

To date the CRIAW/ICREF '91 Conference Program Committee has organized the submissions received into a provocative and entertaining series of panel sessions, individual presentations and discussion groups focussed in at least five general areas within the Conference theme: Global Vision/Local Action. DEVELOPING VOICE focuses on the various places in which women's voices are heard: literature, art, theatre, politics, education. WOMEN AND THE STATE will look at constitutional issues and the ways in which women are affected by legislation and how women affect legislation. POWER AND TRUST examines the ways in which women are changing hierarchical relationships in areas such as therapy and education. BODY IMPOLITIC investigates the way in which women's bodies are regarded both physically and politically; and WHOSE KNOWLEDGE COUNTS? examines the ways in which women's knowledge is collected, generated and often ignored.

Attached is a list of the submissions received and accepted to date with thematic designation, type of presentation (academic or community; panel/workshop or paper) and the language of choice.

The alphabetic and numeric symbols are as follows:

A - Academic
C - Community

E - English
F - French

1 - Women and the State
2 - Power and Trust
3 - Developing Voice
4 - Body Impolitic
5 - Whose Knowledge Counts?

NAME	TOPIC	CATEGORY	LANGUAGE
Brookes, Chauhan	Teaching racism; our different classroom experiences	5 A Panel	E
Laidlaw,Poff,Udegba	Feminism as a foundation for global social justice	5 A Panel	E
Kunin	Feminism and vegetarianism	4 A Paper	E
Zuk	Sisters divided: married mothers possessed	A Paper	E
Tremblay	Women's place in employment; the confrontation between formal vs local knowledge	3 A/C Paper	E
Sydie	Local research with global implications	3 A Paper	E
Chauhan,Sylvestre	To identify as black in a non-black world	3 C Paper	E
McLean	Catalyst Theatre Women's Circle Project	3 C Panel	E
Cooke	Roles of gov't advisory councils in the 1990s	1 A Paper	E
Parsons, Steuter	Fat as a source of women's oppression; a new challenge for feminism	4 A Paper	E
Penrod	Literature, life and critical discourse; the feminist professor/administrator	5 A Paper	E
Malmo	Panel presentation of literary works	3 A/C Panel	E
Goueffic	Changing the words to reflect today's economic and social realities	3 C Paper	E
Pettifor, Gronnerud	Feminist therapists ethical principles; from specific to global applications	2 C W/S	E
Miles	Global feminism/gender and development; conflicting or complementary political locations	3 A Paper	E
Vaidyanath	Infl. of western ideologies of marriage on first generation Hindus	3 C Paper	E
Lloyd, Bray	Gender and playfulness	4 A Paper	E
Sethna	Too much on my plate	4 A Paper	E
Fleming	See clearly, feel truly, act quickly	3 C Paper	E

NAME	TOPIC	CATEGORY		LANGUAGE
Judd	Feminism from afar; crossing cultural boundaries	3 A	Paper	E
St-Hilaire	Identités et différences a l'heure du féminisme mondial	3 A	Paper	F
Janz, Nelson-McD.	Helping professionals - apt description or oxymoron	2 A	Paper	E
Shogun	Developing trust in a women's studies teaching & learning environment	2 A	Panel	E
Khyatt, McMahon	Make sense of ourself and self-worth vis-a-vis our particular locations and histories	3 C	Paper	E
Parmar	Controlling own fertility; a woman's right to termination of pregnancy	1 C	Paper	E
Liburd, Bell	From the inside; a therapist's and client's experience of feminist therapy	2 A/C	Panel	E
Forth	What makes a young feminist?		Paper	E
Husaini	Integrating women's studies into education	3 A	Paper	E
Purdy	The Guatemalan Mayan refugee women's role in relation to family health	3 C	Paper	E
Williams	What we want/n.r.t.	1 A	W/S	E
Williams	Feminist Writing and the politics of self-representation	5 A	Panel	E
Buss	Constructing female subjects in the archives	5 A	Paper	E
Watkins	Feminism in rural life; private troubles and public issues	3 C	Paper	E
Deringer	Women and disability - chronic fatigue syndrome	3 A	Paper	E
MacAulay	Girl's skipping	4 A	Paper	E
Blackford	Can others really do our marching for us?	2 A	Paper	E

Orser	Survivor skills of women in academe	3 A	Paper	E
Haslett	Ecofeminism	3 C	Paper	E

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday November 8th, 1991

5:00 - 7:30 REGISTRATION

7:30 - 8:00 WELCOME ADDRESS/ORIENTATION

8:00-10:00 ????

SATURDAY, November 9th, 1991

8:00 - 10:00 REGISTRATION

9:00 - 10:00 KEYNOTE

10:00 - 10:30 BREAK

10:30 - 12:00 SESSION 1 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, ...)

12:00 - 13:15 LUNCH

13:30 - 15:00 SESSION 2 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, ...)

15:00 - 15:30 BREAK

15:30 - 17:00 SESSION 3 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, ...)

18:00 - 19:00 RECEPTION

19:00 - 20:30 BANQUET AND AWARDS

20:30 AWARDS

SUNDAY, November 10th, 1991

9:00 - 10:30 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10:30 - 11:00 BREAK

11:00 - 12:00 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

12:00 - 13:30 LUNCH AND MUSIC?

13:30-15:00 SESSION 4 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g,...)

15:00 - 16:00 WIND-UP/DOWN

EVALUATION

Included in each registration kit was an evaluation form to be completed by participants following the conference. Twenty-eight forms were returned to the PEI planning committee. We also received 7 letters of congratulations, several thank you notes and 3 letters offering suggestions for improvement. The following section consists of a summary of the 28 returned evaluation forms and copies of the letters of congratulations and concern.



DEC 17 1990

DAWN CANADA: DisAbled Women's Network Canada
Réseau d'Action des Femmes Handicapées du Canada

Dec. 9, 1990

Linda Clippingdale,
Executive Director
CRIAW
408 - 151 Slater St,
Ottawa, Ont.
K1P 5N1

Dear Linda;

On behalf of DisAbled Women's Network Canada I am pleased to send CRIAW our letter of appreciation. A lot of hard work and many hours of planning went into the CRIAW conference which was held in PEI in Nov. 1990. We would like to send special thanks to Ann Mazer who was the conference co-ordinator and did a superb job.

Women with disabilities who attended the conference as delegates and speakers felt very welcome and knew that every effort had been made to make the conference accessible to them. Another special thanks to Ann Lie/Neilson and Estelle Reddin for their expertise on disability issues and for all of the hours they put into the conference. The entertainment was great both on Friday and Saturday. It was wonderful to watch the DANCE WITH DAWN group and to hear Maxine Tynes, who read her poetry.

CRIAW is to be congratulated and recognized as the first national women's group to have the theme of women with disabilities and their issues. The board of DAWN Canada also asked me to mention that the pairing of volunteer sisters with women with disabilities and the availability of a quiet room and crisis counsellors were great ideas and worked very well.

Please distribute this letter to the CRIAW board and to Ann Mazer, Ann Lie/Neilson, and Estelle Reddin. Keep in touch and I look forward to working with CRIAW in the future.

In Sisterhood,

Pat Israel
Pat Israel
Chairperson of DAWN Canada

c.c. Sue Potter - Secretary of State
Disabled Persons Participation Program

292 Glen Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 2X3
November 20, 1990

Anne Mazer and Molly Bell
14th Annual CRIAW/ICREF Conference
P.O. Box 2271
Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 8B9

Dear Anne and Molly,

Congratulations on a wonderful conference, impeccably organized. I, for one, had a great time, learned a lot and made useful contacts. Are all CRIAW conferences are so seamless? This was my first, and I was impressed. As one of the many women who asked for your help and patience, I want to thank you for giving both. I wish I could be that unflappable in times of pressure. I hope you will now get a much needed rest (on your laurels).

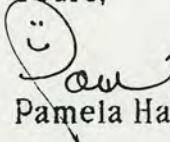
I took some pictures of the first evening's entertainment. When I get these developed, I'll send the negatives and contacts to you or to the central CRIAW office. They can be added to the video record of the conference.

Thank you very much for the transportation and registration support. I enclose my travel receipts. The expense claim you already have, but I'd forgotten one travel item. Also, I had sent you two press prints of images from *Faces of Feminism*, one of Maxine Tynes and the other of Sky Blue. I would like to have these prints back if possible. Perhaps if you sent them out, the paper would return them. I wish I had thought to ask you while there, but it slipped my mind.

I felt that this conference really broke ground in extending the definition of research and of CRIAW. The cross-fertilization was wonderful. It should encourage more women to join CRIAW. Thank you for it all.

Thank you, too, Anne, for what you said during the session with Bonnie Klein which we both attended. It made me feel hopeful about coping with my own problems to hear what you had coped with. You are amazing! Have you thought about writing the story of that? It could be very helpful to a lot of people.

Best to you all. I loved my three days on the island.

Yours,

Pamela Harris



NOV 29 1990



Health and Welfare
Canada

Santé et Bien-être social
Canada

Social Service
Programs Branch

Direction générale des
programmes de service social

Disabled Person's Unit
Room 945, Brooke Claxton Building
Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1B5 Tel: (613) 957-2886

November 28, 1990

Board of Directors
Canadian Research Institute
for the Advancement of Women
408 - 151 Slater Street,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5N1

Dear CRIAW Board Members:

I would like to express my appreciation to CRIAW; its Board, Staff and many conference organizers and volunteers, for providing the opportunity to address the concerns of women with disabilities within the context of a women's national meeting. I have been involved in both the "mainstream" women's community and that of women with disabilities for some time. To my knowledge, this is the first time in Canada that a national women's organization has:

a) included women with disabilities as part a national meeting, particularly in such large numbers

and

b) actually had disability as a theme for the meeting

On both counts, I commend your organization. It was very overpowering to, at last, see the women's community reaching out. As women with disabilities, we still have a long way to go to bridge the gaps and keep our issues on the national agenda of women's groups. However, your conference provided a wonderful example for others to follow. It was a remarkable opportunity which I see as a landmark in the women's community.

I was impressed with how well organized the conference was, with the quality and scope of the workshops and presentations and, in particular, I was excited at the

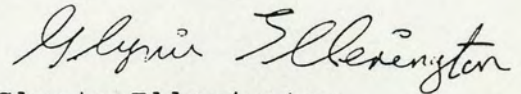
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Canada

support systems which you had put into place. I know of two women attending who would have found a conference of this nature far too overpowering if it wasn't for the support which you provided. Both the feminist counsellors and the "sister" support network were a wonderful way to facilitate the participation of women with a broad range of disabilities.

Thank you for your commitment to make this conference come about. In spite of some of the organizational frustrations it was well worth it. I look forward to receiving the proceedings to help me put that enormous volume of information into a clearer picture.

Sincerely yours,



Glynis Ellerington
Program Officer

cc: Pat Israel - DAWN Canada
Marie Lemieux - Disabled Person's Participation Program
Secretary of State
Patty Holmes - Women's Programs,
Secretary of State



The
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Lethbridge

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403-329-2111

Department of Sociology
403-329-2550
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November 19, 1990

Ms. Ann Mazer
Coordinator
CRIA W Conference
PO Box 2271
Charlottetown
PEI C1A 8B9

Dear Ann,

I just wanted to add a personal note to say what a marvellous job you did coordinating all of the tremendous work it took to put on what has to be one of the most memorable conferences I have attended. Through you I would like to convey to all of the working committees and dozens of volunteers that their efforts, hard work and kindness were very much appreciated, not only by me, but by the dozens of people I overheard saying exactly the same thing. The conference was a historic event in the Canadian women's movement. That it was possible is due largely to your efforts. I learned so much that I am still trying to digest much of it. I was also nourished and replenished by the wonderful spirit of community and sisterhood that prevailed at the conference. I say this both as a "regular person" and as a member of the Board of CRIA W. Congratulations to **all** of you for a job superbly done.

Sincerely,

Patricia Chuchryk, Chair
Department of Sociology

A SELECTION OF COMMENTS

- "The sister system was a stroke of genius!"
- "I learned more about the ways that we oppress women with disabilities in this one weekend (and at the presentation given by the Council of the Disabled) than in all my previous years."
- "There was a wonderful sisterhood energy."
- "I'm surprised. I came for an academic examination of disability and found a bunch of women describing my experience. I am becoming disabled and hadn't realized or been able to name/accept it. The personal is political, as they say."
- "Great nutrition breaks."
- "Really great nutrition breaks."
- "Really great pro-woman atmosphere."
- "The conference theme well-worked into conference - a strong message to get to know each other."
- "The presence of women with disabilities (in large numbers) was a big plus."
- "Amazing entertainment!"
- "Brave and insightful presentations on the part of numerous women."
- "The women of PEI are to be commended for the wonderful conference - the warmth was fantastic."
- "Excellent location, hotel - the staff, the shower chair!"
- "I marveled at the vivacity of the interpreters."
- "I attended the last CRIAW conference years ago and the diversity of women as well as topics this year plus theme were much improved."
- "Impressed with our collectivity and our sense of community as women and for women everywhere."
- "Very impressed with overall co-ordination."

(comments continued)

- "A genuine effort was made to accommodate."
- "Presentations terrific and very relevant"
- "I learned a great deal about the particular problems faced by women with disabilities."
- "There was great variation in the sessions. The workshops and panel discussion were excellent but the paper sessions tended to drag on."
- "A real eye-opener for one who is temporarily able-bodied."
- "Came away reactivated, revitalized and willing to keep struggling on."

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- "Start and end sessions on time."
- "Special welcome for newcomers on opening night - some way of making introductions."
- "More time needed for discussions after presentations."
- "Fewer presenters in paper sessions."
- "Need more direct relationship among papers presented together in paper sessions - giving title to paper session gave impression of greater planned link between presentations."
- "More vegetables/vegetarian option - meals."
- "More open discussion needed - not just delegates being talked to."
- "Need a get together ice-breaker at the beginning"
- "Fewer presentations."
- "More papers on feminist research should be presented and more discussion."
- "Need more details about each session in the program guide - also information about presenters would be helpful."
- "More meeting of minds needs to happen."



CANADIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
INSTITUT CANADIEN DE RECHERCHES
SUR LES FEMMES

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Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3
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TDD/ATS: (613) 230-1641
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November 21, 1990

*Anne Mazer
1990 CRIAW Conference coordinator
Box 2271
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 8B9*

Dear Anne:

On behalf of the President and Board of Directors of CRIAW I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and congratulations for your coordination of the Charlottetown conference. It was a fantastic coming together of women from all regions of the country and with varying degrees of abilities/disabilities.

In all my years attending CRIAW annual conferences I've never had such positive feedback. Everyone felt so welcome! Events were well organized without seeming too structured. We were treated to wonderful feminist talent both at Friday's cultural evening and after the banquet Saturday night. The hotel staff were helpful and sensitive to people's needs. Island women had obviously put in many, many hours of work to make all this happen so smoothly. We owe all of you a tremendous debt of gratitude.

As Joan Meister said in her keynote address, this conference was an historic event: the placing of the needs of women with disabilities on the so-called mainstream agenda. You were a large part of this accomplishment.

In closing, I want to add that I think you and the women of PEI created a model of how a CRIAW conference should work. As a concrete gesture of thanks, we would invite you and the committee to have a celebration at CRIAW's expense - perhaps when you've all had a chance to catch your breath!*

Again, many thanks and fondest wishes.

In sisterhood,

Linda Clippingdale

*Linda Clippingdale
Executive Director*

LC/cb

* *Please find enclosed a cheque for \$200.00 and a big HUG.*

THE ONTARIO INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

252 Bloor St. West, Toronto, M5S 1V6
416-923-6641, FAX 416-926-4725
Department of Applied Psychology

November 10, 1990

PEI CRIAW Conference Planning Committee
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Dear women,

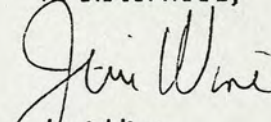
I felt that I had to write to you to let you know that I think the P.E.I. CRIAW conference was absolutely terrific in every way. I apologize for being a little delayed in getting my accolades to you--the last week has been a catch up week for me.

As I review the conference I find that it scores 10 on a scale of 1 to 10 on virtually every dimension. It was supremely well-organized, with every eventuality accounted for. The problems that might have occurred with the special needs of many disabled women if there had been poor planning simply were not there. There was the right mixture of sheer fun, with deep sharing and very hard work. Especially important for me were the bridges built between women with disabilities and women without disabilities. There seemed to be a genuine commitment on the part of everyone to try to work and learn together. I think that much of that is owed to your expert and sensitive work in putting the conference together, soliciting the support and involvement of disabled women and--very important--your massive efforts in finding funding for many disabled women to attend, participate and present at the conference. I can't remember another conference in which I was so deeply moved so many times.

The hotel--including food, personnel and accommodations--was wonderful, too. I think there's something special about Island hospitality. (You may find your numbers swelled by a few feminists in the next years.)

Thank you very much for everything. This one will be a tough one to follow.

In sisterhood,


Jeri Wine
President, CRIAW

Nov 22 1990

Dear Organizers,

You owe yourselves many congratulations!

You succeeded in orchestrating a weekend in which a great deal was learned by everyone. The spirit was amazing - the women with disabilities were happy to share with non-disabled women who seemed so genuinely interested to learn what our lives are like.

~~As a disabled woman, who~~

Attending my first conference with a disability, I felt welcome, ^{comfortable} and secure. Your 'sisters' system worked, and I am happy to know Vaughn Jeliffe.

The Dance with DAWD was very moving, as was Maxine Tyms with her unpublished poems on her own disability.

The conference has inspired me ~~to~~ to go on and write my story.

Thanks for a job well done!
Sincerely,

Bonnie Klein

PS Let me know if you would like a more formal letter of appreciation sent to

Evaluation of CRAW Conference 199

A excellent job in thinking through organizational details. Thanks for the ride from the airport, the deaf coffee, the welcoming, helpful people & the ♀'s on the road.

From my perspective the conference was aimed at the needs & interests of white middle class women. As a member of this group thanks for the affirmation & the learning.

The efforts to create accessibility for women with disabilities were ~~are~~ However much more needs to be done to overcome the predominantly white middle class face of this conference.

Concerns of women of color are very much on the feminist agenda at present. This needs to be included next, as well as accessibility for disabled women.

Let's get as many of us as we can together to build a feminism that affirms difference & does not require sameness. Tanya Lewis

I attend several conferences each yr in large spacious hotels with poor air, great access, and a wealth of general "trappings" that we (Canada) cannot afford. I am reminded of the conference on World Children in New York several months ago where discussions of children and poverty took place at huge banquets. I had hoped a womens organization could be different - make a statement. I had hoped that we are past the stage of trying to look like our male dominated friends at government conferences.

Why not change the date - do it in summer - at a university. Buffet style meals - I'll gladly help someone who can't help themselves. This waste of resources, space, food a term makes me furious.

to welcome newcomers to the conference - and perhaps have
way of identifying them - say another colour circle on +
I.D. badge. It is hard to feel part of a group when
seems everyone knows everyone except you.

A more complex issue is the one I allude to
my answer to question 1 on the Theme. I think CRIAW has
potential of bridging some of the barriers between academics and
non-academics, but several people pointed out to me that the
Board of CRIAW is dominated by "high fliers" - either in the
academic sphere or government organizations. Since I don't know
who is on the Board, I can't say if this is accurate, but
it might be useful for CRIAW to examine its Board & see
the structure encourages full participation of those from
small, grass-roots organizations. It may be this perception
incorrect, but that still leaves the issue of how to deal with
the fact that some CRIAW members do have this perception.

The other issue that came up for me was one I
was hoping we were past. As a quantitative researcher
I struggled for many years before I came to terms with the
idea that I did not have to deny my skills and my approach
to research to be a feminist - and to do research that is
relevant to the feminist, research that advances the fight
for equity for women. I recognize that even within feminism
there are varying points of view - what disturbs me is when
point of view disparages the kind of work I do and the ways
to this by other feminists in the room is not to discuss
validity of various perspectives and paradigms but to do
mutual agreement with the disparaging, dismissive
comments. It is one thing to point out the quite legit.
limitations of the "traditional research paradigm" it is
to make deprecating comments in the course of another
discussion - especially in the context of a room full of us
at a feminist conference. This is not men we are criticizing
but our so-called sisters. Perhaps I should not have
so naive to think a feminist conference would be dig
in terms of the "we have The Truth" dynamic, but I had
hoped it would be. I am tired of being in the majority
yet again. If you are content to leave me there, at least
know you will do it consciously.

SUMMARY

The last words regarding the 1990 CRIAW conference go to Jeri Wine, President of CRIAW National and to Linda Clippingdale, Executive Director. Their comments are from the Winter 1990 CRIAW newsletter, printed following "The More We Get Together...".

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW)

NEWSLETTER

408-151 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5H3 (613) 563-0681; Fax: (613) 563-0682; TDD (613) 563-1921

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

I am coming into the presidency of CRIAW on a "High" created by the wonderful Charlottetown "The More We Get Together..." conference, that was focused on women with disabilities. It was one of the most deeply moving experiences of my life and of many of the other women with whom I spoke, both temporarily able-bodied women and women with disabilities. The conference organizers raised funds to support the attendance of a large number of disabled women. Many of the presentations, many of the entertainers, and many of the participants were women with disabilities. The women's movement, most immediately represented by CRIAW, was challenged to recognize and meet the needs of women with disabilities. The atmosphere was one of discovery and the building of bridges of understanding. I believe alliances were forged and commitments made that will continue well past the conference. We owe a debt of gratitude to the conference organizers (I won't mention names for fear of neglecting someone) and for a supremely well-organized, smoothly run and inspirational conference.

It is also the case that I am coming into the presidency of CRIAW at a difficult point in our

history. For the second year in a row CRIAW's funding from the Secretary of State Women's Program has suffered a massive cut. Fortunately, the most recent cut has not forced us to further reduce staff as was necessary last year, though we have had to reduce our budgets in many other areas. Our highly competent and committed staff have carried out all of the tasks necessary to CRIAW's functioning during this last year, even though there have been two fewer staff members than in previous years.

In spite of the money difficulties we face I'm very excited about my term as president. CRIAW's vision is one that has been very central to my own politics -- to contribute to the knowledge base of an inclusive feminism that is representative of women's diversity across Canada. We are concerned to bridge dysfunctional divisions of all sorts between Canadian women, including the divisions that exist between temporarily able-bodied women and disabled women, women of differing ages, "races," classes, sexual identities. Some of you may know that I was elected as the first publicly lesbian president of CRIAW; I strongly feel that recognition and affirmation of lesbian experience and visibility is central to our work in Canadian feminist organizations; as is creating a feminism that embraces women of differing sexual identities whatever they may be. I am also

committed to ensuring that work on violence against women becomes one of our central research concerns in the wake of the Montreal massacre of fourteen young women for no other reason than that they were women. Work in this area can serve as a basis for uniting women as violence against women is a central feature of women's experience in every race, class, age, ability and cultural grouping. I affirm CRIAW's commitment to encouraging research of a variety of forms from theatrical, journalistic or participatory research to more formal academic varieties -- research carried out by feminists whose primary locations may be the community or academe, often both. Indeed, CRIAW has served as an important site for community activists and academics to recognize our common goals and to seek to bridge our differences in reaching those goals.

Our conference in Yellowknife last year brought together women from the south with those in the north, and aboriginal women with other Canadian women. The conference in Charlottetown reached across the division between disabled and able-bodied women, a most painful division that will require the concerted efforts of all of us beyond this conference.

Another of our central aims has been to work towards bridging the gap between anglophone women and

francophone women: "In the last year we have been forced to look on, once again, while a small group of white men has attempted to arrange the future of Canada. We are in a period in our national history in which relations between anglophone Canada and Quebec are strained. My vision is that CRIAW offers a site where our wounds can begin to be healed, and where the similarities of our experiences as women in the world and of our feminist visions can provide a basis for respecting our differences.

CRIAW is an inspiration to women like myself. Though a resident of Canada for nearly 30 years and a Canadian citizen for most of that time, CRIAW has been my inspiration for attempting finally to learn French. I have been studying since May, 1989 to do so, including a month's immersion course in Chicoutimi. I am continuing the struggle and ask you to bear with my atrocious accent and efforts as I do. I think that we must reach across our cultural and language barriers to do the feminist work that is essential to Canadian women."*

In closing, I am looking forward to another year of CRIAW in which we work for a women's movement that recognizes and affirms the differences among Canadian women and moves towards an inclusive feminism.

Jeri Wine, President

* translated from the French delivered at AGM.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Charlottetown Conference

As I write this message I am still energized by my experience in Charlottetown. I can't imagine a conference being better organized,

having greater local involvement, or possessing more warmth and sensitivity than this one. It was truly a model for CRIAW's goal of reaching out to all women and of working to bridge the gap between academe and the wider community.

This conference was truly an historic event. As the past president of DAWN, Joan Meister, stated in her keynote address, this was the first time a national women's organization put women with disabilities front and centre on the agenda. Moreover, the fear expressed by some that women might not respond to such a theme for an annual meeting turned out to be unfounded; over 300 participants with a wide range of abilities/disabilities came together and were enlightened in the process of doing so.

We learned a lot about each other in the many workshops, panels and paper presentations which dealt with issues ranging from the health concerns of disabled women to mothering a disabled child to violence and abuse. Perhaps we learned even more by just spending some time together. We realized it is possible - with foresight and planning - to accommodate more than one token person in a wheelchair at a conference; that the provision of signing added a lot even for those who are not hearing impaired; that a "dance with DAWN" could move even the most reserved among us to tears.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to DAWN and to the wonderful women of PEI who worked on the 10 volunteer committees, who acted as "sisters" to many of the participants, and who entertained us with such talent. In particular, our thanks go to Anne Mazer who acted as conference coordinator and maintained her warmth and charm till the very end. Thank you, everyone.