WOMEN STUDIES 302-3
WOMEN, POWER AND PUBLIC POLICY

Instructor: Mary Lynn McDougall
Office: AQ 6036
Office hours: T, Th 1:30-2:30

SPRING 1984
Lec: T, Th 10:30
Tut: T 11:30 Th 9:30

Course objectives:

This course addresses the following questions:

How did the state structure women's lives prior to the advent of universal suffrage?

Did women influence the formulation or enforcement of public policy affecting their lives before female suffrage?

How and why did women win the vote?

What difference did the vote make in the level and type of female participation in the political process, and in public policies of particular interest to women?

Has the second wave of political feminism in the twentieth century changed women's attitudes toward and engagement in the political system?

What have been and continue to be the critical policy issues in the women's movement?

What strategies have the women's movement adopted in the current wave of feminist political activism? Which have been most successful? Why?

Since a wide range of policies impact on women, the instructor will select examples from family, labour, welfare, and constitutional law. Students interested in other policy areas will be able to read about, prepare reports, and/or write papers on these areas. Similarly, the lectures are designed to provide a broad historical and comparative perspective on policies and strategies by drawing on material from the late nineteenth century to the present in Western Europe as well as North America, while most of the assigned readings cover the recent North American situation.

Books to purchase (will be available at the University Bookstore):

Ellen Boneparth, Women, Power and Policy (Pergamon Press)
M. J. Brodie and J. W. Vickers, Canadian Women in Politics (CRIAW)
E. Wilson, Women and the Welfare State (Tavistock)

Assignments and grading:

Tutorial participation: 15% of grade
Written report (1,000 words) on assigned reading: 15% of grade
Oral report (10 minutes) on assigned and supplemental reading: 15% of grade
Short paper (5 to 7 pages): 25% of grade
Longer paper (7-10 pages): 30% of grade