

# Union bureacracy is not representative

by Lara Morris

Last Thursday 15 women attended the first in a series of fundraising events held by the Regional Women's Committee of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) to collect money for the newly established "Power Fund".

The Fund has been set up to defray campaign costs incurred by women running for Board of Director positions within the PSAC and its component unions. Janet Stevenson, Chair of the PSAC's Regional Political Action Committee says, "women have not been

able to assume their fair place in decision making bodies". She hopes the Power Fund will help to solve this problem within the PSAC.

"Money is the largest barrier to women's involvement on the Board. It costs at least \$1000.00 to run a national campaign," says Stevenson. Although elections are held at national conventions, a well organized candidate must have campaign materials printed in advance and be in touch with delegates before they get to the convention. "This costs money," says Stevenson.

She hopes this regional

initiative will spread across the country. "Over the past five to ten years PSAC women have organized women's conferences, but these have mostly been for skills development. I think it's crucial that women become more politically active, and the first step is increasing awareness."

The Public Service Alliance of Canada has 140,000 members, 46 per cent of whom are women. However the composition of the Board does not reflect this. The Regional Women's Committee hopes to change this by raising more money for the Power Fund in the future.



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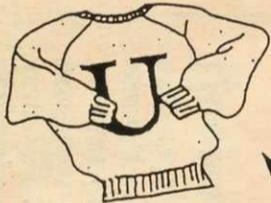
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