



Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

REMINDER! Very important!!

Saturday 14th June 2014 from 10am until 4pm

South Asian Women's Community Centre AGM, pre-AGM session & elections

10am-12 noon – membership discussion -- focus by governments, media and social service agencies on so-called 'honour' crimes and forced marriages [see SAWCC statement on the issue in this month's *Bulletin*]. Why this is problematic; our responses, etc.

12 noon -1pm Lunch

1pm – 3pm Annual General meeting

3-4pm Executive Council elections

The AGM and morning session is something we look forward to each year – an opportunity for members staff and Executive Council to meet and hear from one another; to discuss pressing issues; to learn about all we have done and accomplished over the past year; to get feedback, comments and suggestions from all concerned. It is also a good opportunity to introduce prospective members. They would get a good sense of who we are and what we do. If you know someone who might be interested in SAWCC please invite them.

If you require childcare, please let us know at least one week in advance – how many children and their ages.

Letters about the AGM and pertinent documents were mailed to all members by the first week in May. If you have not yet receive your package, please contact SAWCC. Thank you.

Inside this issue:

Centre Update	2,3
Indian Election- By Dolores Chew	3,4
Komagata Maru Anniversary	5-7
Mary Angelou	7,8
Pancake Recipe	8
Calendar	10

Qu'en pensez-vous?

What do you think?

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin.
- Que pensez-vous de notre journal?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to:

• adisun3@gmail.com

• Écrivez -nous à

adisun3@gmail.com

CENTRE UPDATE



Centre Hours

Monday & Thursday 9am—9pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9am—5pm

The Centre is wheelchair accessible

Le centre est accessible aux fauteuils roulants.

Membership

Have you renewed your membership this year? If not, you can do so by sending the fees to SAWCC.

Volunteers

If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (Ext. 102 or homa@bellnet.ca) to coordinate a meeting!

SAY UPDATE

Dancing can be a very revolutionary act, especially when it's about reclaiming space, and feeling empowered to express one's creativity whether with oneself, amongst family and friends, one's community members, or strangers. Throughout the year, Claudia and Ve-



ronika have brilliantly worked together, including with other peers during Bollywood Dance sessions at École Secondaire Lucien Pagé in Parc-Extension in order to showcase their talents. These sessions were facilitated by SAWCC's youth program on a weekly basis at the school. The girls participated in two shows this month, the first performance as part of the ninth annual MayWorks! Festival, celebrating immigrant worker struggles through the arts. Their second performance took place at their school, as part of the end of year dance showcase.



CONGRATULATIONS!



Juvaria Yasser, of Project South Asian Women Autonomous & Independent received her Graduate Diploma in Human Resources Management from McGill this past May 27th, 2014. Many hearty congratulations for having her name in the Dean's list!

Following on the heels of earlier honours this year, Nivatha has won recognition for identifying a bacteria which eats oil and can be used to clean up spills. The lab where she did the research, has named the bacteria after her -- they are called NB1, NB3 & NB5 (Nivatha's initials). Cool! Way to go, Nivatha!



Nivatha Balendra (right) pictured with her mother Ramani [SAWCC Member and Coordinator]. The 18-year-old scientist discovered oil-eating bacteria in her backyard and hopes that in the future it can be used to clean up oil spills. (Rebecca Ugolini/CBC)

Read more at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/teen-nivatha-balendra-discovers-oil-eating-bacteria-strain-1.2617723>

FREEDOM OF CHOICE, PRO-CHOICE PICNIC

On Sunday May 25th, 2014, we participated at an action of pro-choice picnic to celebrate together 40 years of battling for abortion. The gathering was at Place Emilie-Gamelin.

Almost 150 people participated in the action and loudly proclaim that "motherhood is a choice, abortion, a right."

The event was festive. There were workshops, songs, music, slogans, quizzes, and speeches.

The action was organized by the table régional des centres de femmes/Montréal métropolitain/Laval, Montréal Rebelles Collective, Comité femme de l'ASSE and FQPN (Fédération du Québec pour le planning des naissances).

May 10, 1970 Mother's Day was the first demonstration of fight for the right of abortion organized by the Front de libération des femmes du Québec.

After several years of struggle, the Canadians finally obtained the right to have an abortion. Indeed, in 1988 the Supreme Court of Canada considered that the prohibition of abortion was another breach of security and freedom of women.

In 2006, access to abortion has greatly improved in Quebec. Thanks to the success of a class action, the State must reimburse all abortions, whether performed in a private clinic or in a public health facility. However, this right is constantly attacked and accessibility of services is far from assured everywhere in Quebec and Canada. Since 1987, 44 motions or bills to restrict the right to abortion were introduced in the House of Common by one or more members or Liberal, Conservative or Reform Party senators. Since the coming to power of the Harper government, the pace of these proposals has accelerated to two per year.



In Quebec, the anti-choice demand that the state will no longer reimburse abortions. They open clinics where they give false information to women seeking an abortion. In Canada, anti-choice groups seek to infiltrate political parties to stand as candidates in the next election. Quebec and even Canada, major service accessibility problems still arise.

That is why we call to reaffirm loudly, in a festive atmosphere, the right of women to decide whether to have a child where they want and when they want.



YAAP SESSION REPORT & DISTRIBUTION OF CERTIFICATES

Each year, The South Asian Women's Community Centre arranges two YAAP sessions which are special workshops for mothers with young children. Mothers come together and learn through sharing their experiences of child rearing. This year's YAAP sessions were organized in Parc Extension and ended on May 28th, 2014, when the participants received attendance certificates and enjoyed a potluck with their friends and children. Forty women from Parc Extension joined in the last session to celebrate with the YAAP participants. Everyone enjoyed the company and the big array of mouth-watering food.

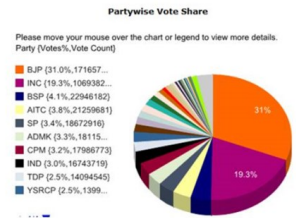
INDIA'S ELECTIONS

Over 800 million eligible voters; elections to happen over 5 weeks in 9 phases across the country; results out on 16th May the day after elections end; 66% voter turn-out, etc. These gargantuan statistics from the recent general elections in India have peppered the reportage on the elections. But more overwhelming for many of us who are concerned with democracy, equality and justice has been the landslide victory in terms of absolute majority of parliamentary seats won by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) -- 282 in all. The concerns arise from the ideological foundation of the BJP and its affiliates (fascist militia, youth group, women's wing, student wing [including on campuses overseas in Canada and elsewhere], trade union wing, aboriginal wing, missionary wing, etc.) that together form the Sangh Parivar (family of organizations). They are religious nationalists, committed to making India Hindutva, a Hindu nation, in an image of Hinduism that has been constructed by them -- narrow, fundamentalist, extremely patriarchal and casteist, a distortion of its pluralist and heterodox philosophies, practices and rituals.



Though winning an absolute majority, (282 out of a total of 543 parliamentary seats), the

BJP only won 31% of the vote. However in a first-past-the-post election system (similar to the system in Canada) this provides the BJP carte-blanche to carry out policies and programs unhindered by checks by other parties. In the past the BJP has won in elections, but never had a complete majority, it had to rule in coalition with other parties. And even then things were alarming. There was a firesale of public sector undertakings at bargain basement prices (that fits very well with neoliberal agendas of privatization of state-owned, and hence not-for-profit enterprises), there were attempts to revise history texts and the Gujarat genocide occurred with the collusion of the state. The chief minister of Gujarat, the state where the genocide occurred, Narendra Modi has now become Prime Minister of India. Indian journalists, civil liberties, women's human rights organizations, as well as international ones revealed state level complicity going to the highest levels. Victims who survived said that when they phoned the police they were told "We have no orders to save you."



Over 2000 Gujarati Muslims were murdered in the genocide and the community is still feeling the after effects. During the genocide, when nobody was spared, women in particular were subjected to the most brutal torture, rape and killing. At SAWCC, we joined the demands in India and overseas for justice for the victims of the Gujarat genocide, and we engaged in popular education on the issue. We launched a postcard campaign (see illustration), wrote and performed a skit and wrote about it in our magazine *Shakti*. This work which was also carried out in other parts of the diaspora was very important because the large overseas support for Narendra Modi.

Cases were brought to court in India, but there was witness intimidation, diligent police officers were removed. Some politicians were brought to book but unfortunately nothing stuck to Narendra Modi. Instead false cases were made up in which alleged Muslim terrorists were bent on assassinating him, to make him look a victim. Subsequent Central Bureau of Intelligence (CBI, equivalent to RCMP in Canada) investigations have shown that these were fabricated and innocent young Muslims, who were alleged to be these fictitious terrorists were murdered in police 'encounters', to further political agendas of the state. One of the best-known cases is that of Ishrat Jahan, a young 19 year old woman from Mumbai who was murdered by the police in such a fake 'encounter'.

The election of the BJP with its history, and in particular Narendra Modi with his bloody track record has resulted in a very sober response to the elections among all progressives in India and abroad. It is still early to get a complete picture of how this party moved in from the margins so completely in certain parts of India. (In the South and East of the country they did not fare well.) There have been several pieces written till now explaining this as a combination of the electorate's rejection of the ruling Congress party, the total media domination and blitz by Modi, along with a new generation of voters without a knowledge of history, but keen on employment, economic growth and seduced by promises of making India a superpower. One of them by the very reputed Indian journalist P. Sainath (who has visited SAWCC and spoken at the centre).



As with elections in other parts of the world, including in Canada and Quebec the electorate hope for change. Many women spoke of the issue of safety (see the "Womanifesto" published in our April bulletin). Unfortunately the BJP with their track record of emphasized patriarchal control will not advance real gender equality. The so-called Gujarat model of development (which has also been roundly criticized for being severely over-blown and exaggerated) which Modi touted as a model which could be expanded to all of India, and which was music to the ears of some of the younger generation is one that favours large corporates. This does not augur well for people around the country who have been struggling to retain control over local resources against corporate inroads. In the region, India is a superpower what does it mean for India's neighbours? Modi even before he was elected promised to expel Muslim migrants from Bangladesh. His genocidal policies towards minorities might make him a firm ally of the government in Sri Lanka.

With respect to people of Indian origin living in Quebec and Canada, some have greeted the BJP victory with jubilation, succumbing to all the grandiose promises that have been made, forgetting Gujarat 2002, or regarding it as inconsequential.

Possibly there will be a honeymoon period which may lull critics and dull criticism. But a leopard does not change its spots and so the election results do not augur well for the poor and the marginalized who form the vast majority of the population of India.



- By Dolores Chew

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOMAGATA MARU

—the legacy of resistance lives on in struggles against Canada's on-going racist immigration and refugee policies

On 23rd May 1914, the Japan-registered ship Komagata Maru sailed into Vancouver harbour. She was carrying 376 immigrants from India, most of them Sikh veterans of the British army, free to travel to other parts of the British empire, of which Canada was a part. The passengers were not allowed to disembark

This was one of several incidents in the history of the early twentieth century involving exclusion laws in Canada and the United States, to keep out immigrants of only Asian origin. In order to curtail non-white immigration to Canada, legislation had recently been passed declaring that those who arrived on Canadian shores who did not "come from the country of their birth or citizenship by a continuous journey and or through tickets purchased before leaving their country of their birth or nationality" – the so-called "continuous journey" clause. This was a racist piece of legislation because while migrants travelling from India to Canada would now be excluded, those from Europe (who could make it to Canada in a non-stop voyage) would not. This was because there were no direct ships from India to Canada. Those wishing to come to Canada had to sail to Japan or Hawaii or Hong Kong and get on board Canada-bound vessels from there.

Eventually the ship was forced to turn back. Only 20 of the passengers were permitted to land, but not before supporters on shore had raised money to mount a legal challenge. The B.C. court of appeal however ruled that it didn't have the authority to interfere with the decisions of the Department of Immigration and Colonization. Before the ship departed the passengers also had to defend themselves with lumps of coal and bricks against police and troops.

When the ship arrived in Calcutta it was stopped by a British gunboat. Police then attempted to make arrests. Shots were fired to quell resistance to the arrests and 19 passengers were killed.



SAWCC joined many other organizations and individuals across Canada in signing a statement on the Komagata Maru Centenary.

The statement draws a line from racist policies of the past to continuing, on-going racist policies of today.

"Migrant Workers exclusion is part of Komagata Maru's legacy

On May 23rd, we commemorate the immense injustice that was the turning away of the Komagata Maru. We remember our elders in Vancouver and across Coast and Straits Salish Territories that raised money, and attempted to defy the blockade to take supplies to those trapped aboard the ship. We honor those that were jailed, and murdered upon their return to a colonized India. This May 23rd, we mark one hundred years of resilience and resistance against racism and oppression, despite which our communities continue to live and flourish here.

For us, the Komagata Maru is not a historic 'incident' but one step in an ongoing history of exclusion of our communities.

We have seen the mass arrest of migrants aboard the MV Sun Sea and the drumming up of racist hysteria against the Tamil community. Recent anti-immigrant and anti-refugee policies have made it impossible for most of us to reunite permanently with our parents, grandparents, spouses and children. Conditional permanent residence requirements for some spousal sponsorships mean that women facing abuse may be forced into further vulnerability or risk losing status. Fewer members of our communities doing lower wage jobs are able to come here with full immigration status. Even those that do arrive with permanent immigration status and higher qualifications often end up de-skilled or living in poverty.

On April 24th, a moratorium was placed on temporary foreign worker jobs in the food sector. Now nearly 50,000 migrant workers are locked into potentially abusive jobs with even less ability to move within the industry. Workers that have paid thousands of dollars to unscrupulous recruiters to get jobs in Canada are also severely impacted. Those working in the food sector are almost entirely racialized, and many of them are South Asian.

Many organizations are calling for the ban to be extended to all migrant workers. These demands are part of the ongoing legacy of exclusion that the Komagata Maru embodies. Just as the Komagata Maru's arrival was accompanied by racist trumpeting from governments, and mainstream voices, we see our newspapers today filled with the claim: "Foreigners are taking our jobs". There are rallies against migrant workers in Alberta today, just as there were against the Sikh, Muslim and Hindu families from Punjab aboard the Komagata Maru in 1914.

The Refugee Exclusion Act, the so-called Human Smuggling Act, Labour Market Opinions, Work Permits, Quotas and Moratoriums are the legal tools of exclusion today, just as the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Head Tax and the Continuous Journey regulations have been before.

The Komagata Maru is not a failure of the past that can simply be recovered through apologies and commemorative stamps. Those are important steps in a process of reconciliation that has barely begun. But, it is imperative that we stop exclusionary laws and policies now, rather than wait for apologies from future governments.

We call on the Government of Canada to immediately reverse the moratorium on migrant workers in the food sector. The temporary worker program is undoubtedly a racist and classist program, but recent calls to deport and exclude migrant workers denies their mobility rights and basic humanity. Instead of exploiting migrant workers as cheap and deportable labour, federal and provincial governments must ensure access to permanent residence, a living wage, rights and benefits for poor and working class migrants and their families.



"The Refugee Exclusion Act, the so-called Human Smuggling Act, Labour Market Opinions, Work Permits, Quotas and Moratoriums are the legal tools of exclusion today, just as the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Head Tax and the Continuous Journey regulations have been before.

The Komagata Maru is not a failure of the past that can simply be recovered through apologies and commemorative stamps. Those are important steps in a process of reconciliation that has barely begun. But, it is imperative that we stop exclusionary laws and policies now, rather than wait for apologies from future governments."

Timeline pertaining to Komagata Maru, and racial discrimination in Canada's immigration policies

- 1869** The first Immigration Act contains few restrictions and makes no distinction on who should be admitted or proscribed.
- 1885** Under pressure from B.C., the Chinese Immigration Act was passed restricting Chinese immigration through the imposition of a \$50 head tax. In 1903 an Act Respecting and Restricting Chinese Immigration increased the duty to \$500 per person.
- 1907** Indians are barred from voting in British Columbia elections.
- 1908** The Immigration Act is amended by order-in-council 1908-27 to exclude all immigrants who have come to Canada other than by continuous journey from their native country, specifically targeted to restrict Indian immigration. Order in Council 1908-28 also comes into effect, requiring immigrants to be in possession of \$50 upon landing.
- Nov. 24, 1913** Vancouver lawyer J. Edward Bird uses *habeas corpus* argument to win Panama Maru case in Victoria, allowing 55 Indian immigrants to land in Canada, successfully challenging the "continuous journey" regulation.
- Dec. 8** In response to the Panama Maru case, the Canadian government issues a stop-gap order-in-council that bars skilled and unskilled labourers from landing at 42 B.C. ports.
- April 6, 1914** The Governor of Hong Kong allows the Komagata Maru to depart when the Canadian government does not respond to his cable asking if the passengers "will be permitted to land". The Canadian government's negative response is cabled April 7th.
- May 23** Komagata Maru arrives in Vancouver.
- July 6** B.C. Court of Appeal turns down Bird's *habeas corpus* appeal for Komagata Maru passenger Munshi Singh, validating the regulation barring labourers from landing at any B.C. port.
- July 17** Riot ensues when passengers are informed that deportation papers have been completed.
- July 19** Sea Lion tug boat with armed police and immigration officers fails in attempt to take over control of Komagata Maru.
- July 23** Under threat from HMCS Rainbow, and after negotiations with the Indian Shore Committee, passengers allow the captain of the Komagata Maru to weigh anchor and depart Vancouver.
- Aug. 4** Britain declares war on Germany.
- Sept. 27** Komagata Maru arrives near Calcutta. Budge Budge incident results in 20 passengers killed. 62 passengers got on train to Punjab.

As South Asians, as migrants, and as allies, we refuse divide-and-conquer strategies that pit unemployed citizens against migrant workers and newly arrived migrants against those who have lived here for generations. We commit to working together, and in solidarity with all those that deserve and demand fairness and dignity, particularly, low-income, migrant and Indigenous communities.

It is time to stop the injustice personified in the Komagata Maru."

If you wish to sign the statement, share it with others, etc. visit:
<http://komagatamarulegacy.tumblr.com/>

Timeline : prepared by Rick Cash, *The Globe and Mail*. Sources: "Race", Rights and the Law in the Supreme Court of Canada (Walker); Strangers at Our Gates – Canadian Immigration and Immigration Policy, 1540-1990(Knowles); The Canadian Encyclopedia; Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21; Elections B.C.; The Voyage of the Komagata Maru)

.....
 : **1923** Chinese Immigration Act excludes virtual-
 : ly all Chinese immigration. The act is repealed
 : in 1946.
 : **1947** Prohibition against Chinese and Indian
 : voters removed from B.C. statutes.
 : **1962** With the implementation of order-in-
 : council PC 1962-86 overt racial discrimination
 : is removed from Canadian immigration policy.
 :
 : *[In SAWCC, in our communities and those of our*
 : *allies, we know however that racial discrimina-*
 : *tion in Canadian immigration policies (and we*
 : *also need to include Canada's refugee policies in*
 : *this regard) is far from gone. In fact it has be-*
 : *come more glaring.]*
 :

MAYA ANGELOU

POET-AUTHOR-ACTIVIST

4 April 1928 – 28 May 2014

Phenomenal Woman

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
 I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
 But when I start to tell them,
 They think I'm telling lies.
 I say,
 It's in the reach of my arms
 The span of my hips,
 The stride of my step,
 The curl of my lips.
 I'm a woman
 Phenomenally.
 Phenomenal woman,
 That's me.

I walk into a room
 Just as cool as you please,
 And to a man,
 The fellows stand or
 Fall down on their knees.
 Then they swarm around me,
 A hive of honey bees.
 I say,
 It's the fire in my eyes,
 And the flash of my teeth,
 The swing in my waist,

And the joy in my feet.
 I'm a woman
 Phenomenally.
 Phenomenal woman,
 That's me.

Men themselves have wondered
 What they see in me.
 They try so much
 But they can't touch
 My inner mystery.
 When I try to show them
 They say they still can't see.
 I say,
 It's in the arch of my back,
 The sun of my smile,
 The ride of my breasts,
 The grace of my style.
 I'm a woman

Phenomenally.
 Phenomenal woman,
 That's me.

Now you understand
 Just why my head's not bowed.

Still I Rise

I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
the palm of my hand,
The need of my care,
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors
gave,

I am the dream and the hope of the
slave.

I rise

I rise

I rise.

PANCAKE RECIPE

And the NOMinations for best breakfast food are

Here's a peek into SAWCC staff breakfasts. Recently we enjoyed pancakes with all the fixin's: fruit, syrup and whipped cream. Yumm!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup milk or water
- 1 egg
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tbs sugar (or sweetener of choice)
- 2 tbs oil
- ¼ tsp vanilla essence
- 1 tbs cinnamon powder

Milk all the ingredients together and pour out into pancake sizes of your choice. Cook and enjoy!



Maternité un choix! Avortement un droit!

La lutte des femmes depuis plus de 40 ans

Grâce aux luttes du mouvement des femmes et de médecins comme Henri Morgentaler, les femmes ont acquis le droit de choisir leurs maternités et de contrôler leur corps :

- Le 9 mai 1970, après avoir sillonné le Canada, 400 femmes en faveur de l'accès à l'avortement libre et gratuit manifestent devant le Parlement fédéral à Ottawa;
- Le 10 mai 1970, le jour de la fête des Mères, le Front de libération des femmes du Québec organise la première manifestation québécoise pour l'avortement libre et gratuit;
- Entre 1977 et 1982, la Coordination nationale pour l'avortement libre et gratuit mène plusieurs actions pour favoriser l'accessibilité aux services d'avortement;
- Entre 1983 et 1987, la Coalition pour le droit à l'avortement libre et gratuit réaffirme le droit des femmes à choisir leur maternité et ainsi contrer les attaques des anti-choix;
- Depuis, les actions pour conserver nos acquis se poursuivent : une fête foraine en 2004; 5000 femmes prennent la rue en 2005 pour dénoncer une motion qui tente de limiter le droit à l'avortement, etc.



POUR LE DROIT À L'AVORTEMENT



Saviez-vous qu'au Canada ?

- Avant 1869, l'avortement n'était pas interdit dans le Code criminel et qu'en 1869 que l'avortement est criminalisé;
- À partir de 1892, diffuser de l'information sur la contraception devient un crime;
- En 1966, on compte officiellement 45 000 admissions à l'hôpital pour des complications liées à un avortement; ce qui représentait à l'époque la première cause d'hospitalisation;
- Le gouvernement canadien adopte, en 1969, une loi permettant les avortements à condition qu'un comité thérapeutique de trois médecins l'autorise. Pour autoriser un avortement, la santé ou la vie de la femme doit être menacée;
- Depuis 1969, l'information ou la vente de moyens contraceptifs ne sont plus des crimes;
- Depuis 1977, au Québec, les cliniques d'avortement (nommées « cliniques Lazur ») mises sur pied étaient généralement plus permissives;
- En 1988, un jugement de la Cour suprême du Canada décriminalise l'avortement, notamment parce que cela portait atteinte à la sécurité des femmes enceintes;
- Dans ce jugement de la Cour suprême en 1988, seule la juge Wilson parle du droit à la liberté des femmes de contrôler leur « capacité reproductrice »; C'est aussi en 1989 que Chantal Daigle gagne sa cause à la Cour suprême contre son conjoint qui voulait lui interdire de se faire avorter.

L'avortement gratuit n'est pas accessible pour toutes!

Toutes les femmes qui n'ont pas de carte d'assurance-maladie doivent déboursier entre 150\$ et 1 000\$ pour obtenir un avortement de 1er trimestre. Par exemple : les immigrantes sans papier; certaines femmes autochtones qui quittent leur communauté où elles pouvaient recevoir des soins même sans avoir cette carte; des itinérantes sans papier, des étudiantes étrangères, etc.

Au Canada :

- En 2006, une enquête révélait qu'un seul hôpital sur six offrait des services d'avortement au Canada.
- L'île du Prince Édouard n'offre aucun point de service d'avortement.
- Le Nouveau-Brunswick ne respecte pas la Loi canadienne sur la santé car l'avortement est gratuit à condition d'avoir été autorisé par 2 médecins et pratiqué par un gynécologue, ce qui est possible dans seulement deux hôpitaux de la province.

Les attaques au libre-choix sont des menaces à l'autonomie des femmes :

- Depuis 1987, 44 motions ou projets de lois limitant le droit à l'avortement ont été présentés à la Chambre des communes par des députés ou sénateurs libéraux, conservateurs ou du Reform Party;
- Au Québec, les groupes anti-choix demandent que l'avortement ne soit plus payé par l'État. Ils ont manifesté à ce sujet le 17 février 2014, devant le CSSS Jeanne-Mance;
- Depuis mars 2010, le Canada a coupé l'aide financière aux organisations dans les pays en développement qui reconnaissent le droit à l'avortement;
- En 2008, 56 pays (39 % de la population mondiale) permettaient l'avortement au moins dans les 12 premières semaines; 68 autres l'interdisaient (25 %) et 71 (36 %) le limitaient plus ou moins sévèrement.
- Rappelons que les pays où l'avortement est illégal sont ceux où les avortements clandestins sont les plus nombreux et les plus dévastateurs.

Au Québec :

L'**accessibilité** s'est grandement améliorée depuis 2006 grâce à un recours collectif. Depuis, tous les avortements sont remboursés par l'État, peu importe où ils sont pratiqués. Cela dit, des problèmes d'accessibilité persistent :

- Les cliniques ne sont pas toujours accessibles aux femmes handicapées, par exemple elles n'ont pas toutes de rampe d'accès aux fauteuils roulants ou d'interprètes pour les femmes sourdes;
- Les délais d'attente sont parfois longs, pouvant aller jusqu'à 5 semaines;
- Dans certaines régions, il faut parcourir de longues distances pour accéder au seul point de service;
- L'information sur les services d'avortement n'est pas toujours exacte et disponible. Elle peut être donnée de façon irrespectueuse par rapport au choix des femmes;
- La pénurie de médecins et d'infirmières accentue les problèmes d'accès, surtout en période de vacances. Les actions pour résoudre cette pénurie sont très timides.

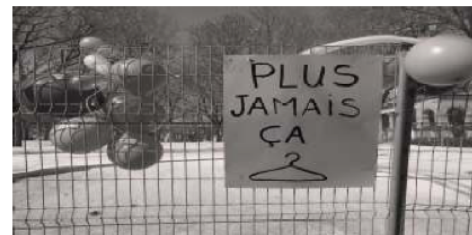
25 mai 2014

Pour plus d'informations :

Collectif RebELLES de Montréal : rebellesmontreal@gmail.com

FQPN (Fédération du Québec pour le planning des naissances) : 514-866-3721

Table régionale des centres de femmes de Montréal-Laval : 514-267-4597



Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

South Asian Women's Community Centre
1035, rue Rachel est, 3ième étage.
Montréal, QC H2J 2J5

Phone: 514-528-8812
Fax: 514-528-0896
E-mail: sawcc@bellnet.ca

31 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2013

www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca

June 3—Staff meeting

June 10— Information session on Médecins du monde Canada
(10:30am– 12:00 pm)

June 14 – Annual General Meeting- AGM (10am-4pm)

June 17– Information session on Human Rights (10:30am– 12:00 pm)

June 27– Potluck! (12:00 pm-2:00pm)

3 Juin—la réunion du personnel

10 Juin— Session d'information sur Médecins du monde du Canada
(10h30—12h)

14 Juin— Assemblée Générale Annuelle (10h—16h)

17 Juin– Session d'information sur les droits de la personne
(10h30– 12h)

27 Juin—Potluck! (12h-14h)

June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 	11	12	13	14 
15	16	17 	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 	28
29	30					