

***Suggested activities to celebrate
International Women's Day/Week 2000***

Following is a list of suggestions to help you organize an activity to highlight *International Women's Day/Week*.

In order to ensure the success of your event, make sure to choose an event that suits your audience's interests and concerns.

YOU COULD ORGANIZE:

- ♀ A discussion relating to the theme for *International Women's Day/Week* or to the concerns of the women in your community, your co-workers, students at your school. The topics could include:
 - ♀ poverty
 - ♀ violence against women
 - ♀ self esteem
 - ♀ portrayal of women in the media
 - ♀ stereotyping and socio-sexual roles
 - ♀ equal rights
 - ♀ women's struggles
 - ♀ challenges of work and family
 - ♀ education and training for women
 - ♀ career choices
 - ♀ women and science
 - ♀ women in non-traditional roles
 - ♀ employment and pay equity
 - ♀ sharing power and decision-making
 - ♀ strategies to introduce change
 - ♀ legal questions
 - ♀ feminism
 - ♀ gender relations
 - ♀ women's health issues
 - ♀ or issues of particular interest to Aboriginal women, lesbians, senior women, women with disabilities, immigrant women, or women members of visible minority groups
- ♀ A conference or round table with guest speakers to discuss issues relating to the status of women. Members of the panel could be affiliated with an organization fighting for women's rights.
- ♀ A brunch, a newsmaker lunch or a community dinner with your colleagues, neighbours or friends, on general issues of interest to women (see above list).
- ♀ An information fair with kiosks to distribute pamphlets and other material such as the material prepared by Status of Women Canada (SWC) for *International Women's Day/Week*.
- ♀ A photo or art exhibit in your work or school cafeteria, the public library, etc., featuring works created by women. Invite women's organizations to attend the activity.
- ♀ A quiz or contest on the history of the struggle for women's rights in Canada.
- ♀ A show, concert or play relating to the theme for *International Women's Day/Week* and donate the profits to a local organization working for women in your community.

Canadian Women Taking Action to Make a Difference!

YOU COULD ALSO:

- ♀ Highlight the special leadership qualities, contributions, achievements, progress or volunteer work of co-workers or members of your community working for women's equality (give a prize, write an article about them, or invite them to speak about their activities).
- ♀ Interview women in your organization or your community who work in a non-traditional job or who have key responsibilities.
- ♀ Invite women from several generations to share their personal experiences.
- ♀ Present a film or video on issues relating to women (see list of suggested films on the following pages) followed by a discussion. It may be helpful to have the discussion moderated by a special resource person. You could also invite a guest speaker to make a presentation followed by a question and answer period.
- ♀ Produce a promotional poster on *International Women's Day/Week* and post it on bulletin boards or on the walls in your office or school.
- ♀ Prepare and send out an e-mail message or bulletin in your organization.
- ♀ Write an article on *International Women's Day/Week* for your organization's newsletter or in a special publication dedicated to women.
- ♀ Write an Op-Ed piece and submit it for publication in your local newspaper or school paper.
- ♀ In your classroom, ask students to do search for information on the contributions of women's work in Canadian society. Turn it into a composition, a poem, a book report, a speech or research paper.
- ♀ Run a contest for photos, drawings, sculptures or other art on the theme "**Canadian Women Taking Action to Make a Difference!**".
- ♀ Copy the information sheets produced by SWC for *International Women's Day/Week* and distribute them **free of charge** to as many people as possible.
- ♀ Visit the "Calendar of Events" sections on SWC's Web site to find out what activities are happening across the country to celebrate *International Women's Day/Week*.

**The dreams and realities of women have no limits!
Use your imagination to celebrate *International Women's Day/Week 2000!***

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Status of Women Canada (SWC)
350 Albert Street, 5th floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1C3
Telephone: (613) 995-7835; TDD: (613) 996-1322; Fax : (613) 943-2386
Web site: www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/iwd/index.html