

# PRIORITIES

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50cents

CONGRATULATIONS

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

CREDIT ACCOUNT OF

DATE

CASH RECEIVED - SIGNATURE

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| CHEQUES<br>CPNS ETC.<br>(LIST ON REVERSE) |  |  |
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| NET<br>DEPOSIT                            |  |  |

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## S.O.R.W.U.C.!

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
N.D.P. WOMEN'S COMMITTEE  
*A FEMINIST SOCIALIST PERSPECTIVE*

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"The issues and demands raised by the Women's Liberation Movement are integral to the development of a democratic socialist society. The NDP actively encourages and provides support for women organizing around the demands of the women's liberation movement and commits an NDP government to creating the legislation necessary to realize these demands."

(From the B.C. NDP policy on Women's Rights)

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# Victory for Women!

BY CYNTHIA FLOOD

It's a real pleasure to be able, for once, to report on a Victory For Women ...a good, solid, score for our side. Last week a Labor Relations Board ruling emerged from the dark recesses of government and informed bank employees that they have the right to organize on a branch-by-branch basis. They do not, as their employers (the struggling, infant, fragile banking industry of Canada) claimed, have to organize every single employee in the country in any given bank in order to be able to get certification.

What does this ruling mean? It means for us in BC that the Service, Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada (SORWUC) can now proceed uninhibited with their drive to unionize workers in banks, credit unions, data centres, trust companies, and so forth. It means that the Canadian Union of Bank Employees in Ontario can do the same. It means that a group of workers, mostly women, who have for uncounted years been among the worst paid, least-promoted, and shoddily-treated employees in the service industries, can now legally and collectively begin to fight for better wages and working conditions. It also means, because these things have a spin-off effect, that women workers in other and similarly unsatisfactory industries will take note, take heart, and begin to move.

SORWUC's achievement should not be underestimated. It is a small group; it took on the major financial institutions of the country; it had no massive funding or team of paid, experienced organizers. What it did have was a lot of hard work, a lot of support from the women's movement, and a lot of determination. SORWUC has produced a victory that will go into the history books, and to SORWUC go our heartiest congratulations and thanks.

Any Priorities readers who work in financial institutions, or who know women who work in same, or who would like to assist in the organizing drive which SORWUC is now launching, or who would like to contribute money to the advertising campaign which they are planning, or who have time and inclination to leaflet banks, etc., in their communities, please contact Service, Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada, Room 1114, 207 West Hastings, Vancouver, telephone 684-2834. Financial contributions are very much needed right now, to offset the high legal costs involved in obtaining the ruling.

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