Thursday, June 6
Opening Ceremonies, sponsored by Vancouver Council of Women (VCW), were held at a heritage house, called Hycroft, owned by the University Women’s Club of Vancouver (UWCV). The original owner was Alexander Duncan McRae and it is located in the South Granville, Shaughnessy area of the city. The house was built in 1908 and McRae gave up ownership in the early 40’s. It was a convalescent hospital for a while and then had fallen into severe disrepair before the UWCV bought it in 1962. At the time the club purchased it, women could not obtain mortgages; so they had to come up with the cash.

NCWC members and friends travelled to the house by bus with a tour of the area and commentary by Barbara Hall, President of PCWBC. On arrival, everyone was served hors d’oeuvres and drinks while a trombone trio called the Vancouver Brass Project played under the direction of Andrew Poirier. Greetings were brought by Louise Corrall, President of the UWCV, and Gwen Smith, President of the VCW, made some announcements. Everyone was then treated to a medley of songs by the UWCV choral group, the Hycroft Singers, directed by Donalda Falconer and accompanied on the piano by Patricia Stark, cookie-maker extraordinaire. Denise Mattok, President of the NCWC included in her remarks some history of Lady Aberdeen. Individuals then toured the house and convened in the dining room for the cutting of the cake by Ms Mattok and Rani Gupta, Past-President of the VCW. Barbara Hall read greetings from Premier Christy Clark, Mayor Gregor Robertson and others. She introduced Jill Worobec, a VP of BPW International who said a few words. Everyone then returned to the hotel by bus.

Friday, June 7
President Denise Mattok met with the Presidents of Local and Provincial Councils over breakfast, where they discussed their problems and successes.

The First Plenary began at 9:01 am in the Kintyre Room with President Denise Mattok presiding and VP of the session being Carol Schweitzer. After the moment of silence Denise Mattok read greetings from the President of ICW. The technician, Malcolm Mallory, was introduced and it was noted that there were 6 observers. Appointments for the AGM were as follows: Parliamentarian – Karen Dempsey, Time Keeper – Lois Dick, Scrutineers – Marjorie Henry and Rosemary Mallory, Minutes Recorder – Mary Potter assisted by Carol Schweitzer, Marjorie Windeler, and Denise Nahirney (tape recorder). The Standing Rules for the AGM were read by the President.

Motion #1 To adopt the Standing Rules as read.
Moved by: Rani Gupta Seconded by: Carla Kozak Carried

Motion #2 To adopt the agenda as written.
Moved by: Rosemary Mallory Seconded by: Rani Gupta Carried

Motion #3 To adopt the Minutes of the 2012 AGM.
Moved by: Mary Potter Seconded by: Gracia Janes Carried

It was requested that people submit names of deceased members to Arlene Draffin Jones for the In Memoriam on Sunday morning.

Credentials Count: NOS – 1, PCW – 6, LCW – 10, Directors, Conveners & Study Groups – 17, Life Members – 8, Individual and Student Members – 3 for a total count of 240.
The President pointed out that there was an evaluation form at the back of the docket; everyone should give her name when speaking; committee motions don’t need seconders.
President, Vice-President and Convener Reports

The President noted that the Board has made a real effort to be transparent this year. Fundraising was not as healthy as hoped. It was difficult to engage the NOSs without office staff. Carol Schweitzer and Margaret Ford worked hard this year. The Common Program will continue as Women and Mental Health.

Carol Schweitzer, VP Administration, pointed out that there were handouts of brochures and newsletters available as well as Mindr Mobile cards.

Carla Kozak, VP Economics, pointed out the job problems.

Gracia Janes, VP Environment, noted that the International Institute for Sustainable Development was helping with the Experimental Lakes Area. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission seems to control all of the nuclear decisions. She is fearful of the Pickering Nuclear Station being on a fault line.

Arlene Draffin Jones, VP Justice, stated that the federal government is stressing crime and punishment and building more prisons instead of doing prevention. There is an aging population in prisons and there are untreated mental health issues e.g. Ashley Smith. NCWC should continue pressure regarding murdered and missing women.

Carla Kozak noted that many women in prison have mental health issues and are getting no treatment. She asked that the President send a letter to the government on our policy regarding mental health. Sharon Taylor, President of PCWM, noted that mental health treatment for provincial inmates is even less than federal inmates and 80% of women in prison are on remand.

Thelma McGillivray, VP Social Development, had nothing to add to her report.

Rosemary Mallory, Convener of Citizenship and Immigration, visited Korea for the ICW Triennial Meeting on behalf of NCWC.

Cheryl Braganza, Convener of Culture and Heritage, noted that the arts can be used as a tool for change. Her art was used on the cover of the book "Women in a Globalizing World". She had bookmarks available for everyone.

Karen Dempsey, Convener Economic Issues, had nothing to add to her report.

Kelly-Ann Stevenson, Convener Employment, noted the high rate of youth unemployment at 14%. There are going to be more jobs developed by the government. Michelle Jickling wondered if self-employment was considered in the statistics and Kelly-Ann Stevenson thought not.

Florence Erwin, Convener of Environment, had a handout on salmon farming and disease for everyone. She reported that genetically modified salmon is reproduced with trout.

Patricia Leson, Convener of Social Issues, stated that the root of all social issues is poverty. A deprivation index has been put into place in some provinces. The federal government needs to have an action plan to reduce poverty.

Virginia Schweitzer, Constitution Convener, had nothing to add to her report.

Mary Potter, Minutes Convener, had nothing to add to her report.

Mary Scott, Nominations Convener, read the nominations report noting that Margaret Ford will continue on as Treasurer until a new Treasurer is found. She also announced that names had been submitted for consideration by the Board for the positions of Convener of Justice and Legislation and Convener of Youth. She has put forward a name for a new UN representative.
Kelly-Ann Stevenson noted that the convenerships of Economics and Employment were being put under one convener and wondered if the convenerships would be kept separate or combined.

The President thanked Mary Scott for representing NCWC at the United Nations at her own expense.

Mary Potter, Resolutions Convener, referred to motions brought to the floor last year, the first being that guidelines for resolution writing be established and circulated. She sent out guidelines with the memo in September and asked for feedback. Comments included: some people did not know some of the short forms, e.g. PU; representatives should come to the AGM to put forth their arguments. The other motion was to use Plain Language policy in resolutions; Mary Potter had a handout explaining the difference. Comments included: label the old Whereas statements as “rationale”; the wording “adopts as policy” sounds like a done deal; should we be using insider terms; put what you are going to do first and then the reasons why; keep Whereas and Resolved because they are not complicated words; the old format is clearer. After discussion the following motion was made:

Motion #4: That the Plain Language report be sent back to Committee for further consideration and report back with recommendations at the AGM 2014.
Moved by: Kelly-Ann Stevenson Seconded by: Vivianne Silver Carried

After the refreshment break the President announced the new nominations to be added to the list of Standing Study Convener: Health Convener – Sandra Cohen Rose, Justice and Legislation Convener – Marilyn McGonigle. Youth Convener – Saffina Jinnah.

Refreshment breaks were sponsored by the BPWBC, VCW and New Westminster CW.

Muriel Smith, Convener for Federally Sentenced Women, reported that statistically the number of women in contact with the law is increasing more than men, with an increase in violent crime. The Elizabeth Fry Society has been contracted to run half-way houses but the government is not giving the Society autonomy.

Mary Scott, United Nations Representative, invited others to attend the United Nations since NCWC can have up to 20 delegates. Many people from all over the world have looked at the blog she created about the UN. It is important that NCWC participate at the UN. Action Canada for Population and Development issued a press release about the Federal Government actively blocking the passing of resolutions on sexual assault at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Mary Scott, Women, Peace and Security Representative, had nothing to add to her report.

Motion #5 That NCWC send a letter to the Prime Minister and opposition leaders plus a press release regarding our strong concern about Canada’s blocking efforts to address violence against women at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.
Moved by: Arlene Draffin Jones Seconded by: Thelma McGillivray Carried

Local and Provincial Council Reports
Edmonton Council – Carla Kozak announced that they have started a new program of multiculturalism in which they promote similarities. They tour houses of worship asking “How does your house of worship reflect your philosophy?”

Montreal Council – Sandra Cohen Rose announced that the new president is Vivianne Silver. They celebrate a Woman of the Year. This year MCW is celebrating 120 years with several special events. The Council is fighting against the Quebec language laws and trying to protect the English minority.

New Westminster Council – Florence Erwin announced that Dorothy Beach was coming the next day. She is 100 years old.
Ottawa Council – Petra Friedrichson had nothing new to add.

Prince Albert Council – Patricia Leson reported that they have more new members who are interested in national and international issues. They have focused on mentoring women and had a meeting with 100 women. They have continued on with Celebrating Women where they honour women in the community. They are also having a garden tour.

St. Catharines Council – Gracia Janes had nothing new to add.

Toronto Council – Thelma McGillivray reported that they are updating their archival material to write a book.

Saskatoon Council – Ruth Robinson reported that she had their Hall of Fame pictures with her. Their Women and Mental Health program was well attended.

Vancouver Council – Rani Gupta thanked those who helped to organize the AGM.

Winnipeg Council – Arlene Draffin Jones reported that they belong to OUR (Outdoor Urban Recreation Area). The city was planning to sell off green spaces for condos and LCWW made a presentation to city council against it. The plan to sell off the green spaces was defeated. They had three sessions on mental health. Winnipeg has established an emergency room for mental health patients with 24 hour admittance.

British Columbia Council – Barbara Hall had nothing new to add.

Alberta Council – Carla Kozak had nothing new to add.

Manitoba Council - Sharon Taylor reported that they are working on a strategic plan, writing a manual regarding resolutions, updating their website, and making their archives digital.

Ontario Council – Mary Potter reported that they are celebrating their 90th birthday this year and organized a tea with the Lieutenant Governor. 70 people came out to the tea but only 20 stayed for the meeting.

Saskatchewan Council – Ruth Robinson had nothing new to add.

Quebec Council – Marjorie Windeler reported that Quebec has a small membership. They discuss the resolutions with MCW. They will also be joining MCW regarding the Anglo-French problem.

Nationally Organized Societies
Salvation Army – Betty Raine reported that 190 women attended Camp Sunrise. They also help women learn new skills so they can enter the workforce. They have exercise classes with information on how to lead a healthy life for co-ed classes and seniors.

There was a comment that only 7 groups of NOSs sent in reports. The VP Administration called 19 NOSs and 3 said that they couldn’t send one. There were more reports this year than usual.

NCWC Development Organization Annual General Meeting and Luncheon
After a buffet lunch, Rosemary Mallory spoke of the NCWCDO as an outreach of NCWC. The business meeting took place including the election of the Board of Directors. Arlene Draffin Jones acted as Chairperson in place of Bonnie Stamos Destounis.

Second Plenary
The Second Plenary began at 1:40 p.m. with Carla Kozak as VP of the session.
The credentials were established as follows: NOS 1, POS – 6, LCW – 10, Directors, Conveners and Study Groups – 17, Life Members – 8, Individual and Student Members – 3 for total vote count of 240.

Constitution Committee
Virginia Schweitzer, Convener of the Constitution Committee went through the Notice of Motion. Motions were made for the Constitution Committee by V. Schweitzer. The following changes were proposed for the By-Laws:

Article VI – Directors, Section 2: Board of Directors, (iv) Treasurer
a. The responsibilities of the Treasurer shall be:
bullet 5
   • having the Financial Statements audited or reviewed yearly by an independent accountant and presenting the Financial Statements to the AGM.

Motion #6: That the change be accepted.
   Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

Article VIII Meetings, Section 1: NCWC Annual conference and Annual General Meeting
(ii) Business at the AGM shall include:
bullet 7
   • Receipt of Financial Statements

Motion #7: That the change be accepted.
   Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

Article VIII Meetings, Section 1: NCWC Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting
(v) For rules not covered in the By-Laws or Standing Rules, refer to Bourinots’s Rules of Order.

Motion #8 That the change be accepted.
   Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

Article VIII Meetings, Section 3: Board of Directors
Directors shall meet at least four (4) times a year either in person or by teleconference. Notice of the Meeting shall be given at least two (2) weeks in advance. Other meetings may be called at the request of the President or on the written request of five (5) members of the Board.

Motion #9 That the change be accepted.
   Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

Article IX Nominations and Elections, Section 1: Duties of Nominations Convener
The Board shall appoint a Nominations Convener who shall convene a committee for the purpose of:
(iv) carrying out the pre-AGM or post-AGM procedure for the election of a First Vice-President from amongst Vice-Presidents, should the need arise.

Motion #10 That the change be accepted.
   Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

Article X Finance, Section 1: General
(iv) Financial Statements
There shall be an audit or review of the Financial Statements at the end of each fiscal year.

Motion #11 That the change be accepted.
   Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried
The changes to the Standing Rules are as follows:

Article VII Committees, Section 1, D Terms of Reference

(i) **Citizenship, Immigration and Global Affairs**
   The Convener and her committee shall:
   a. follow policy at present in the NCWC books, and work towards introducing policy to cover multi-faceted meaning of Citizenship, Immigration and Global Affairs;
   b. study immigrant/refugee women and children and their integration into the community;
   c. familiarize themselves with the democratic process as it pertains to women and children world-wide;
   d. take a proactive stance encouraging women to participate in their communities by seeking elected office or positions on organizations that formulate public policy.

(ii) **Culture and Heritage** (no change)

Friendly amendment: to insert *children* wherever it talks about women and employment.

(iii) **Economic and Employment Issues**
   The Convener and her committee shall:
   a. look at all aspects of women/children in the workforce;
   b. promote an ethical framework for all persons in the workplace, with attention directed to the matter of benefits for contractual and part-time workers;
   c. promote fair and progressive labour conditions;
   d. be aware of the need for fast movement on matters of Trade and Trends such as globalization;
   e. study and report on how changes may particularly affect women/children, the family and the community at large;
   f. study and report on items such as economic trends, taxation policies and pensions;
   g. assist the Finance Committee in preparation of briefs and submissions.

Delete (iii) Economic Issues

Delete (iv) Employment

(iv) **Environment** (no change)

Delete (vi) Global Affairs

(v) **Health** (no change)

(vi) **Justice and Legislation** (no change)

(vii) **Social and Senior Issues**
   The Convener and her committee shall:
   a. endeavour to keep aware of the unmet needs of children, families and individuals;
   b. advocate and advance issues to improve the lives of seniors, dealing with concerns such as the elimination of elder abuse, the provision of affordable housing and adequate income, the promotion of healthy living, etc.
   c. advocate for the improvement of social conditions.

Delete (ix) Seniors Issues

Delete (x) Social Issues

(viii) **Status of Women**
   The Convener and her committee shall:
   a. ensure an integrated approach in the work of Council to address women’s equality
b. monitor and create awareness within Council and the wider community of issues related to women's equality and respond to Government of Canada initiatives thereof

c. make recommendations to the Board concerning actions to be taken as well as initiate to promote women's equality including providing advice to ensure that Policy is current.

(ix) Youth (no change)

Motion #12 That the Changes to the Standing Rules be approved.
Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

Treasurer's Report
Margaret Ford explained that NCWC is drawing down on its Foundation Fund leaving a lower amount each year. She noted that the Board is asking Local Councils to donate money to NCWC each year. To balance this year's budget (2013-2014), NCWC will need $17,000 from the Foundation Fund. Ms Ford thanked those who had helped her and she will stay on as treasurer until a new one is found.

In regard to the charges against a former employee, NCWC is out $55,000 which it will never get back. Last November the former employee was charged with child abduction and spent some time in jail. The cases will be heard together this fall (NCWC opposes combining them). NCWC is still pressing charges and will give a victim impact statement in court.

NCWC is still purging materials with the help of a student. Conference calls are not expensive but the Board can look into using Skype.

NCWC continues to try to sell Celebrating Women paintings. In a second contract with the painter, she reserved 2 original paintings and took back 80% of the merchandise. She still receives 45% of the sale of paintings. In November NCWC sent two paintings to an auctioneer but they didn't sell. NCWC now has to negotiate with the painter about the cost of the paintings; NCWC may need to hire a lawyer concerning this.

There was a suggestion to send the paintings to galleries but it is expensive to ship them and this needs human resources. It was also suggested that they be listed on the website.

The Treasurer noted that NCWC has borrowed $6,200 already from the Foundation Fund for this year and will need $17,000 more this year.

Motion #13 That the Financial Statements be approved.
Moved by: Margaret Ford Seconded by: Carol Schweitzer Carried

Motion #14 That the Financial Reviewer be decided by the Board at the November Meeting when there is a new treasurer and that the reviewer be in the same city as the Treasurer.
Moved by: Margaret Ford Seconded by: Rosemary Mallory Carried

Motion #15 That the budget for 2013-2014 be approved.
Moved by: Margaret Ford Seconded by: Carol Schweitzer Carried

Motion #16 That up to $17,000 be transferred from the Reserve Fund and the Foundation Fund to the Operating Fund.
Moved by: Margaret Ford Seconded by: Gracia Janes Carried

The President thanked Ms. Ford for her work in a difficult role.

The credentials were established after the break:
The President stated that she had received a letter from the Salvation Army saying that they could not support any of the resolutions this year. The letter and NCWC’s response is on the side table.

Kelly-Ann Stevenson announced that there were postcards, produced by Amnesty International, available to be sent to the Prime Minister regarding Aboriginal Women.

Motion #17 That Bourinot’s Rules of Order be used during this Annual General Meeting of NCWC from this point on. (Friday 4:00 p.m.)

Moved by: Virginia Schweitzer Carried

Mary Potter chaired the Resolutions discussion. She explained that the Resolutions Committee chose the amendments submitted which they thought improved the resolution, but other amendments which were submitted could be brought forward. Motions were made for the Resolutions Committee by M. Potter.

Emerging Issue Resolution – Health Care for Refugees
Ms. Potter read the rationale for accepting the resolution as an emerging issue.

Motion #18 That the Emerging Issue Resolution “Health Care for Refugees” be accepted for debate.

Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

1. Facilitating Nutritious Food Choices
Motion #19 That Resolution #1 be accepted.

Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

1. FACILITATING NUTRITIOUS FOOD CHOICES

Whereas #1 obesity, diabetes and heart disease in both adults and children are huge and growing problems in Canada brought on largely by the consumption of unhealthy foods; and

Whereas #2 there are many factors leading to a poor diet such as:
  a. the use of time-saving processed foods, many of which contain high amounts of sugar, fat and salt,
  b. false or misleading health claims on labels by food producers
  c. promotion of unhealthy foods in the media and grocery outlets, often aimed toward children;
  d. lack of knowledge of good nutrition; and

Whereas #3 under the Regulations of the Food and Drugs Act (FDA The Act) there is a lack of clarity for food labelling and advertising requirements, with some being mandatory and some voluntary; and

Whereas #4 the federal government has constitutional powers to enact health-related laws; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that:
  a. the amount of sugar, sodium and unhealthy fat in processed food be restricted;
  b. food labels be accurate, understandable, readable, and complete, including in-store baked products;
  c. promotion of unhealthy food, particularly aimed toward children, be eliminated; and
  d. comprehensive nutrition education programs be undertaken; and be it further
Resolved #2 that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to take action to improve the nutrition of all Canadians through federal legislation that:
   a. restricts the amount of sugar, sodium and unhealthy fat in processed food;
   b. ensures all foods are labelled accurately according to scientific data and contain no false or misleading health claims, be understandable, readable and complete, including on in-store baked products;
   c. eliminates promotions of unhealthy food, particularly those aimed at children; and
   d. directs the Public Health Agency of Canada to work with the provincial and territorial governments to conduct education campaigns on good nutrition; and be it further

Resolved #3 that NCWC urge the Provincial Councils of Women to urge their respective Provincial Governments to:
   a. pass legislation that requires schools to teach nutrition as a compulsory subject and to offer only nutritious food in their cafeterias and vending machines;
   b. promote and support organizations that provide programs for the general public on buying, preparing and serving healthy nutritious meals at minimal cost.

2. Antibiotic Use in Animal Husbandry Leads to Antibiotic Resistance in Humans

Motion #20   In Resolved #2 add a new d. reinstate the Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance.
Moved by: Arlene Draffin Jones Seconded by: Kelly-Ann Stevenson Carried

Motion #21   That Resolution #2 be accepted as amended.
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

2. ANTIBIOTIC USE IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY LEADS TO ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE IN HUMANS

Whereas #1 antibiotics are used to treat animal diseases and are added to animal feed to promote growth, to increase feed efficiency and to prevent infections; and

Whereas #2 there is increasing evidence that the use of antibiotic drugs in agriculture is contributing to the resistance of antibiotic medicines in humans; and

Whereas #3 new drugs are not being developed quickly enough to replace existing drugs that are failing; and

Whereas #4 the Canadian Medical Association has criticized the meat and poultry industries for being very slow to take steps toward prudent drug use; and

Whereas #5 when factors like feed composition, management practices such as uncrowded feedlots, and health status of the animals are optimal, no benefit is seen resulting from the use of antibiotics to improve growth; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that antibiotics used in human medicine not be used in animals where those classes of antibiotics are of high importance for human therapeutic use; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the NCWC urge the Government of Canada to:
   a. implement an immediate ban on the use of antibiotics as animal growth promoters and enhancers of animal feed efficiency where those classes of antibiotics are of high importance for human therapeutic use;
   b. undertake a review of the issue in consultation with the Council of Chief Veterinary Officer, Council of Medical Officers of Health and National Farm Animal Health and Welfare Council; and
   c. promote best practices in animal husbandry; and
   d. reinstate the Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance.
3. Proposals to Maintain and Strengthen Health Care

Friendly amendment from Sheila Pepper: To add public before “Health Care” in the title and in Resolved 3d.

Motion #22 That Resolution #3 be accepted as amended.
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

3. PROPOSALS TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

Whereas #1 the current federal-provincial-territorial agreement, “10-Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care”, will expire in 2014, and the Government of Canada has so far refused requests to discuss concerns and input to the renewed health accords consistent with the Canada Health Act; and

Whereas #2 the current health accords acknowledge a number of key areas for improvement, including wait times, home care, primary care reform, care in the North, the creation of a National Pharmaceuticals Strategy, prevention, promotion of public health, health innovation and accountability and reporting to citizens; and

Whereas #4 the Government of Canada has made unilateral announcements of significant reductions in healthcare transfers to the provinces and territories over the period 2014-24, which will disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable in Canadian society; and

Whereas #5 the 2012 report by The Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology made 46 recommendations it believes will transform the way health care professionals do business and will achieve lasting reform; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy support for open and transparent dialogue on concerns about and input to the renewed Health Accord and the Canada Health Act, especially on issues of concern for women; and be it further

Resolved #2 that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to
a. act on the 2012 report by the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology entitled “Time for Transformative Change: a Review of the 2004 Accord”; and
b. open the dialogue with the provinces and territories, the medical community, the service providers and the Canadian public to sustain and improve Canada’s public healthcare system, including its financing; and further

Resolved #3 that NCWC urge the Provincial Councils of Women to urge their governments to promote such improvements as:
 a. a national pharmacare program, and
 b. funding for mental health programmes and services, and
 c. improved continuing care for seamless lifelong healthcare, and
 d. equitable access to public healthcare in remote and northern areas; and be it further

Resolved #4 that the NCWC urge the Provincial Councils of Women to engage the provincial governments in a discussion of health issues of concern to women.

4. Double Bunking and Overcrowding in Canadian Prisons

Friendly amendment from Carol Schweitzer: Delete in Resolved #2 “that leads to overcrowding”.

Motion #23 That Resolution #4 be accepted as amended.
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried
4. DOUBLE BUNKING AND OVERCROWDING IN CANADIAN PRISONS

Whereas #1 it was reported in March 2012 that architectural and engineering firms were tasked with designing expansion and renovation of federal prisons with standard cells to be built with provision for “future upper bunks”; and

Whereas #2 more than half of the correctional institutions have applied for and received permission to double bunk; and

Whereas #3 the United Nations Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (UNSMR), endorsed by Canada, states that “each prisoner shall occupy by night a cell or room by himself/herself”, and that it is not desirable to have two prisoners in a single cell; and

Whereas #4 the high rates of mental illness, drug addiction, violence, communicable disease and gang affiliation make overcrowding and double-bunking an increasingly harsh, tense and stressed environment leading to unsafe conditions for both prisoners and staff and to a rise in the use of force to quell problems; and

Whereas #5 the passing of legislation - The Safe Streets and Communities Act - includes the use of mandatory minimum sentencing and changes to conditional sentencing, both leading to more prisoners and probable overcrowding; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy that double-bunking in Canadian prisons be eliminated; and be it further

Resolved #2 that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to halt immediately the use of double-bunking; and be it further

Resolved #3 that NCWC urge the Provincial Councils of Women to urge their provincial governments to halt immediately any move to increase the use of double-bunking.

5. Canada/Quebec Pension Plan Drop-Out Provision for Family/Friend Caregivers

Motion #24: That the resolution be deferred until tomorrow to check on whether the term “Family/Friend Caregiver” or “Natural Caregiver” is used in legislation. Moved by: Petra Friedrichson Seconded by: Muriel Smith Carried

6. Protection of Temporary Foreign Workers’ Rights

Motion #25 That Resolved #2 be deleted. Moved by: Karen Dempsey Seconded by: Rosemary Mallory Carried

Motion #26 That Resolution #6 be accepted. Moved by: Mary Potter Defeated

Barbara Hall announced that the trade show was set up in the hall and there are also silent action items. The hospitality room #222 will be open after dinner.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

At the dinner on Friday evening there was a “Best Practices” talk at which some members explained what their Councils were doing. Arlene Draffin Jones spoke about the Celebrating Women Gala sponsored by PCWM. This is its 7th Gala this year and monies raised have enabled it to open an office, hold programs and workshops, and provide funds for attending meetings. Gracia Janes explained how they get a good crowd of people out to the St. Catharines meetings
with lots of advertising and having topics that are current. Ruth Robinson told about Saskatoon Council's Women's Hall of Fame into which it inducts about two women a year.

**Saturday, June 8**
The Third Plenary started at 8:50 a.m. with Arlene Draffin Jones as VP of Session. President D. Mattok began the meeting with a moment of silence. Vivianne Silver announced that 100 paintings of Cheryl Braganza were accepted at an art show.

Credentials were as follows: NOS – 1, PCW – 6, LCW – 10, Directors, Conveners and Study Groups – 14, Life Members – 5, Student and Individual Members – 2 for a total count of 224.

Mary Potter took the Chair for Resolution discussion.

### 5. Canada/Quebec Pension Plan Drop-Out Provision for Family/Friend Caregivers

**Motion #27** That Resolution #5 be brought back to the table.  
Moved by: Carol Schweitzer  Seconded by: Florence Erwin  Carried

Ms. Potter determined that the term “family/friend” is used in legislation, corroborated by Petra Freidrichson.

**Motion #28** That Resolution #5 be accepted.  
Moved by: Mary Potter  Carried

**5. CANADA/QUEBEC PENSION PLAN DROP-OUT PROVISION FOR FAMILY/FRIEND CAREGIVERS**

**Whereas #1** the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan (CPP/QPP) provides for a drop-out in its averaging formula for the calculation of pensions for contributors who take time out from CPP/QPP contributions during the years they were caring for a child under the age of seven and were earning low or no income; and

**Whereas #2** women are most often the caregivers who were working and contributing to CPP/QPP, but may be required to drop out of the work force for extended periods, or permanently, in order to care for a physically or cognitively dependent adult, including elderly parents; and

**Whereas #3** because of reduced CPP/QPP contributions over their lifetime, eligibility for lower pension income through CPP/QPP puts long-time ‘family/friend caregivers’, most of whom are women, at a financial disadvantage; and

**Whereas #4** family/friend caregivers contribute billions of dollars of care to the economy and are rarely acknowledged, let alone rewarded, for their tireless efforts; therefore be it

**Resolved #1** that National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy support for a Canada/Quebec Pension Plan (CPP/QPP) caregiver drop-out provision which would increase the actual pension based on CPP/QPP contributions, by removing from the calculation the years spent out of the work force while caring for dependent persons; and be it further

**Resolved #2** that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to:

a. provide a drop-out provision for calculation of CPP/QPP for family/friend caregivers who were required to leave the work force for extended periods or permanently, in order to care for a physically or cognitively dependent person; and

b. base this drop-out provision on the already existing formulae for the calculation of pensions for contributors who take time out from CPP/QPP contributions during the years they were caring for a child under the age of seven.
7. Employment Insurance Benefit Reform Regarding Tips
Ms Potter read the Resolutions Committee recommendation that the resolution be defeated since several references on the Employment Insurance website indicate that tips are taken into consideration when calculating employment insurance benefits.

Motion #29 That Resolution #7 be accepted.
Moved by: Mary Potter Defeated

8. Early Identification, Diagnosis and Treatment of Autism
Friendly amendment: To add “Spectrum Disorder” after all instances of the word “Autism”.
Friendly amendment: In Resolved #1 and #2 to change “infants” to infants/toddlers.

Motion #30 That Resolution #8 be accepted as amended.
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

8. EARLY IDENTIFICATION, DIAGNOSIS and TREATMENT of AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Whereas #1 the number of school-aged children with autism spectrum disorder is increasing and school boards across Canada are struggling to meet their needs for special programs and personal teaching assistants; and

Whereas #2 research shows that early intervention is critical in achieving the best possible results in treating autism spectrum disorder; and

Whereas #3 waiting times for an assessment and diagnosis are twelve to fifteen months followed by a minimum two year wait for government funded intensive therapy (IBI) and

Whereas #4 some parents in Canada are losing their homes, and grandparents forced to delay retirement to help pay for private treatment for their children, while other young children have no possibility of obtaining early treatment at all as their parents simply do not have the resources; and

Whereas #5 when treatment is started late, taxpayers will pay more in education programs, medical expenses and for the ongoing care of the autistic adult; and

Whereas #6 a very simple, inexpensive identification tool, a has been developed and used successfully in identifying high risk infants; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy the support for a national strategy of early identification, diagnosis and treatment of infants with signs of autism spectrum disorder; and be it further

Resolved #2 that NCWC urge the Government of Canada to provide funding for:
   a. early assessment and diagnosis of all infants for autism spectrum disorder, and
   b. early intervention programs for those infants/toddlers not meeting the developmental milestones.

9. Remove Displays of Sweets and Candies From Counter Area at Check-Out Counters

Motion #31 That Resolution #9 be accepted.
Moved by: Mary Potter Defeated

10. Bullying and Cyber Bullying National Prevention Strategy

Motion #32 That support for be inserted in Resolved #1 before “a national bullying…”
Moved by: Carla Kozak Seconded by: Gracia Janes Carried
10. BULLYING AND CYBER BULLYING NATIONAL PREVENTION STRATEGY

Whereas #1 many provinces do not have specific legislation to combat the effects of all bullying, including cyber bullying; and

Whereas #2 Private Member’s Bill C-273 introduced in 2011, which amends the federal Criminal Code to add cyber bullying as a criminal offense, is presently before the Justice Committee, and has not been adopted by the Canadian parliament; and

Whereas #3 public awareness campaigns have been shown to be successful as demonstrated by the anti smoking, and the anti-drinking and driving campaigns; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy support for a national bullying and cyber bullying prevention strategy; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to take steps to establish a national bullying and cyber bullying prevention strategy by adding bullying and cyber bullying as criminal offences; and be it further

Resolved #3 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to work with the provincial, territorial and municipal governments to deter and prevent bullying and cyber bullying by using public education campaigns and all present legal remedies available.

PU #1 Mental Health Strategy for Canada

Motion #34 That Policy Update #1 be accepted.
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

PU #1 MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY FOR CANADA

Whereas #1 in Resolution 2009.3, the National Council of Women of Canada stated its support for the development of a Canadian Mental Health Strategy; and

Whereas #2 in May 2012 the Mental Health Commission of Canada completed its report on a Mental Health Strategy for Canada; and

Whereas #3 women in Canada are twice as likely as men to suffer major depression and to have a mental health problem diagnosis at the time of admission to a correctional institution; and

Whereas #4 gender-based violence, socio-economic disadvantage, low income and income inequality, low or subordinate social status and unremitting responsibility for the care of others are gender specific risk factors for common mental disorders that disproportionately affect women; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopt as policy support for a mental health strategy for Canada; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the NCWC urge the Government of Canada to use the 2012 report “Changing Directions Changing Lives: The Mental Health Strategy for Canada” to guide its
work with the provinces and territories to improve the mental health of all Canadians; and be it further

Resolved #3 that the NCWC urge the Government of Canada, working with the provinces and territories, to act upon the recommendations of the Mental Health Strategy of Canada to:
   a. increase the proportion of health spending that is devoted to mental health from seven to nine per cent over ten years; and
   b. increase the proportion of social spending that is devoted to mental health by two percentage points from current levels in light of the many years of inadequate resources in this area of health.

PU #2 National Accountability for Food Safety and Security

- **Motion #35** That Policy Update #2 be brought back to the table.
  Moved by: Carol Schweitzer Seconded by: Rani Gupta Carried

  Friendly amendment from Sheila Pepper: Insert of Canada after “far north” in Resolved #1a) and Resolved #2a).

- **Motion #36** That Policy Update #2 be accepted as amended.
  Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

- **Motion #37** Delete Resolved #1b) and insert all food related policy be consolidated under one Minister.
  Moved by: Petra Friedrichson Seconded by: Sheila Pepper Defeated

- **Motion #38** That Policy Update #2 be accepted as amended.
  Moved by: Mary Potter Carried

PU #2 NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY

**Whereas #1** in 2011 the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) adopted as policy a resolution urging the Government of Canada to formulate a national food security policy that will:
   a. monitor urban expansion with a view to preserving good farmland;
   b. ensure sustainable production, processing and distribution;
   c. ensure that international agreements affecting food are based on the best Canadian standards;
   d. recognize that supply managed systems help to stabilize the supply of high quality food at affordable prices;
   e. ensure safe and nutritious Food for all Canadians including those on low incomes and those who are geographically isolated; and

**Whereas #2** many people in the far north depend on traditional food which has both a cultural significance and specific nutritional value for them; and

**Whereas #3** at the federal level, Canada has about 13 separate pieces of food-related legislation, not including environment and farming legislation – a complex system not conducive to effective and efficient governance; and

**Whereas #4** other governments, such as the United Kingdom, have consolidated departments and accountability to focus on food, environment and rural affairs; therefore be it

**Resolved #1** that NCWC adopt as additional policy that
   a. traditional foods be taken into consideration in food security programs for those living in the far north of Canada; and
b. government departments such as health, safety, agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, fisheries, distribution and economic issues work together in a coordinated fashion that reduces overlap and complexity; and be it further

Resolved #2 that NCWC additionally urge the Government of Canada to
a. undertake research into the importance of traditional food when designing food security programs for those living in the far north of Canada; and
b. ensure that government departments such as health, safety, agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, fisheries, distribution and economic issues work together in a coordinated fashion that reduces overlap and complexity.

EI #1 Health Care for Refugees

Motion #39 In Resolved #1 and #2 delete “as well as coverage for supplemental health care services”
Moved by: Petra Friedrichson Seconded by: Carla Kozak Defeated

Motion #40 That Emerging Issue #1 be accepted.
Moved by: Mary Potter Carried
Opposed by: Ukrainian Women’s Association of Canada, Manitoba Council of Women and Carla Kozak
Abstention: Ottawa Council of Women

Resolution #1 - HEALTH CARE FOR REFUGEES

Whereas #1 before June 30, 2012 the Interim Federal Health Program provided temporary basic health care coverage for refugees, as well as coverage for supplemental health care services; and

Whereas #2 on June 30, 2012 a reformed program was implemented which reduced the health care coverage for rejected refugee claimants and refugee claimants from Designated Countries, to services or products that protect public health or public safety; and

Whereas #3 under the new rules, coverage for supplemental benefits for all refugees has ended; and

Whereas #4 federal government cuts have resulted in downloading the costs of refugee health care to provinces which is predicted to increase hospital emergency room visits; and

Whereas #5 on February 25, 2013, Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers along with three individual patients asked the Federal Courts to declare that federal government health cuts to refugee claimants as unconstitutional and illegal; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that all refugees be given basic health care coverage as well as coverage for supplemental health care services; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to restore basic health-care coverage for all refugees as well as coverage for supplemental health care services.

After the break, Carla Kozak auctioned some items from the Bring and Buy table. The total raised was $614.

The NCWC Education Fund sponsored the lunch on Saturday followed by a program on mental health challenges of youth-at-risk. After an introduction by the Chair, Gracia Janes, the speakers were introduced by Kelly-Ann Stevenson. Sister Nancy Brown, Pastoral Counsellor at Covenant House in Vancouver, spoke of youth homelessness and mental health. Two young women – Karen Aujla and Nicole Luango, shared their personal stories of the struggles they had with mental health
problems and then Lori Weiss, Child and Adolescent Response Team of the Vancouver Child and Youth Mental Health Services, spoke of how they help those falling through the cracks.

The session adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Denise Mattok was the Master of Ceremonies at the banquet on Saturday night. Major Betty Raine said grace. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Penny LeCouteur, a world renowned scientist and the retired Dean of Arts and Science at Capilano College where she has taught chemistry for the past 36 years. She spoke on “The Chemistry of Colour.” The new Board and Conveners were installed by Mary Potter.

**Sunday, June 9**

An Interfaith Service was led by Major Betty Raine, of the Salvation Army.

The Fourth Plenary Session began at 9:11 a.m. with G.Janes as VP of the Session. The President opened with a moment of silence.

A. Draffin Jones led the In Memoriam with the following people remembered: Olga Stanko, from Toronto and Area Council of Women and Provincial Council of Women of Ontario; Sally Baker, from Vancouver Council; Anne Barnett from Montreal Council and Provincial Council of Women of Quebec; Vi Bray, Ann MacLeish, Marjorie Roche, and Lois Klempa from Montreal Council; Betty Feniak, Past-President of Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba; Hazel Gilroy, Past-President of Portage la Prairie Council; Valinda Morris from Winnipeg Council and Manitoba Provincial Council; Joyce Hanlon from St. Catharines Council; Dorothy Hodgson from Ottawa Council.

The credentials were established as follows: NOS – 1, PCW – 6, LCW – 11, Directors, Conveners and Study Groups – 16, Life Members – 6, Student and Individual Members – 3 for a total vote count of 243.

It was pointed out that there was an item in the Toronto Star regarding refugee health care stating that Ontario hospitals are absorbing the extra cost.

**Motion #41**

That the National Council of Women of Canada write a letter to the federal government asking that the number of qualified CFIA food safety inspectors be increased and that CFIA inspectors, instead of food industry personnel, police all areas of food processing plants.

Moved by: Mary Potter, PCWO 
Seconded by: Muriel Smith 
Carried

**Motion #42**

That the National Council of Women send a letter to the government expressing our concerns about cutbacks at the CBC and their increasing loss of independence.

Moved by: Cheryl Braganza 
Seconded by: Kelly-Ann Stevenson 
Carried

**Motion #43**

To accept the actions of the Board over the past year.

Moved by: Denise Mattok 
Seconded by: Carol Schweitzer 
Carried

The following people were given certificates for donations to NCWC during the past year: Bronze – Estate of Evelyn Renton, Mindr Mobile, Vancouver LCW, Stella Ohan, Eileen Lackie, Gracia Janes, Carol Canzona, Mary Potter; Silver – PCWBC; Gold – Carol Schweitzer, Mary Scott

Gracia Janes thanked Kelly-Ann Stevenson for bringing in the speakers for the NCWC Education Fund program and for writing up the program brochure. She announced that $850 had been donated to the NCWC Education Fund over the weekend.

Ruth Robinson wondered if the membership could get a report on what happens to our resolutions after we send the Brief to the government.

Arlene Draffin Jones hoped that there could be a media release on the AGM. Karen Dempsey posted pictures, policy and the program on Facebook.

Rosemary Mallory hoped that we would keep sending a representative to the Region of the America’s meeting because there would be more recognition for Canada.
On being questioned about the publicity regarding choosing the delegates to ICW, the President stated that she sent information to the Councils and NOSs about the ICW Meeting.

There was a discussion on whether arts were introduced to women in prison. Cheryl Braganza will introduce a resolution next year about putting arts in all prisons.

Barbara Hall asked people to sign a notice about helping the Board over the next year and presented the President with a “tool box”.

2014 is the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

Ms. Mattok asked everyone to fill out the evaluation form in the docket and hand in the paddles.

There was a round of applause for the organizing committee. Ms Mattok thanked those leaving the Board of Directors – Darla Campbell, Thelma McGillivray and Carla Kozak. She also welcomed new Board members – Kelly-Ann Stevenson, Rosemary Mallory, Karen Dempsey.

Carol Schweitzer asked that people submit their expenses so the Board knows how much it costs to run an AGM. When a person receives the NCWC reimbursement cheque, she can then donate back as much as she chooses to NCWC.

As a cost-cutting measure every second AGM is held in Ottawa and organized by the Board, but since there is no office staff to help, the Board will discuss what kind of AGM to have next year. The substantial expense of AGMs to NCWC needs to be taken into account, considering the financial reality of NCWC.

The meeting was adjourned by Ms Mattok at 10:15 a.m.
2 Arlene Draffin Jones - NCWC should continue pressure regarding murdered and missing women.

2 Carla Kozak noted that many women in prison have mental health issues and are getting no treatment. She asked that the President send a letter to the government on our policy regarding mental health.

3 Motion #4: That the Plain Language report be sent back to Committee for further consideration and report back with recommendations at the AGM 2014.

3 Motion #5 That NCWC send a letter to the Prime Minister and opposition leaders plus a press release regarding our strong concern about Canada’s blocking efforts to address violence against women at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

7 Margaret Ford explained that NCWC is drawing down on its Foundation Fund leaving a lower amount each year. She noted that the Board is asking Local Councils to donate money to NCWC each year.

7 In regard to the charges against a former employee, NCWC is still pressing charges and will give a victim impact statement in court.

7 The Board can look into using Skype [for conference calls].

7 NCWC continues to try to sell Celebrating Women paintings. NCWC now has to negotiate with the painter about the cost of the paintings; NCWC may need to hire a lawyer to concerning this.

7 Motion #14 That the Financial Reviewer be decided by the Board at the November Meeting when there is a new treasurer and that the reviewer be in the same city as the Treasurer. Moved by: Margaret Ford Seconded by: Rosemary Mallory Carried

17 Motion #41 That the National Council of Women of Canada write a letter to the federal government asking that the number of qualified CFIA food safety inspectors be increased and that CFIA inspectors, instead of food industry personnel, police all areas of food processing plants. Moved by: Mary Potter, PCWO Seconded by: Muriel Smith Carried

17 Motion #42 That the National Council of Women send a letter to the government expressing our concerns about cutbacks at the CBC and their increasing loss of independence. Moved by: Cheryl Braganza Seconded by: Kelly-Ann Stevenson Carried

17 Ruth Robinson wondered if the membership could get a report on what happens to our resolutions after we send the Brief to the government.

18 Cheryl Braganza will introduce a resolution next year about putting arts in all prisons.

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