

On Saturday December 10 at 1:30 in the afternoon, 20 people gathered in front of an old federal government building in Hamilton, Ontario. This seemed an ideal location for a demonstration protesting the cuts to Status of Women Canada because, according to the department's website, the SWC office was located on the fourth floor.

We arrived to find that the building had been condemned and was in a state of shambles. How terrible and yet, how appropriate that we selected that location.

The group was made of people from Oakville, Hamilton, Niagara on the Lake, and even as far as Toronto. The weather was bright and sunny so that made the time pass very quickly. The street had lots of car traffic so we got lots of attention (and honks!)

A reporter and photographer from the Hamilton Spectator came to interview us. Hopefully, we'll get some good coverage tomorrow.

Thanks to everyone who participated. I'm looking forward to March the 8th - onwards and upwards!

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Laura Machan
President
CFUW Oakville

PHOTOS CAN BE FOUND AT <http://cfuwoakville.blogspot.com> Dec. 10,2006

THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2006

Women rally to protest 'unjust cuts'

Members of the Canadian Federation of University Women staged a rally outside the federal Status of Women office in downtown Hamilton yesterday.

They were protesting against the closure of 12 of 16 of the offices by the Harper government.

In April this year, the government cut \$5 million (almost 40 per cent) from the department's budget.

The members of the Oakville branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women said during the January 2006 election campaign Harper promised concrete and immediate measures recommended by the United Nations to ensure Canada upholds its commitment to women.

The women carried signs complaining of "unjust cuts." President Laura Machan said the office in Hamilton is already closed. "However, we are here to protest that if the government cuts funding there won't be any one to do extensive research on gender inequality and present that to the government."

The Canadian Federation of University Women has 5,000 members in Ontario, and about 1,700 in southern Ontario.

Similar demonstrations are being held across the country including one in Ottawa, Machan said.