

Research: Summer 1979

The following outlines the steps taken to prepare and carry through this year's project:

1. A detailed questionnaire was developed based on last year's bibliographic and primary research and last summer's interview experience.
2. Each union in B.C. with a history of female membership was contacted to enquire for possible research subjects and to ask for publication of information about the project in union newsletters and newspapers. Eighty-four unions were contacted as well as labour councils in the province. Political organizations were included as well as labour-oriented media. Several meetings were held with Ms. Astrid Davidson, Coordinator of Women's Programmes for the B.C. Federation of Labour.
3. Women who were interviewed in 1978 were written to follow-up last summer's work and ask for additional contacts.
4. Contacts made last year but not interviewed were followed up and sent material on the project and interview outlines.
5. Research was made into government and union resources from the 1930's and 1940's to uncover names of women officers and rank and file unionists who might be available for interviewing. Unions and retiree associations were written to request the current addresses of these women. Women were also traced through relatives, cultural and political organizations.
6. Interview material was again sent out to contacts (this process occurred throughout the summer).
7. Interviewing began in late May and early June.
8. New names were generated from the interviews and in correspondence from unions and associations and interviewing continued. Several trips to Vancouver Island were made to interview and arrange deposit of tapes with the Sound Archives.
9. Detailed notes were made from the interviews (this required three weeks of labour). Some initial copies were made for women who required copies before they would sign the release form.
10. In total, out of the eighty-four unions contacted, twenty-eight wrote back and twenty made suggestions for interviews or supplied addresses. One hundred and fifty people were contacted this summer. At least two-thirds of these felt that they were not adequately experienced with the labour movement, were active at a later time period or were unable to complete an interview because of ill health. Five women refused an interview because of disagreements with the focus of the project or subsequent withdrawal from the labour movement.

*§ S.D. - does this mean that
all the interviews
done were valuable, or
were there any flops?*