Who is SiS….

SiS is the Society of Energy Professionals' Women's Committee "Sisters in Society.

Seated (left) - Tracy Miller, Cheri Funston, Leslie Forge, Anna Liu, Shirley Kung, Michelle Byck-Johnston. Standing (left) - Lynda Crichton, Elaina De Luca, Dianne Mowatt, Laura Langmaid, Shirley Hayes

The SEP theme for the 2008 Labour Day parade was "Women Rising and Organizing." OPG Local member Solly

Our purpose is to advance women's issues in the workplace, the union and communities by providing:

- a means to identify economic, social and career-related issues impacting women in the workplace and incorporate these into the collective bargaining and external relations activities of the Society
- an entry way for women into the political and social life of the Society by identifying and removing barriers to full participation
- a means for the Society to participate and/or support other social groups or professional organizations on matters of importance to women in the community and the broader labour movement

For further information on how to get involved in SiS

E-mail sis@thesociety.ca

Or visit us at www.thesociety.ca

Sisters in Society

"Strength is Success"

Advance•Encourage•Promote
Educate•Involve

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Are these statements about women today true or false?

In the last 25 years, the number of women working for pay shot up by more than 100%.

True: Just over 68% of women between the ages of 25 and 54 are in paid jobs. In three out of four two-parent families with children, both parents work.

Women are still over represented in traditional 'female' jobs: clerical and administrative work, and sales and service.

True: Women make up 75% of clerical workers and 57% of workers in sales and administration.

The wage gap and the fact that a significant portion of women are in low paid jobs means women's economic inequality continues into retirement.

True: Retired women receive 60% of what retired men earn. While more women have access to pension plans today than they did 30 years ago, factors such as the 70% wage gap, precarious and part-time employment, concentration in lower-paid jobs and the general lack of access to private pension plans all conspire to perpetuate women's economic inequality into retirement years.

Contracting out jobs has little effect on women's economic equality.

False: A 2005 study showed that when 8500 support jobs such as cleaning and food preparation jobs were contracted out in BC, the workers, mainly immigrant women of colour, experienced pay cuts of more than 40% and loss of benefits. This pushed many families below the poverty line even though they increased their hours of work and took on more jobs.

The best way to do something about our situation is to organize for change.

True: When women work together and push back, things change. That's how we have made our gains – by getting active and by organizing women into unions. In the workplace, unions are the best bet – for raising women's wages and benefits; for protection against harassment and discrimination, for ways to balance work and family; and for pushing for social programs and a better world.

SEP participants wearing "Women Rising and Organizing" t-shirts at the Toronto 2008 Labour Day

Members of the Society OEB Local Bargaining Team

Did you know that Women in Canada have not achieved economic equality?

Unionized women earn 93% as much as unionized men, while non union women earned just 75% as much as non union men.

Having a child lowers the future earning potential of a Canadian mother compared to a woman without children by between 5% and 13%.

One of the most effective ways to narrow the wage gap is unionization. The union wage advantage is between 7% and 14% an hour.

In 2004, 45.6% of retired women living alone (single, divorced or widowed) still lived in poverty.

Despite positive developments, there is a major gap in pensions income; women earned 60% in pension income compared to retired men.

The number of women in the workplace pension plans tripled from 1974 to 2004.

In 2006, the unionization rate for women was 31.7% compared to 31.6% of men.

SIS participates in the Big Bike ride for the Heart and Stroke Foundation

Toronto Hydro Local member Janaki Balakrishnan