



February 9, 2011

RE: 100TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL – SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2011

A number of celebrations are planned to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day.

On Saturday, March 5th, a Parade will take place on Commercial Drive, followed by an indoor Festival at the WISE Hall on Victoria Drive in Vancouver. Groups will be gathering at 12:30 pm, the parade will begin at 1:00 pm arriving at the WISE hall at 2:00 pm.

These events have been organized by a broad-based Planning Committee comprised of unions and community women and our organizations.

The Parade will feature women representing different times from the past 100 years. We would encourage your organization to choose a theme or time period that reflects some aspect of your organization's work. For example, West Coast LEAF has chosen the 80's to celebrate the implementation of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the many important victories for women in the courts during this time period. A group of unions has chosen two main themes from that time frame remembering Rosie the Riveter and the 146 New York Triangle Shirtwaist Factory workers who died in the fire of 1911.

Please bring as many members out as possible. Bring your flags and banners, and dress up. There will be musicians and performers both in the Parade and at the Festival. There may be a few "floats" in the Parade as well. A form is attached for use for entering both the Parade and to book a booth at the Festival.

This event is open to everyone. These events are designed to encourage family participation, and there will be a special Kid Zone at the Festival. There will also be entertainment, a marketplace and food vendors at the Hall.

In order to ensure that the turnout reflects the importance of this 100th Anniversary, we would encourage you to designate someone in your organization or union to organize your members' participation.

Please complete the attached form and return it by fax or email no later than February 18th.

Jane Staschuk at the BC Federation of Labour has volunteered to be the main contact for the event planning committee, so please contact Jane by phone at 604-430-1421 Ext. 241 or by email at women@bcfed.ca for more details as they become available, or to coordinate your participation.

We are counting on everyone to make this 100th Anniversary celebration a success – so come out to the parade, dress up and have fun!

In solidarity,

The 2011 IWD Organizing Committee