

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesday at 12:00 noon Newsdesk 453-4983

Home orientation program comes under fire

The assumptions are built on stereotypes - Tingley

by K. Brookland

Portions of the New Brunswick Housing Corporation's 'Home Orientation and Management Program' have come under fire.

The program, developed for people living in housing subsidized by the NBHC, has been criticized by advocates of people in poverty.

Kate Tingley, a woman who knows poverty first hand, thinks it is obvious the program was designed for the most part by middle class people who operate under faulty assumptions.

"The assumptions are built on stereotypes . . . that poor women have low mentality and are ditsy," says Tingley. She says women instead of people, because "about 95% of the people living on Doone Street are women."

Jim Beckett, outgoing President of the Doone Street Wilson Road Tenants Association, says Tingley was "biased and unethical and her approach was not scientific."

Tingley says "I was not doing scientific research. I looked at the material put out by NB Housing. It was in black and white and there was no mistaking the content."

Elaine Perkins, spokesperson for the Fredericton Anti-Poverty Organization, says the program is "insulting; not something you would expect to see in the 1990's."

The FAPO representative added "The media blew it (Tingley's criticism) out of proportion. Her statements were a critique of NB Housing, not of the people of Doone Street."

The primary bone of

contention for Tingley and Perkins is the presentation of the material. Perkins said "Everyone, regardless of their socio-economic background knows when to replace toilet paper, adding, "How to clean a refrigerator? How to fill it is more to the point."

Beckett said "some of the presentation of the program is probably going to have to be changed. NB Housing followed the statistics (that many poor people are illiterate) so the program was designed that way." He adds, however, "NB Housing is helping us and they have backed us 100%; they believe in us."

Sam Rubenstein, NBHC Regional Director, says "The idea for the training package for low income tenants resulted from the NB Task Force on Housing. Partially because of that report, the government decided to do something about it."

"We wanted to empower the tenants; we wanted to explain what the terms of the NB Housing lease means; their (the tenants) rights and responsibilities," said Rubenstein.

When asked if changes could be made by the Tenants Associations throughout the province, Rubenstein said, "There is an evaluation at the end of each module; this will guide us (NBHC) to make the appropriate changes." He added, "Changes have already been made twice now."

"Generally speaking, the feedback we've received from the questionnaires is extremely positive," said Rubenstein.

Tingley said "People in housing of this type are

intimidated; they do not feel they are in a position to criticize . . . they're scared."

"I find it unfortunate that NB Housing has to present this to people. They should have looked at individual needs, rather than a broad sweeping generalization as to what the needs of the poor are. To assume people need this is sad," said Perkins.

"The program was designed by a Home Economist from the Department of Health and Community Services, a NBHC representative, a Home Economist from UNB, and a

representative from the Doone Street Wilson Road Tenants Association," said Rubenstein.

Contrary to widespread belief Rubenstein says, "The program is NOT mandatory . . . and peoples' leases will be renewed if they don't participate in it."

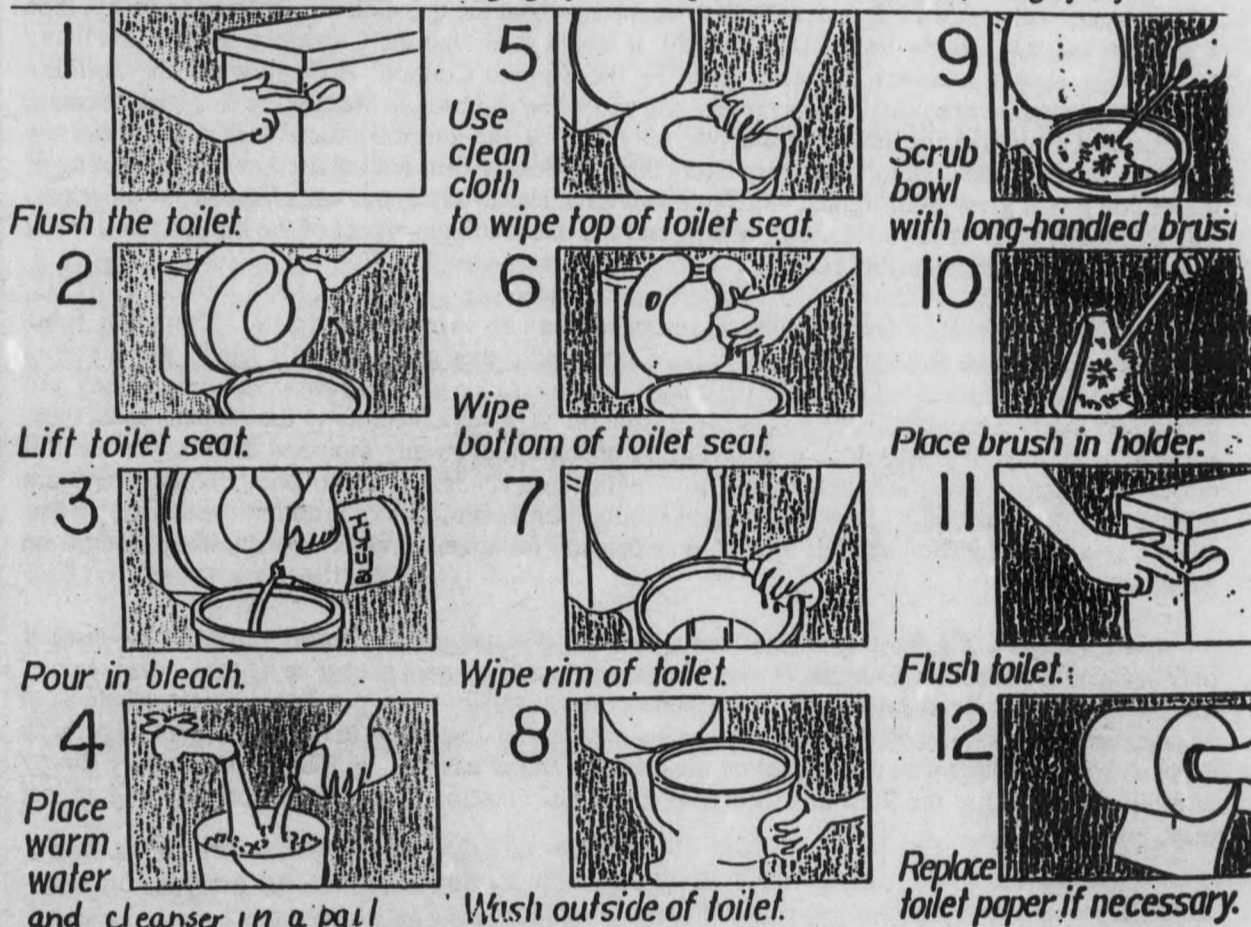
Tingley said "The majority of women I talked to did not know the program was not mandatory."

Asked what changes she would make to the program, Tingley said, "I would ask the people what they want. Judging by their response, we

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- Rubenstein

would work together to design a program.

"The only people who should design a program for the poor are people in that situation," Tingley says.



The above illustration is part of the New Brunswick Housing Corporation's 'Home Orientation and Management Program'.

Student group asked to leave the campus grounds

by Murray Carew

According to a CHSR-FM news report, a visiting student group, The Young Socialist and Communist League of Canada, were asked to leave the UNB campus on Monday.

They were at UNB as part of a Maritime tour which included meeting with Student groups and labor organizations in the region.

A member of the group, Robert Simms said he hoped to meet with students opposed to the Gulf War and the continued occupation of Iraq.

The group set up a small

display booth in the SUB although they had no permission from Kim Norris, SUB director to do so.

After being asked to leave the SUB the group then went out into the SUB parking lot with their materials.

But UNB campus security then asked them to leave the campus grounds.

According to Rick Peacock of campus security, in order for anyone, even UNB societies and organizations, to have events on campus grounds, they must first have permission from the UNB administration.

Polling station mix-up appears resolved

by Allan Carter

Vish Nandlall, Chief Returning Officer for this year's Student Union elections says he was denied permission to set up a polling station in the lobby leading into the SUB Cafeteria.

Nandlall claims that he approached Kim Norris, SUB Director, a few weeks ago to reserve locations in the SUB for the polling stations. But according to Nandlall, Norris refused to give him permission to use the lobby beside the cafeteria.

When Nandlall did not receive permission, he went to the Student Union Executive who then phoned Eric Garland, Associate Vice President Administration.

According to Mark Lockwood, VP Activities of

the Student Union, Garland told him to approach Norris once more about the matter.

Norris does not recall speaking to Nandlall about reserving that area for a polling station.

He says that when Nandlall asked him to reserve that area, he was unaware that Nandlall was referring to the elections, but thought it was another event.

Nandlall feels that perhaps Norris misunderstood him when he asked to have the area reserved. But he believes it was made quite clear to Norris why he wanted to reserve the location.

Nandlall added that he had just finished reserving other areas in the SUB and he cannot see how Norris could have misunderstood his reasons for

reserving the lobby near the cafeteria.

"I thought it was made clear (my intentions)," says Nandlall, "but perhaps it wasn't."

Norris says he gave permission to reserve the location after receiving Lockwood's message, because that lobby is always reserved as a polling station during the elections.

Norris added that he never lets that lobby be used for any event because it is too small an area, but the polling station is a special arrangement.

Whatever the reason for the confusion, the polling station, which usually has one of the biggest voter turnouts, was opened for students on Tuesday.