

Winter 2026

CFUW STRATFORD

February Newsletter



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President's Message

February is all about Advocacy!

The February meeting is traditionally devoted to showcasing the activities of our Advocacy groups. And this year we have a record of 4 groups, spanning climate change, violence against women, indigenous rights, and general topics such as water rights. Advocacy has always been a cornerstone of CFUW, going back to our formation in 1919. CFUW Stratford has a national reputation of “punching above our weight” on advocacy initiatives and resolutions. The largest part of our monthly newsletter is usually devoted to all of our Advocacy events (and this newsletter is no exception). So please do come out on the 24th - last year's February meeting was so much fun, I'm very much looking forward to this one!

Speaking of Advocacy, many thanks to Leora Rissin and the whole VAW Advocacy group for hosting the very successful IPV (Intimate Partner Violence) Panel event on January 29th. On a bitterly cold night, the City Hall auditorium was packed with a sense of purpose and community as we heard from local experts – including CFUW member Alix Grice and Emily Murphy ED Lisa Wilde – about the impacts of IPV and how we can work to protect and support victims. It was a very important conversation.

The CFUW Stratford CNOY team continues to grow their walkers and donations! But we still have a way to go to reach the \$6,000 target. CNOY is a key fundraiser for two very important shelters in our city – the United Way Connections Centre and ShelterLink Youth Services. The link to join and to donate is below.

Finally, our promotions for the CFUW International Women's Day Breakfast have kicked-off! You will see the new posters around town – thank you to Caro Coltman and the volunteer team who are braving our winter weather to distribute these far and wide. We will also begin to promote on our Facebook and Instagram accounts, so please share widely to your friends and networks. If you haven't ordered yet – and so many of you have! - CFUW members still get a discounted rate for both the individual tickets and tables. All of the details regarding how to order are directly below. We are looking forward to having another successful event with a powerhouse speaker.

Stay warm – at least the days are getting longer.

Cambria Ravenhill
President 2025/26



International Women's Day Breakfast

REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

The role of women in the global economy



DEANNA HORTON
Moderator
Distinguished Fellow,
Munk School of Global Affairs
& Public Policy



*A rare insider view of
politics, business and
women's leadership
with keynote speaker*

**MARYSCOTT
(SCOTTY)
GREENWOOD**

Global head of government
relations for Manulife
and expert in
Canada/U.S. relations

Proudly supported by



Saturday, March 7, 2026 @ 8:30 am
Arden Park Hotel
all are welcome • cfuwstratford.ca

A fundraiser for the
CFUW Stratford Scholarship program

scan for tickets



or search ticketscene.ca

Here is a rare insider view of international politics, business and women's leadership. Thanks to Deanna Horton, we have an amazing opportunity to hear from someone who has unique experience in the world of power and politics.

"Keynote speaker Maryscott (Scotty) Greenwood has a wealth of experience covering the Canada-US relationship. She has been close to the action for decades and has intersected with high-level politicians and business leaders on issues of importance to Canada. Scotty will also talk about Asia - the most dynamic marketplace in the world - and one in which women play an important role in the growing middle class."

An article about Scotty and her talk is posted on the CFUW Stratford website:
<https://cfuwstratford.ca/special-events-2/>

ORDERING TICKETS

As a member of CFUW Stratford, you can purchase individual tickets at \$45 or reserve a table of eight by filling out the form at <https://forms.gle/RkM1X5aa1ixLkr7G6>.

All non-member orders go through Ticketscene.ca for a slightly higher price. Also - please know that all event volunteers will be buying their own tickets - as usual. We all want the CFUW Scholarship Fund to prosper! Have questions? Phone Heather Tremble at 905-330-4794 or Wendy at 519-272-0011

Or email internationalwomensday@cfuwstratford.ca

Upcoming Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7pm

CFUW STRATFORD ADVOCACY MEETING

CFUW Stratford continues to be a club of wide, varied, and important Advocacy opportunities and results! Let's have a fresh and brief look, and explore what we're doing this spring:



Come enjoy one of our Climate Change Action Committee's new spring themes - native gardens! Learn about pollinator conservation, insects, and why we are called a "bird city".



Our General Advocacy Committee has been exploring ways to engage with other clubs in Ontario on common issues. We are excited to report on the advancement of our water concerns as we interact across the province.



Excitement will certainly be building around the Indigenous Rights Learning and Advocacy workshop to be held Feb 25th. Find out what a non-indigenous person can do to make reconciliation a reality! See poster below. We will also learn about upcoming opportunities.



We will also hear about the exceptional panel presentation by the Prevention of Violence Against Women Committee that was held on January 29th at City Hall.



Another great chance to benefit our Scholarship Fund! For those who missed the Seasonal Lunch and still have bags of books they were ready to donate, please bring them to our next meeting. Yes, any cash donations accepted for these pre-loved books!

Our January Meeting - Dr. Diane Godkin



Exemplifying this year's theme of **Women Leaders: Agents of Change**, our January speaker, **Diane Godkin, PhD**, gave a moving and thought-provoking talk reflecting on her own career from bedside nursing to being the Director of the Regional Ethics Program at Trillium Health Partners in Mississauga. Discussion of an Ethical Decision Framework and M.A.I.D. considerations were highlights.



Pat Reavy gives a thoughtful and thought-provoking Land Acknowledgement



Sue Bailey outlines Diane Godkin's tremendous accomplishments both academic and professional from her own vantage as a retired nurse,



Diane Godkin takes questions after her presentation and answers with perceptive remarks and suggestions.



Cindy Scratch relates how Dr. Godkin's talk has echoed many of her own observations and concerns as a bedside nurse.

Advocacy

Climate Change Action Committee

We finalized plans for CFUW to be included in this year's Earth Party. It will be held Saturday, April 25th at Factory 163. Our offering will be the Sustainable Shopping Cart, for which we are now doing some investigative shopping in the larger grocery stores.

One of our new members, Carrie Stevens, has an interest in ocean protection,

a large piece of climate change importance, especially with the push for deep sea mining and fossil fuel extraction. Sue Bailey has found that we have excellent policy to enable advocacy.

We also discussed our *Stratford Today* series aimed at making our climate resource documents more public. Hélène Crabb is working on an article to introduce our Food Waste resources.

Meetings are held the third Thursdays of the month, and new members are always welcome!

Coldest Night of the Year - February 28, 2026



Once again, CFUW Stratford will be participating in this special event.

We will be walking and fundraising to support and serve people and families experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness in our community.

Big thanks to **Kate Welsh** who again captains our team! Please sign up to join this hardy band of volunteers. [Join our team](#)

And please donate to support either an individual team member or the whole team. **All donations of \$20 or more are appreciated and are tax receiptable!**

Donation link here: [CNOY 2026 Fundhub Canada](#)

Indigenous Rights Learning and Advocacy Group

WHAT CAN A NON-INDIGENOUS PERSON DO TO MAKE RECONCILIATION A REALITY?



Melanie Akiwensie-Lisk
Member, Chippewas of Nawash First Nation
R.S.S.W, B.A. Hons, B.Ed.

**JOIN US FOR A WORKSHOP
THAT WILL PROVIDE SOME
BASIC TEACHINGS.**

**Information shared will
include the definition of Truth
and Reconciliation,
fundamental truths about
working with Indigenous
peoples, and what you can do
as a non-Indigenous person to
make reconciliation a reality.**

Wednesday, February, 25, 6:30 pm

**Stratford District Secondary School
Drama Room**



Brought to you by CFUW Stratford
Indigenous Rights Learning and Advocacy Group

Members and Guests are welcome! Please RSVP to
Pat Reavy at 519 273 0176 or by email patreavy43@gmail.com

**Preventing Violence Against Women -
Intimate Partner Violence**



There was a full auditorium at Stratford's City Hall to attend CFUW's **Help Stop Domestic Violence! Don't be a Bystander** Panel Discussion on January 29, 2026. Mayor Ritsma welcomed the audience and opened the evening with a personal story. Our panel was moderated by Leanne Perreault and presentations were made by Lisa Wilde, Executive Director of the Emily Murphy Centre, Gwen Lamont, author of "A View from Coffin Ridge - A Childhood Exhumed", and our own Alix Grice, Lawyer with international experience in Women's issues and Co-chair of the Shelterlink Board.

Each panelist shared information on how to recognize signs of Intimate Partner Violence and how to assist victims. Available resources were discussed and the City of Stratford Police Department's newest team member, Dusty, the Yellow Labrador was introduced in her new position as a support animal for both adults and children.

Congratulations to this committee!

Interest Groups

Here's a glimpse of what some of our members were enjoying in January!



The Lunch Bunch enjoys Stratford Thai Cuisine

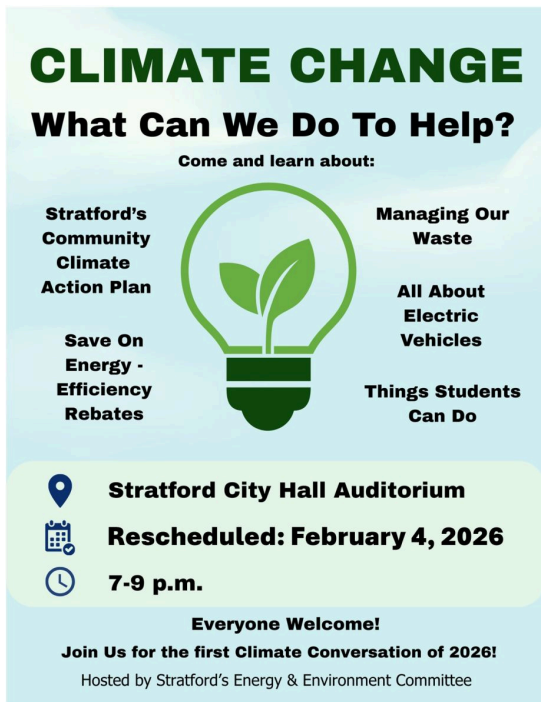


The Mystery Book Club 2nd ed. reads Lisa Scottoline.



The Saturday Breakfast Group gets together at Romeo's Corner Cafe.

Special Events



CLIMATE CHANGE

What Can We Do To Help?

Come and learn about:

- Stratford's Community Climate Action Plan
- Save On Energy - Efficiency Rebates
- Managing Our Waste
- All About Electric Vehicles
- Things Students Can Do

Stratford City Hall Auditorium

Rescheduled: February 4, 2026

7-9 p.m.

Everyone Welcome!

Join Us for the first Climate Conversation of 2026!

Hosted by Stratford's Energy & Environment Committee

RESCHEDULED!

Please join us for the City's Energy and Environment Committee event: ***Climate Change, What Can We Do to Help.***

They are hosting a Climate Conversation at City Hall with speakers in several areas. Change starts with each of us, however small or large!

GW

The "GWI International Groupe Francophone ", started by CFUW/FCF DU Montérégie Quebec, is now being chaired by the **Association Congolaise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités**. The Groupe has established a Translation Committee, committed to translating important GWI documents, which are currently available only in English and Spanish, into French.

In addition, the Groupe will host Bi-monthly "Café francophone" informal meeting of 45 minutes, open to all Francophone and Francophile GWI members.

Extra! Extra!

Just a reminder from January's newsletter:

Claim Your Free **CARP** Membership

1. Visit [CARP Membership](#)
2. Follow the prompts to register or renew
3. Enjoy full access to CARP's advocacy, benefits, and community for one year—free of charge.

Contact Information

Our website <https://cfuwstratford.ca>

General inquiries president@cfuwstratford.ca

Membership membership@cfuwstratford.ca

For inquiries to our treasurer or email transfer:

cfuwstratfordtreasurer@gmail.com

For donations to the scholarship fund:

scholarshipfundcfuwstratford@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook - CFUW Stratford: [Cfuw Stratford](#)

Newsletter submissions deadline - 25th of each

month. bgsymons@gmail.com or newsletter@cfuwstratford.ca

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