

## **FORM A NATIONAL COALITION**

The Canadian Coalition in Support of Afghan Women was established February 29, 2000. More than 86 organizations and individuals were contacted. They were advised that a conference call would be arranged in April and a national conference would be held on June 10. To date, 21 organizations said they would send representatives to the conference.

## **CREATE AN AWARENESS BUILDING CAMPAIGN**

The Body Shop has included the women of Afghanistan in their Stop Violence Against Women, 2000 campaign. Apart from the on-going media coverage, several members of the coalition are addressing gatherings in support of the women of Afghanistan at the following rallies:

- An Amnesty International rally in Vancouver May 1.
- The Women for Women Afghanistan Rally in Calgary May 3.
- The Canadian Unitarian Council meeting in Calgary, May 16.
- A conference at the University of California, June 16

## **GET THE ISSUE ON THE AGENDA AT THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN MEETING IN NEW YORK**

The resolution was written for the more than 60 Canadian women NGOs at the Consultation of the Feminist Alliance for International Action held on February 11-14. The resolution was passed at that meeting and carried to the meeting in New York. It says,

### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

Canada must lead the UN Security Council in redressing the oppression of women and girls under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and other countries where women suffer from grievous and systemic violations of women's human rights such as denial of personal autonomy, freedom of movement, right of assembly, access to employment opportunities and basic services such as education and health care.

## **LOBBY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO GET THE WOMEN ON THE SAME AGENDA AS BIN LADEN**

By working with the Feminist Majority in the U.S., we have been assured that they are pressing the U.S. government to include the human rights catastrophe facing the women of Afghanistan in the same agenda as the bin Laden issue. To that end we are attending the Expo 2000 Rally being held by the Feminist Majority in Baltimore on March 31 and April 1 and 2 where we will speak on a panel discussion involving human rights and the women of Afghanistan. It is our intention to discuss Canada's role in this issue and Minister Axworthy's support of the National Coalition and his action at the Security Council.

## **HOLD A NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The conference is scheduled for June 10, 2000