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# Editorial

*Shelagh Wilkinson*

This issue was originally planned around the articles being given at the York University Conference on "Women's Studies in Canada: Researching, Publishing, and Teaching" (19-20 April 1985). But Spring in Canada, for those of us in Women's Studies, now means agonizing over which conference to attend. After a long Canadian winter *les colloques* seem to bloom all over Canada and one is lost in choice. We experienced a similar experience at CWS/cf: while collecting articles from the York Conference we were simultaneously being offered articles from many other conferences.

It seemed sensible to share with our readers the benefit of such an outcrop. Geographically Canada defies any easy exchange of ideas and information in any *one* area of study. In Women's Studies this problem is compounded by the very scope and nature of our discipline. In each province we have small teams of scholars and teachers, in most of the major disciplines, working at their separate institutions setting up courses and programmes. The Women's Studies Conference has become a vital and integral part of the discipline. These conferences have given birth to three of our major journals and they contribute to the growth of new courses and the initiation of new programmes. They sustain us spiritually and educate us politically. The generosity and good will behind the sharing of information has been a hallmark of Women's Studies since the early days. And it continues. This issue is planned to facilitate the 'exchange' process, to pay tribute to the spirit that engenders it, and to help us feel less guilty about the conferences we could not attend.

You will find reports and papers from conferences and meetings recently held across the country: the Women's International Peace Conference, "The Urgency for True Security: Women's Alternatives for Negotiating Peace" (Halifax); the "Creating Unity" Midwifery Conference (Toronto); the "Women and the Invisible Economy" Conference (Montreal); the "Where is Our Future? Women and College Education in B.C." Conference (New Westminster, B.C.); the Sixth National Biennial Conference of the National Association of Women and the Law, "Who's In Control? The Legal Implications of Reproduction and Technology" (Ottawa); and the Annual General Meeting of Media Watch (Bowen Island, B.C.).

And it is exciting to include in this issue a selection of papers from the first Women's Studies Conference in French, "Approches et méthodes de la recherche féministe," which was organized by le Groupe de recherche et d'échange multidisciplinaires féministes (GREMF) and held at Laval University on 2-4 May 1985.

As the editors of CWS/cf are keenly aware, the links between academia and community are vital to the ongoing development of Women's Studies. The personal is political; the feminist academic is also an activist. And so we have included articles on the outreach programmes that provide women in the larger community with the time and space to discuss feminist writing and theory.

With this issue we are providing all of our readers with a 'state of the art' report: enjoy and be proud!