

Marching for Equality, Standing Together Against Austerity!

Syndical organizations and autonomous groups of women have collectively come together in order to choose the slogan and illustration for March 8th. This year the artist used a collage to reconstruct characters that are inspired by cubism. The result is somewhat unsettling. It reflects the actual content in which women face within this collective group.

Every time, that equality between men and women is threatened, the force in numbers and solidarity is what enables women to gain and maintain our acquired rights.



The scissors represent the cuts of the Quebec Government, both in the public sector and the social programs. Women now form the majority of workers and they are the ones who use these programs and services. It is why the austerity measures affect us directly.

^{1.} The talking stick, also called a speaker's staff, is an instrument of aboriginal democracy used by many tribes, especially those of indigenous peoples of the Northwest Coast of North America. The talking stick may be passed around a group or used only by leaders as a symbol of their authority and right to speak in public.
Source : Wikipedia

World March of Women

The world march of women is an international feminist action movement that is made up of groups and organizations whose base line is to eliminate the causes of poverty and violence among women. The MMF (in French "Marche Mondiale des Femmes") brings forward the resistances and the alternatives that are developed by women everywhere in the world.

Following the 1995 march "Du pain et des roses" in Quebec, the idea of creating a movement of solidarity between women in the world was established. Since 2000 a vast mobilization is organized every 5 years to celebrate this solidarity.

From March 8th to October 17th, 2015 we will be in action under the theme "Libérons nos corps, notre terre et nos territoires". For more information please visit <http://www.mmfqc.org>



ENSEMBLE!
Retrouvez-nous en ligne: www.appa.qc.ca
Opinion des lecteurs: ensemble@appa.qc.ca



ENSEMBLE

Association professionnelle du personnel administratif (CSN)

appa.qc.ca

Early March 2015 - Special Edition

Vol. 14, No. 5



In August 1910 -Copenhagen-Denmark, at the 2nd women's socialist conference, originated the idea of creating an International Women's Day. It was proposed by Clara Zetkin who was the editor of the Die Gleichheit newspaper since 1890. This day marks the first fight for the rights of women to vote.

Why a Women's Status Committee?

(by Chantal Beaubien - Member of the APPA Women's Status Committee)

Following the death of my grandmother we began going through her personal effects. Among some of the items that I found was book date in 1942 named "L'économie domestique à l'école complémentaire et aux cours de lettres et science" This book was approved by the catholic committee of the Council of Public Instruction at the time. In this book we find all that women should know regarding the home, maintenance, clothing, and food, etc... One of the chapters grabbed my attention "the role of a housewife". In this chapter it mentions "women are made for the home, as the home is made for women. If she stays home, then the home is happy; if she comes out then the home will fall apart and be left in ruins".

I was shocked by this, but happy to say that in today's society, we are far from this reality that we have evolved and this thanks to the women before us who have fought for a better status. So why do you believe that it is important to have a women status committee?

Firstly we must preserve what we have acquired and we must continue our battle for equality between men and

women, not only at the salary level but also to ensure access to senior management positions. Our committee will also reflect on the component of conciliations of work, family and study. We would like to specify that 80% of our APPA membership is women. Therefore we are the most affected by this component.

Furthermore, with all the measures that the Couillard Government is planning to put in place, women are directly affected. Whether it is due to the raise in daycare costs, the withdrawal of the fertility program, the salaries that do not increase despite the fact that the cost of living is, and all the other barbaric measures, these measure contribute to the increase of job insecurity of women in the labour market. Do we have to go back to when women had to stay home because it was too expensive to work? Will we have to have two classes in society; the rich and the poor, and this where a majority of women find themselves? We may be not able to change the world however; we must continue to fight for our rights and social status. This is the reason why a women's status committee must exist.

While there is at least one woman on the planet that suffers the effects of sexism, the struggle of women will be legitimate and necessary.»

- Isabelle Alonso - 2001

Evolution of Women’s Rights

In 1928, League of Women’s Rights was established and lead by Thérèse Forget-Casgrain.

In 1934, married women obtain the right to open a bank account under their name.

In 1940, women obtain the right to vote in Quebec. Thanks to Mrs. Idola St-Jean who fought for us.

In 1968, the National Assembly instituted civil marriage.



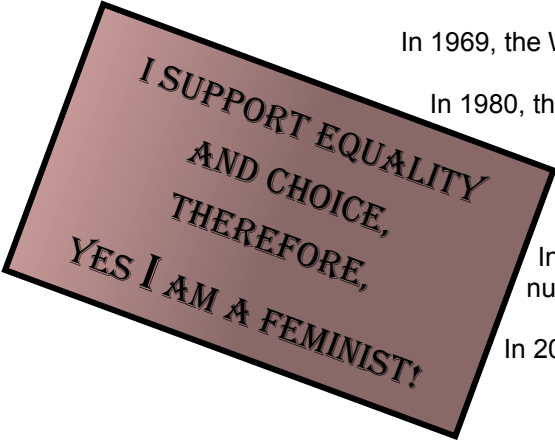
In 1969, the Welfare Act was introduced.

In 1980, the support payments for citizens are put in place.

In 1986, changes to the Divorce Act begin and in 1997 the Act on family mediation begins in Quebec.

In 2007, a first in history, the members of cabinet is composed in an equal number of men and women..

In 2010, the motion against polygamy is adopted at the National Assembly.



The first feminist museum opens its doors in Sweden

The museum thrives on making women’s voices be heard, and to « provoke ideas, norms and structures which limit today’s opportunities for both men and women »



FEMINIST PIONEERS



« Women of my generation (50 years old) were raised to please and to be kind. »

- Denise Bombardier

« The daycare cost reform: it’s a direct attack against women! »

- Lise Payette



We must not forget that we cannot take anything for granted in life, therefore, we must continue to protect our rights!

Austerity Will Crush My Pride

I am a woman that is always struggled to keep my head held high, to keep my pride and self-esteem. I have three children that I educated with dignity and love.

I am approaching my retirement and have been working since the age of 18. I have many years of seniority working for the school board and consequently I have a stable job that offers great working conditions and a great perspective for retirement. However despite all these years of seniority, I find myself obligated to look for extra income in an effort to ensure that I can obtain my essentials and that of my family. It causes a lot of stress and uncertainty due to our government’s decisions.

Since I became a single-parent, I calculate everything and I must follow a rigorous budget. In the last three years all my bills have gone up. During this period my salary and my purchasing power has gone down. Lately, this reduction is growing rapidly. Therefore I have cut costs to my grocery,

pay attention to my heating bill, deprive myself of extra-curricular activities (which helps me reduce my stress and find balance in my life), and all this, while stomping on my pride.

In the end, at the dawn of my retirement, I am in survival mode and this condition raises my indignation, and raises many questions and concerns.

To my dear government, I do not ask you for charity, I just want to live healthy without grasping for air to survive.

A woman among others....

Modern World’s Problem

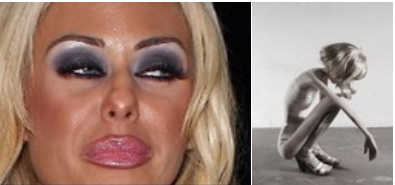
(by Manila Haghighat - Member of the APPA Women’s Status Committee)

Inside or outside perfection; which one is more important? Are women encouraged to have a perfect look rather than to have a perfectly calm & satisfied mind? Why do makeup & dress advertisements always pointing to a certain body image and not to a range of body size?

The more pressure on pursuing this so called beauty, the more problem with anorexia & money wasting on plastic

surgery & on potentially harmful chemicals (makeup) will develop about women.

What women need the most is to seek the optimal serenity, by accepting their existing appearance & focusing in their inner peace.



Have you seen this picture before? Rosie the Riveter

She is a popular icon in the United States. She was created in 1942 by J. Howard Miller of Westinghouse Enterprises. Her goal is to encourage production and raise moral among employees. During the Second World War, the American government launched a campaign to encourage women to participate in the war by working as labourers in an effort to replace the men on the front lines.

She is a symbol of force and feminism “We Can Do It!”