

AUCE PROVINCIAL

14th October 1979

Miriam Azrael
 B.C. Federation of Women
 c/- #3 - 2236 St. George
 Vancouver, B.C.
 V5T 3R2

Dear Miriam:

The Provincial Association of University and College Employees is sponsoring a public meeting to rally support for the defense of the SFU 18, who were arrested at the AUCE #2 picket line in March of this year.

We are writing to invite you to address the meeting, or to send a representative from Working Women Unite, to speak to the theme: "Why the Charges Should Be Dropped". The meeting will be held at the Fishermen's Hall in Vancouver on the evening of October 26th.

The membership of 600-plus clerical, technical and library employees at Simon Fraser University is approximately two-thirds women. The union was on rotating strikes since December 1978. On International Women's Day, three months later, the union voted to go on a full-scale walk-out when the University escalated selective lock-outs. A picket-line was set up at the entrance to the University and remained in place until April 20th.

On March 22 1979, students, faculty, AUCE members and supporters from other unions and women's organisations joined in a rally at the picket line. The picketing was completely legal and peaceful and at no time did the RCMP tell the picketers that they were committing an offence or require them to disperse. Three hours later, when supporters extended the rally to the roadway, the police made their violent attack and arrested 18 of the picketers.

To bring you up-to-date on the SFU 18 situation: charges against one person have been dropped. One of people, [REDACTED], was convicted on the charge of blocking a highway and fined \$250 but he was dismissed of the charge of obstructing a police officer. Further, a stay of proceedings has been instituted on the charges against 3 of the others arrested. From the latest action on the part of the Crown, it seems obvious that there was no basis for their initial arrest.

During the strike, AUCE #2 had tremendous support from Working Women Unite - specifically by the leaflets that were published. The SFU 18 has also received similar support and we hope that BCFW/WWU will be able to extend that support by speaking at the public meeting.

I know that you must be extremely busy with the arrangements for the BCFW Convention in November. Hopefully your schedule will afford you the time to come to the meeting. Would it be possible for you to let

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me know within the next week whether or not you will be able to attend or to send a representative?

In Sisterhood,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sheila N.L. Perret", is written over a horizontal line.

Sheila N.L. Perret
Secretary-Treasurer
AUCE Provincial

Phone: 684-2457