



unifor
theUnion | Local 4504

THE PERSONS CASE

Women were not recognized as persons under the British North American Act until 1929. Until this point women were excluded from participating in politics or affairs of state as only men were referred to as persons in the Act. The famous five, Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby and Henrietta Muir Edwards having lost their case in the Supreme Court challenging the definition of “persons” under the BNA Act, took the matter to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of Great Britain in London, where on October 18, 1929 Lord Sankey, Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, announced the verdict that women were indeed persons.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY MARCH 8TH

The origins of National Women’s Day go back to February 1908 when female garment workers in New York City went on strike to protest against their working conditions, low wages, lower positions and sexual harassment. The following year in honor of these efforts the National Women’s Day strike was organized by the Socialist Party of America.

The concept of a “women’s day” was proposed by German activist Claira Zetkin at the 1910 International Socialist Woman’s Conference and that March 8th be honored annually in memory of working women. She became a leading figure in the movement for the rights of women and for universal suffrage in Europe.

Russia became the first major power to recognize Women’s Day although lesser nation states such as Austria, Denmark and Switzerland recognized it earlier. The first Women’s Day protest in Russia was held in 1913 as thousands of women marched in the streets of Petrograd, with little support from their male counterparts being seen by them as disobedient and misbehaving for not waiting until planned May 1st protests. With the massive protests on March 8th, 1917 led by feminist Alexandra Kollontai, which ultimately led to the abdication of the Tsar, Russia became the first major power to enact suffrage legislation for women, a year ahead of Great Britain and three years ahead of the United States. Sadly, women’s rights today in Russia are greatly diminished as seen in the decriminalization of some forms of domestic violence.

The United Nations recognized March 8th as International Women’s Day in 1975 which was International Women’s Year. The yearly event is held around the world in support of equal participation in global development for women and world peace and is dedicated to celebrate women’s achievements in the social, economic, cultural and political spheres. This year’s theme is #EachforEqual. On March 8th join in the many events occurring in our communities in support of the work that has already been done and the work that still needs to be done to create a better world for women everywhere

CLINIC 554

Clinic 554 opened in 2015 following the closure of the Morgentaler clinic. The clinic has been operating as a family practice serving 3000 patients, and offering LGBTQ+ services, transgender healthcare, and reproductive healthcare. The clinic is now facing closure due to the province not paying for out of hospital abortions. Clinic 554 is currently New Brunswick's only private abortion clinic.

To access in-hospital abortions, a person needs to be less than 16 weeks pregnant, have two doctors' notes saying that the procedure is medically necessary, and be able to travel to Moncton or Bathurst.

If Clinic 554 closes the province will not only be losing their only private abortion clinic, over 3000 people will be added to the province's waiting list for a family physician. This list already has 20,000 people waiting for a family doctor.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

March 4th 6 PM: The secret 3K. This event celebrates our right to be free to run, showcasing that there are places in the world where women are not free to walk/run.

March 6th 6 PM Charlotte Street Arts Centre: Second annual celebration of International Women's Day presented by Charlotte Street Arts Centre, The Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent On Recordings (FACTOR) & Music / Musique NB. Music, dance, and catering by the Multicultural Association.

March 18th 6 PM Fredericton Public Library: Imprint Drop in Night for Youth. Join Imprint Youth Association as they explore Lego Robotics this month!

March 31st 7 PM New Brunswick Museum (Saint John): Explore the history of women's suffrage in NB, and the campaign for women's right to vote.

April 3rd 11 AM Currie Center: 6th Annual UNB MWC Pow-Wow: Celebration of the culture, music, drumming and dancing of Indigenous people on Turtle Island.

May 11th: Municipal elections

February 29th to May 31st Beaverbrook Art Gallery: Emily Carr exhibit, Fresh Seeing – French Modernism and the West Coast.

WORKING IN THE COLD

A person can be affected by many factors when they are working outdoors in the cold, such as air temperature, wind speed, and humidity. To counteract these factors proper protective wear, physical activity, and frequent warm up breaks are recommended.

Multiple layers are best, as they can be adjusted for temperature fluctuations and moisture from humidity and sweating. The bottom layer should be a heated layer on colder days, and the outer layer should be wind resistant. Footwear should always be waterproof.

Warm up breaks should be every two hours to provide a break from the cold temperatures. These give the body a break from the cold and allow for a reduction of layers if need be. Adjust layers based on body temperature, outside temperature, and amount/type of physical activity. Remember to always keep exposed skin covered in extreme cold.

NEW AND RETIRING MEMBERS

New members:

Allison Blom

Robert Reid

Sherry Wilson

Isabelle Beaulieu

Angela Carr

Janet Reid

Gabriel Elder-Gomes

Welcome to all new members!

Retired:

Mark Sandwith

Larry Fullarton



OUR LOCAL NEWS

Gignoo House donations: Unifor local 4504 had great success during our last drive for Gignoo House. We are following up that success with a second donation drive for the shelter, which serves as a transition house for Aboriginal women.

We are seeking towels, hygiene products, children's and YA books, and toys. Donations will be accepted until May 27th.

Education courses: There are courses available for local members to apply to attend. These courses include Health and Safety, Women's Activists, and Mental Health Matters. Contact the union office or your local UVP for a list of courses and instructions on how to apply.

Family Fun Event: Our annual Family Fun event at Kingswood was a great success again this year. 120 members and their families enjoyed lazer tag, bowling, arcade games, pizza, and many more activities.

SEAVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH BELL COMES HOME

Africville was founded in the 1800s on the shores of the Bedford Basin and soon became a thriving community. However, in the 1960s the community was torn down by the city of Halifax, and 400 residents were displaced. In 1967 the community's church was torn down in the middle of the night, but the bell was saved and has been housed at the Beechville Baptist Church for the last 53 years.

During last month's Heritage Day ceremony it was announced that the church bell would be coming back to the community. The Seaview United Baptist Church was rebuilt and has been serving as a museum since 2012 in the former community. The return of the bell is scheduled to happen later this year, and although it will not be going up in the bell tower it will rest on the property as a monument.

WEBSITE

The Local's website is a great resource to find local union news, national news, and on campus news. The site also showcases upcoming events, union campaigns, various tools and resources.

If you are looking for your collective agreement, EFAP information, program guides, and meeting notes the website is the place to look. Our website is also a repository for information on mental health, educational programs, and community supports.

FACEBOOK

In addition to our website we also have a Facebook group. This is a quick way to find events that we are involved in, and to find the latest news from the Local, and from UNB.

Many resources can be found here, such as meeting times and information on working conditions, mental health resources, and UNB contacts.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Chimo HelpLine

1-800-667-5005, OR 450-HELP (4357) (Fredericton Area)

Child Protection

After Hours Emergency 1-800-442-9799; Toll Free 1-888-99-ABUSE (22873)

Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre

24-hour crisis line: 506-454-0437

Gignoo Transition House

T: 1-800-565-6878 (Crisis Line) T: 506-458-1236 Send an email online at: www.gignoohouse.ca

Women in Transition House

T: 506-459-2300 (Crisis Line) T: 506-457-2770
transhouse@nb.aibn.com

Liberty Lane Inc

T: 506-451-2120; llf.fiona@bellaliant.com

Domestic Violence Outreach Services

Fredericton & Greater Area: 458-9774

Family Enrichment and Counselling Services Inc.

T: 506-458-8211; fsf@nbnet.nb.ca

All of these services and more can be found on the Local's website under "NB Directory of services for victims of abuse and/or violence"