

## Report from the Ottawa Regional Women's Committee

The ORWC held 9 meetings throughout 2012, with an average 15 members attending. Committee members both organized and participated in the March 8<sup>th</sup> Pink Slip Rally which coincided with International Women's Day, and were also in attendance for the Labour Day parade, the September 15<sup>th</sup> National Day of Action, "Take Back the Night", December 6<sup>th</sup> events as well as various other community outreach activities. The Chair attended several Regional Council meetings as well as the 2012 PSAC Leadership Summit in December.

This year marked the inaugural meeting of the PSAC National Human Rights Committee (PSAC NRHC), and while the NCR boasts two Women's Committees, it could only elect one delegate to the PSAC NHRC. Both Regional Women's Chairs discussed the issue with their respective Committees and motions were passed allowing the ORWC to nominate or elect the delegate while the CRFF would nominate or elect the alternate to the PSAC NCR and vice-versa. Sister Jocelyne Bordage was selected as the NCR Women's delegate to the NHRC.

Elections were held this past November. Sisters Jocelyne Bordage and Annette Coughlin were acclaimed as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

We wish to thank outgoing Vice-Chair Sister Isabelle Gendron as well as PSAC staff members Madeleine Bachand, Patricia Johnson and Nankorea Keita, for having supported the Chair, the Committee and its activities throughout the year.

Year 2013 brings new priorities and challenges, most notably the Regional and National Women's Conferences, as well as planning events to mark International Women's Day and December 6<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to the challenges ahead and to working more closely with our Francophone counterparts.

Lastly, the Committee was saddened by the passing of Sister Rachel Halpenny, a devoted activist, Committee member and former Paralympian and sent its thoughts condolences to her family and faithful companion, Nougat. May she rest in peace.

Respectfully submitted and in Solidarity,

Jocelyne Bordage  
Chair (2011 – 2013)

Annette Coughlin  
Vice-Chair (2012-2013)