

## EDUCATION

### Education in a Changing World

The world we now live in has changed dramatically in a short period of time. It seems we are at a crossroads defined by a series of events: fallout from the Covid pandemic; significant changes in the social and political landscape; the quickly emerging development of Artificial Intelligence; climate change; and the rapid application of technology.

History will likely describe these times as a turbulent, fast-moving period which demanded people adapt quickly to new and unprecedented conditions. It has been shown throughout history that education is a crucial factor in times like these.

### CFUW's work in education in Canada

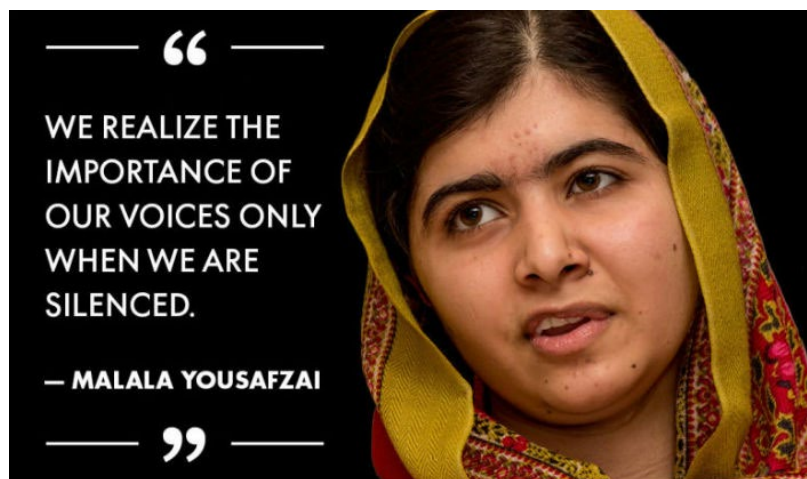
CFUW has worked on education, education-related projects and advocacy for many decades consistent with their mandate to improve the status of women by promoting public education, human rights, social justice, and peace in Canada and abroad. As a women's

organization and recognizing that education is one of the single most important factors that changes lives, CFUW has pursued education-related activities that make a difference to their members and also to young girls and women in Canada.

CFUW has had a dedicated National Education Committee in one form or another for several years. The mandate of the Education Committee is to assist and inform CFUW members and the Executive Board about education issues.

### Activities of the Education Committee:

- **Assist the Indigenous Support sub-Committee** to pursue its workplan
- **Promote life-long learning for members** through undertaking initiatives to educate ourselves (information exchange, webinars, study groups, research in committees and sub committees)
- Track and **communicate current and emerging education-focused issues** with members on a regular and ad hoc basis
- **Educate on advocacy issues** that improve the status of women, human rights, social justice, and peace in Canada and abroad



- **Support and pursue the UN Sustainable Development Goals** related to education, particularly SDG 4
- Monitor policies and programs in **early learning and childcare**
- **Contribute to the education of members, the public and government through the Advocacy Resolutions process**

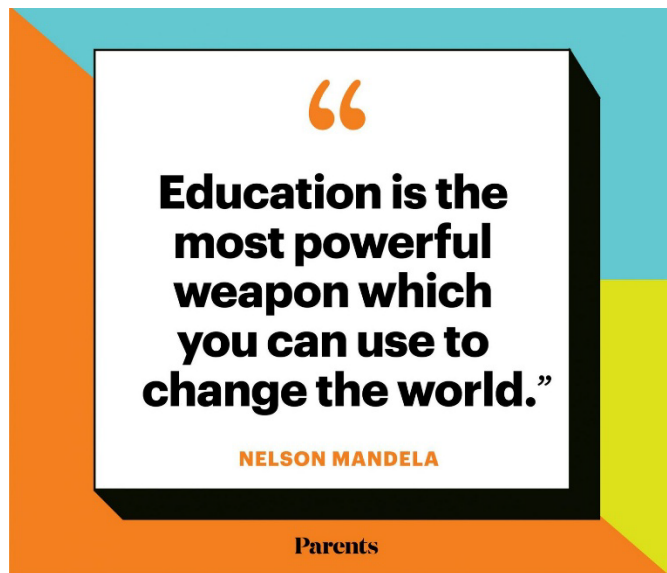
## Going Forward

In addition to these current activities, there are potential opportunities for the Education Committee and CFUW to increase its service to members as well as grow its influence and impact. The list below identifies some of these opportunities:

- 1) regular and ongoing monitoring and analysis of current and emerging education-related issues
- 2) raising public awareness of significant education-related issues
- 3) undertaking communications with significant players in education

This might include:

- **Ongoing monitoring and analysis** of activities of organizations involved in pan-Canadian education policy and program development
- Move to **share specific information and CFUW policy positions with key players in education and the public**
- **Seek ongoing relationships** with groups who share CFUW's values and goals
- **Organize public, very visible education campaigns** to inform and influence the public and government decision makers
- **In collaboration with the national office, begin to explore ongoing and active partnerships** to increase the influence and impact of initiatives



In the meantime, work has been undertaken in the Education Committee on key education-related initiatives that will lay a foundation for future activities. Working groups on specific issues/emerging topics are being formed to explore key issues:

1. **Tracking education issues across the national educational sector**, identifying significant players to determine possibilities for co-operation

2. Identifying issues that help or hinder **Technology in Education** and considering the implications for education
3. Following up on the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations**
4. Identifying the current situation regarding **Financial Literacy** across the country
5. Exploring **collaborative conversations in the education community** among educators, parents, caregivers and the community
6. Monitoring implementation of recent **Early Learning and Child Care initiatives**
7. Researching **emerging mental health issues of students and educators** and relevant initiatives
8. Monitoring **OECD reports on Canadian educational outcomes** and achievements as compared to other OECD countries to understand gaps and issues requiring attention

**If any members are interested in education-related issues or any of the specific topics outlined above, please consider joining the Education Committee!**