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Vermont Department of Health Analysis Just Released: Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Of Paid Sick Leave in Vermont

Vermont Commission on Women joined representatives from the Health Department, child care centers, the restaurant industry, trade organizations, elder care and home health organizations, schools, primary care physicians, and the Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce in a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) stakeholder group convened by the Department of Health. The stakeholder organizations are from sectors whose employees are currently affected by a lack of paid sick leave; who would be especially impacted by implementing such a policy; or who serve populations that would see special benefits or challenges from paid sick leave. The goal was to assess the possible effect of a statewide paid sick leave policy on the health of Vermonters and to recommend ways to mitigate any adverse health impacts of such legislation. In addition to this overarching goal, the HIA stakeholder group chose to focus on aspects of special interest to Vermonters, namely impact on small business employees and the effect on victims of domestic violence. Key findings of the HIA:

- Paid sick leave legislation in Vermont would significantly increase access to paid sick leave, particularly among low-wage, part-time workers and employees of small businesses.
- There is strong evidence to support that paid sick leave would decrease the spread of infectious disease in Vermont annually. There is some evidence that this effect would be especially visible in child care and food service settings.
- Paid sick leave would likely increase the ability of domestic violence victims to access health and social services and maintain employment.
- There are limited data to definitively link paid sick leave to preventable hospitalizations. However, decreasing preventable hospitalizations by 10% would decrease health expenditures by \$6.8 million in Vermont annually.

Read [Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\) Of Paid Sick Leave in Vermont here](#).

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Brownbag Lunch Panel: Do We Still Need Women's History?

Vermont History Museum, Pavilion Building, 109 State Street, Montpelier

Wednesday, March 11th, 2015 - Noon to 1

Celebrate Women's History Month over lunch by learning from a panel of esteemed historians and scholars addressing questions facing women's history in the 21st century: Do we still need to separate out women's stories? Does it help or harm women when their history is told separately? Is there a trend away from studying women's history as a separate topic? How can the context of women's history help inform the world today? Moderated by Cary Brown, the executive director of the Vermont Commission on Women, panelists include Dr. Felicia Kornbluh, Director of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at the University of Vermont, Marilyn Blackwell, independent historian, and Holly Allen, Assistant Professor of American Studies at Middlebury College. This program is free and open to the public, thanks to sponsorship from Clute Wealth Management, the [Vermont Commission on Women](#) and co-sponsorship by Cabot Creamery Cooperative, Northfield Savings Bank and Key Bank. Bring a lunch - free dessert and coffee/tea served. More info (802) 828-2180.

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North American Women's Debating Championship

March 6-8th on the campus of the University of Vermont, Lafayette building

The first event of its kind to be hosted in the United States: at UVM!

The best and brightest women from across the continent will both compete and participate in this forum to increase the prominence of women in debate. The current roster includes women from Harvard, Cornell, Yale, Duke, U.S. Air Force Academy, and University of Toronto. Specifically, they hope to encourage women's participation and competitive success as speakers and judges where they are significantly underrepresented. As in many communities the challenge of combatting sexism is a difficult one, requiring many interventions and the effort of those dedicated to the pursuit of equality. The Women's championship is one important way this community of future corporate leaders, teachers, activists, public officials, and professionals are working towards empowering female voices. More info on [Facebook](#), on [their website](#) or by contacting [Mariel Golden](#) or 732-241-0502.

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24th annual Women's Film Festival, a Women's Freedom Center fundraiser

March 6th-22nd

New England Youth Theatre and the Latchis Theatre, Brattleboro

Over the course of three weeks, beginning with an opening night gala on Friday, March 6th and continuing to Sunday, March 22, 2015, 23 documentaries, 6 feature films and 18 shorts from around the world will be screened at both the New England Youth Theatre and the Latchis Theater in Brattleboro, VT. This year's festival kicks-off with an outrageously fun gala

on Friday, March 6, 2015 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the New England Youth Theater. The gala will begin with a reception of champagne & hors d'oeuvres, followed by a screening of *Fabulous Fashionistas!* - a cheeky film about older women who are determined to look fabulous, have fun and redefine old age. Come dressed in whatever makes you feel most fabulous. We'll have dress-up accessories like boas and hats at the theater as well as a photographer to capture your style, if you want. More about the festival and gala event [here](#).

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First-Time Moms at Work

Did you know that two out of three first-time mothers work during their pregnancies or are increasingly likely to work into their third trimester? To highlight the important contributions that pregnant women make to our nation's workforce, the U. S. Women's Bureau has released a [new infographic](#). Using the most current U.S. Census data available, it shows that more women are working while pregnant and returning to work sooner after giving birth.

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Women's Meet-Up: Mentoring

Sponsored by the Greater Burlington Women's Forum, Vermont Works for Women, Vermont Intern Program and Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility (VBSR)

Wednesday, March 11

3:30 - 5:15 PM Contois Auditorium, City Hall, Burlington, VT

This special end-of-the-day Meet-Up will bring together women of many ages and backgrounds to make connections and discuss opportunities for women mentoring women. We'll hear from women leaders including Tiff Bluemle (former Executive Director of Vermont Works for Women), Andrea Cohen (Executive Director of VBSR), and others. Whether your goals are personal or professional, there will be plenty of time for networking, so come prepared to meet women in your community who are looking for and offering mentoring. Tea and cookies will be served; bring your business cards!

Agenda:

3:30 Mentoring: What it Is, Why it's Important & How it Works Best

4:00 Examples of Success: A Mentoring Story

Share Your Own Story

4:30 Structured Networking

5:00 Open Networking

5:15 End

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[Vermont Commission on Women \(VCW\)](#)

VIEW Message – Vermont Information Exchange for Women

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