

Fax # 960-9392

August 15, 1993

Sarah Miller
Canadian Environmental Law Association
517 College Street Ste.401
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 4A2

Dear Sarah Miller,

As a participant in the Women's Consultation Meeting on Health and the Environment last May, you are probably aware that a number of women expressed interest in participating in a second meeting to discuss women's health and environmental issues. We are approaching you now, because the Great Lakes Health Effects Program (GLHEP) [Health and Welfare Canada] has generously offered limited financial support for a second meeting. We would like to work with you and by including your input and suggestions, put together a meeting that best suits all of our needs.

Lynn Andrews of GLHEP asked us for assistance in planning a second Women's Consultation Meeting to be held in March, 1994. Attached please find the results of our brainstorming: a draft agenda; objectives for the Women's Coalition on Health and the Environment; and a questionnaire that will help us plan the next meeting.

Please return the questionnaire to us by fax [(416) 531-6214 Attn: Linda Norheim, WHE] or mail [c/o Betty Auslander, 85 Walmsley Blvd., Toronto, ON, M4V 1X7] by September 10, 1993. If you wish to discuss the plans for the meeting with us, please do not hesitate to contact us at the numbers listed below.

Thank you, in advance for your input. We look forward to hearing your comments, criticisms and suggestions in the near future.

Sincerely,

Linda Norheim
Linda Norheim
w. (416) 516-2600
h. (416) 778-1225

and

Betty Auslander
Betty Auslander
h. (416) 487-2061

Encl:

- draft agenda
- objectives
- questionnaire

Women's Coalition on Health and the Environment

Objectives:

- 1. To explore women's perspectives on the environment, women's definitions of the environment, health and sustainability, and women's role in environmental change.**
- 2. To explore some of the systemic problems we are faced with when trying to respond to the environmental crisis and where we are looking for solutions.**
- 3. To share information about specific issues with other members of the coalition.**
- 4. To encourage government and business to take steps that will bring about cleaner air, water and food.**
- 5. To reach out to the larger community, especially women.**

DRAFT AGENDA - SATURDAY

BREAKFAST	8:00-9:00
<u>WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT</u>	9:00-10:30
(discussion in groups of 6-8)	
Questions to consider:	
1) How did you come to be in the work/group you are in?	
2) What is it like to be a woman doing environment/health related work?	
3) What are your strengths and weaknesses in the work you do?	
4) How do we deal with 'burn-out'?	
5) How comfortable do you feel sharing your real ideas/feelings when you're in a group?	
6) How can we give each other support?	
7) How do we, as women, see the environment?	
8) What are our needs as women?	
BREAK	10:30-11:00
GROUP REPORTS AND SYNTHESIS	11:00-12:00
LUNCH	12:00-1:00
<u>RESPONDING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS: PHILOSOPHICAL AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS</u>	1:00-1:30
(30 min. speaker)	
Problems with the current system	
-Power relationships in environmental decision-making (government, science, industry, non government organizations, agricultural and industrial workers)	
QUESTIONS	1:30-2:00
BREAK	2:00-2:30
DISCUSSION OF ISSUES AND PREPARATION OF PRESENTATIONS	2:30-4:00
(discussion in groups of 6-8)	
Questions to consider:	
1) What are the problems with the current system?	
2) Does it reflect our values as women?	
3) What would we like to see change?	
4) What would be the ideal system?	
PRESENTATION OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS	4:00-5:00
(Imagination and creativity is encouraged in the reports back to the larger group)	
DINNER	5:00-6:00
BREAK	6:00-7:00
<u>CHLORINE AND HEALTH</u>	7:00-8:00
(presentation)	
THEATRE PRESENTATION or FILMS	8:00-

DRAFT AGENDA SUNDAY**BREAKFAST**

8:00-9:00

**THE WOMEN'S COALITION ON HEALTH
AND THE ENVIRONMENT - OUR MISSION**

9:00 - 10:30

(Review 5 objectives that have been developed)

Questions to consider:

- 1) Are these what we want to focus on?
- 2) How can we best use our influence as a group?
- 3) Are we interested in community outreach and political action?
- 4) What would be a mission statement for this coalition?

BREAK

10:30-11:00

DISCUSSION IN GROUPS:

11:00-12:00

GROUP A: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Questions to consider:

- 1) What is the best way to reach women and the general public?
- 2) How can we best channel information to women in groups represented in and outside the coalition?
- 2) How are we (our groups) doing educational outreach?
- 3) Which messages will this coalition communicate?
- 4) What is your response to the content and format of the Great Lakes Health Effects Program's publications?

GROUP B: POLITICAL ACTION

Questions to consider:

- 1) How will the Women's Coalition pass resolutions (internally)?
- 2) How will the Coalition decide which issues to focus on for political action?
- 3) What strategies will the Coalition use?
- 4) Do we want to make presentations at public hearings?
- 5) Does this group want to invite key people in government departments to dialogue with us?
- 6) Will this group give feedback to government departments on the nature of their research and any value biases?

LUNCH

12:00-1:00

REPORT BACK TO LARGER GROUP

1:00-2:00

SYNTHESIS - PULLING TOGETHER THE COMMON THREADS

2:00-2:30

BREAK

2:30-3:00

DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS

3:00-3:30

EVALUATION OF THIS MEETING

3:30-4:00

**Help us plan the spring meeting!
We need your input!
WOMEN, HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. Are you planning on attending the spring meeting? If not, why?

2. Unfortunately, Health and Welfare Canada cannot fully support the 2nd women's meeting to discuss health and the environment. Since we are working with a low budget, we encourage as many women as possible to cover travel expenses. This will allow us to a) offer more subsidies to women travelling farther distances; b) offer more subsidies to women who need it; and c) [possibly] invite more participants. Would you be able to cover your own travel expenses to Toronto? Would you be interested in a carpool?

3. Although we hoped to find a location outside of Toronto, we suggest the meeting be held in Toronto for the following reasons:
a) it is likely that we will be offered a free meeting place in Toronto;
b) given the origins of the women from the last meeting, Toronto appears to be a central location. A number of the participants from the last meeting are from Toronto.

Can you suggest any alternatives? Do you know of any free meeting places in or outside of Toronto that we could use?

4. If you are from Toronto, would you be willing to billet another participant? If so, how many? Do you have any dogs or cats? Do you smoke?
