



DELTA HOTEL MONTRÉAL



THURSDAY, JULY 23RD



9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



cfuw fcfdu

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER CONFERENCE 2026

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For more information : www.cfuw.org



**THE CFUW 2026 AGM &
CONFERENCE
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Conference Welcome	5
About CFUW	6
Conference Schedule	7
Venue Details	8
Speaker Bios & Session Notes:	
Opening Remarks : Sky Deer	9-10
Carla Fehr	11-12
Julie S. Lalonde	13-14
Canadian Equality Workshop	15-16
Volunteer Ottawa	17-18
Na'kuset	19-20
National Office Information	21

WELCOME TO CFUW'S MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER CONFERENCE

It is an absolute pleasure to welcome you to my hometown for this landmark event. We have an incredible line-up of speakers, and workshops designed to inspire, challenge, and empower us as we look to the future.

An event of this scale requires immense dedication. I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our Local Arrangements Committee, the AGM Planning Committee, and our National Office Organization. Their tireless behind-the-scenes organization and on-site support this week have made this gathering possible.

To all of our members and guests, whether you made the long trip from across Canada or simply walked from across the street, thank you. Your presence, energy, and enthusiasm are what make our conference a true success.

Merci pour votre soutien continu, votre engagement et votre dévouement envers la FCFDU. Ensemble, continuons d'avancer.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a wonderful and inspiring conference!



**Linda Sestock,
CFUW National
President**

ABOUT CFUW

CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women) is a non-partisan, self-funded, voluntary organization with 88 Clubs across Canada and over 6,700 members.

Our history dates back to 1919, when delegates from six University Women's Clubs (Edmonton, Ottawa, Regina, Toronto, Victoria, and Winnipeg) convened in Winnipeg and created the federation, with education declared to be its first interest.

Every year, CFUW Clubs raise close to \$1 million in scholarships for post-secondary education, alongside funds raised for women's shelters and other local causes. CFUW members and our National Office also engage in social justice and human rights advocacy at the local, national, and international levels.

OUR MISSION

Achieve educational and economic equality and social justice through continuous learning and empowerment.

OUR VISION

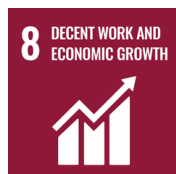
Women and girls are educated and empowered to make transformative change in the world.

OUR NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Education



Equity & Social Justice



Safe & Healthy Communities



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MORNING SESSIONS

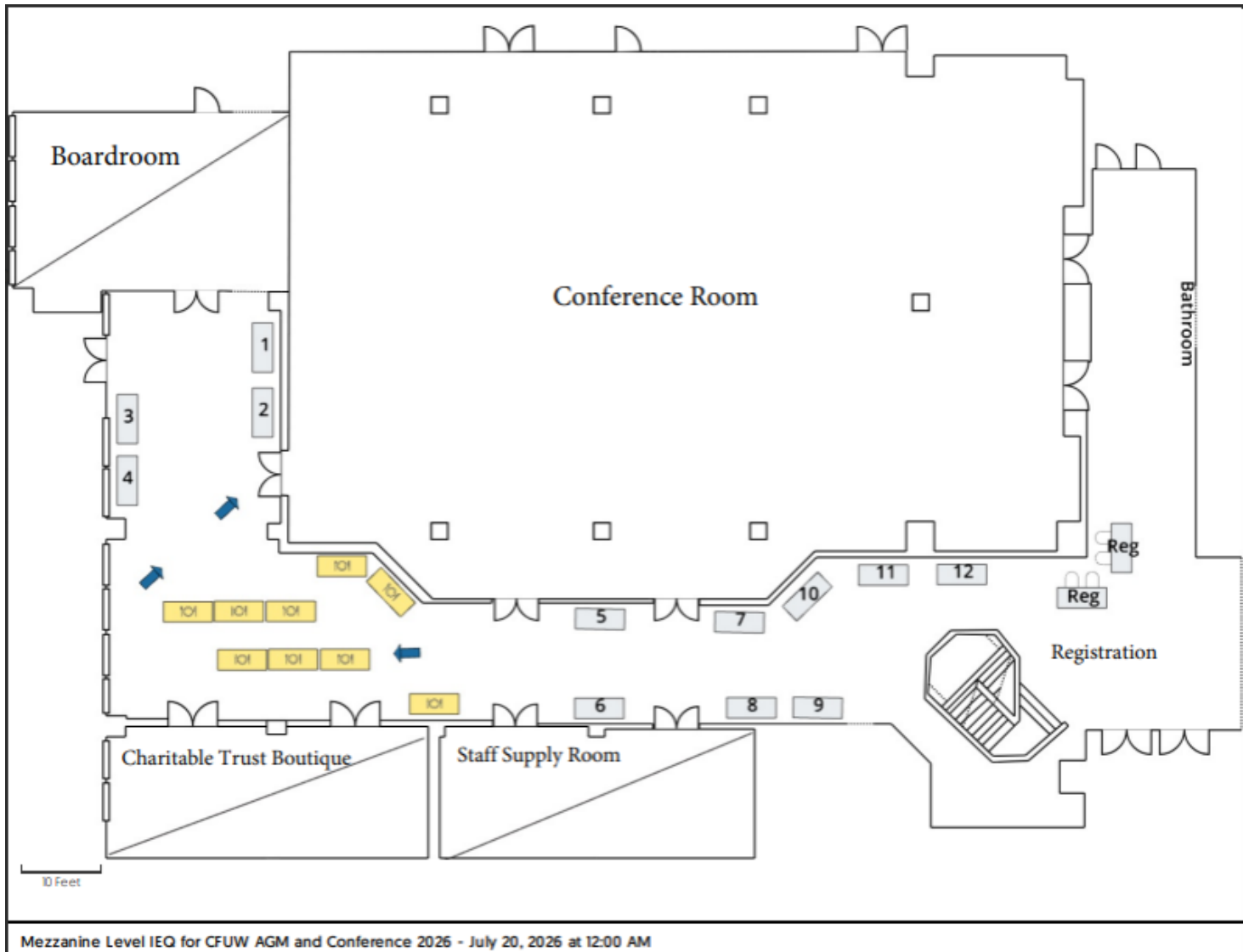
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Opening Remarks : Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Carla Fehr : Gender and AI Who Builds It, Who Benefits, and Who Gets Left Out
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Break Time
10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Julie S. Lalonde : Bystander Intervention To Build Community Care

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

12:00 pm (noon) - 1 : 30 pm	Networking Lunch
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Concurrent Sessions	Session 1 : Canadian Equality Consulting Session 2 : Volunteer Ottawa
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Break Time
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Na'kuset : Advocacy in Action: A Journey of Indigenous Resistance

VENUE DETAILS

475 Av. du Président-Kennedy,
Montréal, QC H3A 1J7



If you require any assistance, please speak to a member of the CFUW National Office team, identifiable by their **yellow name tags**.

9:00 am - 9:15 am

OPENING REMARKS

Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer



Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer is the former Grand Chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke and made history in 2021 as the first woman and Two-Spirit person elected to the role. Prior to serving as Grand Chief, she represented her community as a Council Chief for 12 consecutive years.

During her leadership, she helped secure a landmark partnership with Hydro-Québec to deliver renewable energy to New York City and later chaired a successful capital campaign

that raised \$56 million for a new Language, Culture, Tourism and Museum facility in Kahnawà:ke.

Sky-Deer is the founder of Sky-Deer Consulting and serves as Vice President of Dable Advisory and Consulting Services. A lifelong trailblazer, she was a starting quarterback in women's professional tackle football and earned a Psychology degree from the University of Central Florida. In 2024, she received the King Charles III Coronation Medal, and in 2025 was honored with the United Nations Athlete of the Year Award.

Through her leadership, advocacy, and public speaking, Sky-Deer continues to inspire Indigenous peoples, women, and 2SLGBTQ+ communities to lead authentically and break barriers.

NOTES

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FIRST KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Gender and AI

Who Builds It, Who Benefits, and Who Gets Left Out

Carla Fehr



Carla Fehr brings 25 years of professional and scholarly experience to her work on gender, race, and STEM, with an extensive record of peer-reviewed publications across multiple academic disciplines and long-standing contributions to university teaching in social justice, entrepreneurship, and equity in science and technology.

She has provided mentorship to researchers in fields ranging

from health and molecular biology to computer science and engineering,

and advised more than twenty organizations on strategies to enhance equity and workplace culture. Fehr holds a Ph.D. from Duke University and serves as Professor and Wolfe Chair in Scientific and Technological Literacy at the University of Waterloo.

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SECOND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bystander Intervention To Build Community Care

Julie S. Lalonde

Julie S. Lalonde, an internationally recognized public educator and women's rights advocate. A franco-ontarienne originally from Northern Ontario, she is based in Ottawa. Julie has over 20 years of experience working with various organizations dedicated to ending gender-based violence, engaging bystanders and building communities of support. She has presented her work in seven countries across four continents in two languages.



In 2023, Julie launched the Canadian Anti-Stalking Association (CASA), the only organization in Canada dedicated to addressing criminal harassment.

She has won numerous awards for her work including the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case. Her bestselling memoir *Resilience is Futile: The Life and Death and Life of Julie S. Lalonde* won the 2020 Ontario Speaker's Award and was named one of the best books of the year by CBC Books and The Hill Times.

NOTES

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SESSION 1

(concurrent)

Understanding Equity-Deserving Communities: Inclusive Practices and Equity-Informed Selection Panels

Canadian Equality Consulting



Facilitator : Anne-Norrante Alexandre

This interactive workshop provides participants with practical knowledge and tools to foster more equitable and inclusive practices within their organizations.

Participants will explore the difference between equity and equality, gain a deeper understanding of equity-deserving communities, and learn how bias and systemic barriers can influence participation and decision-making.

Through discussions and case-study activities, attendees will learn how to identify and reduce bias, create more inclusive and accessible environments, and apply fair, consistent approaches to selection and evaluation processes.

The session will equip participants with strategies to support diversity, strengthen inclusion, and make more equitable decisions in their roles.



CANADIAN
EQUALITY
CONSULTING

NOTES

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SESSION 2

(concurrent)

Great Governance & New Ways of Working Together

Volunteer Ottawa



This interactive workshop, presented by Volunteer Ottawa, explores the essential foundations of effective volunteer and governance management and how organizations can work more collaboratively to achieve their mission.

Participants will gain an understanding of the Volunteer Management Cycle, including key practices for recruiting, engaging, supporting, and retaining volunteers. The session will also examine the fundamentals of good governance, highlighting how strong governance structures, roles, and decision-making processes can positively impact an organization's effectiveness and sustainability. Participants will learn how governance needs and practices can evolve over time as organizations grow and change.

In addition, the workshop will introduce practical approaches for working together toward a common goal, fostering collaboration among board members, staff, volunteers, and community partners. Through discussion and hands-on exercises, participants will explore new ways of working together, strengthen communication and collaboration skills, and identify strategies that support shared success.

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CLOSING KEYNOTE

Advocacy in Action: A Journey of Indigenous Resistance

Na'kuset

Na'kuset is the Executive Director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montréal. A Cree woman from Lac la Ronge, Saskatchewan, she is a 60's Scoop Survivor, mother, author, and advocate for Indigenous women and children.

Throughout her career, she has received numerous honours, including Montreal Council of Women's Woman of the Year (2014), the Paul-Gérin-Lajoie Award for Diversity, and the Women's Y Foundation's Woman of Distinction Award. In 2023, she was inducted into the Côte Saint-Luc Human Rights Walkway in recognition of her commitment to human rights and was also invited to present at TEDxMontrealWomen.

Na'kuset spearheaded and oversees the Cabot Square project, co-founded Resilience Montreal in 2019, and initiated Miyoskamin, a second-stage housing project featuring the Saralikitaaq social pediatric centre in partnership with the Dr. Julien Foundation. She has partnered with Amnesty International on a Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Missing Indigenous Children and Unmarked Graves, held in Montreal in May of this year. Na'kuset remains dedicated to improving the lives of urban Indigenous people and challenging systemic barriers.



NOTES

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NATIONAL OFFICE

JAIME BEAGAN - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Leading the organization and ensuring CFUW has the resources, people, and direction needed to achieve its mission.

- Implements Board decisions and strategic priorities.
- Oversees staff, finances, operations, and organizational planning.
- Supports the Board, Committees, Clubs, and volunteers
- Develops partnerships, funding opportunities, and organizational sustainability.
- Oversees major national events, including AGM and Conference planning.

CAMILA TAIBE - NATIONAL ADVOCACY AND POLICY SPECIALIST

Advancing CFUW's advocacy priorities and helping members take action on issues affecting women and girls.

- Monitors legislation, public policy, and emerging issues.
- Develops advocacy tools, campaigns, briefs, and submissions.
- Supports advocacy committees, resolutions, and UN initiatives.
- Builds relationships with government officials, NGOs, and partner organizations.
- Provides advocacy guidance, workshops, and resources to Clubs.

ELIZABETH MALCOLM - MEMBER ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Supporting the member experience and strengthening relationships between Clubs, members, and the National Office.

- Serves as a primary contact for membership-related questions and support.
- Maintains membership records, renewals, and the membership database.
- Supports recruitment, retention, and new Club development.
- Coordinates member communications, newsletters, and outreach initiatives.
- Provides member training and support on CFUW platforms and tools.

MABINTY TOURE - ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

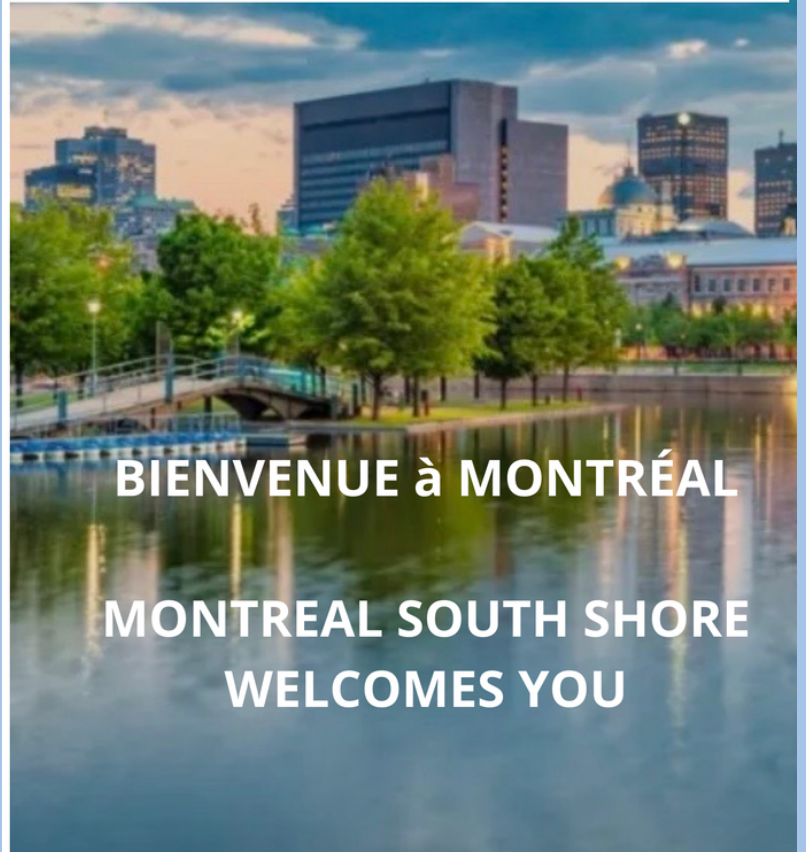
Maintaining the systems, information, and organizational infrastructure that keep CFUW operating smoothly.

- Responds to operational and general organizational inquiries.
- Maintains organizational records, files, procedures, and shared resources.
- Coordinates meeting logistics, Zoom bookings, and Board support materials.
- Assists with website maintenance, event calendar updates, FAQ resources, and information management.
- Supports organizational communications, social media, directories, translations, and special projects.

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