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CFUW Annual Reports 2024- 2025



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National President – Linda Sestock

It was a pleasure to meet many of you in person at our first in-person AGM in Edmonton last summer. It was an energizing beginning to my first year as President of CFUW, and I am grateful to have shared it with a dedicated Board. With many new members joining the Board this year, we had the opportunity to build on past successes while also welcoming new ideas and approaches.

What does the CFUW President do? I work closely with our Executive Director—meeting weekly to discuss emerging issues, plan ahead, and ensure alignment across all parts of the organization. We work to maintain strong communication across committees; help guide national priorities and ensure that every decision made reflects the best interests of CFUW as a whole. In addition to attending meetings, I write speeches, develop presentations, manage my own social media, and connect with external organizations that align with our mission and values.

We are already looking ahead with excitement to our next in-person AGM in Montreal in 2026. The theme for our 2025 virtual AGM, “Women Standing Strong,” speaks directly to the times we live in. With ongoing changes and challenges in the world, it is more important than ever for women to stand their ground, support one another, and lead with conviction.

This year also brought changes to our national office team. I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our new staff, who have stepped in with enthusiasm and professionalism.

Our Board had the opportunity to meet in person before assuming our new roles and we continue to:

1. Refine and prioritize strategic goals.
2. Develop, and share in the Club Action Newsletter, the three-month Board work plans.
3. Conduct an annual, structured, Board self-evaluation.

And we are busy with:

4. Planning for both our 2025 Virtual AGM and 2026 in-person AGM in Montreal.
5. Implementing a new board training drop-in where the board meets regularly to discuss current issues and to deepen our knowledge about items like: Risk Management, Budget Analysis, Respectful Treatment Policy, Conflict of Interest, etc.

This will allow us to be a better board and in turn highlight areas where we can offer assistance to local clubs.

A national Membership and Communication Survey helped guide many of our decisions this year. As President, I serve as an ex-officio member on all national standing committees except for the Nominations Committee. My involvement with committees including Communications, Finance, Governance, Human Resources, International Relations, Membership, Resolutions, Articles and Bylaws, Education, International Relations and Advocacy Committee has helped ensure that the voices of members are heard across the organization. I also contribute regularly to the *Club Action Newsletter* and serve on the CFUW Charitable Trust Board.

In March 2025, CFUW delegates made a strong impact at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW69). Our members gave outstanding presentations, and our in-person session co-hosted with WG-USA (Women Graduates USA) and virtual CAMEUS (Canada, Mexico, United States) sessions were a great success. We were also honoured to co-host Senator McPhedran's CSW welcome event and to connect with Canadian organizations and networks such as Beijing + 30 Networking Group.

Throughout the year, I've been invited to attend several Council and Club events including the Quebec Council AGM (in person), the Saskatchewan and Alberta Council AGMs (virtual), and the Ontario Speakers Series. I'm looking forward to attending Hamilton's 100th anniversary celebration, Orillia's 70th, the Prairie Gathering in Saskatoon this June, and representing CFUW at the GWI General Assembly in Lusaka, Zambia this fall.

Our national committees are always looking for new volunteers. Whether your interest lies in advocacy, governance, programming, or communications, there's a place for you to contribute and connect.

As I continue to build relationships with national and local organizations—such as Girl Guides and housing advocates—I aim to increase CFUW's visibility and ensure our legacy is recognized. We must stay vigilant as we monitor political developments here and abroad, and we must continue to be a voice for women's rights and gender equality.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, committee members, and club leaders who make CFUW strong. Special thanks to Kenzie Zimmer, who left a meaningful mark on our National Office, and to Mabinty Toure, Elizabeth Malcolm, and Jaime Beagan for their outstanding work every day.

Together, we continue to build a future where CFUW clubs are empowered, visible, and united across Canada.

VP Advocacy – Heather Oxman

First, **Thank You** to all the members of 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 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 Kenzie Zimmer for her dedication to the Advocacy portfolio, her professionalism and her forward vision for Advocacy in CFUW.

Mandate: Board Goal #4a Advance the Status of Women

Meetings of the Standing Committee: in 2024> September 27, October 25, November 29.
In 2025 > January 24 and 31, February 28, March 28, April 25,

Additional Committee work

- Two Study Groups - Long Term Care and Older Persons' Rights; Saving Canada's Public Health System
- 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
- Membership Committee
- Communications Committee
- Resolutions Committee
- National Board

The VP Advocacy Year

Concerning Resolutions

- The Fall Advocacy Package was released in late September. There were eight adopted resolutions, and an action plan and template letters were provided for six of the eight. Resolutions adopted included:
 - Two resolutions to archive resolutions
 - Two resolutions pertaining to combining resolutions of similar topics
 - Restore and Preserve Canada's Peatlands
 - Preserving Deep Sea Ecosystems
 - Ageing in Place: Resources for all Canadians to Age at Home and in Community Settings
 - Incentives to Adopt Current Standards for Long Term Care
- 2025 Resolution Intents from the National Advocacy Committee were developed for consideration of the membership during the July 2025 Policy Session:
 - Archiving Policies
 - Expanding Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services
 - Safeguarding 2SLGBTQ+ Rights
 - Equitable Phase Out of Fossil Fuels
 - Affirming Housing as a Human Right and Social Good

Reports from Sub Committees

- Adopted Resolutions Book Review
 - A review of the Terms of Reference for this subcommittee took place as the archiving of "expired" resolutions is complete (for now) and tidying up the Adopted Resolutions Book and the Advocacy Action Document (Realizing Potential) is now a minor task.
 - A 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. An article was published in the November 1 CFUW newsletter.
- Environment and Climate Change
 - Two COP events occurred which were monitored by this group: Biodiversity COP in October and Climate Change COP in late November.
 - A resolution on the Equitable phase out of fossil fuels was prepared by this team.

- They hosted a webinar: *Global warming has happened before*, with Pauline Witzke presenting some disturbing info about how quickly we are proceeding to a crisis. This webinar was also delivered in conjunction with GWI and is available as a recording.
- An Earth Day Special CFUW Newsletter was published on April 17 on Alternative Energy options and opportunities.
- Status of Women and Human Rights
 - A letter was distributed to all CFUW clubs encouraging them to encourage their community leaders to declare an Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic in their community.
 - The committee suggested that X (formerly Twitter) no longer be part of CFUW's landing page on our website, due to the prevalence of misogyny. Now BlueSky has replaced it.
 - Created content on menstrual equity that was included in the weekly national newsletter
 - A letter was distributed to all CFUW clubs encouraging them to hold All Candidates meetings and suggested advocacy on funding of post-secondary education
- 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.
 - Resolutions Committee
 - This year, the timetable for submitting Intents was shortened, and the time Club Review was lengthened to respond to member requests to help Clubs plan meetings for resolution review in March and/or April.
 - Using Google Forms and Google Docs, the committee was able to streamline the review of Intents and help Proposers better organize the Amenders' feedback.
 - Relationship Building
- Parliamentary Briefs were prepared on several issues over this Advocacy Year:
 - Gun Control
 - Gender Based Violence and Femicide
 - Reinstating the Women and Gender Equality ministry
 - A meeting took place with the Liberal Women's Caucus in October to discuss five recent CFUW priorities: Poverty; Women, Peacebuilding and Security; Gender Based Violence; Immigrant Detention; and Preventing Maternal Death.
 - A meeting 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.

- A presentation to all RDs about Advocacy and non-partisanship was delivered in early March as preparation for the Federal Election.
- UNCSW69
 - A brief was prepared on the CFUW priorities pertaining to the Beijing +30 review.
 - VP Advocacy did not attend the event
 - Public Website, Member's Drive and Board Drive
 - The public website is regularly refreshed with Advocacy briefs, election materials 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.
- GWJ Resolutions
 - Four Resolutions are going forward to the 2025 GWJ 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

VP Education – Audrey Hobbs-Johnson

As a new chair, along with new members elected to the CFUW Education and Indigenous Committees in September 2024, the planning began by building on the strong foundation established by Kathy Wosnik and chairs before her.

Based on past work and the current Terms of Reference, the following became the guidelines for planning. Along with the National Office, we engaged with appropriate research with Canadian education organizations to track current and emerging issues in Canadian Education that included but were not limited to Early Learning and Child Care, National Literacy Reports and themes that emerged from current issues in among Canadian Education Organizations. These issues spanned the early years through post-secondary education and included Universities, Colleges, Technical Institutions and industry-based programs. This plan reflected the belief that Education in 2025 is lifelong learning. It is learning about change, learning how to relearn as well as continuing to learn new skills in a wide array of content.

This strong, newly elected committee represents Newfoundland, PEI, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia who learn, plan, contribute and work collaboratively. The Education Committee has one sub-committee, the Indigenous Support Sub-Committee that works throughout the year, sharing Education meeting time, topics and speakers. This committee chaired by Mary Scott has made excellent progress in several areas including engaging speakers from the Indigenous Community, new resources and the addition of a Land Acknowledgment on the CFUW Website.

As the Education committee members prioritized themes for this year, we recognized Education in Canada has changed rapidly over the past few years. Education is a provincial responsibility and at the same time has national programs and policies in several areas. Communication among provinces and territories is strongly supported by several pan-Canadian Education organizations and are important for our information as we deem what is important for “Education in Canada.”

Meeting monthly on the third Friday, the group leaders planned with their focus groups and led learning sessions that included the following: Mary Scott/Lee Ann Chan led Indigenous Support to TRC Initiatives, Lyn Tait: Emerging Issues, Long Term Planning and Research, Jeannette Mergens - Tech and Artificial Intelligence - Risks and Advantages in Education, Financial Literacy Audrey Hobbs Johnson Lynne Kent, Teri Shaw, Creating Understanding and Collaboration in the Education Community among Educators, Parents, Grandparent and the public Linda Coles, Audrey Hobbs-Johnson

This committee is well prepared and has materials ready to work forward in 2025-2026. We look forward to the work as we continue to plan for Lifelong Learning in Education for CFUW members and our public.

VP Membership- Anne Cordon

My committee* and I drew our priorities for this biennium 2024-2026 from the results of the Membership-Communication Survey conducted in the Fall of 2024:

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

Another way to consider our priorities is through our mandate for:

- **Club support-** Invite clubs to help identify what they need or want for support. Create strategies to provide that support. Define parameters of types of help we can provide
- **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)
- **Club expansion** to new geographic areas and demographics within existing areas

Highlights:

1. **Membership-Communication Survey** working with Jaime Beagan and Sheila Service, Co-Chairs Communication Cttee with significant input from our cttees and RDs designed, implemented, and analyzed—82% response rate thanks to the National office Team and Marlene Starkman, RD Chair and RDs encouraging and supporting clubs to respond.
2. Initiated **monthly zoom meetings** we called **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, General topics especially member recruitment
 - b. MMM-2 October, Raising CFUW profile
 - c. MMM-3 November Retaining new recruits
 - d. MMM-4 January Leadership issues/building the team
 - e. MMM-5 February Resolutions—assessing new ones and engaging the club

- f. MMM-6 March CFUW-why did you join and why do you stay?
- g. MMM-7 June: Club executive crossover-*“So, I’m on the Executive, now what?”*
- 3. Regular announcements and ideas in the **CFUW Club Action News, Membership Moments**
- 4. **NEW Special Project GRANTS** were initiated to financially help clubs to develop projects, activities, or promotional materials—especially activities and projects that were creative and inventive that may also be adopted/adapted by other clubs
- 5. **Special Awards**—acknowledge clubs who developed and completed new and inventive activities to support their members and raise their club profile in the community.
- 6. **Our Committee met monthly from September to June except for December.** However, a small number of us also met in December to analyze the results of the Membership-Communication survey.
- 7. I had the honour and privilege of attending my first UN Commission for the Status of Women NYC in **March 2025—CSW69 as one of our CFUW delegates.**

Challenges:

Respond in a meaningful and helpful way to club challenges, so we truly help our members. Demonstrate by example that **National CFUW is a vital caring national organization.**

- Consider additional or perhaps more meaningful ways to **celebrate clubs and individuals.**
- Develop, pilot and showcase effective ways to **increase CFUW profile** locally for clubs to consider.
- Develop, pilot, and showcase effective strategies for **targeted new member recruitment** for clubs.
- Develop, pilot and showcase effective strategies for **member retention.**
- **Improve club connections with CFUW nationally** and continue to break down “silos” across the country.
- Working with the clubs and other Board and Provincial Council members, helps to 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!
- Next year I hope to attend more in person events visiting clubs, Gatherings, Councils, and our Montreal 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 2025-2026

- Highlight, support, acknowledge and celebrate our clubs with our proposed “**The Year of the Club**” through many activities using various media starting with our virtual AGM in July 2025 and culminating in an event at the in-person AGM next July in Montreal.
- 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.
- Develop **pilot project(s)** to address membership priorities that can be expanded, if successful, and used by other clubs

* **Membership Committee 2024-2025** Many thanks to our terrific committee who all contributed so much this year:

- Anne Cordon, Chair VP Membership, Peterborough
- Linda Sestock, CFUW President, MLUWC
- Sheila Service, Chair Communications Std Cttee, VP British Columbia, Nanaimo
- Sandra Shaw, VP Ontario, Perth & District
- Deborah (Debby) Brown Winnipeg-Membership Chair
- Heather Lewis, Orillia, President
- Josaphine (Jo) Sheppard, Cornwall, Past President
- Marlene Starkman, RD Chair, RD ON East, Perth & District
- Kathryn Wilkinson, Etobicoke, Past President CFUW, Chair Charitable Trust
- Kathy Wosnick, Aurora-Newmarket, President, OC Advocacy Chair, Past CFUW VP Education
- Heather Oxman, VP Advocacy, Lethbridge

Staff-- Jaime Beagan, CFUW Executive Director and special thanks to Elizabeth Malcolm, Member Engagement Coordinator for all her help and to Mabinty Toure who joined us part way through and is also so helpful and upbeat.

VP International Relations – Grace Hollett

Overview and Framework

As VP International Relations (IR), I work collaboratively with the President, Staff and the Past President; chair the IR Standing Committee and attend its five sub-committees reported below. The VPs of Advocacy and Education and I form the Advocacy Coordinating Committee and attend each other's Standing Committee meetings.

CFUW's international relations is guided by the domains of **HEAL** (Health, Education & Economic empowerment, Action towards Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and Leadership.

The 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) March 2025

CFUW prepared a written statement to CSW a functional working commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated exclusively to the promotion of gender equality and the rights and empowerment of women. CFUW's statement stressed *"Education is the pivotal implementation tool of the Beijing Platform for Action"* and showed how education affects women's progress in all areas of the Beijing Platform for Action. The CFUW Statement concluded with five recommendations and can be accessed here [CSW69 Delegates Report](#)

The 20 CFUW ECOSOC-designated spaces were filled, four other applicants were registered with Federación Mexicana de Universitarias (Mexico's FEMU, a CAMEUS partner) and two other CFUW members were GWI delegates. Pre and post-CSW informative sessions were organized for delegates, guided by Beijing 95 delegate Mary Scott, and a Zoom CSW Drop-In was held for members. Resources were posted on Google Docs, and What'sApp accessed for communicating during the week in New York City. CFUW lanyards, anniversary scarves, business cards and postcard-sized handouts with a CFUW message and QR code, all proved useful when networking with other delegates. A press release created publicity about CFUW and local delegates, leading to radio, tv and newspaper interviews and social media postings.

The CSW69 Planning Sub-committee was formed in September 2024 with Dr. Linda Coles (chair) and members President Linda Sestock, Barbara DuMoulin, Sandra Thompson, Heather Oxman, Lynn Kent, Monique Sirois-Kelly, Kenzie Zimmer, Grace Hollett and, from WG-USA, Dr. Elise Russo and Dr. Fay Weber. Its responsibility was to plan a CSW69 in-person Parallel Session co-sponsored by CFUW and WG-USA. The sub-committee created the title "Educating Women and Girls: Advancing their Empowerment and Equality" and decided on panelists meeting with them initially to plan the presentation and later for a practice to ensure all would work smoothly with a global audience at the UNCSW69 in New York City.

Introductions of panelists at the session were done by the individuals who invited them. CFUW President, Linda Sestock, monitored the Q & A, and I moderated. The room was filled to capacity with over 120 attendees including multiple representatives of over 37 organizations. Building on the very positive feedback received from attendees, the sub-committee has begun planning for CSW70. The promotional poster showing panelists and their sub-topics and a video link to the session is found here [CSW69 Delegates Report](#)

International Service Project (ISP)

The CFUW ISP supports girls' access to education in countries where such is compromised, limited or unattainable. The members of the ISP Subcommittee are Pat Patton (chair), Larisa Hutcheson, Grace Hollett, Linda Sestock (CFUW President) and Jaime Beagan (CFUW Executive Director). The 2024-2025 CFUW ISP partnered with **60 Million Girls** in the project **Retaining Girls in School-Nepal**. Through mobile learning lab devices (MLLs) this project helps keep girls in school in remote Nepal, and educates students about their sexual and reproductive health to break down the stigma associated with menstruation. \$16,162.23 was raised to provide two MLLs, surpassing the goal of \$15,000 through the help of 22 CFUW Clubs. We thank CFUW Clubs in Edmonton, Georgetown, Guelph, Kelowna, Lethbridge, Markham/Unionville, Montreal Southshore, Nanaimo, North Vancouver, Perth & District, Prince George, Richmond, Salt Spring Island, Sherbrooke & District, St. John's, Victoria, Welland and District, West Vancouver, Winnipeg, Wolfville, the E-Club and Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club for your help in raising the funds for this very worthwhile project.

The 2025-2027 ISP is **Young, Happy, Healthy & Safe** with our new partner, the **Stephen Lewis Foundation**. We will continue the fundraising by CFUW Clubs 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. Also, 60 girls and 60 boys will have all school clothing and school supplies funded.

CFUW is winding up the successful agreed 2-year partnership with 60 Million Girls, and finalizing the partnership agreement with the Stephen Lewis Foundation, including a joint webinar in October, and will provide regular updates on the new project in the CFUW Club Action Newsletter.

CAMEUS

CAMEUS, the North American GWI regional of CFUW, WG-USA, and FEMU of Mexico focuses on issues that migrant women and children face in our three countries due to social, political, and climate changes. A Memorandum of Understanding formalizing our partnership was signed in 2023 during CSW67. Barbara DuMoulin, CFUW lead for CAMEUS, is the chair.

The primary focus of the CAMEUS group, this year, was preparation for CSW69 and the virtual parallel session. This involved research, discussion about, and refinement of the topic, followed by a search for panelists from our respective countries and subsequent meetings with them. In March 2025, CAMEUS presented "*Recognizing Qualifications for Employment of Women Migrating to North America*" focusing on issues faced by educated migrant women in having their professional credentials accepted by host countries. This topic encompasses two perspectives—the necessity for host countries to ensure immigrants are competently trained, and the experiences and frustrations of immigrant women eager to find employment in their area of expertise. For the poster and recording check here. [CSW69 Delegates Report](#)

Ongoing activities include: a review of the CSW69 presentation to summarize credential issues for discussion and potential follow-up actions; planning a CSW70 presentation; composing a draft statement of concern about political instability and hardships caused by changes in US policy; monitoring actions and legislation within our own countries that affect women and girls and sharing relevant research findings.

Future Possibilities for Research and Presentations include the impact of international trade agreements on countries and individuals and hosting a webinar focusing on general trade agreements, with a specific emphasis on the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Triennial Planning Sub-Committee

This sub-committee is chaired by Joy Hurst with members; President Linda Sestock, Pat Patton, Lynne Kent, Tamara Stomp, Kathryn Wilkinson and myself (Grace Hollett).

Proposed Advocacy Resolutions and Proposed Amendments to the GWI Constitution: CFUW 's resolutions on Maternal Death Prevention, International Trade Agreements, Deep Sea Ecosystems and Peatlands were modified for the global scene and forwarded to GWI which has since circulated (Circular 9, 2025) all 8 submitted resolutions and invited amendments. GWI-supporting Clubs will be asked to submit amendments via CFUW. The IR committee will co-ordinate CFUW's response to proposed amendments for submission prior to August 4th.

CFUW's proposed constitutional amendments are: calling for an annual virtual meeting; young member participation, specific responsibilities of the Nominations committee and the addition of standing committees. Recommendations for enhancement of VP job descriptions and Committee Terms of Reference which did not require constitutional amendments were made for GWI's consideration.

Triennial Nominations and Voting delegates: CFUW facilitated the call for nominations to the GWI Board and standing committees, reviewed applications and obtained CFUW Board approval to forward to GWI

who will announce nominees. The following applicants have been approved as Voting Delegates; Joy Hurst, Beryl Matthewson, Gail Neff, Pat Patton, Brenda Robertson and Kathryn Wilkinson. The President, and VP International, are voting delegates due to their CFUW positions. Hal ly Sid don s and Lor rai ne O'Donnell are alternate voting delegates. At least three other members plan to attend.

Triennial Agenda, Registration, CFUW Policy Session: CFUW requested: the budget and financial session be moved to earlier in the agenda; a pre-triennial finance workshop; facilitated dialogue regarding how GWI can advance NFA priorities and how NFAs can work together to further common areas of focus and action. Triennial Registration has opened.

CFUW's pre-triennial policy session will follow the August 19th GWI meetings. Each GWI-supporting club will be asked to provide a voting delegate. Club responses will form the basis of CFUW Board instructions for voting delegates.

The Awards and Special Days Sub-Committee

This committee is chaired by Phyllis Scott with members: Fiona Morrell Lhotka, Niki Carlan, President Linda Sestock and myself. The International Relations award and the International Women's Day award were promoted at AGM 2024, in Club Action News and on social media. The projects submitted are expected to increase understanding of international advocacy issues and to raise the profile of CFUW Clubs in local communities. The adjudication of those awards has been completed by the sub-committee and winning Clubs' names will be forwarded to the CFUW Board. Awards will be presented at the AGM.

An article has been prepared for the acknowledgement of International Refugee Day June 20th.

Thank you to all who contributed to the IR program !

VP Atlantic/Governance – Karen Dunnett

Since the Atlantic Regional Council (ARC) moved its fiscal year to the calendar year in order for our Annual General Meeting to align with the National year cycle, the ARC has had a Fall Gathering of clubs to share their annual reports which were completed at the club year-end falling after the ARC AGM. This year “Honoring Traditions/Forging New Paths” fall gathering provided an opportunity to share the successes and challenges of the past year and look forward to what the new club year will hold. It also was a time for us to share memorials of members who have passed away.

This year the ARC Executive (VP Atlantic & 3 provincial RDs plus the Sec. Treasurer; RD NB vacant) saw new RDs join us. Over the first few meetings, they were given an orientation to the workings of the ARC. At the ensuing six meetings, we collaborated to organize all the details of hosting the 2025 ARC AGM and conference, May 10th. The theme, “Women Breaking New Ground”, was highlighted by two exceptional presenters - one, a seasoned, experienced leader who organized women to increase their influence on corporate boards and is a recognized speaker on women in leadership and best practices on inclusion and diversity. The other a young woman just finished her undergraduate degree yet still found time to organize Girls STEM Up to support young women in those fields. They inspired us all.

As VP Atlantic, I was able to attend the last gathering of CFUW Saint John club in the fall. They were encouraged to join the CFUW E club and to explore ways of facilitating connection with CFUW in the Atlantic. I attended CFUW Fredericton’s 80th anniversary celebration with well-known speakers - the Fredericton Mayor, Pres. University of NB, Pres. St. Thomas University, NB Lieutenant Governor, as well as one of their club’s Fellowship Awards recipients. I was honored, as CFUW ARC Pres. /VP Atlantic, to speak about CFUW as a national organization empowering women for over 100 years and this club’s critical and essential participation in working to achieve that mission.

In the spring, I attended the CFUW Halifax club meeting. With a number of new members not knowing much about CFUW beyond the club, I did a presentation on the Atlantic Regional Council, and the CFUW ED presented on CFUW national.

The ARC has been diligent in sharing club newsletters. I have sent periodic messages about specific workshops, seminars, advocacy work and 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. It should be noted that three of our clubs had member increases, this talks to their ability of becoming more visible in their respective communities.

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 am a member of the HR Committee which conducts the ED evaluation and has been working on updating the Respectful Treatment procedure this year, and the working group of the regional VPs led by the VP Membership.

Governance Committee

I am Chair of the Governance Committee for 204-26 biennium. The committee and I have contributed to the Board workplan regarding our duties of promoting good governance practices regarding orientation and continued board development. The new biennium's board development continued via monthly drop-in sessions. These sessions have identified areas needing a deeper understanding. Subsequent work will continue such items as risk management and conflict of interest information. The board evaluation and feedback process were reviewed and timelines set for each. A new format for committee Terms of Reference was developed. We also review policy and processes to ensure they align with the CFUW Article & Bylaws. The committee is collaborating with staff on the important and complex job of updating and reorganizing of the material in the Administration Volume 2 is ongoing. All of our work is closely tied and supported by the ED and national staff with the CFUW president a member of the committee.

Every year there is much to be accomplished and seemingly not quite enough time. It has been a great privilege for me to work with all the board members and competent staff. They have made time for one more meeting, one more email. All have contributed to being a respectful and collaborative group asking questions, bringing new ideas forward, all of which keeps CFUW moving forward



815 St. Laurent Blvd.
Suite 230, Ottawa, ON, K1K 3A7

Last but not least, my heartfelt thanks go 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.

It has been an honour to be the CFUW Atlantic Vice President.

VP Ontario - Sandra Shaw

Hard to believe that five years after the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, we are still dealing with its repercussions. Some have been negative, for example, pre-COVID Club membership numbers in Ontario are still recovering and have not yet hit their pre-lockdown levels. Others have been positive! Having to depend on electronic collaboration platforms (especially Zoom) to connect during COVID has turned meetings, seminars/webinars and the Ontario Council Speakers Series into more democratic and equitable sessions, allowing members to participate in events irrespective of their location. In 2025/2026, Ontario intends to expand its Speakers Series, offering its events to more Clubs from other geographical regions.

Conducting business through electronic collaboration platforms has also allowed for 'doing more with less'. Ontario Council has been able to stretch its budget farther, although, like other CFUW Regions, it currently runs on a deficit.

Ontario has decided to offer in-person AGMs every other year, coinciding with the biannual National in-person AGM, for the foreseeable future. Ontario Council recognises the loss of opportunities to share policies and practices in a more intimate face-to-face setting so has instituted the Presidents Plus New Year Party and post Speaker Series time for Ontario Club members to join small breakout groups to exchange ideas and reconnect.

Fourteen (14) of the 48 Clubs in Ontario (two of which are not CFUW National members) celebrate milestone anniversaries this year, a testament to the value of CFUW to its members and communities.

Club	Anniversary	Club	Anniversary
Ottawa	115 th	Orillia	70 th
London	105 th	Cornwall and District	70 th
Hamilton	100 th	Scarborough	65 th
Oshawa and District	80 th	Headwaters	50 th
Guelph	80 th	Perth and District	55 th
Brantford	80 th	Southport	35 th
Leaside/East York	70 th	Kanata	30 th

Membership

Like other Regions, in Ontario, we recognise the aging demographics of our Clubs' members, however, Ontario Clubs are creative regarding how they can appeal to younger women and how to recruit them. Many are shedding their 'for retired professionals' cloaks and are aiming events, meeting times and interest groups at women who are pre-retirement. Discussions offered through National's Monday Membership Moments regarding how to attract new members has been instrumental in providing ideas that work for recruitment.

Getting 'bigger', though, shouldn't be and isn't the objective of many Clubs. It is the desire to be 'healthy', stable and successful, irrespective of number of members, that drives many recruitment and retention efforts in Ontario. Ontario currently (2024 numbers) has approximately 4,500 – 4,700 Club members (numbers depend on whether 'honorary members', lifetime members, students and dual members are counted) and has shown a 6% increase over 2023. Nevertheless, compared to 2019, membership is still down by 6%. The vast majority of Ontario Clubs are considered stable and healthy. No Clubs have closed since 2021.

It has been my personal ambition to visit approximately one quarter of the Clubs in each year of my presidency. I am on track for this year and will have had the honour to attend 'live' meetings or events of at least 12 Clubs by the time of Ontario Council's AGM. I am fortunate to have been able to celebrate significant anniversaries with Southport (35), Hamilton (100), Oshawa (80), Orillia (70) and Cornwall and District (70).

Communication

Ontario's six Regional Directors (RDs) are actively engaged and busy maintaining communications, developing relationships amongst their Clubs, responding to Club requests, passing on information from Ontario Council and National, and offering support or help where needed. Visits to Clubs by RDs have largely been replaced by monthly or bimonthly Zoom meetings with presidents, advocacy leads, communications leads and/or treasurers, depending on the Region's needs. Personal visits are limited due to distances as well as costs. The farthest Club from their RD is Thunder Bay – 1,265 km from the RD Ontario North who resides in Orillia!

In such a large geographical area as Ontario Clubs inhabit, newsletters often become a mainstay for information exchange (in addition to our electronic meetings). Most Clubs produce a newsletter and Ontario Council highlights them in its newsletter, publishes them on the OC website for others to read and draws from them to inform Clubs of the activities and events of their colleagues. Ontario Council

publishes 10 newsletters per year with Special Editions published (this year an Environment and Climate Change newsletter and a UNCSW69 newsletter comprised the Special Editions) when time permits.

Clubs and their members are encouraged to subscribe to both the Ontario Council newsletter and the weekly newsletter produced by National.

Advocacy

Advocacy engagement with a majority provincial government has proven to be challenging for Ontario Council and its Clubs over the past few years but still we press on. Ontario Clubs hope to persuade their own municipalities to declare Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) an epidemic (see the Ontario Council IPV Toolkit), which, in turn, puts pressure on the provincial government to make the declaration. Clubs in Ontario have been instrumental in developing and supporting a petition imploring the Federal government to provide safe drinking water standards for all and supporting a Bill (which also unfortunately fell to the floor when the writ was dropped) urging the Provincial government to declare IPV an epidemic.

This year, at our Presidents Plus Annual New Year Party, Senator Marilou McPhedran spoke about civility (or lack thereof), especially in the hallowed halls of government. As a result of her call to action, Ontario Clubs took up the challenge of determining who amongst their municipal, provincial and federal representatives has signed the Civility Pledge and to make its acceptance a common practice for those in government at any level.

As alluded to, the Ontario Council Speakers Series of three separate events in October, November and February is extremely popular. The Advocacy Committee of Ontario prepares these events based on identified needs/desires of our Clubs. The Advocacy Survey which was conducted last year, and every four years, provides results which serve as the basis for the efforts carried out by the Council, with modifications arising from significant provincial, national or international events affecting Ontario. Ontario and its CFUW Clubs have had to deal with two elections this year and help has been provided by Ontario Council's Toolkit for our Provincial election and National's for the Federal election.

Ontario Clubs have generated a resolution for National consideration this year: [Addressing Period Poverty and Menstrual Inequity in Canada \(CFUW Milton and District and CFUW Perth and District\)](#), **as well as two resolutions for Ontario:** Funding for Post-Secondary Education in Ontario (CFUW Orillia) and The Establishment of a Seniors' Advocate (CFUW Owen Sound). Several Clubs continue with advocacy based on last year's Warming Centres resolution, to ensure Ontario's vulnerable population is not left behind and many Clubs are collecting period products in support of this year's National resolution.

The Advocacy Committee of Ontario Council is active year-round, establishing advocacy policy, preparing the Speakers Series, writing articles for the newsletter, managing the Resolution Process, adjudicating the Carolyn Day award, supporting Clubs in their advocacy efforts and keeping an eye on trends affecting women in Ontario and responding to them.

Leadership

Finding members to participate in Club leadership continues to be a challenge for Ontario Clubs, however, this seems to be a common situation for all volunteer organisations. The solution is neither obvious nor is there a one size fits all model. Clubs continue to struggle although sharing ideas in this area is useful. Ontario Council is preparing a webinar in the Fall of 2025 to highlight various examples from Ontario Clubs which have proven successful in securing leaders, from executive members to committees.

Scholarships

Ontario, like other regions, is an important contributor to CFUW. Last year Ontario Council conducted a 'scholarship survey' amongst Ontario Clubs, the results of which have been used by a National committee in their planning. In the 2023-2024 year, Ontario Clubs dispersed \$500,000 in scholarships to Ontario students (mostly women) continuing their education beyond the secondary level. Ontario Clubs also contribute extensively to the CFUW Charitable Trust.

2024/2025 has been extremely busy for CFUW in Ontario, yet exciting and rewarding. Working with the amazing, intelligent, witty and hardworking Ontario Council, National Board, National Office and National committees' women is tremendously gratifying. Assuming CFUW provincial and national executive roles which offer opportunities for personal growth and channels for developing and honing leadership skills has been invaluable. Nevertheless, it has been meeting with so many Ontario Clubs' members which has truly been the high spot of my year.

VP Prairies – Barb Gustafson

During my first year as VP Prairies, and first direct involvement with CFUW national, I have spent a great deal of time learning the procedures of the organization. I am grateful for the help from the national office staff and my colleagues on the board of directors. I am inspired by the energy and efforts of CFUW members both in support of the organization and for society.

Prairies activities

While travel is limited by winter on the Prairies, I hope to reach out more in the second year of my term. Thus far, I have been able to connect with the Regional Directors and club presidents primarily through the work planning the Prairie Gathering and through attendance at AGMs. I continue to serve as the CFUW Prince Albert local president, involved directly with Saskatchewan Council.

The Prairies region includes five Alberta clubs, Manitoba's Winnipeg club, three Saskatchewan clubs, plus an active group of e-club members in Regina. Across the clubs, there are similarities in activities including learning opportunities, special interest groups, and social events; however, there are also differences that speak to the particular needs of the members in that club. The provincial councils serve as a conduit for sharing ideas, such as Alberta Council's compilation of titles from book clubs, or the Saskatchewan Council's coordination of the New Beginning Grant to a mature student looking to change life for herself and her family through higher education.

Coming into the role of VP Prairies, there was a strong feeling expressed that a regional gathering would be appreciated. The Prairie Gathering was planned for Saskatoon for June 13-15, choosing 2025 as a year when there is a virtual AGM, allowing for members to travel regionally. I hope that this event, restarted after pandemic times, will continue in the future.

Other board activities

On the national board, I have served as deputy president, in support of President Linda Sestock. As deputy president, I have chaired the Human Resources Committee. In addition to the duties of coordinating the executive director's annual review, the committee considered staff salary and benefits in conjunction with the Finance Committee, and reviewed the policy and procedures on Respectful Treatment, including presentations to the board, the RD group, and on a regional basis.

I have also served as a member of the Communications Committee, Finance Committee, AGM Planning Committee, Strategic Support group, and Governance Committee. The Governance Committee undertook a significant project updating the Administrative Procedures volumes.



815 St. Laurent Blvd.
Suite 230, Ottawa, ON, K1K 3A7

I was honoured to attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's forum, CSW 69, in New York during March. It provided an international perspective on the needs of so many women and girls, on our own privileged place as Canadians, and on the fragility of social structures seen in the American context. It was also a wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues from other Canadian and American organizations, and to network with CFUW members from across the country.

VP British Columbia - Sheila Service

National Board

This is the first year in my second term as VP BC and it has been busy but rewarding. I want to acknowledge the continuing support of the members of the BC Council who make it possible for me to be active at the National level.

I would like to congratulate our National President, Linda Sestock, who suggested Board “Drop In” sessions to allow the Board to have informal discussions once or twice a month. This has been very beneficial to team building for the Board and has been, to my mind, a success.

In addition to the Board table I have also acted as the Co-Chair of the Communications Committee with our Executive Director, Jamie Beagan. This has been an active Committee meeting monthly October to June.

I have also been a member of the Governance, AGM Planning and Articles and Bylaws,

I attend the Membership, and Advocacy Committees as a guest. I also attend the National Regional Directors meetings when appropriate.

I have appreciated the opportunity to work with the National Staff members.

BC Council

Council meets monthly for the most part September through June. Our AGM was held May 2nd to 4th in Abbotsford. We were delighted to have our National Executive Director, Jamie Beagan, as a guest for all three days. Friday night was a reception. There was only resolution to consider at the Policy session which allowed more time for Presidents to share their Club highlights.

Our luncheon Keynote Speaker was Dr. Lenore Newman. She is the Director of the Food and Agriculture Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley. Her topic was “Innovative Research on Improving Food Production.”

The second Keynote speaker was Dr. Martha Dow who is the Director of the Community Health and Social Innovation Hub, Senior Advisor on Changemaking to the Provost and an Associate Professor in the School of Culture, Media and Society. Her topic was timely as she spoke on “Current Challenges Facing Universities.”

Both speakers were very knowledgeable, confident, energetic and entertaining.

A Banquet was held Saturday evening. After dinner we were active participants with Alyssa Neilsen. She sang ABBA’s hits and most of us joined her in the singing and dancing.

Sunday morning BC Council’s presentation was led by Audrey Hobbs-Johnson and me. We had a slide deck which provided the history of Red Dress Day. Following that, our Regional Directors and Council members Lynne Kent and Jenny Toone led small group discussion on how Clubs currently interact with Indigenous groups in our local areas and how we might increase our interaction and support for them.

Membership

BC has 19 active Clubs and is divided into three regions; BC Interior, BC West and Vancouver Island.

Public Profile

We are working on our Social Media presence. Clubs are encouraged to connect with local politicians and regional members of the Legislative Assembly. We did address the issue of the resignation of Melanie Mark asking Premier Eby to address the toxicity in the Assembly. He did establish a Committee of Female members of the Assembly and they tabled a Report at the end of March 2024.

Advocacy

BC has a very active Advocacy group with members of each Club represented. This year's work involved several themes: Local Community Needs; Current Provincial Issues; and monitoring the areas where action has been taken but monitoring is required. The latter category includes Kinship Care; Early Learning; Violence Against Women; Peatlands; Aging Out of Foster Care; Scholarships and Bursaries.

Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee undertook a review of the Council's Policy Book and consulted with Clubs whose resolutions were dated, successfully addressed and/or covered by National Policy. Eight Policies were identified and recommended for archiving. This was approved at the AGM.

Sustainability

All BC Clubs are working hard at increasing membership numbers. Also, we are sharing methods of attracting younger women into our ranks. This is and will be ongoing.

In conclusion I continue to be honored to serve CFUW at the local, Provincial and National levels. It is a great experience and has allowed me to connect with many members across Canada. Thank you

Regional Directors Standing Committee

RD Chair/Ontario East – Marlene Starkman

RD Chair Report

The Standing Committee of Regional Directors (RDs)-- with 19 members – met monthly via ZOOM for one hour. Most meetings had a focal topic, such as advocacy, communications (the new Members Drive, how to use Google Docs, ZOOM), Fair Treatment Policy, Resolutions.

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 this year was ensuring RDs received important information in a timely manner for them to share to their clubs, and providing support as needed.

RD ON East

Ontario East has 9 clubs, ranging in size from 13 to Canada's largest at 550.

This is my 1st year as RD for ON East, and I followed in the successful tradition set by the previous RD, Anne Cordon. We met in September for an all-day, in-person gathering of presidents plus one. Seven of the 9 clubs were represented. Feedback was very positive as attendees appreciated the ability to network and develop relationships with fellow presidents.

I met monthly over ZOOM with club presidents and other invited club officers, depending on the focus of a particular meeting. Our meetings build connections within the region and clubs and encourage the sharing of information and resources. I also concentrated on ensuring the clubs were aware of relevant information from Ontario Council and National. This year our guest speakers were experts in advocacy, resolutions and Roberts Rules.

I was able to attend CFUW Nepean and CFUW Kanata general meetings and spoke about CFUW's history and our advocacy, with a focus on explaining how clubs fit into the broader picture and what members receive for their dues.

I am also proud to report that, with the encouragement and support of myself and CFUW Perth, seven of the nine Eastern Ontario clubs launched very successful Period Product Drives this year.

Other CFUW meetings I attended included the OC Board, OC RDs, National RDs and National board meetings, as well as National Advocacy, Communications, Membership and Governance meetings. I also attend the executive of my own club as I am past president of Perth & District, as well as our General Meetings.

RD BC Vancouver Island – Deborah Dancik

There are five clubs in the Vancouver Island region: Salt Spring, Parksville Qualicum, Nanaimo, Saanich Peninsula, and Victoria. The Cowichan club folded this year, with several members joining the Nanaimo club. The Island clubs are of varying sizes but all robust and most adding new members. They have strong continuing leaning and advocacy programs. This past year, together the clubs gave significant funds for scholarships in each of their districts. The clubs regularly now share their newsletters.

The club presidents/representatives and I have met twice by Zoom during the period under review and then kept in touch via email when there were questions or national initiatives to report. Agendas have covered updates from each club, transfer of important information from the national office, questions on policy and procedures, sharing of information on local successes and “things we’ve tried.” Of particular note was an in-depth discussion about the standard structure of club executives, the challenges of filling positions and what other leadership models might be considered. This resulted in a back-and-forth conversation with the national membership chair on this issue. Not because of this but going in parallel was a briefing paper from national on the basics of Articles and By-Laws and minimum requirements for club leadership which was greeted with some interest by Island presidents.

I visited the Salt Spring Island club in April which gave me the opportunity to meet half the membership. Their challenges of recruiting new members in a community where people already have many volunteer obligations was salutary except for one new member of the club who is keen to refresh their recruitment efforts – applause for this! I also had the chance to better understand their financials, fund raising, and long-term commitment to the Commonwealth Hope Project. In other words, visiting the club in person was a real chance for good dialogue and information sharing.

As the Island Regional Director, I am part of the national monthly RD Zoom meetings. I’m grateful for this because it has proven to be a good venue for information sharing, an educational forum to learn use of new tools, and good updates on national business, initiatives and advocacy. As a BC Council member, I participate in the monthly BC advocacy meetings and council dialogue. I have benefited from

intermittent conversations with the two other BC RD's as two of us learn council and national protocols. The year has been a good start to my term as an RD.

RD BC West – Eleanor Scarth

CFUW BC West now has 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. In September, unfortunately, CFUW New Westminster voted to close.

Membership range: 15 to 317. Clubs meet in person with occasional Zoom meetings as needed. This year, all clubs have had a President except 1 where the Past President is filling the leadership role.

All clubs have varied and active Interest groups with many social and special events. Social events and Open Houses have helped 2 clubs in particular attract many new members which allowed clubs to keep their year-to-year numbers stable after losing several members due to moving, illness or aging out.

Advocacy is a major driver of member engagement for most clubs with ongoing work with community partners around supporting women's shelters both financially and with collection of useful products and also personal onsite special events. Most clubs have special observances for the 16 Days Against Gender Based Violence and International Women's Day.

BC West has given a total of \$ 175,441 this year in awards which means clubs have continued with or started interesting fundraisers. One club holds an Annual Un Fundraiser while another has a Biannual Fundraising concert. One club had a very successful IWD fundraising luncheon, and half the attendees were community members. An excellent way to get CFUW's name out in the community.

Helping to promote Community awareness of our excellent CFUW clubs have been several new handsome club banners, a brand-new club website, and other updated club brochures, bookmarks or business cards.

This has been my first year as an RD. I've had 2 Regional Zoom meetings for Presidents and enjoyed the opportunity to speak in person to 9 of the presidents at the BC Council AGM.

Highlights have been in person visits to 3 clubs for Open Houses or their AGM, a visit to a special speaker at Kwantlen Polytechnic University about Peatlands, the subject of North Delta's National Resolution last

year, attending a Council of Women meeting to hear BC's Seniors' Advocate, attending an IWD dinner honouring Humaira Saqib, an Afghan journalist and women's human rights activist.

Some clubs have filled their executive roles for next year, but some clubs have experienced difficulty with members reluctant to take on leadership roles so that remains an area of concern.

The RD National committee monthly meetings and the MMM monthly meetings have been excellent sources for sharing ideas from across the country. Thanks to Marlene Starkman and Anne Cordon for their leadership.

I look forward to more BC West club visits next year and to continue sharing news both to and from clubs, BC Council and National.

RD BC Interior - Ruth Mellor

I have had the opportunity of visiting all 4 of my clubs, Kelowna, Prince George, Nelson and Vernon. All clubs are small except Kelowna. We had one zoom meeting as well. All clubs responded to my questions and communicated well.

RD Alberta – Pati Wigelsworth

PRIORITY #1: To have a two-way communication with all five clubs.

ACTION ONE: to communicate to all clubs Alberta CFUW Council issues and CFUW National issues clubs are requested to respond to

OUTCOME:

- All clubs responded to the request to fill out the National Survey regarding Communication and Membership.
- All clubs responded to the request from the Alberta Council to share their Interest Group Book Club operation and book lists.

ACTION TWO: have all clubs communicate to me what they would like to have information about and what I need to know about their clubs.

OUTCOME:

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

- only two clubs responded to my email requesting information, and it came in the form of their newsletters.

2025-2026: I will make a phone call to the Presidents and/or Co-Presidents for this. Perhaps a personal touch is needed.

PRIORITY #2: To have clubs relate special events, programs, advocacy projects to the five clubs.

ACTION: request one club share a special event, program or advocacy issue each month that Presidents could pass onto club members.

OUTCOME:

- three of the five clubs participated. One club sent pictures and write up of their 80th Anniversary that was also shared on the CFUW Action Newsletter; one club shared a field trip tour of an archive project at the University of Alberta and one club shared their letter writing campaign information organized by CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Recreation Wilderness Society) calling for the continued moratorium on coal development exploration across Rocky Mountains and Eastern slopes.

2025-2026; Perhaps a 1-page Regional Director's Newsletter highlighting each club's initiatives of interest to other clubs.

PRIORITY #3: To share the role of President and Regional Director

ACTION: to share the role of President and Regional Director

OUTCOME:

- Two people became Co-Presidents of the Alberta Council. I filled the role of Regional Director and participated in all but 1 Regional Director meetings and participated on all VP Prairie Meetings planning the Prairie Gathering 2025. I shared all information from these meeting with the five Alberta Clubs.
- This Co-Presidency has deemed to be a success!

RD Saskatchewan – Dalelene Yelland

Saskatchewan has 3 clubs, and one E-club is located in Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, and Yorkton. I live in Moose Jaw and have had the opportunity to visit the clubs; however, we do rely on Zoom which is paid for by the SASK Council. This is my first term as an RD. I appreciate the support from the National Office and from each of the clubs as we move forward with our goals.

Communication

I believe communication is always the key to achieving success in the organization's goals. Over the past year, communication has taken many forms; e-mails, phone calls, Zoom mtgs, newsletters, and personal visits. It is through these interactions that I am continuing to learn from our clubs and the National Office. It is my hope that through listening and learning I will be able to best serve our members in my role as Regional Director.

Support and Assist Clubs with their chosen priorities

For the past year, the club presidents have met monthly via Zoom to share what their club is doing and to invite other club's members to attend future events.

Each of the clubs has chosen a priority as follows: Yorton Club – Aging in the Right Place, Prince Albert Club – Homelessness/Housing, Saskatoon Club – Femicide. The connections are in place between each club's priority and the work being done on the resolutions and CFUW nationally. It is gratifying to participate in any way I can with the club members as they work together in these areas.

Raise the profile of CFUW in Sask. and throughout the Prairies.

We celebrated the annual provincial proclamation of Canadian Federation of University Women's Day on September 14th. Each club received a copy of the proclamation to be printed in local media.

Two of our CFUW SK members have been appointed to the University Senates in Regina and Saskatoon. Bilkies McKen and Johanna Bergman have had an active role in the affairs of each university throughout the year and provided reports to the Council.

We have completed the 2nd year of advertising province wide the CFUW New Beginnings Grant, which is offered to disadvantaged women to further their education. This is done using posters, newspapers, social media, in conjunction with SRNA (49 rural newspapers association in SK)

Plans are being made with the Prairie Regional Directors, chaired by Vice President Barbara Gustafson, for CFUW members to attend a Prairie Gathering in June/25.

Organizing Archives for future reference

This is still a goal to concentrate on; I have not progressed as I hoped to and would welcome contact with other RDs who have managed to have the CFUW club archives preserved.

RD Manitoba – Shelly McFayden

Manitoba has one club at present, UWCW (University Women's Club of Winnipeg). The position of RD Manitoba is currently filled by the CFUW Liaison for UWCW. Although Manitoba only has one Club, it is important to have an RD for Manitoba so Manitoba has presence and representation at CFUW meetings. At present, UWCW has approximately 70 CFUW members. Last year we had 68.

Winnipeg has played an important part in CFUW history with CFUW's founding meeting being held in Winnipeg. My goal for the past year has been to encourage the Club and individual members to utilize and interact more with CFUW. 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. Our Club's home is Ralph Conner House which, though a blessing, requires considerable time and attention. UWCW is a very active Club with social activities, fund raising events, programs, and many speakers to inform and educate members. This level of activity is very positive but presents a challenge to draw members' attention to CFUW.

My goal as Manitoba RD is to inform and encourage members of UWCW to utilize resources CFUW offers in areas including:

- Membership
- Advocacy
- Education

Communication between CFUW and UWCW is extremely important. CFUW communicates with myself and with our Club Co-Presidents. I provide written submissions each month to the UWCW Bulletin and written (and/or verbal) reports to monthly UWCW Board meetings as well as Current Issues & Actions Committee meetings. The Current Issues and Actions Committee (CIA) is the advocacy arm of the Club. I have been encouraging members of that Committee and the Club to receive and read the CFUW Club Action Newsletter. In UWCW Board and CIA Committee meetings as well as in our monthly Bulletin, I highlight some of the events and Zoom presentations offered by CFUW.

I am a member of the (Current Issues & Actions) CIA Committee and we will be offering a Conversation Circle to Club members to discuss this year's CFUW Resolutions in an effort to determine what our Club's position should be on them. The Resolutions will also be on the agenda of the UWCW AGM. The CIA Committee will be reviewing recommended actions on adopted Resolutions to determine which actions our Club will do.

My role as CFUW Liaison and RD for Manitoba has been active and challenging in the past year. I will be continuing to work toward more interaction between CFUW and UWCW in the next year. I have found my personal interaction with CFUW and fellow members across Canada to be very productive and enjoyable. I have participated in various Zoom presentations, interacted with RDs from across Canada and planned events with fellow Prairie CFUW members.

I look forward to a new year of challenges, productivity, and working with other CFUW members across Canada.

RD Ontario North - Wendy Taylor

CFUW Ontario Council report on the CFUW North Clubs. All six clubs in the North are functioning well and have had many exciting activities this year., including being recognized by their communities for their advocacy. The highlights of each club are below:

Muskoka

- Advocacy continues with promoting an official lowering of the temperature in writing, by our local government, to which they will commit officially to making sure all vulnerable persons have available access to a warm, indoor space when needed. They will meet again with local gov't soon with a presentation.

Thunder Bay

- CFUW Thunder Bay focused programming for both General Meetings and Advocacy Group meetings on the environment and the work of local non-profit groups. Increased networks at Lakehead University.
- The highlight was the publication of there OP-ED "*Who are we Willing to let Die*" Members were thrilled to be the winner of the National contest for OP-ED's

North Bay

- Senator Mary Janet McCallum was the guest at the January meeting. Her inspiring talk resulted in a \$500 one-time scholarship for a candidate at Nipissing College in Indigenous Teacher Education Program. This will be given to a woman who demonstrates kindness, compassion and ethics.
- North Bay again contributed 60 books to the local school and read with the students who received the books.

Orillia

- CFUW Orillia is thriving with 115+ active
- Celebrating our 70th Anniversary with a yearlong celebration. A committee was formed with 16 current members who are past presidents to organize the celebrations.
- Advocacy efforts this year focused on educating our members about Menstrual Inequity/Period Poverty.
- CFUW Orillia submitted a resolution to Ontario Council entitled The Funding Crisis in Post-Secondary Education in Ontario.
- CFUW Orillia Education Foundation will award up to \$46,000 in scholarships to young women from our local community pursuing post-secondary education.

Haliburton Highlands

- 114 members
- Donation of \$2280 to HERS (April)
- Participation in 3 Santa Parades
- Led December 6th Vigil
- Leader appreciation event planned for June. Grant monies of \$175 received for this event

Sudbury

- CFUW Sudbury welcomed 17 new members.
- We have been mentoring new members via coffee cafés.
- CFUW, Sudbury has two special passions, which are probably distinctive from other CFUW clubs. Once again, this spring, we will welcome an author for our signature fundraising event; Celebrate Women. (Proceeds shared with Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, and our local YWCA).
- Through the diligence of a subgroup, Adopt-A-Family, now in its 21st year, we have raised over \$250,000 for hundreds of deserving families at Christmas.
- In April 2024, CFUW Sudbury and the Adopt-A-Family Program received a City of Greater Sudbury Civic award.

RD Ontario West – Eman El Halies

Priority

My primary focus this year as Regional Director for Ontario West has been to serve as an effective liaison between our regional clubs and CFUW National. This includes helping elevate the voices of Ontario West clubs while ensuring they remain informed and engaged with national-level initiatives. I have relied on several resources to accomplish this, including the CFUW Action News, RD Standing Committee meetings, National updates, and Ontario Council communications.

Actions

Throughout the year, I have shared updates from National, Ontario Council, and other CFUW clubs with Ontario West members. I've helped disseminate important information about advocacy campaigns, awards, resolution deadlines, training opportunities, and AGM updates. When appropriate, I have highlighted the unique achievements of Ontario West clubs at the national level to ensure their work is visible and celebrated.

Additionally, I provided support and encouragement for inter-club collaboration, particularly in advocacy, student engagement, and hosting public events. I also attended club meetings, regional events, and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW68), where I had the opportunity to connect with other CFUW representatives across Canada.

Evaluation

While I have not used a formal tool to evaluate my efforts as RD, I've maintained consistent engagement with club leaders via email, presentations at meetings, and informal check-ins. I use both direct feedback and club engagement levels as indicators of impact. The ongoing participation of clubs in advocacy projects, their openness to collaboration, and their strong contributions to CFUW's goals have been a testament to the strength of our region. I look forward to continuing to serve and support our clubs through a second year of listening, learning, and leading.

RD Ontario South – Christine Marks and Joyce See

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

This has been a transition year for the Regional Director for Ontario South with Christine Marks transitioning into the role with Joyce See as a mentor. Ontario South is made up of ten clubs in the western GTA and Niagara Peninsula. We have both enjoyed continuing to get to know the club presidents and the advocacy leads.

Clubs in Ontario South have continued to manage challenges of recruitment of new members and fulfillment of leadership positions. Most clubs have continued to embrace some variation of hybrid meeting models to create opportunities for fellowship while fostering environments of ***“Women Leading Change”***.

Combining two of the priorities identified in prior reports, we continued the tradition of regularly meeting online with club presidents and others in leadership. We prioritized strengthening the connections between the clubs of our region by celebrating their successes, and by working out solutions to their challenges together. We are looking forward to a luncheon for both Presidents and incoming Presidents in Burlington, Ontario, June 17th.

A digest of this year’s highlights. **Brantford** created a new Procedures Manual and will celebrate its 80th anniversary with a lovely dinner soon. **Burlington** updated their Constitution, is updating their website, and maintained their scholarship fund despite challenges with membership. **Georgetown** found many creative ways to fundraise and partnered with the community on advocacy initiatives while raising awareness of their club. **Grimsby**, a relatively small club, enjoyed such success with fundraising that it was able to boost its scholarships. **Hamilton**, soon celebrating its 100th anniversary with a banquet, was the screen sponsor for a documentary “Unfinished Journey” and raised funds for several new community initiatives. **Milton & District** enjoyed a large membership increase while also increasing their presence in the community and putting forward a national resolution (with Perth). **Oakville**, a club with almost 230 members, celebrated their 75th anniversary with a display in the community centre and made membership knowledge of the workings of Ontario Council and National a priority. **St. Catharines**, focused on connecting members to each other and to the club, and trialed a brand-new fundraiser called “Drawn to Niagara” that exceeded its fundraising goal while increasing the club’s profile in the community. **Welland**, very active with under 40 members is the model for advocating especially during the 16 Days, also managed to increase existing robust scholarship offerings. **Mississauga** kept

membership numbers steady by switching meetings to the afternoon and by offering courses on Mah Jong and bridge. Mississauga's scholarship team decided that their awards will go to girls aging out of foster care and wishing to pursue higher education and this has been much appreciated by Peel Children's Aid.

RD Ontario Central - Marg Esaw

Ontario Central Clubs: Ajax/Pickering, Aurora/Newmarket, Barrie and District, Etobicoke, Leaside/East York, Markham/Unionville, North Toronto, Northumberland, Oshawa and District, Scarborough, North York, Toronto

This year has been promising. I kept my communications with my Clubs to a minimum and had two successful Zoom meetings with the majority of Clubs in attendance.

November 14- I wanted Clubs to know about the survey from National, the Speaker Series from Ontario Council, the Monday Membership Moments and our new Members Drive.

January 30-Some of the Clubs were now familiar with National's new website and had attended MMM.

We shared the takeaways as well as our own unique strategies for recruitment, retention, and filling leadership roles.

Clubs did contact me when questions/issues arise:

- Scholarship requirements, issuing tax receipts, slide shows for a presentation in Resource Hub, where to find the results from National's survey, as well as issues with respectful treatment amongst members.
- Clubs continue to be proud of the work that they do and recognize that they fulfill a very important role. Loneliness and isolation, especially for older women is a concern and I've heard this repeatedly from members of my own Club.

RD Ontario Huron – Elisabeth Sachs

Ontario's Huron Region has 4 Clubs which include the urban areas of the Towns of Kincardine, Orangeville, Owen Sound, Southport and surrounding, primarily rural, districts.

2024-2025 membership remained steady from the prior year: Headwaters - 83; Kincardine and District - 34;

Owen Sound and District – 64; and Southport -112.

PRIMARY CHALLENGES

1. Attracting a diverse demographic for future membership sustainability;
2. Executive succession planning;
3. Facilitate advocacy and resolution development
4. Promoting communication with clubs on social media initiatives and about Ontario Council and National Board activities.

PRIORITY	ACTION	EVALUATION
Attract a diverse membership demographic	Facilitate interaction with women's working/ business/ community group(s) in club catchment area. Publicize scholarship opportunities.	Ongoing. Facilitated sharing of materials; speaking/meetings/events held with clubs and public. Election candidate panels held under Club auspices.
Executive succession planning	Share executive models in use at other clubs and initiate discussions.	Ongoing. Information exchange of succession models. Workshop planning in progress.
Facilitate inter club advocacy and partnership initiatives	Communicate advocacy and potential partnership activities among clubs and with other community groups and propose interactive options.	Ongoing. ZOOM or in person meetings held as needed. Assist with resolutions development as requested.

Communication with clubs on web site, social media initiatives & information sharing with Ontario Council and National.	Be a channel for club newsletters and activities to other regional clubs and OC. Ensure club executives are trained on National communication channels.	Facilitated club executives joining OC and National mailing lists. <i>ZOOM</i> meetings, newsletters, events notices exchanged/shared by e-mail. Responded to questions as needed.
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RD Quebec English – Judy Hopps

- The support of education remains the number one priority of all the Quebec Clubs. Over \$150,000 in support of scholarships was awarded to students in 2024-25. In addition, some clubs are engaged in outreach to partners in our sector by supporting other local causes, such as food banks, homeless shelters, and youth. A total of \$15,725 was donated.
- In reviewing the Club Reports, Our Quebec Clubs are healthy with clubs returning to pre-Covid activities. Club leadership continues to be a challenge in some of the clubs; fortunately, past presidents have stepped in to fill the temporary vacancies. I have also encouraged Club Executives to have members shadow positions by inviting potential candidates to their Executive meetings.
- All clubs are focused on raising awareness and building their profiles in their respective communities. Some are beginning to use LinkedIn and Instagram, and all have a Facebook page. The fact that our clubs collectively have 36 new members demonstrates that their efforts are making a difference.
- I continue to send out information to our Quebec Club Presidents with pertinent information received at our National RD meetings as well as drawing their attention to items in Club Action News. I encourage all Club Executives to subscribe to Club Action News.
- I have provided information to the English Club Presidents on graphics for new club banners. Three clubs have now produced new banners with the new CFUW branding.
- Unfortunately, the amount of snow fall and unpredictable weather this past winter has prevented me from attending in-person meetings of Montreal clubs. I have attended several of the CFUW Sherbrooke & District General Meetings as well as assisted with the identification of potential Executive members. In addition, I presented at their New Members reception to talk about CFUW and GWI.

- My duties also include the preparation of agendas and serving as Chair of the Fall and Spring meetings of Quebec Council of CFUW.
- I am always available to Club Presidents for advice, assistance and to provide help on a variety of topics relevant to our clubs. I will endeavour to attend more of the Club's General Meetings in 2025-2026.

RD Nova Scotia - Anne McInnis

Clubs: Wolfville (president), Halifax, Cape Breton

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

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

1. **Raise awareness of CFUW as a club** – we had some success with this in the Wolfville Club where we invited the public to our two panel discussions (September and January), increased the

number of followers on Facebook, and expanded our website to include links to our monthly newsletters. I discussed this topic of raising awareness with the Cape Breton Club.

2. **Communicate with clubs on a regular basis and share between clubs** – I have been in contact with the Halifax Club and the Cape Breton Club. I attended a zoom meeting of the Halifax Club and found the club to be vibrant and humming along with a variety of projects. I spoke with the president of the Cape Breton Club, and she seemed interested in setting up a Facebook page for the club. I wanted to visit this club in April but life intervened so I will have to make that visit in the coming year. I shared information that was shared at RD meetings with both clubs.
3. **Encourage/feature advocacy role of club** – at my club in Wolfville, our focus was advocating for the unhoused. To this end, we had a panel called “Homeless No More” featuring experts in January. We participated in the Coldest Night of the Year to raise money for the unhoused and the Advocacy Committee met with town planners and other involved people to discuss how we could help them in our desire to advocate strategically.
4. **Visit other clubs** – as mentioned above, I attended one meeting of the Halifax Club and I am aiming to visit the Cape Breton Club when the weather is good.
5. **Club Newsletters** – I learned how to post my club’s newsletters on our CFUW Wolfville website, and it is working well. I hope to learn more about the other clubs’ newsletters so that I can see how they send their newsletters out.

RD Prince Edward Island – Gail Scott

The Charlottetown Club has been a small, but consistent and persistent Club over the last year. We have seen many changes in our membership and especially our leadership positions.

The highlight of our year was celebrating our 70th year as a Club. In addition, we celebrated one of our last surviving founding members, Lucille Hogg. Hogg, along with 24 other women established the Club in 1955. A celebration dinner was held at the Charlottetown Hotel and Lucille and members of her family joined us along with Michelle Harris-Genge, Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat. The event was covered by Georgian College journalism student, Chandani Saud, who interviewed Hogg at her home and the article was published in our local paper, The Guardian.

The Charlottetown Club continues to provide annual donations to the PEI Music Festival and the Memorial Fund for the École Polytechnique Tragedy (Montreal Massacre). This year the Charlottetown Club was able to expand on their scholarship fund at UPEI to include four \$5000.00 scholarships. One for each of a student of Arts; a student of science; a student of climate action; and one for a mature woman returning to university. In addition to these formal donations, at our annual Christmas gathering,

members of the Club donated much needed personal items for women at the local women's shelter (Blooming House).

The Charlottetown Club has seen some significant changes over the course of the last year. We have bid farewell to our past president, Valerie Campbell, and introduced a new slate of executive leads, including:

President – Wendy Maxwell

Treasurer – Olive Bryanton (Membership Committee)

Secretary – Gail Scott (Status of Women Committee & Regional Director)

The strategic plan for the Charlottetown Club will focus on climate change activities as well as membership development over the next year.

RD Newfoundland and Labrador - Gerri Downey

PRIORITY

CFUW NL has one club, CFUW St. John's, membership 96-100. My priority this year has been to be an effective conduit between our St. John's club and clubs in ARC (Atlantic Regional Council) and CFUW National. Resources I used were CFUW Action News, ARC and RD Standing Committee meetings and reports and the CFUW National Facebook page.

ACTIONS

I have forwarded pertinent information about ARC clubs and their issues and activities to our St. John's club so as to raise the visibility of those clubs here, shared with ARC information about our guest speakers, outreach programs, scholarship awards, advocacy efforts, membership recruitment and retention, our visibility in the community, our long standing connection to Memorial University and exchanged ARC club reports and activities with our club here.

I have promoted to our club information about presentations, study groups, national and international items gleaned from Action News, the National Facebook page, ARC communications, the new Members Drive training sessions and information from my attendance at ARC and Standing Committee monthly meetings.

EVALUATION

I have not used any particular tool to evaluate my RD efforts but have made use of the St. John's



815 St. Laurent Blvd.
Suite 230, Ottawa, ON, K1K 3A7

'Members Only' Facebook group and our public Facebook page, the News and Notices monthly club email, spoken at committee level and monthly club meetings. A number of our club members attended ARC's Fall Gathering and I will be informing our membership personally about ARC's AGM in May.

Resolutions Committee – Margaret Therrien and Wendy Taylor

Margaret Therrien and Wendy Taylor Co-Chairs CFUW Resolutions Committee

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

Consultant: Kenzie Zimmer, CFUW National Advocacy and Policy Specialist

Resolutions adopted since June 2024 Report:

At the 2024 Policy Session eight resolutions were adopted. Those were: Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions I, Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions II, Archiving CFUW Adopted Resolutions Identified for Combining, Combined CFUW Adopted Resolutions, Restore and Preserve Canada's Peatlands, Preserving Deep Sea Ecosystems, Ageing in Place: Resources for all Canadians to Age at Home and in Community Settings and Incentives to Adopt Current Standards for Long-Term Care.

September – November 2024:

In early September, the Resolutions Information and Guidelines was revised and submitted for Board approval prior to publishing. In revising the Guidelines schedule, consideration was given to lengthening the time that the Resolutions Committee had to review both the Intents and the Resolutions and providing more time for Clubs to review Resolutions during the amendment process.

Committee members met by Zoom on October 1 for introductions of the new committee and to discuss the scope of the Committee work for 2024-25. Google Docs training was provided by Kenzie Zimmer which was particularly advantageous for Committee members who had not used this means of communication previously. Based on the Resolutions Process and Schedule, dates were identified for future Resolutions Committee meetings.

Prior to the deadline for Intent Submission, committee members interacted with Clubs or Committees indicating an interest in submitting a resolution this year. Following the Intent Submission of November 1, the Resolutions Committee met on November 12 to discuss the Intents. All seven were examined to confirm the Intents were national in nature and to ensure that CFUW did not already have an adopted resolution on the subject. All were accepted although the intent titled Strengthening Support for Individuals and Pets Fleeing Domestic Violence did require a rewrite for clarification. Proposers were

advised by email and were also advised that the Resolution Committee members were available to answer questions and to provide assistance when requested.

2025 Resolutions:

All seven Intents submitted went on to be developed into resolutions for submission at the 2025 Policy Session. These are:

Resolution 1 – CFUW Milton and District and CFUW Perth and District

Addressing Period Poverty and Menstrual Inequality in Canada

Resolution 2 – Advocacy Standing Committee

Expanding Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

Resolution 3 - Advocacy Standing Committee

Safeguarding 2SLGBTQ Rights

Resolution 4 – CFUW Prince George

Strengthening the Awareness and Safekeeping of Individuals and Their

Animals Experiencing Domestic Violence

Resolution 5 - Advocacy Standing Committee - Environment and Climate Change Sub-Committee

Equitable Phase Out of Fossil Fuels

Resolution 6 - Advocacy Standing Committee – Adopted Resolution Book Review Sub-Committee

Archiving Select CFUW Adopted Resolutions

Resolution 7 - Advocacy Standing Committee

Affirming Housing as a Human Right and Social Good

February – April 2025:

Resolutions including Resolved Clauses, Background, Implementation and Bibliography were received by the Resolutions Committee by January 30. The Committee met by Zoom to discuss these resolutions. Several suggestions to improve the Resolution Resolved Clauses were emailed to each Proposer for consideration prior to submitting their revised resolutions on February 22.

On March 7 a Special Newsletter on Resolutions was made available to Clubs requesting a review of each of the seven resolutions and recommending emphasis on the Resolved Clauses. Clubs can submit amendments using an online form until April 30.

In discussing the Amendment Process it was identified that a Zoom meeting with the Resolutions Committee and Resolution Proposers would provide clarification regarding the amendment responses required by the Proposers. This meeting, held on March 27, 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 2025:

Preparations are underway for the Proposers and Amenders Workshop scheduled for May 29. A Special Newsletter on the Revised Resolutions will be available on May 23 with the final Resolution versions completed by June 5 for publishing in the Policy Session Booklet. On July 8 there will be a practice session for the Proposers and Resolutions Committee in preparation for the July 13 Policy Session.

Acknowledgements:

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



Charitable Trust's Treasurer – Ruth Weaver

In 2024, the Canadian economy continued to adjust to elevated interest rates and moderating inflation. The Bank of Canada maintained its policy rate at 5.00% through the first half of the year. As inflation gradually declined, the BoC began a series of rate cuts later in the year. The U.S. Federal Reserve adopted a similar stance. The BoC has signaled a cautious, data-dependent approach going forward amid ongoing global and domestic uncertainties.

Equity markets were once again driven by strong performance in large-cap U.S. technology firms. The portfolio remains within the target ranges set by the Investment Policy Statement. As of April 30, the allocation is approximately 5% underweight equities and overweight fixed income, reflecting our view that policy-related risks may not yet be fully reflected in equity valuations.

The fixed income allocation includes a diversified mix of GICs, government and corporate bonds, and preferred shares. We increased exposure to high-quality short-duration bonds and reduced holdings in lower-quality preferred shares to mitigate volatility. High Interest Savings Accounts continue to offer competitive yields, and dividend income is reinvested monthly.

Equity holdings are diversified across sectors and geographies, with a focus on high-quality Canadian and U.S. companies. In late 2024, we made adjustments to reduce concentrated positions and enhance overall diversification. Our funds are managed by Erin Gendron, Cross Point Financial, IA Private Wealth.

Financial Statements can be found on the Charitable Trust website: <https://cfuwcharitabletrust.ca/>

For more information, please email treasurer@cfuwcharitabletrust.ca



DONOR RECOGNITION

(May 2024-April 2025)

CFUW Charitable Trust is grateful to the many Organizations, Individuals and Clubs who have contributed to the Charitable Trust. Several Clubs also collected and forwarded donations from individuals.

The Trust thanks all of our donors for their generous contributions over the past year. The Trust also received a significant bequest from the Ann McCormack Estate. There were several donations but only individuals who have provided permission are listed. We would like to acknowledge the following donors.

Individuals

Acemian	Nancy
Archbold	Marian
Arnott	Helen
Atkinson	Patricia
Birrell	Irene
Brian	Imogen
Bristol	Marlene
Campbell	Terry Anne
Christie	Eleanor
Claridge	Unni S.
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Organizations

Estate of Ann McCormack
Estate of Derek Anthony Massey
Estate of Margaret Knox (Peggy) Matheson
Lytton Park Residents Organization

Clubs

CFUW Abbotsford
CFUW Hamilton
CFUW BC Council AGM-2024
CFUW Coquitlam
CFUW Edmonton
CFUW Markham
CFUW Milton & District
CFUW Milton & District Scholarship Fund
CFUW Moncton
CFUW Nanaimo
CFUW North Vancouver
CFUW Oakville
CFUW Orillia
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