

gendered and de-politicized landscape came the voices of *Martha's Monthly*. Letters from across the province were emailed to the Premier's office on March 8, 2005 but there was no response from the Premier. This should not have been surprising as only the first letters, in June of 2004, were responded to by the Premier. After that, the Premier had a Minister respond to the letters, often months later.

While the political response was lacking, the response from women, the media, and organizations was strong. The March 2005 issue of *Martha's Monthly* generated more new members, was republished in more magazines, on more websites, and forwarded to more people than any of the other newsletters before or since. Clearly, there is a public appetite for a feminist critique of Alberta government policy but there is very little opportunity for feminists to speak to the government. In their efforts to silence claims-makers, the Alberta government has silenced many of the voices of their people. At this point, the feminists of *Martha's Monthly* rely on volunteer labour with minimal funding as they attempt to take on Goliath. It could be argued that Goliath has won this round. But Martha is still going strong. She will be back to take on Goliath on the eighth of each month and her little rocks may eventually create the ideological change that is so needed in Alberta. In drawing attention to the removal of the word "women" from documents on violence against women, *Martha's Monthly* has aimed her slingshot at the target of neo-liberalism and does not intend to back down.

Martha's Monthly has recently received a small amount of funding, from Status of Women Canada to mechanize the computer listserv. Further information is accessible at www.womanspace.ca.

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¹Even the word "occurs" is jarring as it suggests that violence happens in the same way that a snowstorm "happens," without conscious choice. Violence is not an occurrence but a tool of choice to control women. The use of the verb "occur" is inappropriate in the text.

²Considering the number of women denied access represents 70 per cent of the total accommodated, the seven per cent boost in funding seems woefully inadequate to meet demand.

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CAROL ROSE

after-shocks

you stay in my body
for hours
the after-shocks
palpable
like birdsong
or prayer
the landscape
under my skin
dissolving
to light
in ice-blue air

Carol Rose lives in Winnipeg and is working on a second collection of poetry.