



WOMEN IN TRADES

April 7, 1987.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

With this letter **Women in Trades** is launching its first Union Financial Appeal.

Women in Trades is endorsed by the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto, and has received a donation from the Ontario Federation of Labour. With the support of prominent union activists we appeal to the union movement for funds.

Women in Trades is a focus promoting women's entry into non-traditional employment. For the past six years we have been a volunteer support group of tradeswomen and individuals working to remove barriers encountered by women attempting non-traditional careers. Many of us are union members, and we fully encourage women's participation in the labour movement. We have evolved as an important educational link between the jobsite and schoolgirls and women by bringing our own experience to career days, workshops and conferences, where we encourage the choice of non-traditional careers as a viable economic option. We help in the development of training programmes for women. We have membership meetings, and participate in Labour Day Parades and International Women's Day celebrations.

A more ambitious and costly 1986/87 agenda is before us. We must gain a women's voice in the unions in order to work together to lessen the tension between men and women on the job and within the union organization. These tensions particularly arise where women are trying to access fields from which they have been previously and systemically excluded. When fellowship with women is reflected within the unions, then the full potential for a strong labour movement can be realized. This impact will be felt by employers who rely on a cheap labour pool of unorganized women and by management who must help create a co-operative environment. We must complete a Directory of Job Related Statistics of tradeswomen in the area — to highlight their skills success and their sometimes sporadic hold in the job market.

Our work has been done voluntarily. When our proposals receive funding we shall be able to engage the services of a full-time co-ordinator. We now have donated office space. We need funds at this time to pay our telephone installation charges, answering machine rental, printing and typesetting costs, incorporation fees, travelling expenses and the production of calendars and buttons for sale.

Our success will be a part of the labour movement's success. We are a new strength to construction unions, and our members work positively towards building a strong and united labour movement. We can succeed if we can count on the support of your union to help underwrite this important work. Our registered charitable organization status is applied for, and donations will be tax deductible.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request,

In solidarity,

Mary E. Addison
Co-ordinator.

**Women in Trades • c/o Times Change • 22 Davisville Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4S 1E8 • Tel. (416) 653-2213
SINCE 1980**