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## **KIWI DRAWS ATTENTION TO VALUE OF WOMEN'S UNPAID WORK**

**BYLINE:** BY HANK DANISZEWSKI, FREE PRESS BUSINESS REPORTER

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A prominent New Zealand academic says there is a big gap in our economic thinking -- all the unpaid work that women perform.

Marilyn Waring says child rearing and other domestic work amounts to about a third of Canada's gross domestic product but is never counted in official statistics.

"It's just not taken into account in the front line of policy making," says Waring, a political economist and author who was elected to New Zealand's parliament at the age of 22.

Waring is to speak tomorrow night as part of a series on women and power sponsored by Women's Community House and the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children.

Her work was the subject of a National Film Board effort that became its largest-selling documentary.

The hardest workers in the Canadian economy are working women with families, Waring says.

Studies show married men with children earn more than bachelors while single women make more than married working moms.

"Marriage is real good for men, but marriage and children can be bad for women," she says. Ignoring the unpaid work of women, Waring says, can lead to faulty policy decisions, such as early releases from hospitals that force families to take on health-care burdens.

"There's a presumption there's a lot of people out there with time on their hands . . . After a while, the system can't cope because there aren't people out there to deliver primary care."

She says women save governments money by caring for family members who would be in public institutions, yet they receive no pension or health benefits.

WOMAN AND POWER SERIES

Dr. Marilyn Waring Lecture

When: Tomorrow, 7-9 p.m.

Where: Althouse College Auditorium, University of Western Ontario

Admission: By donation