload and quality of service, depends * TRICKS OF THE BUSINESS
- * Telephone Co-ordinator - At the same time as Nellie's was given the \$6,900 increase, we were offered a temporary "telephone co-ordinator" at a cost of \$7,500 to Metro, to cope with women in emergencies who needed specialized care. The government's idea of dealing with a lack of facilities is to add an extra staff to make referrals to non-existent facilities. It's like giving a woman on welfare a course in budgetting when the problem is she doesn't have enough money to budget!
- * Figure Playing - The name of the game is to make a small increase look like a larger one so that a \$6900 gain comes across as a \$20,000 increase from \$85,000 to \$105,800. Well, \$10,350 of that increase was their book-keeping error and \$3,550 was a late revision of our projected income (which is based on occupancy), done to avoid giving us grant money for capital expenditures. When Nellie's was offered no more than the estimated \$6,900, we requested an additional \$5,000 grant to cover capital expenditures for urgent sanitary and security measures. The next thing we knew, our projected income was upped after some figure playing and it was explained to us that let alone being out of debt, Nellie's should have a financial surplus by the end of the year out of which we could buy such items! So, on the basis of good faith (more on our credit-rating than on their competency), we have agreed to go ahead and start buying the items.
- * on our strength to have recognized how much of our (women's) work is taken for granted.

* **Discrediting** - Several politicians and civil servants alike tried their best to put us on the defensive and avoid the issue with charges of mismanagement. Whenever one makes a struggle against not having enough money, the government is ready to make accusations of not being able to manage on a pittance. We described why we need more staff and back-up facilities and it was used to accuse us of irresponsibly running a service without proper facilities!

* **Delaying Tactics** - Delays are designed to tire and after many reports were referred to studies and future meetings, we were indeed exhausted. This made the energy of supporters all the more crucial. In the final Metro Executive Council meeting, one member credited us with deserving the academy award for perseverance!

For Sun Oct 22/76
**New plea
 for money
 at hostels**

If Metro can afford \$225,000 to subsidize the zoo for people "to see monkeys in the winter," it should be able to find adequate funding for women in need of emergency shelter, a women's group said yesterday.

Sharon Brown, a spokesman for the Association of Women's Hostels of Toronto, said that "though the year is nearly over, our needs are still not met."

She asked the Metro Social Services Committee to commit itself to planning adequately for hostels in 1977 and to financing them according to need "so we can avoid the financial dead-ends of 1976."

She spoke on behalf of Metro's six debt-ridden women's hostels which have been pleading for more money from Metro.

Metro Council recently approved additional funding for the six emergency shelters but hostel officials say this is not enough.

See "Figure Playing".
 Our actual increase was an estimated \$6,900.

For Sun Oct 27/76
**Hostel told
 it won't get
 more funds**

Nellie's Women's Hostel, whose 1976 budget was increased a week ago from \$85,000 to \$105,000, went to Metro Council's Executive Committee yesterday for another \$5,000 and came away empty-handed.

Nellie's president, Jacqueline White, told the executive yesterday that another \$5,000 is needed for window screens, mattresses and plumbing fixtures.

When Controller Greene took part in the initial study following the occupation on the financial situation of the women's hostels, she visited Nellie's without ever requesting to see a copy of our intake policy. She suggests that we send anyone we're not set up to handle to the city-run Dundas Shelter. This hostel is less equipped to deal with women with serious problems and has frequently been full. Greene was initially elected on a platform that included investigating the Dundas Shelter but has since dropped that line.

For Sun Wed Oct 27, 1976
**Money-short Nellie's may
 be told to clean up act**

Nellie's Hostel, the financially-plagued emergency home for women on Broadview Avenue, could be cut off from Metro money unless conditions in the hostel improve.

"They've got a non-existent admission policy -- little children in the same room with psychotic women," North York Controller Barbara Greene told a meeting yesterday of Metro council's executive committee.

"They tell us they have people sleeping on beds soaked with blood and vomit, perverts running around in the back, staff being knocked around.

"They're accepting people that they have no training to handle. In my view from

here on I'd like to close Nellie's down."

Greene later softened her stand on closing the hostel, but said she will take action -- whether closing or simply tighter Metro control -- unless conditions and admission policies improve.

Staff from Nellie's had appeared before the executive committee pleading for more money to meet the desperate need for emergency housing for battered women and to improve sanitary conditions in the hostel.

The committee agreed to enough extra money to cover the hostel's immediate deficit and make urgent repairs, but not enough according to Nellie's to solve the long-term shortage of emergency housing.

Unfortunately, the committee did NOT agree to extra money for urgent repairs.