Do it Like Doris!

Tune and lyrics by Linda Palmer Nye

Twenty-six years and here we all are,
More political battles, more political scars.
We did what we’ve done and we’ve done
what we could,
And isn’t it amazing—we all look this good!

Hey. Hey. Whaddaya say?
We do it like Doris. And we do it today.
Hey now. Sing it out loud –
I am a feminist and I’m damn proud.
I am a feminist and I’m damn proud.

Red, black, yellow, brown. Skins are different,
it’s true.
But our hearts are all red and I’m a woman
like you.
So let’s put skin colour where it belongs –
Makin’ a rainbow of women and makin’
us strong.

Hey. Hey. Whaddaya say?
We do it like Doris. And we do it today.
Hey now. Sing it out loud –
I am a feminist and I’m damn proud.
I am a feminist and I’m damn proud.

In 20 more years, where will we be?
Still working together for our equality.
We will do what we can and we will do
what we should.
And it will be amazing – we’ll still look
this good!

Hey. Hey. Whaddaya say?
We do it like Doris. And we do it today.
Hey now. Sing it out loud –
I am a feminist and I’m damn proud.
I am a feminist and I’m damn proud.

Sylvia and Janet are also worried about that
property rights clause. What does it mean any-
way? Can anyone owning property do what-
ever he or she wants, like pollute? Or opt out
of pay equity laws?
My friend, Mary, who is a member of the
Squamish tribe, wonders why she has to wait
another ten years for self-government. And
why in Quebec are Natives going to be re-
egated to second-class citizens….

Ever since 1984 you and Brian have done
things like bringing in free trade and the GST
without ever telling voters what you’re going
do before elections. Right now, you’re get-
ing out of funding medicare – and I don’t re-
member you asking Canadians about that. In
another five years we’ll probably have a patch-
work of medicare schemes across the country.
Rich provinces will get good care and poor
provinces will get lousy care.
Sylvia and Janet and Mary and I want the
Constitution to be made more open and re-
sponsive so that we know what we’re voting
for before elections and are able to get rid of
governments that act like dictatorships be-
tween elections. Is that too much to ask in a
democracy, Joe? And I wouldn’t advise you to
try that old line, “trust me,” on women. Afer
what your government has done to family al-
lowances, women’s programs, etc., it wouldn’t
be a good idea.

These are just a few questions Janet and Syl-
via and Mary and I had while sitting around
a kitchen table, Joe. We’ll probably have a
few more when we really get down to the fine
print. Be seeing you.

Linda Palmer Nye is a feminist, based in Toron-
sto, who writes feminist songs to encourage our
sense of humour—and feed the fire in our bel-
lies—because both are essential ingredients for a
successful revolution.

It was nice that in a 59-page document wo-
men are mentioned a total of six times – and
two of those refer to the fact that we have the
vote. Thanks a lot. But my friend Janet, a sin-
gle mother with two kids, is anxious to know
how your proposals are going to affect her. Is
medicare going to be okay? Is she ever going
to get that day care you promised before the
last election?
My lawyer friend, Sylvia, has another worry
– an old one. It’s the same question that both-
ered us about Meech Lake. It still isn’t clear
this time around whether recognizing Quebec
as a distinct society is going to weaken the
Charter of Rights. The Charter has been pretty
useful in winning some important cases in the
courts. Sylvia thinks women are going to lose
more cases in the future under these propos-
als….

Sylvia and Janet are also worried about that
property rights clause. What does it mean any-
way? Can anyone owning property do what-
ever he or she wants, like pollute? Or opt out
of pay equity laws?
My friend, Mary, who is a member of the
Squamish tribe, wonders why she has to wait
another ten years for self-government. And
why in Quebec are Natives going to be re-
egated to second-class citizens….