

PAY EQUITY COMMITTEE REPORT, FEB 2016

We met Feb 8. We have over 1000 petitions signed so far, but need many more. We hope to have more signed at the Local Councils and AGM's and other events. We have had 80 people write a letter to the MLA after logging onto our site PayEquityNow.ca.

Susan sent an email to all Local chairs, asking them to pass on to other members to log onto our site, do the education pieces, and send a letter to the MLA.

There was a cabinet shuffle, and new ministers put in place, so we have to start over again building the connections, plus the new minister has no Pay Equity background.

Ontario Pay Equity Review is ongoing. On Feb 2, NDP member for Nanaimo, Sheila Malcolmson, addressed the need to take action for Pay Equity. She noted how a full time child care worker who has to go to school for several years to get a degree, earns on average \$25,000 per year, and 97% of them are women. A comparable group where 97% are men would be truck drivers. They are also well trained, but earn an average \$45,000 per year. She mentioned further of a friend who was a single mom going to school, working as a teacher's assistant, earned \$8.00 per hr, while watching the custodian earn \$11 to \$15.

The House of Commons adopted a motion put forward by the NDP that could result in creating a new pay equity law that puts the onus on employers to provide pay equity. Members from all parties, except the Conservative Party, voted in favor of the motion.

We are planning to have Pay Equity Seminar in November.