

The YWCA's annual Women of the Year awards have a new name — Women of Distinction. **B 6317**

"The main reason we changed the name is because Women of Distinction is used by YWCAs across Canada and we feel it has a stronger connotation," notes YW executive director Darlene Bessey.

Women of Distinction

ing \$24,000 in support of its programs and services for women and children.

"In recent years, we've tried to profile the nominees more than we have in the past," said Bessey, explaining the YW's shift from bringing in guest speakers in favor of guest hosts.

"Although there is a recipient in each award category, we feel very strongly the nomination in itself is a significant honor."

By Jenny Gabruch for the Saskatoon Sun

"The categories reflect the changing roles of women in the workplace and the community and we feel it's extremely important to recognize all of these very diverse roles."

- Business and the Professions (I) **Key** • Community Enhancement (II)
- Leadership in the Work Place (III)
- Youth Award (IV) • Entrepreneur/Innovator (V)

Designed to celebrate and recognize the achievements of women, the gala awards dinner takes place Wednesday at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel. The \$75-per-ticket event is the YW's major fund-raising venture of the year, with 1993's dinner raising a record-break-

Shelley Brown (I)



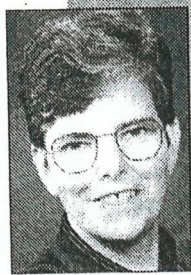
Promoted as managing partner with the Saskatoon office of Ernst & Young, Shelley became the first woman to earn this position in the company in Canada. Shelley has been involved in economic and community development with the Saskatoon Community Bond Corp., the Wanuskewin Capital Fund campaign, the United Way, and the SPCA, among others.

Claudia Bryden (I)



An RCMP officer, Claudia investigated reports of child sexual abuse at a local babysitting service in Martensville. At a high emotional cost to her and her family, Claudia's work has heightened public awareness of a serious social problem.

Bernadette Vangool (III)



An advocate for high quality child care for more than a decade, Bernadette helped organize the first Saskatchewan Child Care Policy Conference in 1986 and helped found the Saskatchewan Child Care Association. She is also a founding board member of Maggie's Child Care Centre for Teen Parents.

Pat Dickson (I)



A long-time educator, Dickson was appointed Director of Education for the Saskatoon Public School system in January, the first woman to hold this position. As director, she has responsibility for a \$93-million budget, 50 schools and 22,000 students.

Valerie Katarey (I)



Valerie's career has included work with Western Economic Diversification and the National Hydrology Research Institute. She developed and implemented a Science Career Mentoring Program aimed at raising awareness among female high school students of careers in which women are traditionally under-represented.

Gerl Yee (III)



Gerl has served on the board of the Saskatoon Multicultural Council for 10 years, becoming president in '93. She helped implement International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and lobbied the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission to include "visible minority" as a designated group for employment equity programs. She also helped set up the provincial Forum for Racialized Canadians.

Marie Kischuk (I)



Marie's career has spanned the fields of adult education, multiculturalism, heritage and museums, including work with the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Heritage Canada and the Saskatchewan Association for Distance Education. She has also designed curriculum for Kelsey Institute and the YWCA as well as cross-cultural training modules for professionals working with immigrant clients.

Maureen Strawson (I)



Maureen helped implement a nutrition program in four community schools in the Saskatoon public school system and worked towards establishing a subsidized preschool in the inner city, a program that has since evolved to serve around 140 children.

Shauna Curry (IV)



A U of S engineering student, Shauna has performed a leadership role as president of the Saskatoon Engineering Students' Society and as incoming president of the Students' Union. Next spring, she hopes to begin a career in environmental engineering.

Leslie Sullivan (I)



A lawyer and prosecutor, Leslie served as co-counsel for the prosecution on the Martensville sexual abuse case, and has been a long-time advocate for children who suffer abuse.

Diane Waterer (I)



As the executive director of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan, Diane works with a diverse group of volunteers and staff to carry out the foundation's mission. Guiding the non-profit group through difficult economic and organizational times, Diane led the foundation's fundraising campaigns prior to becoming executive director.

Pauline de Jong (IV)



Pauline is a member of the Canadian Congress on Learning Opportunities for Women and a board member with the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. She has also been actively involved with the Students' Union Women's Centre on campus and serves on the university's Employment Equity Advisory Committee.

Doreen Baker (II)



As volunteer food co-ordinator for King George community school, Doreen plans nutritious, balanced meals on a limited budget, preparing food and serving the children. Together with her husband, she established a self-help job registry to provide older youth with a way to earn money.

Rita de Gagne (II)



As president of the Persons Living With AIDS Network of Saskatchewan, Rita has worked to enhance the quality of life for those living with AIDS. This has included securing donations, emergency funds and the use of a vehicle for public education speaking engagements.

Luanne Lashyn (IV)



Luanne teaches Ukrainian dance to children at the Boyan Dance Association, and has performed at a variety of community events, including the Jeux Canada Games. She plans to take a six-month marketing position for an import/export service company in Prague, Czech Republic, when she completes her commerce degree this year.

Elaine Lafreniere (II)



Elaine served as the Team Saskatchewan Chef de Mission at the 1993 North American Indigenous Games in Prince Albert. Her duties involved co-ordinating more than 700 athletes in 15 different sports. She was also successful in raising \$50,000 to subsidize the event.

Linda Popkin (II)



Linda lent her artistic and organizational skills to community theatre, becoming a member of the Gateway Players board of directors in 1989. As business manager, she was instrumental in negotiations for the rental and design of new facilities. She has been involved in a number of school and church volunteer activities since moving to Saskatoon from Montreal in 1982.

Ellen Skorski (V)



Ellen has made a personal crusade of making fashionable clothing available to plus size women, leaving a 23-year nursing career to open Better Half Fashions in downtown Saskatoon last March.