

## **The Women's Research Centre**

**The Women's Research Centre** is an institute for feminist research established jointly by Athabasca University and the University of Alberta in the fall of 1988. The Centre is designed to be a place for feminist researchers to meet and work, whatever their organizational affiliation. One of its overall objectives is to make it possible for feminist researchers with quite different interests to come to know each other's work, and through that process to eventually begin to see the connections between apparently diverse research topics.

Feminist research, for us, is woman-centred research and research which recognizes the unequal position of women in society and is oriented to changing that position. Beyond that, widely differing theoretical and empirical interests within feminist research are welcome in the Centre; there is no attempt to imply a single all-encompassing view of feminism.

Research is the process used to acquire knowledge about any topic of interest. This process may include action-research in which individuals or groups incorporate a systematic way of gathering information and reflecting on their actions; collaborative research in which researchers (in the university or elsewhere) and others work out specific ways of sharing the research process because they are both interested in the outcomes of the research; co-operative research in which two or more researchers work as a research team on a topic; and individual research in which the researcher grounds her work in her own life-experience and feminist practise but works essentially alone to achieve research goals. Outcomes of such research may range from policy recommendations (to governments or to women's organizations for example) to a new understanding of some phenomenon.

The Centre will be co-ordinated by a board of seven people, drawn from the membership through an electoral or some other agreed upon process. Four of the seven positions will formally be made by vice-presidents of the two sponsoring universities; the other three will be designated by the membership. When funding becomes available there will be a Centre Co-ordinator and office staff, as well as research assistantship positions, but at present the Centre relies on minimal office assistance and volunteer labour. It is envisioned that meetings of the membership will provide advice to the board as well as elect new board members to it.

The Centre is in very early stages of development, and we welcome your participation in determining what it should look like in the future. The plenary on Saturday afternoon will discuss the Centre in more detail, and propose a first meeting of members a few weeks later. If you would like to be a member (or are even just thinking about it) please fill out the expression of interest which is at the registration desk. We will do our best to see that you are advised of future research gatherings as well as other meetings of the Centre.

The Research Centre's address is 11043-90th Ave, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 1G5, and our phone number (often answered by a telephone answering device) is 432-8950.