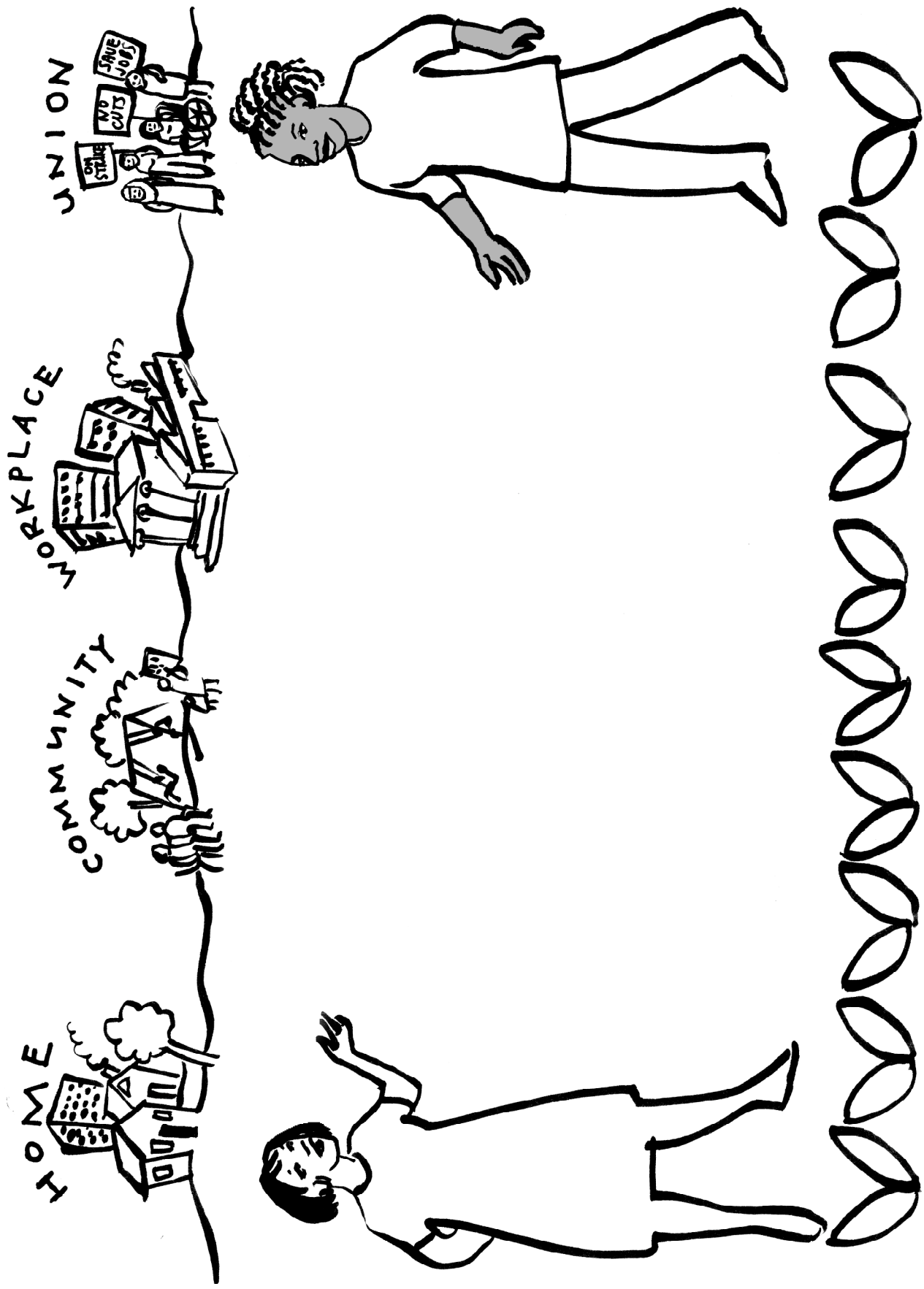


*Starting with Women's Lives:  
Changing Today's Economy*

# Participant Package

1. The Wall
2. Task sheet #1: Impact on Women's Lives (Step three)
3. Women's Work Statistics (Step four)
4. Transnational Corporations: Large, and Getting Larger (Step five)
5. Economic Globalization (Step five)
6. Globalization and Racism (Step five)
7. Three kinds of power (Step six)
8. Task sheet #2: Naming Possible Actions (Step seven)
9. Action Worksheet (Step seven)
10. My Next Steps (Step seven or eight)
11. Bread and Roses (Step eight)





Task sheet #1:

## IMPACT ON WOMEN'S LIVES

- Discuss how changes to jobs and public services are affecting you or women you know, in the area of your life you have selected to discuss.
- Choose **four** of the most important points from your discussion and summarize them in headlines (using very few words) on the stones.
- Assign two people to report back.
- You have 15 minutes.



# WOMEN'S WORK STATISTICS

## UNPAID

- Women do two-thirds of all unpaid work in Canada;  
(Statistics Canada , 1999)
- Equal sharing of housework occurs in only ten percent of two-earner, heterosexual couples in Canada.  
(Statistics Canada , 1999)
- Women do \$11 trillion of unpaid work globally each year.  
(United Nations Human Development Report 1995)

## UNDERPAID AND UNDERVALUED

- Globally women still earn on average 75 cents for every dollar men earn.  
(United Nations Human Development Report 2001)
- Globally, women contribute 66 percent of the hours worked each day, earn only ten percent of the world's income and own only one percent of the world's property.  
(United Nations, Department of Public Information, 1989)
- Globally, women hold only 15 percent of seats in national parliaments. In Canada (2004), women made up 21 percent of Members of Parliament (MP's) and 32 percent of the Senators.  
(United Nations, Progress Towards the Millennium Goals, 2005,  
[www.fafia-ai.org/images/pdf/CEDAWpolitics\\_e.pdf](http://www.fafia-ai.org/images/pdf/CEDAWpolitics_e.pdf))

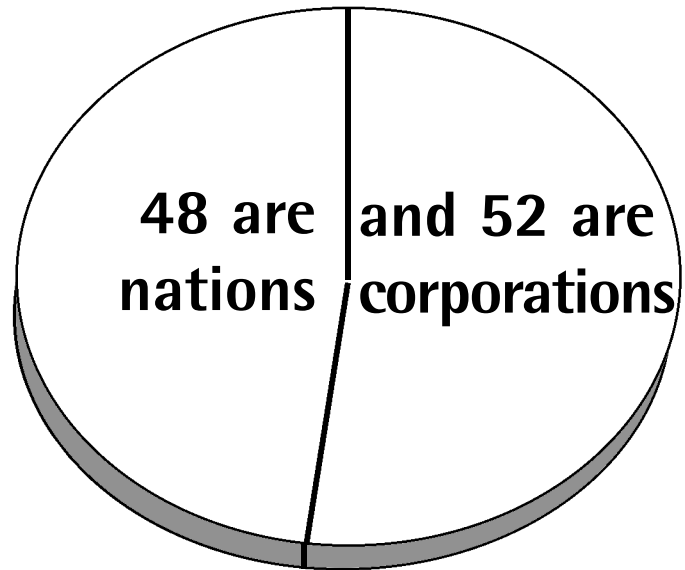
## EQUITY SEEKING GROUPS

- In 1997, 43 percent of Aboriginal women, 37 percent of women of colour and 48 percent of women who recently immigrated were living below the poverty line.  
(Statistics Canada, Women in Canada 2000)
- In Canada, the unemployment rate among women with disabilities is up to 75 percent. More than half of women with disabilities live on less than \$10,000 per year.  
(DAWN, Disabled Women's Network, [www.fafia-ai.org/images/pdf/CEDAWpolitics\\_e.pdf](http://www.fafia-ai.org/images/pdf/CEDAWpolitics_e.pdf))
- In 2002, 52 percent of single mothers were living below the poverty line.  
(Statistics Canada, 2004)



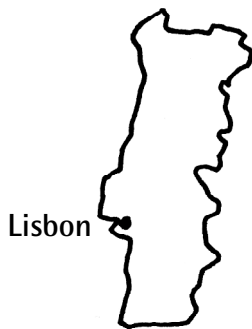
# Transnational Corporations: Large, and Getting larger

Of the world's 100 largest economies



Source: Polaris Institute, Canada 2004 [www.polarisinstitute.org](http://www.polarisinstitute.org)

With \$167 billion in 2000 sales, **WAL-MART** is larger than the economies of 100 countries, including...



**Portugal**  
**\$108 billion**



**Israel**  
**\$99 billion**



**Ireland**  
**\$85 billion**



Source: Fortune, July 31, 2000; GDP: World Bank. *World Bank Development Report 2000.*

Adapted from: United For a Fair Economy

# ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION

Free trade is a strategy used by large transnational corporations to remove or reduce trade rules that limit or control their activities

Canada is involved in :

- the FTA (Canada- US)
- the NAFTA (Canada-US-Mexico)
- the FTAA (proposed throughout the Americas)



Trade agreements let corporations invest (or de invest) anywhere



So, corporations move to countries with:

- lowest taxes; lowest wages;
- lowest labour and environmental standards.

*Free Trade agreements (like NAFTA) also give corporations the right to sue governments for passing laws to protect their citizens if those laws might limit corporate profits.*



In order to compete in international trade, governments:



lower wages, labour  
and environmental  
standards to attract  
business



lower taxes  
(especially corporate)  
cut public services  
and privatize services



Through free trade, corporations also want to deliver PUBLIC SERVICES now controlled by government to expand profits. They also want it called 'unfair competition' for governments to control these services, which include: health, education, water and electricity.

## The bottom line

Decisions that affect our lives are increasingly being made by corporations who are not accountable to us.



# Globalization and Racism

The **benefits** of globalization flow mostly to the **corporate elite of the "North"**.

- ❑ Most of the large financial institutions and transnational corporations are based in the U.S. and Europe and are controlled mostly by white men.



The **burdens** of globalization are borne mostly by the **people of the "South"** the vast majority of whom are people of colour.



## THREE KINDS OF POWER

- ❑ Power over — one person or group has power over another person or group. Ex. Racism, Sexism.
  
- ❑ Power within — our inner strength, self confidence, sense of determination or a spiritual source.
  
- ❑ Power with — solidarity, sisterhood, community. We increase our power as we join with others.



Rini Templeton



Task Sheet #2:

## NAMING POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- Quickly brainstorm some concrete actions that you can take.
- Select two from your list and fill in the action worksheet for each action.
- Headline two of your actions on the paper women. Decide where on the Wall you will post them.



# ACTION WORKSHEET

Action #1

Action #2

WHAT  
The Action

WHY  
How it Changes the Wall

WITH WHOM  
Potential Allies

HOW  
First Steps



# My Next Steps



## *Bread and Roses*

By Caroline Kohlsaatt and James Oppenheim

As we go marching, marching in the beauty of the day  
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts gray  
Are touched by all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses  
For the people hear us singing, bread and roses, bread and roses!

As we go marching, marching, we battle too for men  
For they are women's brothers and we'll march with them again  
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes  
Hearts starve as well as bodies, give us bread but give us roses.

As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead  
Go crying through our singing our ancient cry for bread  
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirit knew  
Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses too.

As we go marching, marching, we stand together tall  
The rising of the women means the rising of us all  
No more the drudge and idler, ten that toil while  
one reposes

But a sharing of life's glories, bread and roses,  
bread and roses.

