

## **CANADIAN COALITION IN SUPPORT OF THE WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE JUNE 10, 2000**

The founding group met weekly to execute the plans for the conference. We applied for a grant of \$6,000 from the Security and Peace Building initiative in the Minister's office. As well, Margot Franssen engaged Strategic Objectives to handle the public relations.

The conference was held at Osgoode Hall, York University on June 10. It attracted women from across Canada. As 300 registrations were received by the Tuesday before the conference, we had to advise others that the conference capacity had been reached. Minister Axworthy was unable to attend. Minister of International Co-operation Maria Minna came in his place.

The agenda was as follows:

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Coffee, muffins, networking
- 9:30 Greetings from Marilou McPhedran on behalf of the Centre for Feminist Research, York University
- 9:35 Sally Armstrong to introduce Federal Cabinet Minister, The Honorable Maria Minna, Minister for International Co-operation
- 9:40 The Honorable Maria Minna
- 10:00 Question period with the Minister
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 A viewing of the documentary, Shroud of Silence
- 11:15 Panel Discussion
  - Maryham Mahboob, writer, editor, Afghan Community Newspaper, Zarnegaar. What it's like for women in Kabul City.
  - Adeena Niazi, President, Afghan Women's Organization. What it's like for women in the refugee camps.
  - Marilou McPhedran, director, International Women's Rights Project. International Law and Women's Rights.
- 11:40 Discussion
- 12:15 Lunch - an authentic Afghan meal will be sold for nominal cost - a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the International Development and Refugee Foundation.
- 1:15 Greetings from Sharifa Sharif, writer, member of Afghan Women's Solidarity
- 1:30 Town Hall Session
  - Janice Eisenhower - Women for Women Afghanistan, Calgary
  - Judy Lightwater Women for Women in Afghanistan, Victoria
  - Tayiba Nasr - Londoners for Afghanistan's Women, London
  - Deb Ellis - Canadians in Support of Afghan Women, Dunville
- 2:00 Break out session
  - How to put pressure on governments that support the Taliban
  - How to promote awareness in Canada and around the world
  - How to embarrass the Taliban government