

Social service minister

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demand is for two-bedroom units. "There were 400 or 500 people on the waiting list for two-bedroom units," says Macdonald.

MacDonald is impatient with the lack of initiative on the part of the provincial government to create housing alternatives.

"Nova Scotia had a history of fairly decent cooperative movement. There is absolutely no reason why good cooperatives can't be initiated immediately in a province that has such a rich forest resource and the large unemployed skilled labour force."

MacDonald says those that are experiencing the housing pinch are minority groups.

"People from black communities are telling me they have a doubly difficult time to find housing because they are black."

MacDonald says minority groups have no recourse when they are discriminated against.

MacDonald claims the N.S. Human Rights Commission is no longer a body that has any teeth because the commission has gone without an executive director for 6-8 months.

MacDonald has worked with many residents from the Halifax-Needham area and she is dissatisfied with the quality of social services because of understaffing.

"Many of the case workers have caseloads that are astronomical. There are family benefit workers that have caseloads of 500."

She says there is a tremendous amount of critical awareness among church, volunteer and labour groups with respect to the department of social service policies.

Macdonald described many of their programmes as 'Bluff and Bluster', introducing new programmes or policies without any restructuring or funding.

"There has been this big advertising campaign about child abuse to increase community awareness about their responsibility to report suspected cases. But if you check into the funding of the child welfare agencies, and see if they hired any new workers to deal with all those new calls that are coming in, you will find they haven't received any additional funding."

MacDonald says the gaps in resources and funding among social service agencies stems from the hierarchical structure of the department.

"There is a supervisor, for a supervisor, for a supervisor, and on the bottom there are the front-line workers. This creates a distance between those who develop the programmes and those who receive them. □



(Left to Right) Mrs Dyer-Ffalfour (President), Miss Veronica St Clair-Forsythe (seated), Mrs Lowell Lane, Mrs Winston Freewill (Vice-President in charge of Public Relations), Mrs John Pope, Mrs Willett ("Baldy") Archibald (Founding President).



No issues in the campaign?

Let's party!

New ways to cook with toxic and radioactive waste

The Ladies of Halifax Auxiliary (LOHA) are hosting a herbicide and uranium yellowcake tea party to launch their new recipe book: *New Ways to Cook With Toxic and Radioactive Wastes*.

"Since we have been told there are no issues in this election, we decided to have a party," said Mrs. Dyer Ffalfour, President of LOHA.

"Under our present government, we already have herbicide spraying. It looks as though uranium development will be given the green light as soon as the election is over. We Nova Scotians are going to have to get used to living with toxic and radioactive wastes."

Mrs. Ffalfour went on to explain that her group is tired of these "doom and gloom environmentalists".

"We agree with Premier Buchanan—our approach must be

a positive one. Instead of worrying about these poisons, let's learn to live with them cheerfully. Nova Scotia is such a small province, it won't take long to contaminate it. Some farmland will become unusable but, then, farming isn't profitable anymore. Some of our water will become undrinkable, but we can buy it from Newfoundland. Some babies will be born with birth defects, but there are worse things in life. Some people will die of cancer, but they would have died anyhow."

Mrs. Ffalfour said that nothing is completely safe and people have to get used to these risks.

"It's selfish of us to think only of ourselves. Compared to the profits the companies will make, these worries about health and the environment amount to nothing more than nit-picking. We are being

asked to make a sacrifice and we should make it willingly."

Mrs. Ffalfour explained that LOHA has collected recipes from volunteers all over Nova Scotia.

"These recipes reveal that Nova Scotians are a resourceful people. We don't sit around whining about a problem, we do something positive about it.

"Take herbicide tea, for example. Since it's become so popular, especially with pregnant women, we've included 25 Ways to Your Favorite Herbicide Blend. We think people will be pleasantly surprised with our ladies' innovative approach to emulsifiers, an essential ingredient often overlooked by the busy wife and mother.

Then there's uranium yellowcake. Some people may know it as

uranium oxide cake but we prefer the homier name. Yellowcake was a real challenge to our ladies! But once we discovered how easy it is to ingest radioactive materials, we never stopped baking. My own favorite is Kidd Creek Yellowcake Surprise. It's a bit on the rich side but it does leave you with quite a glow.

"Out of Nova Scotia kitchens will come this important contribution to the nuclear arms race. We don't often have such an opportunity and LOHA's motto is: "Let's take advantage of it!"

The public is invited to sample the ladies' baking and tea on November 1st. Copies of *New Ways to Cook with Toxic and Radioactive Wastes* will be on sale at the door.

Kidd Creek Yellow Cake Surprise

(Note: this recipe takes several years in the making and requires pre-heating of public opinion)

- 1 part exploration (3 years)
- 1 part participation in Uranium Inquiry (this step requires "experts" who can be set aside until you are ready to use them)
- 10 pinches PR salt
- 1 part withdrawal from Uranium Inquiry (this cuts costs of recipe by half)
- 2 parts waiting for uranium moratorium to be lifted

(at this stage all ingredients should be set aside and left at room temperature—as soon as the moratorium is lifted, prepare immediately for the next step)

- 1 part bulk sampling (this procedure is the same as small-scale mining so be prepared for quite a mess)
- 2 parts preparation of the mine site (4-5 years)
- 1 part Environmental Impact Hearing (this requires more "experts" who can be discarded when you're through)
- Generous helping PR pepper

Smelt and bake as required. You'll be surprised how much radioactive and toxic waste this recipe makes. Don't be afraid to be creative with the leftovers. They'll be around for a long, long time! □