

***Film suggestions***

The following is a selection of films on issues of concern to women taken from the more extensive catalogue of the National Film Board (NFB).

Many of the **NFB** films are available through your local public library as well as a number of sales outlets across the country. Check the **NFB** collection on their Web site at [www.nfb.ca/E/4/5](http://www.nfb.ca/E/4/5). You can also order videos directly from the **NFB** by calling their toll free number 1-800-267-7710 or (514) 283-9900 (Montreal region only).

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**ROSIES OF THE NORTH**

(1999, 46 min 30 sec)

*Abstract:*

They raised children, baked cakes... and built world-class fighter planes. Sixty years ago, thousands of women from Thunder Bay and the Prairies donned trousers, packed lunch pails and took up rivet guns to participate in the greatest industrial war effort in Canadian history. Like many other factories across the country from 1939 to 1945, the shop floor at Fort William's Canadian Car and Foundry was transformed from an all male workforce to one with forty percent female workers. *Rosies of the North* traces the story of a group of women whose lives were changed by their experiences. They describe with wit and humor their role in the production of the Hurricane and Helldiver fighter planes. The film also tells the remarkable story of Elsie MacGill, Chief Aeronautical Engineer at Canadian Car and Foundry, the first woman in Canada to graduate with an engineering degree and the first woman in the world to design an airplane.

**BEHIND CLOSED DOORS: A MULTICULTURAL DOCUMENTARY ON FAMILY VIOLENCE**

(1998, 23 min 15 sec)

*Abstract:*

In their own languages, three women, from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds discuss how violence has affected them and their children. Their courageous stories reflect on cultural barriers to seeking help, personal turning points, and how they survived and started new lives for themselves and their families. A user's guide accompanies the film. English, Spanish and Punjabi with English subtitles.

**AN UNTIDY PACKAGE**

(1997, 47 min 36 sec)

*Abstract:*

The 1992 cod fishing moratorium threw nearly 35,000 Newfoundlanders out of work. It was the biggest single layoff in Canadian history and nearly a third of the workers affected were women. In *An Untidy Package* we meet five women from small coastal communities whose lives were irrevocably changed by the death of the cod fishery. Many feel as though their lives have been placed on hold, and the pressure is on to readjust and relocate. But job prospects are not good elsewhere, and their ties to their communities are powerful. Some women who spent years in the fishery are considered ineligible for the federal government's TAGS compensation program. Others find that the money they receive is barely enough to make ends meet. And all of them would prefer to work for a paycheck. The women featured in the film represent communities under siege--and their stories illustrate the legacy of downsizing and job cuts across the country.

## **Canadian Women Taking Action to Make a Difference!**

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### **THE DOUBLE SHIFT**

(1997, 46 min 04 sec)

*Abstract:*

How can women obtain equal opportunity, equal pay and a chance to have a family and a career without bearing an unequal share of the work?

### **THE POWER GAME**

(1997, 45 min 48 sec)

*Abstract:*

Historically, a woman's route to power involved an alliance with a powerful male. Now that women are seeking to wield power directly, will the rules of the game change?

### **YOU CAN'T BEAT A WOMAN**

(1997, 95 min 37 sec)

*Abstract:*

A documentary with a punch, *You Can't Beat a Woman* delves into violence against women, journeying to six very different countries. In segments shot in Canada, Russia, Israel, South Africa, Chile and Japan, women survive their violent relationships with men. Reclaiming their lives from experiences of rape, incest and verbal and physical abuse, they search for sources of healing. Sometimes shocking, sometimes uplifting, the film presents a provocative perspective on the universal issue of women's human rights.

### **CHARTING NEW WATERS: RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES**

(1996, 38 min)

*Abstract:*

***Charting New Waters*** is a video and study guide about violence against women with disabilities. The video includes interviews with criminal justice personnel and disability advocates as well as three dramatic scenarios. It can be used as a tool for teaching caregivers, social workers, advocates and criminal justice personnel how to respond to this issue in a way that is sensitive and innovative. (*French title: Une nouvelle cartographie : comment répondre à la violence faite aux femmes handicapées*)

### **WHEN WOMEN KILL**

(1996, 47 min 58 sec)

*Abstract:*

What would make an ordinary woman kill her husband? This powerful documentary is about three battered women who, after years of violence, kill their abusers. These women killed when they felt they had no other options: the police and the courts did not protect them, and society failed to take them seriously. When *When Women Kill* challenges the legal system to confront the systemic and widespread violence that men inflict daily on the home front. (*French title: Ces femmes qui tuent*)

### **FOR ANGELA**

(1994, 24 min 40 sec)

*Abstract:*

A dramatic story of racism and empowerment, inspired by the experience of Rhonda Gordon and her daughter, Angela. A bus ride changed their lives in a way no one could have foreseen. When three boys harass Rhonda and Angela, Rhonda finds the courage and determination to take a unique and powerful stand against ignorance and prejudice. A great discussion starter on racism and its impact. Teacher's Guide included. (*French title: Pour Angela...*)

## WOMEN AND WORK SERIES

(1993, 100 min 35 sec)

### Abstract:

A set of four videos that calls for change in the workplace, challenges traditional attitudes and stimulates debate. Titles include: 1) **The Glass Ceiling** - Whether in the public service or on the shop floor, discrimination against women is taking on increasingly subtle forms. **The Glass Ceiling** presents five women from a variety of backgrounds who must use strategy, humor and determination daily in an effort to attain equality in the workplace (27min 30 sec). 2) **A Balancing Act** - An inside look at the positive impact of structural change in the workplace – flex time, satellite offices, job sharing and telecommuting are changes designed to help working people, especially parents, strike a healthier balance between family life and work, and to increase job performance and productivity in the workplace (23 min 42 sec). 3) **A Web Not a Ladder** - Profiles of six businesswomen who, despite financial constraints and barriers of sexism, racism and ageism, are determined to do business their way (23 min 55 sec). 4) **Careers to Discover** - Featuring advice and inspiration from five women scientists, this video encourages girls at the secondary level to continue their studies in math and science and provides the facts they need to make an informed choice about the future (25 min 28 sec). (French title: **Série Femmes et travail**)

## BRIDGING THE RIVER OF SILENCE

(1991, 65 min)

### Abstract:

A film that tells the personal stories of three women who have suffered abuse from their partners. The production illustrates comprehensively the unique interagency intervention model used in cases of wife abuse in Renfrew, Ontario. One woman's story becomes the dramatic focus as she prepares for the trial of her abusive husband. The film is forthright, candid and emotional. (French title: **Un pont sur l'abime du silence**)

## FIRES OF TRANSFORMATION

(1991, 60 min)

### Abstract:

This production is about a unique women's theatre troupe called VOICE (Violence Overcome In Creative Ensemble). Its members have collectively written and performed a play based on their experiences as survivors of wife assault and other forms of violence against women and children. Their play reflects the women's harrowing journey from lives ruled by violence through the healing process of overcoming that violence both individually and within the sisterhoods in women's shelters. The production chronicles VOICE's 1990 National Tour.

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Health Canada's **National Clearinghouse on Family Violence** also offers a selection of videos dealing with the problem of violence against women. For a copy of their catalogue, call 1-800-267-1291 or (613) 957-2938. You can also consult their Web site at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/familyviolence/bilingual.htm](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/familyviolence/bilingual.htm).

**Vidéo Femmes** offers a selection of video on women's issues produced by women. You can visit their Web site at [www.clic.net/~videofem/index.html](http://www.clic.net/~videofem/index.html). For more information on renting their videos, you can contact **Vidéo Femmes** by telephone at (418) 529-9188, fax at (418) 648-9201 or e-mail at [videofem@qbc.clic.net](mailto:videofem@qbc.clic.net).