

Former Chatelaine editor speaks at Women's Centre

By Lydia Pawlenko
Doris Anderson, former editor of Chatelaine magazine and author of

Two Women, is just back from Ottawa, where The Federal Advisory Council on the Status of

Women charged the federal government in ignoring the Advisory Council's policies, as well as disregarding the effects of its economic policies on working women.

As guest at an informal lunchtime talk at the York Women's Centre on January 11, Ms Anderson, appointed to the Advisory Council last July, spoke of the council's summary of a report on women in the public service.

The report revealed the Government's persistence in hiring fewer women than men, laying off more women than men, and managing to exclude many women from adequate unemployment benefits and pension coverage.

"Women are the last to be hired and the first to be fired when the economy becomes tight," Doris Anderson said.

She criticized a move by the Department of Employment and Immigration, which recently made severe cuts in spending. "The Outreach Program and 22 counselling services for women across the country are ending in March," she told the disappointed group gathered at the centre.

The cancellation of these programs, which assist women in preparing for and finding jobs, will make it even tougher for women who are re-entering the work force.

The topic of Opposition questioning in the House of Commons last month, the report states that 60 per cent of women employees are still holding clerical or stenographic jobs, the proportion of women in this category growing 10 per cent between 1972 and 1977. The proportion of women in the

executive category grew by half of one per cent.

"One of the best things that happened this year was the series of family law bills passed by provincial governments. The thrust of ideas behind them being that marriage is a union of equals.

But there is still a problem. There are holes in them where you can get a horse through. Many clauses have been left to the discretion of the judge," Ms. Anderson explained, "Any smart man can arrange his financial affairs in such a way that he can cut off his wife's assets."

She proposed that a few test cases of injustices to women be tried before the Human Rights Commission, as in instances of unequal pay, to make the public more aware and responsive to such matters. She also suggested that women get involved in public affairs by running for political office. Ms. Anderson herself ran in a Toronto by-election last year in which she was defeated.

While in university, she was discouraged by professors from further studies in the areas of English and History. In the 1940's, the range of jobs open to women was very narrow, usually either teaching, nursing or home economics.

"I was flatly told there was no place for me. I was blatantly told, forget it!" she said, reflecting on her university years.

Doris Anderson took over Chatelaine in 1958, "I started from the very first issues writing an editorial. In the 1960's, we wrote articles on equal pay, and I hammered away in the editorial.

By the time the 1970's came along and the feminist movement really came off, we could come out

of the closet. We would have been really silly to have pitched the magazine in a purely feminist way, a lot of homemakers read it. I actually got a few letters about breaking up families," she said.

She spoke of her experiences on various male-dominated boards of directors, including the York University Board on which, "one woman served for ten years. I replaced her upon her resignation. Now there are five women on the board, still a small number."

New program introduced

The Faculty of Arts has introduced a "Stream B", programme of introductory level study to its Winter-Summer session.

The regular stream, "Stream A", runs from February 5 to early August, the regular 26 week long term.

The "Stream B" programme will cram full length courses into 13 weeks from February 5 to early May. Six hours of class time per week will be allotted to each course.

"We are doing this to accommodate students, usually out of a grade 13 semester system, so they can take full courses and not have to screw up their summers by going to school", said Terry Boyd, Director of the Advising Centre.

"We also want to accommodate people who drop courses around Christmas time and want to pick up something to round out their programmes."

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ENCOUNTER CANADA: NORTHERN IMAGES

Encounter Canada has been a long standing tradition in Vanier College. Its purpose has been to bring various aspects of Canadian life and culture to the attention of the public. In previous years, it has focused upon issues such as Canadian Art, the Energy Crisis and the Future of Confederation.

The theme on this year's program is an "Encounter" with Native People who inhabit the land North of 50. Over the two day period, the general public will be invited to attend a direct encounter with Native People who will discuss their different lifestyles; and the cultural and social issues which concern them.

Schedule of Events

January 23

12:00 Noon Opening discussion that will focus on the different nations of Native People who inhabit the land North of 50
Roger Obonsawin

Followed by the film "Nishnawbe Aski"
"The People and the Land"

6:00 pm Direct Encounter with Native people from Treaty Nine who will talk about their different lifestyles.

8:30 pm Performance and prayer by Soaring Eagles Drum and Dance Troupe
Vanier Dining Hall

January 24

12:00 Noon Cultural session - Oral History, Slide Show, etc. Ken Dudley, Basil Johnson, Graham Rowley, Jim Steele

3:00 pm The Physical Environment of the North: Ecological/Geographical
Martin Lewis, Fred Wheatley

6:00 pm Informal discussion on social issues of concern to Native People who inhabit the land North of 50
Ed Dossman, Mary Lou lahtai

8:30 pm Reception

All events shall be held in Vanier College Senior Common Room.

Throughout the week of January 22-26, a display and photographs and Native Art on loan from the McMichael Collection, York University and several private collectors will be on display in Vanier College Junior Common Room and in the Founders and Winters Art Galleries 10-4 M.T,W,F, 10-8 Th.

Invited Guest Include:

Professor Martin C. Lewis-Department of Biology, York University. Arctic ecologist whose special interest is plant growth and grazing relationships in high arctic tundra.

Graham Rowley-Professor of Siciology, Carleton University. Scholar of many disicplines including Northern archeology and anthropology. He has travelled extensively in the North and has lived by traditional Eskimo ways. Deeply interested in current issues on the North.

Hugh Brody-Professor at McGill University. Author of the People's Land in which he describes interactions between white and native populations which have resulted in the loss of traditional native culture. He has lived and travelled in the Arctic.

Ed Dossman-Professor of Political Science at York University. His focus has been on government policy in relation to the North and Native People.

Ken Dudley-Teacher, writer, photographer and translator who has spent a great part of his life in the North. Also on the Eskimo Advisory Board for the McMichael Canadiana

Jim Steele-Photographer who has lived and travelled in the North.

Fred Wheatley-Chairman of Native Studies Program at Trent University.

Roger Obonsawin-Executive director, Native Canadian Centre of Toronto.

Mary Lou lahtai-Justice of the Peace from Treaty Nine.