



# *The Saskatchewan Christian Feminist Network*

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Dear Women of the SCFN,

Greetings from COG.

We write to you on International Women's Day with sadness and with hope.

Sadness that our government has ignored and places women and children 'below the line'.

Sadness that our government continues the attack on pay equity in the civil service.

Sadness that our government provides no support to the working poor or those living in poverty.

Sadness that our government does nothing to provide desperately needed childcare supports.

Sadness that our government provides stimulus to male-dominated areas of the economy, further ghettoizing the 'pink ghetto'

There are many signs of hope. Let us tell you about some of them. Perhaps you know of these and of others. We encourage you to share any or all with other people.

The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign seeks to raise awareness and mobilize support in Canada for Africa's grandmothers. The Stephen Lewis Foundation launched the campaign on March 7, 2006 on the eve of International Women's Day. Since the launch, more than 200 groups of Canadian grandmothers have taken up the call to action. They raise much-needed funds to provide food, housing grants, school fees for their grandchildren and grief counseling.

Madre Mission uses human rights to advance social justice. They partner with women in communities worldwide to meet urgent, local needs and create long-term solutions to the problems that women face. Their program areas are peace building, women's health and combating violence against women and economic and environmental justice.

Prairie Lily Feminist Society aka the Prairie Lilies or Red Lilies is a newly formed society of Saskatchewan feminists. Membership is open to all women who agree with their intentions. They want as many women as possible to become involved.

They intend to:- develop a space for women to address the issues and various conditions that impact our lives

- empower the diverse community of Saskatchewan women to have our voices heard
- provide education about and opportunity for actions, which promote gender equity.

- create opportunities for us to build our skills and develop mentoring relationships and
  - build a network of support, solidarity and sisterhood for women across Saskatchewan.
- Contact: email: [prairielilies\\_@gmail.com](mailto:prairielilies_@gmail.com)

Intercultural Grandmothers Uniting is a group whose purpose is to build bridges of understanding, respect, trust and friendship between the races and generations. This group has been alive for some years and though the membership is dwindling they are still with us.

The Codepink Gaza Campaign sent this bulletin:

March 8, International Women's Day, is a time when people around the globe focus on the needs and contributions of women. This year, on Sunday, March 8, 2009, women and men worldwide will commemorate the day by highlighting the plight of the women of Gaza and sending an international delegation to Gaza to deliver humanitarian aid. What more powerful way to celebrate International Women's Day than working collectively to ease the suffering of the women of Gaza. Contact [gaza.codepink@gmail.com](mailto:gaza.codepink@gmail.com) or Medea Benjamin at 415 235 6517 if you want to become involved or require more information.

#### Who profits from the Israeli Occupation

Activists with the Coalition of Women for Peace have set up a new database. *Who Profits?* which tracks Israeli and international corporations that are directly involved in the construction of Israeli infrastructure in the occupied territories, in building walls and checkpoints, and in the supply of specific equipment used in the control and repression of the civilian population under occupation. For more information, visit: [beyondthepale.org](http://beyondthepale.org) or [whoprofits.org](http://whoprofits.org) or [coalitionofwomen.org](http://coalitionofwomen.org).

**On International Women's Day – March 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at Westminster United Church in Regina, there is a one-woman play being performed about the famous prairie woman, suffragette, politician, writer, etc “Nellie McClung”.**

At our last meeting we gave thanks for:

- gift of gratitude – for this network which we are part of and the women in it who are so dear to us.
- gift of solidarity – for other women's groups with whom we network and collaborate and those groups we do not know but whose work parallels our own.
- gift of peace – for all who live in the midst of war and conflict
- gift of healing – for those who live in despair
- gift of resources – for those whose basic human needs are not met
- gift of justice – for women who are living in the midst of violence
- gift of love for all children.

May this International Women's Day be a time of empowerment for us all.

Marilee for COG