



cfuw fcfdu

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

2025-2026

CFUW ANNUAL REPORTS BOOKLET

Realizing potential. For all women.
Le pouvoir par le savoir.

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National President – Linda Sestock

It has been a profound honor to represent all of you as your National President over these past two years. Working side-by-side with our National Board and dedicated National Office team has been a great experience and meeting CFUW Clubs across Canada, in person and virtually has been a highlight for me. As we prepare to gather in Montreal, I am filled with pride for what we have accomplished together and a deep sense of optimism for the biennium ahead.

Our 2025 virtual AGM theme “Women Standing Strong” and in 2026, we have built upon that foundation with “Women Moving Forward” recognizing that in the times we live in today that we must work together to hold on to the progress we have made. We are stronger together.

An important benefit of being National President is the opportunity to see our clubs in action. Witnessing firsthand the passion of our members who are the driving force of CFUW. This past year, I had the privilege of visiting; Cornwall and District, participating in the Ontario Council AGM in Perth, and the Quebec Council AGM in Sherbrooke, Speaking virtually at the Saskatchewan AGM, Alberta Council AGM, BC Council. I recently visited UWC Winnipeg in person for a UWC Winnipeg Club meeting with VP Prairies and Deputy President Barb Gustafson and as a speaker on a panel with Senators Marilou McPhedran and Mary Jane McCallum. A trip to the Atlantic Provinces has been planned for early June.

My outreach as president has included participation in the Marche des Femmes (World March of Women) in Quebec City, the NCWC (National Council of Women Canada) AGM in Montreal and encouraging local Montreal Clubs to participate in the McGill Women in Leadership event, speaking at the Afghan Women’s Centre along with Maryam Monsef and networking at the Scotia Wealth Symposium on behalf of CFUW. Wherever I am I am always championing the women of CFUW and the incredible work being done by our 6,700 members across our 88 clubs.

In tandem with the National Office’s social media projects, we are utilizing tools like LinkedIn to grow our presence and encourage advertising and sponsorship at future Conferences. I hope you have noticed the changes to our CFUW Website and Newsletter and are taking advantage of workshops offered by the National Office.

The Board has been diligent in ensuring the health of our organization. We continue to conduct annual structured self-evaluations and meet in person to align our goals before assuming our roles and ensuring a smooth transition to the new biennium board. Projects like the Administrative Volume 2, Communications, VP/RD working group that is meeting to ensure that the different CFUW groups, including Membership, work even better together and are then better able to serve our members and work on membership growth. This outreach was done through the Monday Membership Moments, The Advocacy Cafe, and the Regional Outreach conducted by the VP Advocacy and VP education. These and other innovative ideas from our Board were well received by our clubs this past year.

Encouraging new Leadership Models and recognizing that Club Executives are evolving to meet the needs of the current membership. Using terms like Club Leadership Teams instead of Club Presidents as an example.

In March 2026, CFUW made a significant impact at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW70). A major highlight was co-hosting Senator McPhedran's CSW welcome event where Minister Rechie Valdez (WAGE) joined our panel, further solidifying our seat at the table. We were even recognized during the pre-CSW70 webinar with Canadian NGOs in attendance. Much of our Canadian networking occurs during our time at CSW70. We are becoming more intentional in our collaborations with Canadian organizations to ensure our voice continues to be heard by the Federal Government.

Our delegation delivered outstanding presentations, and our sessions co-hosted with WG-USA (Women Graduate-USA) and our virtual CAMEUS (Canada, Mexico, United States) partners were resounding successes.

We are deepening relationships with CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons), the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), Business and Professional Women (BPW Canada) and continue working with the Beijing +30 Network which includes CRIAW (Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women), Canadian Women's Foundation and many other Canadian organizations.

CFUW participated in the IAW (International Alliance of Women) and GWI (Graduate Women International) triennials in the fall of 2025. Our international involvement highlights the importance of Canadian support for women in other countries and that learning has no borders. This was highlighted at the GWI Triennial in Zambia with three national CFUW Past-Presidents in attendance, me and a full CFUW delegation. Those of us who had the opportunity to spend a day in Chipata where our International Service Project (ISP) is sponsored left Zambia forever changed and confident that CFUW ISP donations will change lives.

At the heart of CFUW is friendship - and this is lovingly illustrated by the gift of a friendship bracelet from a member at the CFUW Cornwall and District Club. This bracelet has travelled across Canada and New York and has gone to many important events with me.

While we all transition into the next biennium, the momentum for networking and collaboration is undeniable. I hope for the opportunity to continue strengthening the relationships I have built over the last two years and to encourage all clubs to do the same.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our volunteers, committee members, and club leaders. To our National Office team: much is asked of you, and we all appreciate your support.

To the CFUW Quebec Council, thank you for hosting the AGM. I hope everyone enjoys their time in Montreal. Let us continue to stand strong, grow our alliances, and ensure that CFUW remains the leading voice for women in Canada.

Vice-President Advocacy - Heather Oxman

First, **thank you** to all the members of the Clubs involved in local Advocacy. You are making a difference in your community, whether through scholarships, grants and bursaries; community outreach projects; writing and/or reviewing resolutions and learning about local, national and international issues by attending webinars and sharing your stories. Then **thank You** to the members and guests of the Standing Committee and sub committees and Study Groups who work tirelessly to make change happen in Canada through informed discussion, sharing great ideas and acting as leaders. Finally, **thank You** to Camila Taipe, National Advocacy and Policy Specialist for her good advice and new insights into our Advocacy work and all National Office staff who support the work of Advocacy through the National Newsletter's content, meeting coordination and social media posts.

Mandate: Guiding Goal: *Reaffirm and amplify CFUW's Advocacy Role: Communicate CFUW's public identity as a strong, values driven advocate for women's rights and human rights, especially those that are marginalized or under-represented - locally, nationally and in response to international issues.*

Meetings of the Standing Committee: in 2025> September 26, October 31, November 28.
In 2026 > January 30, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 29

Additional Committee work by VP Advocacy

- Two Study Groups - Long Term Care and Older Persons' Rights; Healthcare and Women's Health
- Three sub-committees: Adopted Resolutions Book Review, Environment and Climate Change, Status of Women & Human Rights
- Advocacy Working Group - for the Board
- AGM Planning Committee for 2025, 2026
- Education Committee and three subcommittees: Indigenous Support; Artificial Intelligence and Technology; Long Term Planning
- International Relations Committee
 - CAMEUS, CSW
- Membership Committee

- Communications Committee
- Resolutions Committee
- National Board

The VP Advocacy Year

1. Concerning Resolutions

2025 Resolution Intents from the National Advocacy Committee were developed for consideration and adoption of the membership during the July 2025 Policy Session:

- a. Archiving Policies
- b. Expanding Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services
- c. Safeguarding 2SLGBTQ+ Rights
- d. Equitable Phase Out of Fossil Fuels
- e. Affirming Housing as a Human Right and Social Good

And two additional resolutions came from the Membership:

- f. Addressing Period Poverty and Menstrual Inequity in Canada
- g. Strengthening the Awareness and Safekeeping of Individuals and their Animals Experiencing Domestic Violence

2. Reports from Sub Committees & Study Groups

Adopted Resolutions Book Review: A 2024 Report on the extent of CFUW's success over the past 100+ years with a list of those adopted resolutions which contributed to legislative and/or policy improvements is available. This information has been shared regularly with members requesting proof that resolutions and advocacy make a difference.	Environment and Climate Change: • COP30 in Brazil was monitored by some members of this group. • A resolution on the Equitable phase out of fossil fuels was prepared by this team. • They hosted a webinar: Building to Net Zero, by Marina Huissoon, from CFUW Milton which was well attended and received great reviews. Other Clubs requested a replay of the presentation.
Status of Women and Human Rights:	Long Term Care and Older Persons' Rights:

Webinar On GBV and Homelessness with Stefania Seccia from the National Network for Homelessness and Housing, March 20	Hosted a successful CFUW Elder Action Day May 1 Webinar, titled: The Condition of Home Care in Canada: What do we know? What can we do? with a guest panel involving: Andre Picard, Health Reporter, Globe & Mail Anthony Quinn, President, CARP Liv Mendolsohn, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence Dr. Sharlene Webkamigad, RN, Indigenous Health Researcher, educator and advocate, School of Rural and Northern Health, Laurentian U Dr. Janice Keefe, Chair of the Department of Aging and Family Science at Mount Saint Vincent University
Healthcare and Women's Health National Study Group: Hosted a successful Women and Heart Health Webinar Feb 11 from Marian Martell of the Ottawa Heart Institute	Advocacy Working Group - for the Board Made up of VP Education, VP International Relations, VP Advocacy (chair) and National President, this committee met approximately once every two months to coordinate work plans and discuss areas of mutual concern. Issues included: • Learning more about Artificial Intelligence and its impact on education, women and our lives • Allies and collaboration - organizing for connecting and prioritizing our efforts to reach out to our allies • Coordinating our mutual calendars of events • Succession planning • Peatlands Advocacy - the route to the UN? • Childcare Now Advocacy • Financial Abuse - working with Meseret Haileyesus and her organization • Planning Elder Action Day

	• Modifying Chair of RD position on Board • Regional Consultation on a Framework for Advocacy and Education
Resolutions Committee This year, the timetable for submitting Intents was shortened, and the time for Club Review was lengthened to respond to member requests to help Clubs plan meetings for resolution review in March and April. Using Google Forms and Google docs, the committee has streamlined the review of Intents and helped Proposers better organize the Amenders' feedback.	

3. Relationship Building

- I delivered a series of three workshops based on the Tamarack Institute's Foundations of Collective Impact to 12 participants. Materials are used with Tamarack's permission and stored in the MDrive for future reference.
- We supported a letter calling for continuing and increased support for \$10/day childcare from Childcare Now.
- We met and discussed potential future work together with the Advocacy lead for Business and Professional Women Canada.
- Parliamentary Briefs were prepared:
- Bill C12 -An Act respecting certain measures relating to the security of Canada's borders and the integrity of the Canadian immigration system and respecting other related security measures
- This bill seriously endangers permanent residents' status and permits sharing personal information of refugee and residents with other governments.
- Meetings took place with Nature Canada, which has a Women for Nature Mentorship Program. Plans to collaborate on social media, share newsletters, co-sign letters re: issues of concern and participate in NC's Lobby Day on Parliament Hill were discussed.
- With VP Atlantic, we mentored the Board's Young Director from FORA, Olivia Wood. She attended CSW70.

4. UNCSW70

- A brief was prepared on the CFUW priorities pertaining to women and their access and lack of access to justice.
- VP Advocacy did not attend the event. A small delegation participated. The need for continuing collaboration was one of the takeaways from the events.

5. Public Website, Member's Drive and Board Drive

- The public website is regularly refreshed with Advocacy briefs and other important information for members and to help the public understand what we stand for.
- The member's Drive is steadily being uploaded with meeting minutes from the Standing Committee, the related attachments so that all members can keep abreast of what we are discussing and doing.
- Additionally, the Members' Drive has a Resource Hub with the Advocacy Handbook and Letters and Briefs on a wide range of relevant topics to CFUW Advocacy. This is steadily being refreshed as well, as new materials are created or become available.

6. GWI Resolutions

Four Resolutions went forward to the 2025 GWI Triennial, adapted from past 2023 and 2024 resolutions passed by the CFUW membership.

- Restore and Preserve Peatlands
- Preserve Deep Sea Ecology
- Towards a Comprehensive Maternal Death Prevention Strategy
- Advancing Sustainable Development and Gender Equality with International Trade Agreements

Vice-President International Relations - Grace Hollett

Thank you to all involved in CFUW 's International Relations (IR); President Linda Sestock, committee members listed in the subcommittee reports, Delegates, VP Education and VP Advocacy, Clubs, the CFUW Board, and CFUW's Professional Staff. As VP IR, and chair of the IR Standing Committee, I work with all the above, and the Committee's UN Agency Observer, and set up and work with subcommittees whose reports are presented below. Marcia Armstrong joined the IR Committee, recently, as interim chair of the GWI coordinating Committee which I attend.

The 2025-26 year has seen significant CFUW international involvement including the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) in New York where CFUW presented an in-person session with Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA); co-hosted "Antidotes to the Virus of Inequality" with Senator Marilou McPhedran; signed an updated CAMEUS MOU and presented a CAMEUS virtual session with Mexico's FEMU and WG-USA. CFUW delegates attended GWI's Triennial 2025 at Lasaka, Zambia and IAW's virtual Triennial. Five delegates visited three schools at Chipata, Zambia, where CFUW Clubs fund a project through our International Service Project (ISP).

We promoted the GWI Triennial and CSW70 and sought delegates for whom we then held comprehensive Briefing Sessions. WhatsApp, online resources, CFUW postcards with QR codes all facilitated informed participation. Jaime Began negotiated hotel accommodation at NYC. Members' concerns about crossing the border into USA outweighed concerns about travelling to Zambia despite the latter's potential health issues. Delegates' names, experiences and comments are published in the [CFUW CSW70 Delegates Report](#) and the [CFUW GWI Triennial Report](#).

Both the Canadian Government and CFUW are strong supporters of the UN and the use of peaceful processes to international cooperation, peace and security, human rights and gender equality. CFUW provided a [Written Statement](#) on the "justice for women" theme of CSW70 and had Input to the Agreed Conclusions through Women and Gender Equality (WAGE). Delegates networked and exchanged ideas at CSW70 sessions. The [CFUW CSW70 Delegates' Report](#) has

further links to the recordings of our Parallel sessions (CFUW with WG-USA, and CAMEUS); and the [Post-CSW70 Drop-In](#) where each delegate spoke of her CSW70 experiences.

1. The reports by CFUW's UN Agency Observer and by chairs of subcommittees follow:

Report: CFUW UN Agency Observer, Mary Scott

It has been a pleasure to be part of the CFUW International Relations Committee, ably chaired by Grace Hollett. Globally, we are in a state of change, in terms of women's rights, indeed human rights. I reported to the IR committee information that I learned by attending virtual committee meetings or reviewing newsletters such as PassBlue: (<https://passblue.com/>). I attended:

- Monthly meetings of the CSW NGO (New York). Their report is an excellent review of CSW - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SzyiYMBmEcPSEpkqdbzW6GFSykF8eBIH/view?pli=1>
- CSW 70 Forum and the official meetings of CSW 70 thanks to the organizing of CSW-NGO New York, (who organized over 670 Parallel events!), and UN Web TV for virtual attendance.
- Monthly virtual meetings of the Europe & North America Caucus NGO CSW, representative of activities in North America, and Europe. No Canadian representatives nominated yet.
- The Women Peace and Security (WPS) Network Canada meetings via zoom. CFUW is an official member. Note: Canada will appoint an Ambassador for WPS which fills a central role in reinforcing Canada's efforts to ensure gender-equal and peaceful societies globally.
- Watch for the possible appointment of a woman as UN Secretary General and the outcome from the UN 80 report recommending combining UN Women and UNFPA. See <https://srhrdevelopmentjustice.org/downloads/UN80.MERGER.FAQS.p>

2. Report: CSW70 Parallel Session Planning Committee, Chair, Dr. Linda Coles.

Members: Chair, Dr. Linda Coles, IR VP Grace Hollett; CAMEUS Chair Barbara DuMoulin; WG-USA Representative, Dr. Fay Weber; CFUW National President Linda Sestock; National Office Professional Staff – Camila Taipe and Jaime Beagan. This planning was a collaboration between CFUW and WG-USA

The Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) is dedicated to the promotion of gender equality, and the rights and empowerment of women. This focus is inherent in each year's priority theme. The priority theme for CSW70 was, "Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers." Aligned with the theme, the session title became, "Strengthening Justice: Women and Girls in Health, Law, and Media".

Committee members identified three accomplished panelists to join our session, Stella Roth, who focused on Law, Dr. Susan Murray on Media, and Dr. Carmella Roybal on Health. The session was very well attended. The success of the session was evident in the very thought-provoking questions and comments that followed the panelists' presentations. There was a very strong sense both from the panelists and the questions and comments from the audience that "advocacy matters". See the recording [here](#) and take aways and conclusions from the session [here](#).

3. CAMEUS Report. Chair Barbara DuMoulin

CAMEUS, the North American regional affiliation of GWI members from CFUW, WG-USA, and FEMU of Mexico, focuses primarily on issues that migrant women and children face in our three countries due to social, political, and climate changes. This year's CSW70 virtual parallel event entitled, Justice for Women Amid North America's Immigration Policy Shift, focused on how political changes particularly in the USA have affected migrants with an overview of how rights in the USA have been stripped away often resulting in detention and deportation regardless of legal status. The speakers from Mexico and Canada spoke to how immigration changes have affected migrants in their countries. [Check here for the recording.](#)

Our other focus this year was on renewing the CAMEUS MOU first signed in 2023. We revised it, strengthening the language. It was signed at CSW70 at a ceremony held at the Mexican Cultural Institute. As a follow-up we are reviewing the administrative guidelines for our work together and are starting on research for next year's parallel event.

Report: International Service Project (ISP), Chair, Larisa Stringfellow

The CFUW ISP supports girls' access to education in countries where such is compromised, limited or unattainable. The members of the ISP Subcommittee with Chair Larisa Stringfellow are: Pat Patton, Dr. Sharon Crabb, Grace Hollett, Linda Sestock (CFUW President) and Jaime Beagan (CFUW Executive Director). The 2025-2027 CFUW ISP project is Young, Happy, Healthy & Safe with our new partner the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF). This is the first year of a two-year campaign.

The project aims to support girls in learning about sexual and reproductive health in rural Eastern Zambia through health and rights information that can help keep them in school and protect them from early marriage and pregnancy, gender-based violence, HIV infection, caregiving responsibilities etc. The goal in the first year is to raise \$15,000 and as of May 18, 2026, \$14,265.53 has been raised. We thank all Clubs and members who are contributing to the campaign. The fundraising campaign has been promoted through Club Action News and an information webinar held on October 1, 2025. Planning is underway to build awareness of the ISP at the AGM in July 2026. A webinar is planned for Fall 2026, in conjunction with the SLF, a Zambian novelist and a well-known Canadian moderator.

4. GWI Triennial Planning Subcommittee Report: Chair Joy Hurst

Committee members: Joy Hurst (Chair), Grace Hollett (VP IR), Tamara Stromp, Kathryn Wilkinson, Pat Patton, Lynne Kent and Ex-Officio, Linda Sestock, National President. Additional capacity was added by a sub-committee within the sub-committee, GWI Constitutional Review Subcommittee, chaired by Pat Patton.

The primary activity of the committee was to organize and facilitate CFUW's participation in the 35th GWI Triennial General Assembly and Conference held in Zambia. Working closely with the national staff team, all deliverables for the committee were met. CFUW submitted 4 constitutional amendments, 4 policy resolutions and CFUW presented a workshop at the Conference. CFUW responded to all opportunities for NFA (national federation and associations) input. CFUW also participated actively in GWI pre-General Assembly sessions to determine final language for amendments and resolutions.

The committee ensured communication within CFUW about the Triennial and the related processes. A policy session for GWI supporting CFUW clubs was held providing members an opportunity to provide delegate instructions for the General Assembly.

This committee's preparatory work contributed to a well prepared CFUW delegation of 11 individuals, engagement with 5 NFAs who seconded CFUW Advocacy resolutions and CFUW's significant contribution to a successful Triennial General Assembly and Conference. See [CFUW GWI Triennial report here](#)..

A special thank you is extended to the CFUW national staff team and Graduate Women Zambia who were exceptional Triennial hosts.

5. Report: Club Awards: Chair, Phyllis Scott

The members of this committee with Chair Phyllis Scott are Niki Carlan and Fiona Lhotka Morrell; Club awards are an International Award and an International Women's Day Award. The winners

for 2024-2025 were announced at the CFUW July 2025 AGM. The deadline for submissions for 2025-2026 is May 29th when the applications will be adjudicated and sent to the CFUW Board for approval. The awards are promoted in Club Action News. The recognition of International UN Days is being managed by National staff with additional input from this subcommittee welcomed.

Vice-President Education – Audrey Hobbs-Johnson

Overview:

The Education Committee moved forward this year building on the work of 2025–Child Care and Early Learning along with recognizing the needs and supports for older adults continued to be a focus as we worked through our priorities. CFUW has worked over the years to provide a strong background and understanding in these areas. The context and details of support needed will change as we continue to research. The current context of Canadian budget that has changed National and Provincial economic realities. Our younger and older population have backgrounds, context, numbers, needs that change the content but not the focus or support and. However, this does not mean these are the only areas needing attention in the Education Portfolio.

Together, the Education and Advocacy committees conducted a survey in spring of 2025 to identify tools and approaches that could strengthen both committees' work. The survey examined models to improve connections among clubs, councils, provincial and national committees, with the goal of making communication and collaboration more seamless. A report was submitted to the Board of Directors, and Education Advocacy and International committees will follow up on it in the fall 2026. These three committees along with the CFUW President, meet bi-monthly. This enables the committees to work to support each other and at the same time create agendas that do not overlap.

Indigenous Sub Committee: Co-Chaired by Mary Scott and Audrey Hobbs-Johnson along with Gwen Alves

Mary has said more than once: *“We must recognize the importance of reconciliation and indigenous history as a personal and communal journey involving truth, healing and mutual respect. Recognizing the Importance of dialogue and individual actions towards reconciliation is key”*. This is the theme and focus of the Indigenous committee.

This committee meets bi-monthly and shares the 3rd Friday of each month with the Education Committee. Although there is a separate group for each committee, there is a strong crossover between the two lists and all members contribute, learn and plan together in most monthly meetings. This area of our work has had a talented list of speakers from various Indigenous communities across Canada. Our priority has been to learn from the Indigenous communities and from Indigenous organizations. The speakers included but were not limited to Aboriginal Veterans Day Founder: Randi Gage, Rachell Grabarezyk, (Charitable Trust recipient, citizen of Metis nation in Saskatchewan who talked to us about Metis Identity and roles in their communities. In addition, we sent representatives to Prince George to 20th Anniversary of the Report on Highway of Tears (MMIWG). Here we were able to learn and celebrate some successes that have been achieved and, how this part of Northern BC is still not safe for many young women who travel this lonely highway among the Indigenous communities in Northern BC.

Advocacy Chair Heather Oxman brought the discussion of the Bill S-2 to our May meeting; some research has begun on reasons why or why not this bill is being supported by current liberal MPs. This is an on-going discussion. Bill S-2 deals with amending the Indian Act (new registration entitlements)

CFUW addresses issues for and in Education in Canada

Although our K-12 System is Provincial and our Post Secondary is run by individual boards, there are National organizations that give us current context and research. One of the goals in this committee is to understand this system and to help clubs understand how that plays out in each province and territory. OECD, Education in Canada, CEMC, <https://www.cmec.ca/en/>, the Canadian Education Ministers Council, and EdCan <https://www.edcan> are examples of organizations that give a non-partisan view of Education in Canada. Canadian Teachers and other

organizations offer insight through their organizations that represent their point of view. These add to research and are considered carefully with a non-partisan view. Indigenous Education has a variety of models and funding mechanisms. This is a study project for next year.

Education Working Groups

Lifelong Learning of CFUW: Working Group, Education Committee

Discussions among the Committee continue to discuss the importance, the role and themes needed to be in this monthly committee discussion. The rapid speed of change is important to recognise, not only in knowing what it is but how to cope with and understand the change process needed to understand the how and why of changes in our systems

Early Learning and Childcare: Working group, Education Committee

This theme continues the need to keep current in research and advocacy needed to continue the movement forward for services and funding needed in Canada for learners' birth to 5 years old.

Post Secondary Education in Canada: Working group lead: Linda Coles

Drawing on broad research into the state of post-secondary education in Canada, this committee produced a webinar on current issues. Speakers from across the country, representing a range of professional perspectives, outlined the system's strengths and weaknesses and proposed possible solutions. A key theme was the need to consider the role of post-secondary participants in today's economic context.

AI and Technology: Jeannette Mergens, National Office

This area continues to emerge as we find ways to explore and learn how AI will change our lives, how we learn how to know what we need to know and how to process this information. There were a variety of learning sessions on this with the last one being Carla Fehr where we continue to learn from her AGM in Montreal.

Women's Health Issues: Working Group Leader: Lynne Kent

This topic continues to use current research. To date we have addressed and continue to study: Women Heart Health, Women's Brain Health, and the broad issue of research for woman's health.

The issue on the table: *most research is done by men, on men and then automatically transferred to women and their health. Reality suggests women have different bodies, approach research differently. Another critical factor is that when we do have present valid women's health research, it is difficult to get medical personnel to recognize it let alone add it to their practice.*

Vice-President Membership - Anne Cordon

My committee* and I continued to prioritize our actions for this biennium 2024-2026 from the results of the Membership-Communication Survey conducted in the Fall of 2024:

1. Help clubs raise the profile of CFUW
2. Help clubs be even stronger by increasing membership, diversification and other ways relevant to them
3. Recognize the multifaceted reasons individuals join and stay in CFUW

As stated in our updated Terms of Reference (September 2025) our mandate is:

- A. **Club support**- Invite clubs to help identify what they need or want for support. Create strategies to provide support. Define parameters of types of help we can provide
- B. **Club recognition** for actions, growth, and longevity in ways that are effective and meaningful to the club and positively impactful to CFUW (raise CFUW profile; strengthen the organization; have a real impact related to our mission)
- C. **Club expansion** to new geographic areas and demographics within existing areas

Highlights:

1. Visting clubs in person this year including Vancouver and Edmonton areas, and ON clubs accessible by car from me who were celebrating special events. Hopefully more clubs next biennium. Wonderful to meet and talk in person in addition to sharing ideas on Zoom or the phone.
2. Continued **monthly zoom meetings** we call **Monday Membership Moments MMM** to provide an opportunity for club members, especially presidents, membership chairs, or other executives to get together to ask questions and share their successes
 - a. MMM-1 September, Member recruitment building from clubs with greatest growth 2025
 - b. MMM-2 October, Club Projects to inspire clubs and motivate applying for Grants
 - c. MMM-3 November Alternative Leadership Models
 - d. MMM-4 January Inclusive Innovative Interest Groups

- e. MMM-5 February The art and importance of the Thank You-Member Recognition
 - f. MMM-6 March AGM 101 what, when, how, and why it matters to attend
 - g. MMM-7 April Celebrating Club Initiatives and the value of learning from each other
3. Started **Popup think tanks** open to all members to drop and “chat “on focused topics:
 - a. Club Resources (what are useful, how should they be delivered, where should they be, and what is available and what should we develop)
 - b. Club strengths and challenges—how do we know and address frustrations and build on our strengths
 - c. Club leadership options to build strength and continuity
 4. Regular announcements and ideas in the **CFUW Club Action News, Membership Moments**
 5. **GRANTS** (13 totalling \$4000 + 8 totalling \$1000 honourable mentions) continued to support clubs updating their branding, developing new projects and expanding recurring projects/events. Successful clubs that were not only creative and inventive, but also raised the profile of CFUW in their community and had a strong likelihood their initiative that may also be adopted/adapted by other clubs
 6. **GRANTS** to cover Registration to support Club Delegates to attend the in-person Montreal AGM—20 grants equivalent to \$20,000
 7. **Special AWARDS**—to acknowledge clubs who developed and completed new and inventive activities to support their members, raise their club profile in the community and had a strong livelihood of being adapted/adopted by other clubs.
 8. **Membership growth and development**—tap into clubs who have increased their numbers and demographics to share with other clubs who might find these ideas helpful.
 9. **Our committee met monthly from September to June except for December** and May

Challenges:

Respond in meaningful and helpful ways to club challenges. Our challenges continue from last year and are ongoing concerns to make our actions effective to help clubs. Also important is to foster a feeling of belonging so clubs see themselves as part of a national organization with shared vision and mission:

- Continue to consider meaningful ways to **celebrate clubs and individuals**.
- Continue to develop, pilot and showcase effective ways to **increase CFUW profile** locally for clubs to consider.
- Continue to develop, pilot, and showcase effective strategies for **targeted new member recruitment** for clubs.
- Continue to develop, pilot and showcase effective strategies for **member retention**.

- Continue to improve club connections with CFUW nationally and break down “silos” across the country.
- Continue to work with the clubs and other Board and Provincial Council members to help identify what is needed for support. Create strategies to provide support. Define parameters of the types of help we can provide. JUST IN TIME help and support!
- I hope to continue attending in person events such as visiting clubs, Gatherings, Councils, and our National AGM to meet more members and hear firsthand what is happening from coast to coast.
- **Do not overwhelm clubs with too much information!**

Plans for 2026-2028

1. Continue and expand ways to highlight, support, acknowledge and celebrate our clubs
2. Build on club achievements including membership increases, expanded demographics, and Special Project Grants and Awards with more opportunities for information sharing at future MMMs, social media postings etc.
3. Continue plans to develop **pilot project(s)** to address membership priorities that can be expanded, if successful, and used by other clubs

*** Membership Committee 2025-2026** Many thanks to our terrific committee who all contributed so much this year:

1. Anne Cordon, Chair VP Membership, Peterborough and Haliburton Highlands
2. Linda Sestock, CFUW President, MLUWC
3. Sheila Service, Chair Communications Std Cttee, VP British Columbia, Nanaimo
4. Sandra Shaw, VP Ontario, Perth & District
5. Deborah (Debby) Brown Winnipeg-Past Membership Chair
6. Heather Lewis, Orillia, Past President
7. Marlene Starkman, RD Chair, RD ON East, Perth & District
8. Kathy Wosnick, Aurora-Newmarket, OC Advocacy Chair
9. Heather Oxman, VP Advocacy, Lethbridge

Staff—Special thanks to Jaime Beagan, CFUW Executive Director, Elizabeth Malcolm, Member Engagement Coordinator and Mabinty Touré, Administrative and Organizational Projects Coordinator for all their help throughout the year.

Resolutions Committee - Margaret Therrien

Margaret Therrien and Wendy Taylor Co-Chairs CFUW Resolutions Committee

Committee Members: Maggie Buchanan, Bonnie Jensen, Bilkies McKen, Jane Young, Heather Oxman and Linda Sestock

Consultant: Camila Taipe, CFUW National Advocacy and Policy Specialist

Resolutions adopted since June 2025 Report:

At the 2025 Policy Session eight resolutions were adopted. Those were: Addressing Period Poverty and Menstrual Inequity in Canada, Expanding Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, Supporting 2SLGBTQ+ Rights, Strengthening the Awareness and Safekeeping of Individuals and Their Animals Experiencing Domestic Violence, Equitable Phase-Out of Fossil Fuels, Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions and Affirming Housing as a Human Right and Social Good.

September – November 2025:

In early September, the Resolutions Information and Guidelines was revised and submitted for Board approval prior to publishing. The primary change was updating the Guidelines schedule. Also, during this timeframe Resolution Committee members were surveyed regarding the value of retaining resolution background material with the response to this survey being forwarded to the Advocacy Committee Chair.

Throughout the Fall the Club Action News published an article for Clubs indicating that Resolution Intents were due by October 23rd.

Committee members met by Zoom on October 30th to discuss the five resolution Intents. These were reviewed to ensure CFUW did not already have policy on the topic and that the Intent aligned with the CFUW Mission and Goals. One Intent on the topic of TRC Calls to Action did not go forward to the Resolution drafting stage because CFUW already has a Resolution covering this topic. The four other Intents were accepted however two of the Proposers were requested to liaise with each other regarding their resolutions because the proposals appeared very similar. Proposers were advised by email of the outcome of the Intent review and were also advised that the Resolution Committee members were available to answer questions and to provide assistance when requested.

2026 Resolutions:

The four intents that were accepted to move onto the Resolution writing phase of the resolutions process are:

Resolution 1 – CFUW Ottawa - Canadian Response to the Education Crisis in Afghanistan

Resolution 2 – CFUW North Bay – Supporting Our Canadian Economy

Resolution 3 – CFUW Northumberland – A Strong, Equitable Canadian Economy

Resolution 4 – CFUW Guelph – Countering Disinformation in Canada

In mid-November, CFUW North Bay advised the Resolutions Committee Chairs that they were withdrawing their Intent.

February – April 2026:

Resolutions including Resolved Clauses, Background, Implementation and Bibliography from the three remaining resolutions were received by the Resolutions Committee by February 2. The Committee met by Zoom on February 12 to discuss these resolutions. The CFUW Northumberland resolution was not approved to go forward as the resolved clauses suggested advocacy action for which CFUW already has policy. The CFUW Guelph and CFUW Ottawa resolutions were approved to go forward in the resolutions process.

On March 6 a Special Newsletter on Resolutions was made available to Clubs requesting a review of each of the two resolutions and recommending emphasis on the Resolved Clauses. Clubs were able to submit amendments using an online form until April 30.

A Zoom meeting with the Resolutions Committee and Resolution Proposers was held on March 26 to provide clarification regarding the amendment responses required by the Proposers. This meeting was well received with all having a better understanding of how Amendments would be accessible on Google Docs to each Proposer and the Resolutions Committee, and the action required.

May – July 2026:

Preparations are underway for the Proposers and Amenders Workshop scheduled for May 28. Each Resolution has had over 35 proposed amendments for the Proposers to consider. A Special Newsletter on the Revised Resolutions is scheduled for release on May 22 with the final Resolution versions completed by June 5 for publishing in the Policy Session Booklet. On July 9 there will be a practice session for the Proposers and Resolutions Committee in preparation for the July 24 Policy Session.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to all Proposers and Clubs who became involved in the Resolutions process this year and to all members of the Resolutions Committee.

Communications Committee - Sheila Service and Jaime Beagan

This Committee was originally a Task Force on Visual Identity and Renaming. To steer the consultation process for the potential renaming of CFUW and to provide any support required by KiK Partners Consulting in the process of identifying a new visual identity for CFUW. Deliverables: Consultation process for CFUW naming; Name choices for member consideration and voting; A new visual identity; Training package on using the new branding materials and Communications package to advertise the new name and visual identity.

Once the Branding Plan was launched, it was decided that the Standing Communications Committee should be established once again. The Communications Standing Committee Terms of Reference were developed and approved by the Board. After some discussion around the four Purpose statements in the Terms of Reference, it was the opinion of the committee that there are many things about internal and external communication strategy that are not known by the members. Defining the work of the Communications Committee has been guided by the Branding initiative and immediate needs identified by members so far. Looking into the future and acknowledging that we don't know what we don't know, consultation with an expert in communication would be beneficial. The actual project will be the responsibility of the next Communications Committee in conjunction with the Executive Director.

Two Archivist Workshops were held this past year. Andrew Chernyvysh's November workshop from Galt Archives in Lethbridge was very informative and a great introduction to what archives are. Members were able to ask specific questions about archiving CFUW history.

The January workshop presenter, Patty Harper, was on point, upbeat, enthusiastic, keen to work with CFUW going forward. 89 attendees were at the workshop. Patty will follow-up with any questions members have and provide some resources including book suggestions for caring for archives.

The Committee also considered the question of which CFUW documents need to be translated and suggested by CFUW national bylaws, contents of the Resources Hub, all the advocacy materials and all the membership materials.

IT Grants were requested in the fall of 2025. Twenty applications were received. The guidelines for awarding grants specified that Clubs without any web presence would be the priority. The second priority would be small clubs needing website updates. Four Clubs have begun the process of submitting information for their Club on specific landing pages. The next step of the project, once those are complete, will be to assist the other applicants with their website updates.

The Co-Chairs would like to thank and acknowledge the participation of the following members: Linda Sestock, Karen Dunnett, Kathy Wosnick, Anne Cordon, Heather Oxman, Heather Hill, Barb DuMoulin, Eleanor Palmer, Marcia Armstrong, Teresa Habs, Joy Hurst, Marlene Starkman, Barb Gustafson, and Deb Brown. Also, our thanks and acknowledge the support of staff members, Elizabeth Malcom and Mabinty Touré.

Human Resources Committee - Barb Gustafson

During the second year of the 2024-2026 biennium, the Human Resources Committee once again coordinated the annual performance review of the Executive Director. The review was completed through a survey of board members and staff, a self-evaluation by the ED, and a meeting between the ED and the board president. The results were very positive. The ED job description was reviewed for changes in duties over time and the updated job description will be brought to the board for approval. Based on the performance review, the Finance Committee reviewed the ED salary and made an adjustment recommendation to the board.

The HR Committee Terms of Reference were reviewed with minor changes and were approved by the board in February.

Updates to the Respectful Treatment procedures were approved by the board in November. Club information sheets have been created to be shared with club leadership. The Code of Ethical Behaviour was also updated in conjunction with the Respectful Treatment review, with changes approved by the board in February. In collaboration with the Governance Committee, the HR Committee worked on updates to conflict-of-interest procedures. This work is ongoing.

For the 2026-28 biennium, priorities include a review of staff benefits, with pension at the top of the list. Standard operating procedures for the National Office in relation to personnel will be updated.

2024-26 HR Committee members were: Deputy President Barb Gustafson, chair; President Linda Sestock; VP Finance Susan Lane; VP British Columbia Sheila Service; VP Atlantic Karen Dunnett.

Respectfully,
Barb Gustafson,
HR Committee chair

Vice-President Atlantic/Governance Committee - Karen Dunett

As VP Atlantic, I also am President of the Atlantic Regional Council (ARC) Executive, made up of the Regional Directors from the four Atlantic Provinces and a Secretary Treasurer. Each fall we plan a Fall Gathering of the Atlantic clubs. With a theme this year, “Our History, Purpose & Communications, we informed new members of our history and considered overarching thoughts on the effectiveness, connection and engagement that our purpose represented. We also highlighted the outreach activities clubs did and discussed possible collaborations.

The ARC has been diligent in sharing Atlantic club newsletters. I have sent periodic messages about specific workshops, seminars, advocacy work, think tanks that were offered through national and other clubs, including reminders of important CFUW deadlines - important strategic communications highlighting the vital connections amongst all CFUW members within our organization.

With this year being the end of the biennium, we added to our AGM 2026 preparations the Regional Directors and Secretary-Treasurer elections as well as encouraging candidates to run for the national board VP Atlantic position – that person becomes the ARC President.

The virtual ARC AGM 2026 in April had as its programme theme, “Making a Difference: Past Recollections & Impact” (presented by Margaret Therrien, chair of the Adopted Resolutions Book Review committee) as the introduction to the sequel, “Purpose Matters: Our Shared conversation to explore what is Most Important to Us” (second presentation by Gail Scott RD PEI). There was a strong commitment to believe in the ARC purpose of communication, cooperation and friendship as fundamental to all of us under the umbrella that is CFUW. Members strongly

committed to continue to explore how best we can do this in within this rapidly changing world of information.

Across the Atlantic, our clubs still are beacons of strong financial support for continuing education through university/college/mature scholarships and bursaries, while maintaining ongoing club programs for friendships, lifelong learning and engaging in issues as far-reaching as climate change, IPV support systems, immigration and aging. Visibility is improving through learning new social media skills, and membership is steady with a number of clubs showing some membership growth again this year.

For the 2026-28 biennium, we will have a full complement of four Atlantic RDs and a new person standing for VP Atlantic.

As VP Atlantic on the national board, I attended our regular and special board meetings, contributing quarterly reports on my work as President of the Atlantic Regional Council and working with board members to achieve the goals set for the year. I also have served on the HR Committee, the regional VP_RD working group studying the communications and roles of these groups, as a co-mentor along with Heather Oxman of our Fora student member of our board, and my other major job as Chair of the Governance Committee.

Governance Committee

I have been Chair of the Governance Committee for 2024-26 biennium. The committee and I have contributed to the Board work plan under our duties of promoting good governance practices regarding orientation, continued board development, evaluation and in particular succession planning this last year of the biennium. The biennium's board development continued via monthly drop-in sessions. These provided opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of CFUW, its workings and as an informal idea-sharing space. The board evaluation and feedback process has finalized a yearly survey schedule and added a qualitative piece as part of the end of biennium review. Our year-end review will bring all of the board together to review the year and support the transition to a new biennium.

The Administrative Volume 2 working group of which I am a part, in close collaboration with staff, has continued the important and complex job of updating and reorganizing of the material in the Administration Volume 2.

As part of the succession process, new timelines and promotions of the board, its members, roles and responsibilities, committees and board nominations have been developed. We hope that they have helped more of our members see the potential and reward of being part of the national board and committee scene.

It has been a great privilege for me to work with all the board members and our competent staff for the last two biennium. There has been a strong commitment from all to build a stronger and more agile organization. All have contributed to being a respectful and collaborative group asking

questions, bringing new ideas forward, and improving our processes to sustain and reinvigorate CFUW.

Last but not least, my heartfelt thanks goes out to my Atlantic Regional Council Executive members Gerri Downey - RD NL, Anne MacInnis – RD NS, Gail Scott – RD PEI, and ARC Sec.-Tres., Patti MacPherson. They showed up to meetings, pitched in willingly with any job that needed to be done and have become good friends in the process.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the CFUW Atlantic Vice President and ARC President, 2022-2026.

Vice-President Ontario - Sandra Shaw

Representing CFUW's 48 clubs across Ontario, a dedicated yet diverse membership spanning a vast geography, certainly has its challenges, not unlike those faced by other Provincial/Regional VPs and Councils navigating the sheer distances our country imposes on the CFUW community. On site visits, though, have proven essential for strengthening the CFUW bond; they offer a genuine feel for unique local needs and, importantly, allow National and Provincial programs to be shared and promoted through a more welcoming, face-to-face format.

Ontario has focussed on genuine opportunities for Club reinvigoration, including tackling leadership hurdles, headlined by OC's Fall seminar, and exploring fresh local and provincial advocacy. In all our communications, we strive to address member engagement while consistently encouraging a sense of provincial unity.

Celebrating Club anniversaries provided a wonderful reason for personal visits, with 12 Ontario Clubs marking milestones in the 2026 calendar year. This longevity is a testament to the Clubs' endurance and the prominent, lasting role they play in their respective communities.

Club	Anniversary	Club	Anniversary
St. Catharines	105	Georgetown	55
North Bay	85	Kincardine	35
Welland and District	85	Owen Sound	35
Windsor	80	Northumberland	35
St. Thomas	75	Grimsby	35

Stratford	75	Nepean	35
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Ontario Council (OC) successfully launched a commemorative scarf project, creating a tangible symbol of membership pride. We now look forward to the final step of the project: distributing these scarves to members at this year's in-person OC AGM. Additionally, to honor long-standing members, OC has inaugurated the 50+ Club, a prestigious circle celebrating those who have dedicated a half-century or more to our mission - a small token of our immense gratitude for the decades of wisdom and leadership they have contributed to the CFUW legacy.

Membership

Our Clubs have clearly taken to heart the messages from both OC and National: to stay relevant, we must evolve. However, OC is being realistic about its target audience. The youth of CFUW's early years is often in the thick of building careers and raising families, leaving them with little bandwidth for current CFUW offerings. Instead, Clubs are finding success by aiming for the about-to-retire and newly retired cohorts, women who have more time on their hands or those new to their communities and eager to develop meaningful ties and friendships.

That said, OC isn't ignoring the younger generation. Ontario's pilot project (undertaken with National's Membership Committee), utilizing university experiential learning programs, is a prime example; by involving young women in our advocacy work today, we are planting the seeds for the members of tomorrow.

This year, Ontario Council's membership numbers plateaued at 4,650. In discussions with Clubs, it is emphasized that strengthening a Club does not necessarily require a massive increase in headcount. The goal is to ensure a stable, solid basis of health before undertaking significant membership drives.

Communication

Ontario's Regional Directors (RDs) remain actively engaged in maintaining the vital links amongst our clubs. While one RD has been away on parental leave, the remaining team has ensured Clubs stay well-supported.

Visits by RDs have largely been replaced by monthly Zoom meetings with presidents, advocacy leads, and treasurers. These digital check-ins are a necessity given the distances (the farthest Club from its RD is a staggering 893 kilometres). However, we haven't abandoned the personal touch entirely. RDs have prioritized face-to-face visits for high-impact regional events, including London's 105th Anniversary, Cornwall's 35th, and Orillia's Fall Gathering.

Zoom is used to facilitate OC meetings and the Speaker Series (SS), which has turned these sessions into more democratic and equitable events for members regardless of their location.

This past spring, the most attended SS event focused on Artificial Intelligence, proving that members are keen to engage with the technological shifts affecting our world.

In such a vast geographical area, newsletters remain a mainstay for information exchange. Most Clubs produce their own, which OC then highlights in its newsletter (8 - 10 per year) and publishes on its website to cross-pollinate ideas.

Advocacy

Advocacy remains the heartbeat of CFUW Ontario. This year, we moved toward a more data-driven and inclusive approach to social justice, remaining diligent despite the ongoing challenge of a provincial majority government that often fails to "listen" to its constituents.

The impact of our provincial 'Call IPV An Epidemic' campaign is showing real results. Using the OC IPV Toolkit, Clubs are finding success at the municipal level. While the provincial government has yet to declare IPV an epidemic as recommended by the critical CKW Inquest report, municipalities are stepping up at the urging of our Clubs. CFUW Southport and CFUW Orillia have been particularly successful in this endeavour.

Additionally, we have made great strides in helping Clubs understand that advocacy takes many forms. We have promoted the use of interest groups as a gateway for engagement, framing these issues through personal mentorship.

Clubs are also looking to both National and Provincial resolutions to guide their frontline advocacy work. Period Poverty has been identified as a serious issue and this year saw successful donation and awareness drives by many Ontario Clubs. Furthermore, the commitment to our most vulnerable populations remains steadfast; several Clubs are actively tackling Warming Centre advocacy, while CFUW Owen Sound is leading a provincial charge, entreating all Ontario Clubs to join them in fighting for the appointment of a Seniors' Advocate to serve as a true champion for seniors' rights.

Leadership

Leadership development within the OC Clubs this year has focused on the transition from traditional oversight to a model of active stewardship and shared responsibilities. By refining Clubs' internal structures, we have empowered board members and leadership teams to manage with confidence and clarity. Furthermore, we are fostering a culture where current leaders act as stewards for the next generation, using mentorship to demystify executive roles.

Scholarships

Scholarships remain a cornerstone of the Ontario Clubs' commitment to education and the advancement of women. Despite economic shifts, Clubs have shown remarkable resilience in

maintaining their local award programs. Fundraising campaigns and member donations are at the heart of scholarship development in Ontario. Clubs also find ways to donate to the Charitable Trust, ensuring postgraduates have the same opportunities as the other women.

Provincial-National Synergy

My work with the Board, VP/RD sub-Committee and the Membership Committee has focused on aligning provincial needs with national strategies to ensure cohesion. I continue to ensure that national tools are communicated and utilized across the province. By participating in national dialogues, I have explored new ways to modernize the membership model, balancing CFUW's rich heritage with the need to attract a contemporary, diverse membership. In acting as a conduit between the National Committees and Ontario Clubs, I have shared successful recruitment/retention strategies, ideas for member engagement, education opportunities and advocacy that emphasize the value of belonging to a federation with a 100-plus year history.

While CFUW has focused heavily on procedural integrity this year, we have never lost sight of the intelligence and wit that drive this federation. It is that unique combination of professional discipline and personal passion that makes our work so rewarding. I am eager to step into another year of collaborative growth, sharing our successes and learning from the diverse perspectives of CFUW regions across the country as we advance our common mission.

Vice-President Prairies - Barb Gustafson

As I reflect on serving as VP Prairies during the 2024-26 biennium, I am thankful for the support from the Prairies Regional Directors (RDs), Council Presidents, alumnae members, as well as my colleagues on the national board. I have learned a great deal about CFUW during this term and hope to use it for the benefit of CFUW in the future.

Prairies activities

During 2025-26, I was able to visit several clubs in the Prairies region. I attended a farewell gathering for CFUW Calgary North in February, which was a bittersweet end to a club but filled with friendship and great memories from the club members. I was also able to meet with the executive of CFUW Calgary. In May, I visited the University Women's Club of Winnipeg for a stellar presentation titled The Inequality Virus: Impact and Antidotes. I continue to serve as the CFUW Prince Albert local president, involved directly with Saskatchewan Council.

Overall, we are witnessing increased sharing across clubs with presentations offered via Zoom and webinars, invitations between nearby clubs to collaborate, and facilitation of joint projects through the provincial councils.

The Prairies region includes five (soon to be four) Alberta clubs, Manitoba's Winnipeg club, three Saskatchewan clubs, plus an active group of e-club members in Regina. While some of the larger clubs are seeing diminished membership, the trend is upward among the smaller centres.

Other board activities

On the national board, I have served as deputy president, which includes chairing the Human Resources Committee. In addition to coordinating the executive director's annual review, the committee completed its review of Respectful Treatment and the Code of Ethical Behaviour and is working with the Governance Committee on clarifying expectations on conflict of interest.

I have also served as a member of the Communications Committee, AGM Planning Committee, Strategic Support group, and Governance Committee. The Governance Committee undertook a significant project updating the Administrative Procedures volumes, which involved a great deal of work by board members and staff.

In addition, I was asked to chair a working group to review the relationships between the RDs, regional vice presidents, and the RD Committee. The group was composed of the current regional VPs, most of whom served as RDs in the past, several current RDs including the committee chair, and the board president. Our recommendations have been provided to the board. Changes would be implemented during the next biennium. I was also deeply involved in the board review of the role of the RD Committee chair and the potential to move this role from a permanent guest to a full board member. The amendments necessary to make this change are before the membership at the 2026 AGM. This choice may require further updates to ensure collaboration across committees.

Vice-President British Columbia – Sheila Service

I am more grateful than ever for the cohesive, hardworking BC Council members who provided me with their support once again. Council has met eight times over the past year. Work has been done to bring the BC Articles and Bylaws into line with those of National. We have worked on identifying how Council might better serve our Clubs.

Our Advocacy Committee, under the exceptional leadership of Audrey Hobbs-Johnson has had another productive and busy year. Through the efforts of our Advocacy Committee Chair Audrey and Committee members, Betsy Ives and Deb Dancik, we have had a very productive meeting arranged through the Office of the Honorable Josie Osbourn with Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors Services and Long-Term Care Susie Chant and Deputy Health Minister Cynthia Johansen. It is our hope to be able to establish an ongoing interaction and discussion with the Ministry of Health. I would again like to acknowledge those Clubs who have made an effort to contact and maintain contact with their Provincial and local politicians

I would like to acknowledge the work of Council members who have completed their commitment to BC Council and those ongoing. Lynne Kent and Jenny Toone have continued to

do good work with the Resolutions both BC and National. I give my thanks to Jenny who is not seeking another appointment to this position. Cynthia Fraser with an assist from Melanie Wade has been handling our Media, Website although we have not had the quarterly Newsletter. I want also to thank Barb MacClellan, our outgoing Treasurer, who has dealt with insurance in addition to her other financial responsibilities. Linda Lehr as Secretary has had the responsibility for organizing the Reports Booklet for the AGM in addition to taking Council meeting minutes. She also served on the AGM Planning Committee. Barb DuMoulin our Past President is a valuable advisor to me, as well as Council, served as Nominations chair this year. Barb's term will end this year, and I would like to thank her as she has served two terms as Council President and then as Past President for my two terms as President which adds up to eight years. This in addition to being the RD Vancouver Island prior to the eight years. Such commitment is admirable. Our Three Regional Directors are Deb Dancik for Vancouver Island, Janice Murphy for BC Interior and Eleanor Scarth BC West. In addition to supporting their local clubs they are part of the National RDs group. Janice has replaced Ruth Mellor whose death has left not only Kelowna, but many BC Clubs grieving the loss of a committed and long active CFUW member who served in many capacities over the years including BC Council President. She is missed. Our Archivist Cathy Barford continues to do excellent work, as she has over many years. My thanks to her for her willingness to undertake what can be an onerous task at times.

Our theme for the past year has been "Embracing Change Together". This year our theme is "Learning, Living and Growing Together". We align our efforts and strategies with those of National.

Finally thank you to the BC Club Executives without whom we would not be able to function.

Regional Directors Standing Committee Chair – Marlene Starkman

The mandate of the Standing Committee of Regional Directors (RDs)-- with 19 members – is two-fold:

- to represent the issues of clubs across Canada, facilitate information sharing with Regional/Provincial Councils and the National Board, identify emerging needs, advance strategic initiatives, and bring forward actionable recommendations to the Board for approval, and
- to provide mutual support for Regional Directors in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, while also creating an understanding of regional practices.

To that end we met monthly via ZOOM for one hour and divided the time between education and information sharing. Most months, the first half started with a guest speaker addressing a specific topic — Education, Membership, history of RD Standing Committee, Finance, GWI Payments, Resolutions, Governance for Clubs, AGM protocols.

The second half of the meeting was an opportunity to provide mentorship and support for each other in the performance of our duties - we shared successes, concerns, highlights and challenges, learning from and supporting each other.

As chair, I attended Board meetings to gather information to share with other RDs, as well as to provide an RD perspective when appropriate. I regularly attended the following committee meetings: Membership, Communications, Governance, Advocacy, Board of Directors.

My focus continued to be ensuring RDs received important information in a timely manner for them to share to their clubs, and providing support as needed.

I was also an active participant in the VP/RD Working Group established in October, 2025 to review the roles of the regional vice presidents, regional directors and the RD committee chair to clarify and differentiate roles and responsibilities.

It has been my privilege to work with the RDs from across Canada these past two years, to develop relationships with the women who have helped guide the 69 clubs across the country. Each one has dedicated countless hours to supporting their clubs, helping them fulfil the mandate of CFUW—advocating for women’s rights, investing in education and scholarships and inspiring lifelong friendships.

Regional Director Alberta – Pati Wigelsworth

1. I sent to all club Presidents information from meetings with the Alberta Council and emails from VP Prairie’s Barb Gustafson

The information that went out from the Council were:

- Letter sent to the Minister of Education and the response
 - Letter sent to the government regarding the Alberta Budget
 - Webinar on “Beyond Equity: Lessons from a Zambian Women”
 - Webinar on “Let’s Talk Canadian Politics: Citizenship and Advocacy in Interesting Times”
 - International Women’s Day film “The Next” which Amy Macleod followed up with providing all clubs with a link to the showing of it
 - Circulation of Prairie’s webinar “Sex and Gender; Healthy Aging and Risk of Dementia”
 - Request for Interest Group Book Club book list. ALL clubs responded!
2. I attended all but one monthly Regional Director’s meetings and sent

Information from these meetings to all Alberta Club Presidents with a request that the information be shared with all club members.

3. I attended Monthly Membership Moments Chaired by VP Membership Anne

Cordon. This was a great place to learn about and discuss the challenges club face and innovative solutions.

4. This year there was no Prairie Gathering so my contact with VP Prairie's

Barb Gustafson was sharing the Prairie webinar with clubs and filling out a survey regarding the Chair of Regional Directors having a voting seat on the National Board. The results were tabulated and all RDs were asked to respond to a poll about the tabulation options. I responded.

5. Sharing Co-Presidency with Joy Hurst, Together we:

- Created a one-page Alberta Council newsletter that went out in January and March
- Honored CFUW Calgary North with a letter of thanks and remembrance of their contributions to CFIUW locally, provincially and nationally. At the celebration to mark their 35 years as a CFUW Alberta club, Joy Hurst attended and read the letter. CFUW Calgary North will not be an Alberta club in the coming year.

Calgary and Calgary North kept me informed of their club happenings through monthly newsletters. Strathcona County and Lethbridge shared their club happenings at the monthly Alberta Council meetings.

Calgary and Lethbridge increased their membership by 8 and 6 respectively.

All clubs were advocating, providing lifelong learning events and having fun in a variety of Interest Groups. CFUW Alberta Council Past President. Heather Hill always passed on to clubs in the National Club Action Newsletter. Edmonton, Strathcona County and Lethbridge have representatives on the GWISNOG (Graduate Women International Supporters Network Organizational Group) so informational about Graduate Women International were provided to their clubs.

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Regional Director BC Interior - Janice Murphy

In 2025-2026, the CFUW BC Interior Region included 4 clubs with a total of 155 members:

- Kelowna, GWI opt-in club with 70 members (7 new members this year!)
- Nelson & District, GWI opt-in club with 23 members.
- Prince George, GWI opt-in club with 32 members
- Vernon club has 30 members and focuses on provincial and national advocacy (GWI opt-out club).

Ruth Mellor started the year as our regional director, but very sadly passed away on November 1, 2025, after over 50 years of passionate and dedicated service to CFUW and her community. During my first half-year as the Regional Director (RD), I connected with BC's Interior Club Presidents via 3 regional zoom meetings (Dec, Feb, Apr) and several phone conversations.

The club presidents like to meet as a region to:

- Learn from and support each other
- Share club events that we can celebrate and hopefully participate in
- Share and receive CFUW BC and National information and resources

All 4 clubs have a President, with Kelowna having two serving as co-presidents. The clubs have strong and active executives.

Advocacy is a major driver of member engagement for most clubs, with ongoing work with community partners. Most clubs have special observances for the 16 Days Against Gender Based Violence and International Women's Day. All clubs have varied and active interest groups and many social and special events. Social events and open houses helped 2 clubs attract new members. Advertising meetings and renewed social media (Facebook) is attracting members too.

This past year, the 4 BC Interior clubs awarded scholarships for a total of over \$30,000. Clubs engaged in a variety of fundraising activities including book sales, silent auctions, lunch/dinners with guest speakers, fashion show & luncheons, raffles, sale of knitted items, sale of Café Femenino coffee, sale of "Street Names of Prince George - Our History" books, and more! These fundraising efforts supported scholarships as well as local community services such as (but not limited to!): Okanagan College Student Pantry; Nelson Food Bank; Prince George New Hope Society; Archway Society for Domestic Peace. BC Interior clubs also participated in the national Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser, raising over \$3,000 in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.

The BC Council and other RDs have been an excellent source of information and support during my first half-term. Thanks also to Marlene Starkman for her leadership and chairing of the RD National committee meetings, which have been excellent sources for sharing ideas from across

the country that I've been able to pass along to BC clubs. I look forward to meeting with and visiting BC Interior clubs in the coming year.

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Regional Director BC West - Eleanor Scarth

CFUW BC West comprised 10 clubs: CFUW Abbotsford, CFUW Coquitlam, CFUW North Vancouver, CFUW North Delta/Surrey, CFUW Richmond, CFUW South Delta, CFUW Sunshine Coast, UWC Vancouver, CFUW West Vancouver, CFUW White Rock/Surrey. Unfortunately, going forward, this region will have 9 clubs as CFUW Coquitlam dissolved their club this April. Club size varies from 14 to 330.

As RD, I've had in person visits with 7 clubs this year and 1 club visit via Zoom. One in person meeting for club presidents was held in October and hosted by UWC Vancouver. It was a special pleasure to have VP Membership Anne Cordon and VP Education Audrey Hobbs Johnson meet with us. A zoom meeting for club presidents was held in March. These gatherings are a wonderful time of sharing club news, highlights and concerns.

Regular emails were sent following monthly BC Council meetings and RD National Committee meetings to emphasize updates on provincial and national matters with reminders about deadlines for submitting requested information or for applying for the many new opportunities for club grants regarding Advocacy, Communications or Membership. Several regional clubs did apply for the various grants, and many were fortunate to receive some funding to help with club projects.

All clubs have varied and active Interest groups with many social and special events. These provide opportunities to work with other members forging deeper member connections and camaraderie. Advocacy is a major driver of member engagement for most clubs with ongoing work in their communities around supporting women's shelters both financially and with collection of useful products. Most clubs have special observances for the 16 Days Against Gender Based Violence and International Women's Day. This year saw some new and highly successful collaborations with other community partners for these observances.

BC West has given a total of \$ 227,717 this year in awards which means clubs have continued their outstanding support of Education for women and girls through fundraisers and donations.

The updated CFUW branding continues to be rolled out by clubs with these banners, brochures and business cards helping to promote community awareness of our excellent CFUW clubs.

In this second year as RD, I've appreciated getting to know the clubs more and have enjoyed helping to be the conduit for information from and to clubs. Thanks to Marlene Starkman as Chair of the RD National Committee, to Anne Cordon for her Membership Moments, and to Audrey Hobbs Johnson for her Education Webinars and BC Council Advocacy meetings for their leadership and for sharing great ideas. Thank you to the BC West Clubs and their leaders for a very fulfilling 25-26 club year.

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Regional Director Vancouver Island - Deborah Dancik

The goals below are those established for the work as RD Vancouver Island at the beginning of this biennium in September 2024

Goal #1:

Build and facilitate communication with area clubs, encouraging cross-club knowledge, and ensuring that messages and actions from national and BC Council are relayed and information from local clubs is communicated back to national and BC council.

There are five clubs in this region with varying models of leadership. We have met electronically five times; I have visited four of the five clubs twice each. In addition, the club leaders and I have met face to face once. An additional bonus from the in-person meeting was that three of the club leaders brought another club member to see what we do and to learn. All these meetings have engendered a camaraderie through the sharing of club activities, problem solving approaches, and successes. As well, outside of these meetings they have begun sharing newsletters and invitations to special speakers and events. My applause to these club leaders who have shouldered a lot of work on behalf of their members, shown such dedication to the mission of CFUW and their commitment to doing good work in their respective communities.

Goal #2:

Support clubs in their efforts to build membership.

I have shared regular alerts on CFUW national initiatives and grant opportunities, with a particular lens on building a public-facing profile. All the clubs have visited Membership Moments sometime during the biennium and all have been targeting potential members through their community engagement and advocacy work. Encouraging raising public profile has been my approach and reminding clubs of the resources and templates available through the national members' drive.

Goal #3:

Help strengthen island clubs' camaraderie with one another and their connections/knowledge to BC Council and national.

For all of the Vancouver Island clubs, community building within their club's membership have come from doing projects together and our leadership meetings have engendered the building of their own cross-club network. I have increasingly focused on opportunities for involvement in BC Council and national committees so they can feel more a part of the whole of CFUW.

On the national front, I sit as a member of the RD Standing Committee, which has introduced me to the complexities and plans within our organization and made me a better RD. I have also been involved in the RD/Regional VP Working Group where I have encouraged a leadership model which would spread out the work among more people and bring more voices to the table.

CFUW Liaison & RD Manitoba - Shelley McFaddyen

I took over the CFUW Liaison and Regional Director MB positions for UWCW at the May 2024 AGM. My two-year term is coming to an end in May 2026. Manitoba has one Club, UWCW. Although Manitoba only has one club currently, the Regional Director (RD) position is valuable. It allows UWCW to participate in the RD Standing Committee Meetings as well as Prairie meetings. UWCW would not have as much connection and interaction with CFUW if an RD position was not filled. At present, it works to have one person hold both the liaison and RD positions

Regional Directors were asked to set out goals for our tenure. My goal as Manitoba RD has been to inform and encourage members of UWCW to utilize resources CFUW offers in areas including Membership, Advocacy and Education.

This goal is challenging as some UWCW members do not feel a connection to CFUW and do not appreciate the benefits in having a strong relationship with the national body. The achievement of this goal is an ongoing process.

Communication between CFUW and UWCW is extremely important. CFUW communicates with me and with our Club Presidents. I provide written submissions for most months to the UWCW

Bulletin and written (and/or verbal) reports to monthly UWCW Board meetings as well as Current Issues & Actions Committee meetings.

The proposed CFUW Resolutions have been sent out to Clubs. I have been a member of the Current Issues & Actions (CIA) Committee, and that committee will be offering a Conversation Circle to Club members to discuss the Resolutions in an effort to determine what our Club's position should be on them. Those resolutions will be voted on at CFUW's AGM this summer in Montreal. Though my term as RD and Liaison will be finished, I will be attending the AGM.

Since last May I have participated in the following:

- Attended the virtual CFUW AGM in July 2025.
- I was the sole UWCW attendee at the June 2025 Prairie Gathering in Saskatoon. I was on the Organizing Committee for the Gathering along with representatives from Alberta and Saskatchewan. I set up and attended a UWCW display table which featured aspects of our Club. Many thanks to Sue Bishop and Sherratt Moffat for preparing the materials for the display. At the Organizing Committee's request, I represented our Club in one of the concurrent table-talks to speak about Ralph Conner House.
- Have attended 6 virtual CFUW Regional Director Standing Committee meetings. These meetings allow RDs from across Canada to interact, share ideas and learn about CFUW. We have had several presentations by CFUW staff and members. I have learned a great deal and interacting with other CFUW members has been valuable. I have provided information and reports about UWCW to the Chair of the RD Standing Committee.
- Have provided UWCW Activities reports to the VP Prairies indicating how active and engaged members of our Club are. I have attended 2 virtual CFUW Prairies meetings.

My term as Regional Director and UWCW Liaison with CFUW has been full of interactive opportunities with CFUW members across Canada, and has provided many opportunities to learn and share. I am the better for it and hope UWCW is as well.

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Regional Director Newfoundland - Gerri Downey

RD NL and Atlantic Regional Council (ARC)

- Attended all Zoom ARC meetings including Fall Gathering and AGM. St. John's club was well represented at these two events.

- RD NL updates from ARC and Standing Committee were consistently a line item on monthly meeting agendas and reported on in the St.John's club's 'News and Notices'.
- St.John's club president regularly attended ARC meetings.
- A St.John's club member has offered for the VP ARC position for 2026-2028.
- A new RD NL for 2026-2028 has already been confirmed. (Several club members were interested in this position.)

RD NL and RD Standing Committee

Attended all Zoom meetings.

Responded to the following requests for input:

- i. RD Standing Committee Survey - January, 2025
- ii. Membership Working Group - September, 2025
- iii. RD/VP Working Group Review - November, 2025
- iv. Review of 2024 RD Job Description - December, 2025
- v. Advocacy & Standing Committee - September, 2025
- vi. Membership/Accounting Software - December, 2025
- vii. Communications/French Documents - January, 2026

RD NL and St. John's Club

1. A new club president for 2026-2028 will be confirmed at the AGM on June 8th.
2. Club members attended a Purple Ribbon Ceremony on November 25 re: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. National Office Posters were featured on our public and private Facebook pages.
3. 2026 Resolutions were accepted and amendments sent to proposing clubs.
4. Club sent letters to federal minister Joanne Thompson and two provincial ministers referencing the situation of Afghan women.
5. Club supported Bill S 242 on IPV through to its successful third reading in the Senate in February and corresponded with Georgina McGrath, one of the Bill's proponents.

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Regional Director Nova Scotia – Anne MacInnis

Clubs: Wolfville (president), Halifax, Cape Breton

Priorities for working with the clubs in my province and **annual report below table:**

Priorities	Actions
1. Raise awareness of CFUW as a club that is multi-faceted, interesting, and connected. Grow our brand.	- Invite guests to meetings - Publicize what the club does using newsletters, Facebook, email, free web advertising, club website - Engage with community partners starting with the groups you support.
2. Communicate with clubs on a regular basis and share between clubs.	- Zoom, phone calls, e-mails, meetings, newsletters
3. Encourage/feature advocacy role of club	- Discuss annual focus, steps taken, outcomes - Discuss letter-writing and national initiatives such as writing an Op Ed about your club's advocacy focus.
4. Visit other clubs at least once per year.	- Find out what they are doing and how you can support them
5. Club Newsletters	- Look into posting club newsletters on the club websites. I will be investigating this for Wolfville first.

Report for May 2026 by Anne MacInnis RD for NS.

1. Raise awareness of CFUW as a club – We actively sought photo opportunities to advertise what we do as a club and managed to raise awareness of us in the area. We engaged with community partners such as the Acadia, County Fair Mall (Crombie), local radio stations and print publications. It is an ongoing project.
2. Communicate with clubs on a regular basis and share between clubs – I have shared information with all the clubs. I visited the president of the Cape Breton Club and helped to set up a FB page. I will attend the Halifax Club's 90th anniversary luncheon in June. (covers point 4 above)
3. Encourage/feature advocacy role of club – We have had limited success with this. The goal for next year is to ensure that everyone is aware of the resolutions.
4. Club Newsletters – I share our club newsletters with the clubs in the region and the RDs. They share theirs as well and I am learning about all sorts of initiatives in the region.

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Regional Director Ontario Central - Marg Esaw

The Ontario Central Region, consisting of 11 clubs, is actively engaged in various initiatives. Clubs are raising funds for scholarships, often through partnerships with local businesses and fundraising events. They are also focused on member retention, utilizing online platforms and speaker series to attract new members.

- **Relationship Building:** Developing relationships with key people in organizations, such as Gill Robinson, President of Northumberland.
- **Meeting and Support:** Hosting well-attended Zoom meetings for sharing sessions and providing updates from Marlene Starkman.
- **Club Activities and Challenges:** Clubs are engaged in scholarship fundraising, utilizing Zoom for meetings, and employing strategies for member retention.
- **Membership Growth:** Speakers and Interest Groups are effective in attracting new members.
- **Fundraising Activities:** Clubs engage in various fundraising activities like High Tea, partnering with businesses, Home and Garden tours, and Trivia nights.
- **Community Involvement:** Clubs actively participate in community events like the *Coldest Night of the Year*, *Jane's Walk*, flag raising ceremonies, and supporting local initiatives.
- **Meeting Schedule and Locations:** Monthly meetings can run from September-June and church basements, synagogues, meeting rooms in retirement homes, the Public Library are the spaces that can be used.
- **Community Engagement:** Supports local food banks, collaborates with community partners, and participates in events like the Coldest Night of the Year.
- **Interest Groups and Activities:** Offers diverse interest groups including book clubs, adventure groups, theatre, and arts and crafts.
- **Advocacy and Fundraising:** The Markham-Unionville Club actively engages in advocacy through letter writing campaigns and submissions to local government. They also raise funds for various causes, including International Outreach and local organizations like Yellow Brick House.
- **Fundraising Events:** Clubs organize a variety of fundraising events (fashion shows, "Bridge and Euchre" tea to support different initiatives.
- **Support for Education:** The North Toronto Club contributes \$1000 to six local high schools and several universities.

- **Supported Groups (UWC North York):** ACORN, Ontario Coalition Against Poverty; Canadian Labour Congress; Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network; Equal Pay Coalition; Toronto Drop In Network; and Shelter Housing Justice Network.
- **Scholarship and Strategic Planning (UWC North York):** Designated portion of member fees to UW-CNY Fund, supporting TDSB, TCDSB, Seneca College, and York University. Developed a 3-year Strategic Plan and Operating Plans.
- **Fundraising and Scholarships (Northumberland: Cobourg and Port Hope- Gill Robinson):** Provide scholarships to six high schools and donations to Fleming College and Trent University. Fundraise through speaker events and an online Member Handbook.
- **Oshawa and District Club Activities:** Gives endowments to Durham College and Ontario Tech University, promotes speakers through Facebook and their website, and partners with educational institutions.
- **Scarborough Club Activities:** Supports Centennial College and Scarborough College with scholarships, participates in letter writing campaigns, and raises funds through events like Purdy's Chocolates at Christmas and a "Madhatter's Tea Party".

Regional Director Ontario East - Marlene Starkman

Ontario East has 9 clubs: Belleville (121), Cornwall (46), Kanata (101), Kingston (16), Nepean (56), Ottawa (541), Perth (209), Peterborough (67) and Renfrew (21)

During my second year as Regional Director, I continued to meet monthly with club presidents via ZOOM to share updates from National & Ontario Council, provide support, answer questions on policy and procedures, and encourage club sharing of successes and challenges. Our meetings were well attended, and a solid resource and support for each other. It's been a pleasure to watch relationships develop between the clubs.

We also continued to have guest speakers, including OC President Sandra Shaw and CFUW Charitable Trust President Kathy Woznik.

I was invited to CFUW Cornwall's 70th anniversary lunch, CFUW Peterborough's Open House, CFUW Ottawa's Lunch and Games Fundraiser and a luncheon with CFUW Nepean to celebrate their 35th anniversary.

Despite size differences, each club exemplifies the CFUW mission, with a strong emphasis on advocacy, fundraising for scholarships, lifelong learning with special speakers and active interest

groups to bring members together for camaraderie and friendship. Below are highlights from the reports each club submitted for the Ontario Council Annual Report.

Membership & Growth: All clubs are stable or showing year over year growth. Interest groups continue to be a major driver in engaging members.

Fundraising & Scholarships: Clubs collectively continue to raise significant funds for post-secondary scholarships and community support, holding Home & Garden Tours, Book Sales, Quilt Raffles, Silent Auctions, Baking events and a new “Swap & Shop” at general meetings.

Advocacy & Community Impact: The clubs launched initiatives including advocacy for education, an Environmental Panel, and active participation in GWI resolutions. Efforts addressed period poverty through drives and campaigns, while a film screening for International Women’s Day and a vigil for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (in partnership with YWCA) raised awareness. Clubs walked in Coldest Night of the Year, supported literacy programs and libraries, arts programs in elementary schools, and contributed to shelters and local communities in need. Additional projects included a knitting initiative for a youth shelter, a panel on Intimate Partner Violence, donations to women’s shelters, and a tree canopy project to improve local green spaces.

I am sure the primary challenges across the Ontario East clubs are the same as others: difficulty filling executive and board positions, recruiting volunteers for roles like internal communications, programming, and event coordination. Many clubs also struggle with low attendance at general meetings. Additionally, some smaller clubs face financial pressures, such as rising GWI dues.

Clubs shared a “good idea” and here are a few: use a greeter at general meetings to welcome and orient new members; hosts coffee hours to foster social connections between new and existing members; encourage members to invite friends and try a year-long knitting project for a local shelter.

It has been my privilege as Regional Director to develop relationships with the women who have led these 9 clubs the past two years. Each one has dedicated countless hours to supporting their clubs, helping them fulfil the mandate of CFUW— advocating for women’s rights, investing in education and scholarships and inspiring lifelong friendships.

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Regional Director Ontario North - Jane Cox

CFUW Club Reports in Northern Ontario 2025–2026: Combined One-Page Summary

This one-page summary brings together the main highlights, recurring challenges, and one promising idea drawn from five club reports: North Bay, Haliburton Highlands, Orillia, Sudbury, and Thunder Bay.

Highlights

Several clubs reported strong community impact through bursaries, advocacy, literacy work, and member engagement. North Bay highlighted its long-running Gift of Reading program, which donated 90 books to three kindergarten classes, and also described a successful volunteer effort to organize and digitize club archives. Sudbury emphasized a democratic giving plan that funded five local programs and created four new bursaries for 4 years, supporting first-generation post-secondary students, women entering trades, and a young woman leaving CAS care. Thunder Bay reported the creation of a bursary for a woman entering skilled trades, with priority for an Indigenous applicant, and the beginning of a partnership with United Way on a period products project. Orillia pointed to its successful deputation to local council on intimate partner violence, and Haliburton Highlands highlighted member gatherings, interest groups, and success in attracting and retaining new members. (Though unable to submit a club report, Muskoka focused on lobbying for improved access to warming shelters.)

Challenges

Across the five reports, the most consistent challenge was membership sustainability, especially recruiting new members, improving diversity, and filling executive roles. North Bay, Haliburton Highlands, and Sudbury all specifically identified difficulty filling leadership or executive positions. Haliburton Highlands and Orillia both noted diversity as a concern, while Haliburton also raised the issue of limited youth engagement and the local reality of significant wealth disparity. Thunder Bay identified marketing and promotion as a challenge, suggesting that visibility remains an issue for some clubs.

One Good Idea

A strong idea worth sharing across clubs is Sudbury's approach to increasing participation in its Resolutions Month meeting by combining stronger promotion with a themed social event and small-group facilitated discussion. Sudbury reported that added PSA notices, an Afghan chai and treats evening, and table discussions with assigned facilitators made the meeting more successful and engaging. This idea stands out because it turns an important but potentially low-interest business meeting into a welcoming, well-attended event that builds both participation and community.

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Regional Director Ontario South – Christine Marks

Ontario South Clubs: Brantford, Burlington, Georgetown, Grimsby and District, Hamilton, Milton and District, Mississauga, Oakville, St. Catharines, Welland and District

Ontario South is made up of ten clubs in the western GTA and Niagara Peninsula. They are all quite different in terms of size, focus and resources. Fully entering the role mid-Biennium, my two main goals of increasing the ties that connect the clubs and serving as a conduit between the clubs, Ontario Council and our National organization received attention.

Sharing vast information with clubs, typically by email, was efficient with the resources/links curated by both our Council and National representatives. That support allowed meetings to move quickly from key point reminders to collaborative sessions that focused on celebrating successes and sharing best practices (and when needed, creative problem-solving). This past year, the bi-monthly Zoom meetings with the Presidents/Leaders, and a special meeting with the Advocacy Chairs, were all well-attended and fruitful. My plan is to offer to increase the frequency of leaders' meetings, and add one special meeting each for finance/treasurer, membership and fundraising leaders.

It's a joy to watch the connections build and I am most happy to report that Ontario South clubs often independently share resources and invite each other to events.

Getting to know the members at their clubs is a perk of this position! Was grateful to accept invitations to attend events at Brantford, Grimsby & District, Milton and District, St. Catharines (my home club) and Welland District and aim to visit the remaining clubs throughout the upcoming year. As with other regions clubs struggle with filling their slates, adopting technology and declining membership numbers. The main challenge I hope to help the clubs with is visibility. We are not doing a very good job of telling our great story, in my opinion.

A unique GEM from each club. Brackets record (membership #/age of the club).

CFUW Brantford (80/81) An upcoming, first High Tea scholarship fundraiser (October 25, 2026)

CFUW Burlington (87/60) New, user-friendly Website that helped attract 14 new members this year

CFUW Georgetown (69/55) \$9000 for scholars for three local high schools by hosting bingo.

CFUW Grimsby & District (28/35) Sending delegate to AGM

CFUW Hamilton (67/101) Receiving an endowment from a member

CFUW Milton & District (76/64) Annual Book Sale \$9,000 – 51 years of profit and contribution!

CFUW Mississauga (105/73) Art Group is attended by half of the members. Museum trips/lunch.

CFUW Oakville (225/76) Members with 40 years+ celebrated at the annual spring dinner.

CFUW St. Catharines (206/106) Drawn to Niagara 2[™] – our signature gala fundraising event,

CFUW Welland and District (32/85) impactful 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

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Regional Director Ontario West– Eman El Halies

Ontario West Clubs: Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener/Waterloo, London, St. Thomas, Stratford, Windsor

This year marks my second year as Regional Director for Ontario West. It has been a continued privilege to work alongside such dedicated and passionate clubs, each contributing meaningfully to their communities. I remain inspired by the strength, adaptability, and commitment demonstrated across the region, particularly as clubs navigate ongoing challenges related to membership engagement and leadership succession.

Ontario West clubs continue to reflect CFUW's core values through their advocacy efforts, educational programming, and community partnerships. Their ability to evolve while maintaining strong local impact is a testament to the leadership within each club.

Despite shifting capacities, clubs have shown resilience by sustaining key initiatives, embracing flexible programming models, and continuing to prioritize advocacy and community connection.

Below are some of the key accomplishments and updates from our clubs:

CFUW and Community Partnerships: CFUW clubs in Ontario West continue to work on advocacy initiatives, volunteer within their communities, and build meaningful partnerships with organizations that align with CFUW's mission.

Below are highlights of this year's accomplishments across the region:

- CFUW London continued to provide educational programming through speaker events, student mentorship, and member engagement activities, fostering connection and ongoing learning within the club. The club's collaboration with post-secondary students contributed to workshops, speaker initiatives, and research projects benefiting both the local club and the Ontario Council, while also celebrating CFUW London's 105th anniversary.
- CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo remained actively involved in advocacy initiatives, including participation in national campaigns such as the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, and continued collaboration with post-secondary institutions and community groups.
- CFUW Stratford sustained its partnerships supporting women and vulnerable populations, while continuing to contribute to community-based initiatives that raise awareness of environmental and social issues.
- CFUW Windsor continued its engagement in advocacy and policy discussions, maintaining connections with academic and community organizations to support informed dialogue on issues impacting women and communities.

- CFUW Guelph participated in provincial and national advocacy initiatives and continued to strengthen partnerships that support community wellbeing, while preparing for a significant upcoming milestone anniversary.
- CFUW Cambridge maintained its collaborative efforts with local organizations, continuing to support initiatives focused on women's empowerment and community support.
- CFUW St. Thomas remained actively engaged in supporting local organizations through donations and community-based initiatives, reinforcing its role as a key contributor to local wellbeing.

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RD Huron (Ontario) – Elisabeth Sachs

Ontario's Huron Region has 4 Clubs, including the urban and surrounding rural districts of the Towns of Kincardine, Orangeville, Owen Sound, and Southport. 2025-2026 membership remained relatively steady from the prior year: *Headwaters* [formerly Orangeville & District] - 75; *Kincardine and District* - 36; *Owen Sound and Area* – 74; and *Southport* - 107.

PRIMARY CHALLENGES & ACTION TAKEN – for the Regional Director

1. Recruitment : assisting clubs to attract a diverse demographic for future membership sustainability;
2. Leadership/succession planning support;
3. Facilitate advocacy and resolution development
4. Promoting communication with clubs on social media initiatives and about Ontario Council and National Board activities.

Club Highlights

- ✧ **CFUW Huron:** 50th Anniversary Celebration held – honoured Past Presidents; fashion show; guests included Ontario Council President; local MPP; Orangeville Mayor; with speaker Canadian author Plum Johnson “*Trouble with Fairy Tales: a Memoir*”
- ✧ **Kincardine & District:** Advocacy: IPV letters, participated in 16 Days of Activism, menstrual product drive; Community involvement: partnered with local seniors facility to *Adopt a Senior*, joined Chamber of Commerce, SPARK Fair, organized City Nature Challenge during 2026 Earth Week; established Endowment Bursary Fund to award 3 bursaries.
- ✧ **Owen Sound:** 35th Anniversary celebration; Advocacy: continued to advocate for Aging in Place Initiative and lobbying Ontario government to establish an independent Seniors' Advocate, successful work with local Legal Aid to apply for a grant from Ontario Law Society to continue Elder Law Education; Helped fund “Scientists in School” program in 3 classrooms in one school.

- € **Southport:** Advocacy: 36th annual *Vigil Against Violence* held with over 200 attendees, The Town of Saugeen Shores committed to providing a venue for future vigils. The club teaches the meaning of the hand sign and, “Is Angela Here?” to members and public, participated in Coldest Night of the Year; Scholarships: 2 new Women in Trades awards with financial support from 3 local contractors, 11, \$1000 scholarships awarded; Moved Executive meetings to evenings to attract younger, working women

Club Ideas to Share

- € Experiment with different general meeting times and topics to accommodate diverse membership needs: students; working; retired; single parent and health challenged women.
- € Have your local Community Foundation be in charge of your Scholarship Funds rather than incorporating your own.
- € Host guest speakers who can be livestreamed and recorded, then shared as many are of provincial and national relevance.

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Directrice régionale Québec – Liette Michaud

J’ai remplacé Frances Hudon au début de 2026 car une chute malencontreuse chez elle a freiné son engagement. On lui souhaite de continuer son rétablissement malgré qu’elle ait repris beaucoup de ses activités liées à AFDU Montérégie!

J’ai eu l’occasion d’assister à trois réunions pancanadiennes des Directrices régionales et de transmettre les faits saillants découlant de ces réunions aux deux associations francophones.

Présente à l’AGA du Conseil québécois des AFDU le samedi 2 mai à Lennoxville organisé par l’association Sherbrooke & District, j’ai eu l’occasion de rencontrer ou de revoir des collègues francophones. Les rapports annuels soumis à l’AGA permettent de constater ceci en ce qui a trait à 2025-2026 :

AFDU Montérégie	Adhésions	Promotion des causes	Bourses	Levées de fonds
	33 membres actives et 11 membres de soutien, 1 membre associée	La persévérance scolaire est la mission principale.	En formation professionnelle, finissantes au secondaire et au niveau collégial pour	Fête des moissons, Campagne de vente de boîtes de fromage, Hymne au

			un total de 16,000\$ Une bourse à une femme autochtone.	printemps et dons.
AFDU Québec				
	19 membres actives	Soutenir les études supérieures.	51,000\$ lors de cette 37 ^e édition	Dons à la fondation.

AFDU Montérégie : Des travaux sont en cours afin d'obtenir une reconnaissance comme organisme de bienfaisance, appuyés par un plan de communication, un plan du financement et une formalisation des processus avec l'aide d'une avocate fiscaliste.

AFDU Québec : Cette année, des femmes de Premiers Peuples auront recueilli 10 bourses et compte 2 doctorantes, 7 cégepiennes et une en formation professionnelle.

Les deux conseils d'administration (celui de l'Association et celui de la Fondation) sont à bout de souffle et inquiets. Pour cette raison, une journée de réflexion sur notre avenir est en préparation.

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Regional Director Saskatchewan – Dalelene Yelland

There are three clubs in Saskatchewan region, Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Yorkton and one E-Club in Regina.

Local Club Meetings

The clubs have been very active in their communities, often collaborating with other community organizations to work on projects that benefit the residents.

Consequently, friendships are gained, goals are shared and CFUW becomes better known. I have sincerely believed over my 30 years in CFUW that it is the friendships that are the glue that solidifies the club's membership and actions.

My visits to the clubs have been a highlight of my RD position enabling me to meet the members individually.

Council Meetings

Zoom meetings with the Council, which includes club presidents/representatives of each club, have taken place regularly throughout the past year. The agenda provides an opportunity for

sharing updates on club activities and challenges, which often results in sharing ideas and resources

The annual New Beginnings Grant, which is offered to a disadvantaged mature woman, with dependents to further her education is contributed to by each club and coordinated by the Council.

Provincial Presence

Since 2011 the CFUW in Saskatchewan has been honoured by the Provincial Government proclaiming September 14th Canadian Federation Of University Women's Day. Each club receives a copy of the proclamation and it is printed in the local media.

The University Senates in Regina and Saskatoon invited CFUW SK to appoint a member to sit on the senate and to have an active role in the affairs of each University. According to our constitution, the members are appointed by the Regional Director.

Interprovincial Prairie Gathering

In June, 2025, leaders from the CFUW Clubs in three prairie provinces, led by Vice President, Barb Gustafson, organized a Prairie Gathering in Saskatoon. Club members took part in the 2-day conference held in June. The evaluation of the program was very positive with the common suggestion 'Let's do this again!'

National Contact

During my second year as RD, I am grateful that I attended most RD meetings and also a number of Advocacy and MMM meetings. Through listening and learning, these mtgs were invaluable for me to increase my understanding of the structure of CFUW and also to ensure that the local SK clubs are aware of important information from National Office. The importance of meeting with other regional directors regularly cannot be overstated. Receiving additional help from our RD Chair – Marlene Starkman was always welcomed.

Past investment we made in Saskatchewan in name tags, banners, signage, etc. helped to increase the awareness of CFUW locally. I am encouraged now by the assistance to set up a new club website that is being supported by the National office.



CFUW Charitable Trust – Kathy Wosnick

CFUW has supported graduate study, literacy and creative arts through awards and fellowships since its founding in 1919. In 1921, the 12 clubs of the federation awarded the first CFUW Fellowship of \$1000. In 1967 the CFUW Charitable Trust was established as a separate entity as a way of fulfilling CFUW's commitment to the advancement of women through education, to receive donations, and manage the resulting funds to provide CFUW Fellowships and Awards within CRA rules and regulations.

The CFUW Charitable Trust assists women university graduates - the future of our country - to further their post-secondary education. The Trust raises money to support annual Fellowships, Awards and Grants for Canadian women doing advanced graduate study and research in science, math, engineering, home economics, education, visual arts, music, humanities, and social sciences.

Currently the Charitable Trust manages a substantial fund of over \$2m that is used to fund over \$90k in awards for incredibly talented women who are pursuing graduate studies. The Trust continues our successful collaboration with Universities Canada who receive applications and perform the initial screening to ensure that candidates are eligible for the awards for which they apply. Eligible applications are adjudicated by the Fellowships Committee and judged on merit. The Committee, consisting of CFUW members from clubs across Canada, comprises both English and French teams. In 2025, 214 eligible applications were received for fellowships, 134, 63% in English and 80, 37% in French.

The contributions of generous donors make the awards possible, including significant in-memoriam or family bequests from estates as well as individual and club donations from across the country. At biannual in-person CFUW Annual General Meetings funds are raised through the Charitable Trust Boutique, (sometimes over \$4000) along with contributions made as a result of the evening Charitable Trust speaker presentation. These activities help raise the profile of the Charitable Trust and help to fund the Fellowships and Awards for those who identify as women.

Our commitment to Education has not waived since 1919.



Donating to the Trust is as easy as clicking [HERE](https://cfuwcharitabletrust.ca/)

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