



We March For Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities

North York Women's Shelter's 2010 International Women's Day Message

Toronto March 3, 2010: The theme for 2010 International Women's Day is Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for all. A much needed theme for Canada since a recent report shows that Canadian women are losing ground in the push for equality. In the past five years, Canada has:

- Fallen from 7th place (2004) in the World Economic Forum gender gap index to 25th (in 2009).
- Over the past 5 years 12 of the 16 Status of Women offices have been closed.
- Funding to a program for court challenges related to equality rights was eliminated.
- Slid to 49th from 47th, behind a significant number of developing countries, in women's representation in politics.

"We celebrated the decline of spousal violence and spousal homicide against women over the past decade but the government's move to scrap the long gun registry will no doubt undo the work that has been done to prevent violence against women" said Charlene Catchpole Executive Director of North York Women's Shelter.

Amid the crisis, International Women's Day gives us the opportunity to celebrate the important achievements of women and the gains we have won. "As we celebrate it is important to keep in mind that there is still much work to be done so that women are able to live free of violence, receive equal pay and achieve equality."

"At NYWS we strive not just on International Women's Day, but everyday to turn repression into resilience," said Catchpole.

Join North York Women's Shelter and other women's organizations at the International Women's Day Rally on Saturday March 6, 2010 at OISE, 260 Bloor Street W at 11:00 am.

Since 1984 North York Women's Shelter is place of safety, shelter and hope for abused women and children.