

WAVES OF RESISTANCE



Pan-Canadian Young Feminists Gathering
October 11-12-13 2008, Montréal

What is the Pan-Canadian Gathering, Waves of Resistance?

The goal of the first Pan-Canadian Young Feminists Gathering is to energize, firmly establish, mobilize and promote networking among the young feminists' movements in Québec and Canada.

How we will do this?

- * By gathering together the most diverse group possible of young women and feminists from different sectors and regions in Canada so that we can meet and get to know each other. By ensuring the representation of a broad range of visions and struggles led by young feminists in Canada.
- * By sharing and developing our analysis of different issues that affect us as young women and feminists.
- * By collectivizing our feminist struggles and discussing our action priorities as young feminists.
- * By thinking together about how to resist and fight against the rising economic, moral and political Right in Canada.
- * By creating links of solidarity among young feminists throughout Québec and Canada.
- * And also, by celebrating our struggles and solidarity! (Who said feminists don't know how to party!)

What will Waves of Resistance accomplish?

- * Empower young women participants.
- * Creation and collective adoption of a manifesto that reflects the concerns and struggles of young feminists in Canada and that will serve as a practical political tool.
- * Establishment of the foundations of a young feminist network to conduct collective action at various levels.

Waves of Resistance organizers

The pan-Canadian gathering of young feminists, Waves of Resistance, is organized by an organizing committee, composed of young feminists from the following groups:

- Youth committee of the Fédération des femmes du Québec
- Groupe F.E.M.M.E.S. sororitaires
- Young feminists committee of the Y des femmes de Montréal
- Centre des femmes de Verdun
- Young women of the Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain (CSN)
- Power Camp National / Filles d'action
- Carrefour de participation, ressourcement et formation
- Women's committee of the Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante (ASSÉ)

Program of the Pan-Canadian Young Feminists Gathering Waves of Resistance!

Friday, October 10

The first evening of the Gathering is about meeting each other and preparing for the next three days by collectively constructing our feminist herstory!

Time Activity

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| 3-10 p.m. | Reception and registration (UQAM, 405, Ste-Catherine Est)
Art exhibits
Information booths on feminist issues |
| 7:00 | Word of welcome |
| 7:30 | Collective construction of the herstory of feminist movements and our struggles |
| 10:00 p.m. | Evening concludes |

Saturday, October 11

On the first day of the Gathering we will learn more about our areas of action as young feminists by collectively constructing and developing our feminist analysis of different issues. Saturday activities will centre on a process of awareness-raising leading to action. Women will be invited to create and carry out creative resistance actions. Build feminist solidarity through action in small groups!

3. Reclaiming Indigenous Feminism

Jessica Yee and Lisa Mantia

Indigenous, matriarchal cultures around the world began what we modernly term as feminism, but are rarely acknowledged for these significant and necessary beginnings. This workshop aims to reclaim, revision, and restructure the roots of feminist theory and honour the teachings our ancestors have always believed in.

4. We're Hairy, Queer and Loud, Feminist and Proud! Cheerleading for Radicals

Jacqueline Boily and Sarah Granke

"Radical Cheerleading is Protest + Performance. It's activism with pom-poms and middle fingers extended. It's screaming FUCK CAPITALISM while doing a split." (Aimee and Cara Jennings, 1997). We will discuss the history and philosophy of radical cheerleading, body image, gender identity, and other issues. We will write cheers and create choreographies.

5. Feminist Resistance Theatre

Rebecca Reeves and Amy Chartrand

Inspired by Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed, we will explore the techniques of Forum Theatre and Invisible Theatre as means of creative and collective action. By means of different games and scenarios, we will bring up and work through issues related to women and feminism.

6. Violence Against Women

Catherine Young

What is violence? How do we recognize it? What is the impact of violence on women and communities? Through experience, sharing, metaphors and personal journaling, we will learn about the wheel of power and control, cycles of violence, taboos and anti-violence strategies.

7. Women and the Legal System & Prison Group

Meredith Mitchell and Julia Negrea

What is the relationship between women and the criminal justice system? What are the crimes women are more likely to commit, and which women are more likely to commit them? How can women "on the outside" work in solidarity with women "on the inside"? Special attention will be paid to the over-representation of Aboriginal women in the criminal justice system.

8. Motherhood as Feminists

Becky Ellis

The workshop will explore how sexism affects the lives of mothers. How our sexist society dictates how we, as mothers should act, dress, and treat our children, how we are judged when we try to break out of these sexist roles, and how mothers are pitted against one another. How can we collectively resist this sexism for ourselves and our children?

9. Ecofeminism

Monika Thakker, Indri Pasaribu and Maude Prudhomme

What is Ecofeminism? What is the relationship between women's lives and current environmental issues? What do sexism, racism, colonialism and the destruction of nature have in common? Examples of ecofeminist struggles will be explored in regards to everyday life and the concrete situation of women in Canada and around the world.

10. Math is Hard: Understanding Feminism and Patriarchy from a Radical Perspective

Kelly Ross

What is feminism? What is patriarchy? What does this have to do with our lives? An interactive conversation on women's oppression and its systemic structure from a radical feminist perspective.

11. Women, Work and Unionism

Elisabeth Woods

What are the diverse experiences of women in the work world? Why are women over-represented in insecure, part-time and poorly paid jobs? What are the consequences on their lives? Women's involvement in union struggles will also be discussed.

12. Abortion

Pascale Brunet and Marie-Ève Quirion

Why is the right to abortion fundamental to sexual equality? The right to abortion as an issue of women's control over our bodies and our lives. Current issues and struggles in the context of a rising right-wing wave.

13. Sexism and the Media

Anne Dagenais Guertin

We will share our observations on images of women in the media, stereotypes and their impact on our lives. This will lead to a discussion of antifeminism and the media's role in maintaining women's inferior social position.

14. Sexism and Racism: Common Origins, the Same Fight!

Katia Atif and Olivia Kamgain

In this workshop, we will think about the similarities between the North American models of domination and exploitation that are based on sex and race. Racism and sexism are systemic and both systems of discrimination intersect in our society.

15. The Rise of Antifeminism

Mélissa Blais and Eve-Marie Lampron

Discussion about the different forms of antifeminism and their impact on feminism and women's equality rights. The aim of this workshop is to let participants share their knowledge and discuss strategies to fight back against antifeminist attacks.

16. Political Involvement of Young Immigrant Women

Ruba Ghazaal and Sujata Dey (guest)

The aim of this workshop is to raise awareness about the involvement of young women in traditional politics, in particular, that of immigrant women.

17. Sex Industry

Stéphanie Charron and Ariane Vinet-Bonin

A presentation on the current situation of the sex industry in Canada in terms of the political context and globalization. We will analyze the sex industry. What is driving it and what values is it promoting? What is its impact on relations between women and men and on the women who are directly involved in it?

18. From Tolerance to Defence: Intersection of Oppressions

Ajà Besler and the Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne (FESFO)

In this workshop we will study a glossary of terms related to sexual and ethnocultural diversity to raise participants' awareness concerning the experience of these minorities and provide them with appropriate vocabulary and concepts. We will also discuss the different forms of oppression experienced by these groups, impacts and the resulting systems of privilege (male, white and heterosexual privilege).

19. Women and Sexuality

Blandine Juchs and Julie Châteauvert

Sexual inequality does not disappear at the bedroom door—far from it! In this workshop you will have a chance to take part in a variety of creative games related to desire and female and feminist sexuality: discover and name it, feel it, reinvent it and dance.

20. Feminization of Poverty

Julie Martineau and Evelyne Pedneault

What does "feminization of poverty" mean? What are its causes? You're invited to put yourself, for a brief moment, in the place of a poor woman living in survival mode month after month.

21. Hypersexualization in Society

Mélanie Claude

In this workshop we will look at how advertising, fashion and culture promote hypersexualization, and think about the consequences of this phenomenon on gender relations and women's and girls' self-esteem. Let's speak out and take action!

22. Hypersexualization and Youth

Marie-France Comptois

A workshop on the phenomenon of hypersexualization in high schools and colleges as experienced by a young woman for whom it is a daily reality. A look at how the media, fashion industry and sexual activity at an early age have a major impact on the lives of young women today.

23. Feminist Batucadas, Slogans and Resistance Songs

Fabiola Ugarte and Emilie Gendron

Create feminist poetry, slogans and resistance songs! All accompanied by batucadas: mobile feminist percussionists. Women, come and create your own instruments with recycled objects, and let's make a lot of noise!

24. Capitalism, Neoliberalism, Withdrawal of the State and Privatization

Mira Hall

Capitalism and neoliberalism: demystification of these 'isms' that structure (and destroy) the economic and social organization of our societies by promoting the idea that the "market is supreme." This workshop proposes a more comprehensive critique of capitalism and how it systematically exploits women. Do we simply want a larger slice of this poisonous pie?

25. Women and War/Militarism

The Canadian government is trying to sell its war in Afghanistan by telling us it's about "saving Afghan women." This workshop denounces the dishonest recuperation of feminist arguments for military interests and examines the impact of armed conflict on women, in particular, the use of rape as a war weapon.

26. Feminist Photography

Loralie Bromby

Introduction to feminist photography as a means of resistance!

27. Feminist Self-Defence

Salma Ahmad (Centre de prévention des agressions de Montréal)

Find out how to protect yourself and defend yourself from attack. Self-defence as a way to increase self-confidence, self-esteem and self-affirmation.

28. Women's Health and Reproductive Health

Jessyka Boulanger

We will talk about issues like medicalization, representing women's loss of control over our own bodies and reproductive health, alternatives to clinical methods (childbirth and menstruation) and the merchandizing of contraception.

29. Women and Queers United: Confronting Oppression and Privilege—Struggling for Social and Political Change

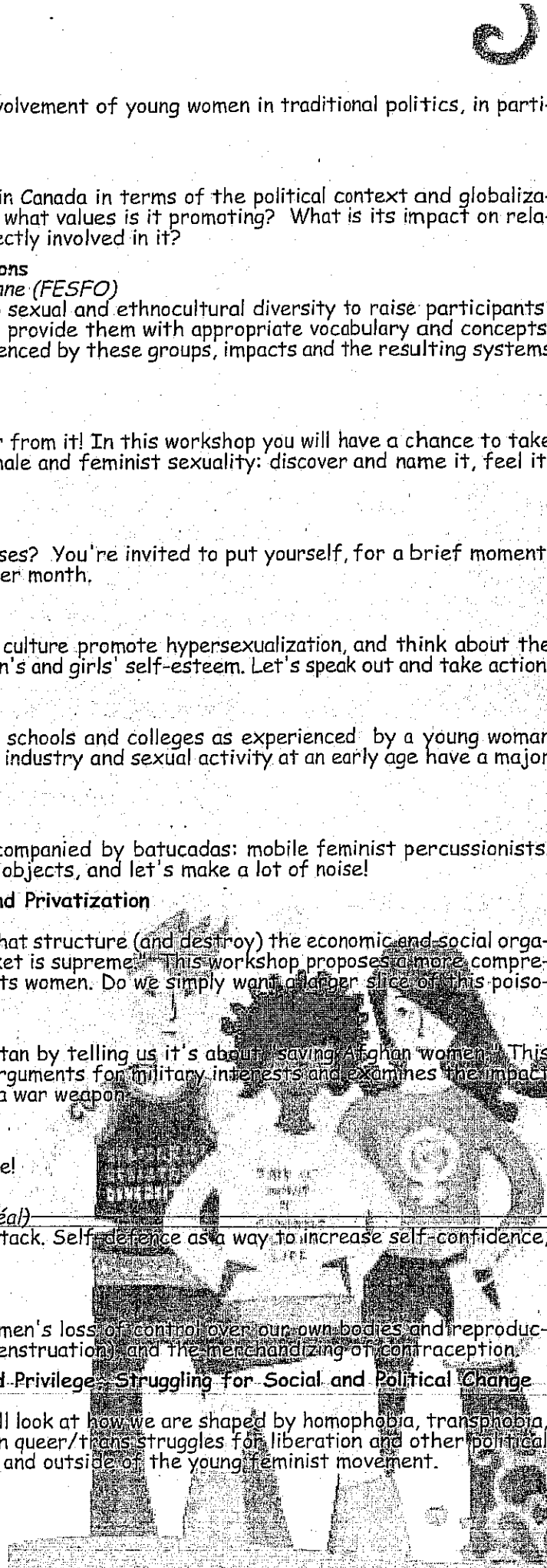
Ariel Troster and Rebecca Hammond

Focusing on our experiences of oppression and privilege, we will look at how we are shaped by homophobia, transphobia, misogyny and heterosexism. We will make connections between queer/trans struggles for liberation and other political issues. We will take action and promote solidarity both inside and outside of the young feminist movement.

30. Resistance dance

Méralie Murray-Hall

Introduction to the gumboot dance as a means of resistance!



Time	Activity
8:00 a.m.	Reception, registration and breakfast (UQAM, 405, Ste-Catherine Est)
9:00	Word of welcome
9:30	Introductory workshop on feminism, the different forms of oppression experienced by women and systems of privilege
11:30	Presentation of the process for the gathering and presentation of the Manifesto Committee
12 noon	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Thematic and creative workshops on various feminist issues
3:15	Break
3:30	Creative resistance workshops
4:30	Resistance actions
6:30	Supper - At Comité social Centre-sud (1710, Beaudry) Presentation of resistance actions
8:30 p.m.	Optional evening activity Feminist documentaries/films, feminist beer, artistic booths, etc.

Sunday, October 12

During the second day of the Gathering, we will develop a shared understanding of the rise of the Right. By sharing our experiences and analysis and the struggles led by young feminists, we will work in a large group to build feminist solidarity!

Time	Activity
8:00 a.m.	Reception, registration and breakfast (UQAM, 405, Ste-Catherine Est)
9:00	Word of welcome
9:30	Presentation of international guests from the World March of Women (South Africa, Brazil, Mexico and the Philippines)
10:45	Break
11:00	Workshops on the rise of the Right and action strategies
12:45 p.m.	Lunch
2:00	Sharing of our analysis and action strategies
3:45	Break
4:00	Presentation of manifesto adoption process for Monday's session
4:15	Plenary on action strategies using the young feminists' manifesto as a political tool
5:30	Supper (make your own plans!)
8:00 p.m.	Super women-only feminist show!!! - At Medley (1170, St-Denis)

Monday, October 13

On the last day of the Gathering we will adopt a political tool to reinforce our struggles and increase our unity: the manifesto of young feminists in Canada. With this manifesto we will have a common basis of unity that respects the differences and diversity of young women and feminists; it will also serve as a historical record of this collective adventure.

Time	Activity
8:00 a.m.	Reception, registration and breakfast
9:00	Word of welcome
9:30	Creative performance and presentation of the draft manifesto
10:00	Large, unilingual discussion workshops on the draft manifesto
12 noon	Lunch
2:00 p.m.	Plenary to adopt the manifesto and discuss follow-up
4:00 p.m.	Final action and goodbyes!

Thematic/creative resistance workshops of Saturday 11th

Consciousness-raising, sharing of experiences and analysis, and then-action!

These workshops are a chance to learn, share and express your convictions, creativity and even anger! They are also (especially!) a chance to build unity and take immediate action in small groups. Let your imagination go!

1. Mobilizing for Feminist Action and Gender Equality

Corrie Melanson and Hasnat Ashan

Starting with a sharing circle of participants' knowledge and experience, we will practice popular mobilization skills through theatre and creative actions, strategize about media awareness and viral communication, and collectively create an action for change.

2. Love as a social construction

Marie-Eve Blanchard and Audrey Rousseau

Is love a social construction that helps to maintain patriarchy? This workshop addresses the issue by examining notions like power relations in the couple, social norms and compulsory coupledom, to name just a few.