

Still A Long Way To Go

by Judi Johnny

Les femmes handicapées sont souvent exclues des organisations féministes. L'auteure décrit certaines des expériences communes aux femmes handicapées et

Able-bodied women have not fully accepted women with disabilities. Although I am a First Nations woman with a disability, I regularly feel like an alien from a different planet.

elle explique les difficultés particulières qui se posent à ces femmes lorsqu'en plus, elles sont pauvres.

I would like to thank the Yukon Status of Women Council for inviting women with disabilities into their

movement. This is a battle that we, as women with disabilities, have fought hard to win. But the war rages on.

Just as there is racism in the feminist movement, there is also "ablism." Able-bodied women have not fully

accepted women with disabilities.

Often, we don't feel that we fit.

Although I am a First Nations

woman with a disability, I regularly

feel like an alien from a dif-

ferent planet. Although there are a few feminist women who will treat us with great care and love, "white/able-bodied" feminist practices persist in the Yukon.

Many women with disabilities aren't as active in the feminist move-

ment as they would like to be because of hurdles we must overcome just to arrive at meetings or gatherings. We aren't given enough time to find rides, baby-sitters, attendants or drivers. To top it off, 50 per cent of the time the meetings are held in places that are non-accessible.

I am unemployed and on welfare. That means I'm continuously trying to make ends meet, which can be very stressful.

Some of my equipment is paid for by the government. Subsidized items include my motorized wheelchair, recharger, hearing aids, batteries, and diapers. However, the government does not help cover the costs associated with maintaining the equipment they provided me. For instance, my electricity bill is quite high because I must recharge the batteries for my motorized wheelchair at night.

Other equipment, deemed by the government to be "non-essential," I must pay for myself. My TDD (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) and the closed caption decoder for my TV are two such "luxury" items. Fortunately, the Yukon Status of Women Council was able to purchase the TDD for me.

I have a disability and am hard-of-hearing, I am not stupid or a freak! I know and understand my rights.

Being poor isn't romantic nor spiritual. I can't get to the Food Bank or the Salvation Army if I need help, because neither place is wheelchair accessible. Often, I have to ask people to run errands for me because most places are not wheelchair accessible.

We have a very long road ahead of us and a lot of work to do together.

Judi Johnny is a First Nations woman with multiple disabilities. She is involved in national organizations such as DAWN Canada and local organizations such as Women on Wings, and the Yukon Status of Women Council.



Toronto, Ontario

Faculty of Arts Department of Political Science

Applications are invited for a tenure-track position at the assistant professor level to be filled in **Political Theory**. Specializations in some combination of the following areas: contemporary liberal and democratic thought, law and politics, and justice and gender; and the capacity to teach the history of political thought is required. Appointment to commence July 1, 1995.

Requirements: PhD or equivalent; demonstrated research and teaching abilities and publication record. Salary: commensurate with qualifications.

Applicants should send a CV, appropriate samples of their scholarship and teaching evaluations, and arrange to have three letters of reference to be sent to: Prof. H. Simmons, Chair, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts, S669 Ross, York University, North York, Ont. M3J 1P3. *Deadline for applications is Jan. 2, 1995.*

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