



Campaigns to Advance Women's Equality Rights

Women's March Against Poverty, Quebec 1995

The Women's March Against Poverty took place in Québec in 1995. That march, initiated by the Fédération des femmes du Québec, was hugely successful. Three contingents of 850 women marched for ten days to win nine demands related to economic justice. Fifteen thousand people greeted them at the end of their ten-day walk. The entire women's movement mobilized for that march as did many other segments of the population.

The Women's March Against Poverty: For Bread and Roses & For Jobs and Justice May-June 1996

The Women's March Against Poverty set out from the Canadian East and West coasts in mid-May and arrived in Ottawa a month later. Many women joined in the march and rallies were held in many home towns to welcome the women, share concerns and support the March as it made its way to Parliament Hill. This march was organized by the Canadian Labour Congress and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. The theme was "For Bread and Roses, For Jobs and Justice".

It's Time for Change! Canadian Women's March Committee of the World March of Women 2000

The Canadian Women's March Committee of the World March of Women 2000 called on women across Canada to join the National Women's Lobby against poverty and violence against women.

The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada and 23 national equality seeking women's organizations came together for the World March of Women 2000. The following organizations called upon government to make changes that would truly advance women's equality rights.

The Canadian Women's March Committee; The Canadian Abortion Rights Action League; Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies; Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres; Canadian Federation of Students; Canadian Federation of University Women; Canadian Labour Congress; Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women; Congress of Black Women Canada; CUSO; Disabled Women's Network; Fédération des Femmes du Québec; Fédération Nationale des Femmes Canadiennes-Françaises; Métis National Council of Women; National Action Committee on the Status of Women; National Anti-Poverty Organization; National Association of Women and the Law; National Council of Women in Canada; National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada; Native Women's Association of Canada Pauktuutit; Le Réseau National D'Action-Education Femmes; Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada; and YWCA of Canada.

Demands to the federal government to end poverty and violence against women included:

- Set up the promised national child-care fund, starting with an immediate contribution of \$2 billion.
- Allocate \$2 billion to an early childhood development fund in the year 2000 as a first increment of a five-year plan to institute a non-profit, publicly funded and accountable, cross-Canada system of universally accessible early childhood care, education and parent support services.
- Develop and legislate a comprehensive range of family leave policies that do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, including paid and unpaid extended maternity leave, parental, child-care, elder care and dependent care leave and which provide full protection for those who wish to return to the labour force after extended care giving periods.