

NEWSLETTER

President's Message

The *National Council of Women of Canada* had a large delegation at the 2009 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women meetings in New York. During those meetings, the UN Secretary-General's database on violence against women was launched at the UN Headquarters. The home page states: "In December 2006, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a comprehensive resolution calling for an intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and requesting the Secretary-General to establish a coordinated database on the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for, including best practices in, combating such violence."

Canada was one of the countries whose response is on the database. The responses to the questionnaire on violence against women, which were sent to all member states, are the primary source of information for the database. Each country's information is a compilation of their government's initiatives.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has stated: "All of us - men and women, soldiers and peacekeepers, citizens and leaders - have a responsibility to help end violence against women."

Forms of violence, as listed on the database, include: acid throwing, domestic violence, dowry-related violence, early marriage, female genital mutilation, female infanticide, femicide, forced marriage, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, harmful practices in general, maltreatment of widows, marital rape, sexual harassment, sexual violence, so-called honour crimes, stalking, trafficking, and violence against women in general.

You can find the database at <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/home.action>.

This database clearly defines forced marriage, early marriage, and forced pregnancy as being forms of violence against women.

In communities such as Bountiful, B.C., young girls are married off to much older men in "celestial marriages" which are polygamous relationships. There is a television show called "Big Love" which tries to romanticize the polygamous relationship. To hear Deborah Palmer speak about her experiences living in Bountiful is to hear the reality. (Her story has been written in *Chatelaine*. I met and talked with her when she addressed an AGM many years ago.)

In our North American society, domestic violence is still far too common. What young girls *and boys* must be taught from day one is the lesson of their own self-worth - they must be taught self-respect and respect for others. They *should* be able to see this in their own homes and in their own lives, however, we know that doesn't always happen. When you truly respect yourself and value yourself, you have the power and the strength to make the right choices.

In Charlotte Bunch's *Passionate Politics*, she states that:

"The problem [of defining feminism] was discussed extensively at an international workshop held in Bangkok on 'Feminist Ideology and Structures in the First Half of the Decade for Women,' sponsored by the UN Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development in June 1979.

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In that workshop we chose to affirm the term 'feminist' and to define it for ourselves, rather than to allow the media to frighten us away from it or to divide us through stereotypes and name-calling. The workshop then defined feminism in terms of two long-term goals:

1. The freedom from oppression for women involves not only equity, but also the right of women to freedom of choice, and the power to control our own lives within and outside the home. Having control over our lives and our bodies is essential to ensure a sense of dignity and autonomy for every woman.

2. The second goal of feminism is the removal of all forms of inequity and oppression through the creation of a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally. This means the involvement of women in national liberation struggles, in plans for national development, and in local and global struggles for change."

For me, these goals of feminism, which were derived 30 years ago, still speak to the truth that all women have to find for themselves. I hope that every woman will find that truth and in so doing, give herself the power to choose and the power to control her own life and body. With regard to the second goal, I hope that all men come to understand that their autonomy and power cannot be validated by oppression, and that they vow to work to stop violence against women.

Above all, women's (and the girl-child's) rights should not be allowed to be curtailed due to the lack of political will, or clear thinking.

Karen Dempsey

FIRM THE FOUNDATION FUND

If you would like to make a donation to NCWC's *Firm The Foundation Fund*, you can mail a cheque made out to NCWC to #506, 251 Banks Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1X1.

An income tax receipt can't be issued, as we don't have charitable status, however, all donations are welcome and will be gratefully acknowledged.

Whether you are creating a new will or considering a change to your current estate plans, ***please consider leaving a bequest*** to this very worthwhile organization of which you have been a part, and which has played, and will continue to play, a vital role in the lives of Canadian women.

Types of donations or gifts can be cash (*you can make a donation using your Visa or Mastercard - call our office at (613)232-5025*); gifts in kind, stocks, bonds, real estate, publicly traded stocks, art, collections, real property, RRSPs or RRIFs, bequests, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, or Life Insurance. The recent elimination of the capital gains tax for gifting publicly traded securities/ stock has made this an increasingly popular gift vehicle.

You may ***make a donation in memory of a friend or loved one***. Celebrate their life through a memorial gift to NCWC or make a donation in honour of a special occasion or celebration.

You can also make a gift to the National Council of Women of Canada ***Education Fund*** and since this is a not-for-profit, charitable organization ***you will receive a tax receipt***, which will give you a tax credit on your income tax. For more information on their new project, please visit the NCWC website at www.ncwc.ca.

Remember - if you have a Tax Receipt:

- You will receive a federal tax credit of 15% on the first \$200 donated to charity and 29% on any remaining amounts.
- You can claim the total deduction up to 75% of your net income plus 25% of any taxable capital gains.
- Donations can be used in the current year or carried back 5 years.
- Tax donations up to 100% of income can be claimed in the year of death and the preceding year. A bequest at death will not provide tax savings during your lifetime, however, can have a substantial tax savings to your estate.

It is very important to contact your professional advisor, including your financial planner, tax accountant, and lawyer to ensure that you understand the implications of each charitable gift and how they impact your current and future situation.

From Your Editor

by Elizabeth Hutchinson

Greetings to all members and friends of NCWC, and many thanks to all those who have sent in articles and suggestions for our Newsletter. It is always interesting to hear what is going on in different parts of the country - please continue to keep us informed. I must apologize for the late appearance of this issue - the articles I prepared for the Spring issue mysteriously vanished, which I didn't discover until I returned in August from 6 weeks visiting family & friends in Britain! However I am least able to include some interesting news about summer activities in various Councils, as well as a report of the excellent AGM in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

In this issue you will find several articles dealing with this year's meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, written from different points of view. We were well represented there. It was also good to have some celebratory news (illustrated) from some of our Local Councils, as well as an interesting article by one of our federates.

We join with the CWW & the PCWM in remembering and celebrating the life of Babs Friesen who died last December. She was very involved in all levels of Council as well as in many other community activities - I always enjoyed talking to her at an AGM or when I visited Winnipeg.

In March the Montreal Gazette carried an extensive obituary notice for Rachel Perot Morton (née Wainwright) who had died in Halifax in her 100th year. Among the many activities in which she was involved in Montreal, where she lived for many years, as well as in Halifax the notice mentions that « She served with the National Council of Women, including executive positions. » I have so far been unable to find out when or in what positions she served but I would be very interested to hear if anyone else has any knowledge of her. It sounds as if she was a woman whom we should be celebrating!

Please remember to send in your news for the next issue by March 15th, 2010 - we look forward to hearing from you.



Patricia Leson (left), pinning a rose on Donna Strauss.

Council of Women of Winnipeg 115th Anniversary



*Left to right:
Pat Powell, Pres. CWW
Leonore Saunders, a Past Pres. CWW and Life Member
Arlene Draffin Jones, PCWM
and Leonore's twin daughters, Deborah Woflenson and
Erica McLaughlin.*



Montreal Council of Women holds successful Federates' Day

By Bonnie Stamos Destounis, President MCW

As a group, the MCW represents over 30,000 women in Montreal. The MCW is a powerful advocate for issues concerning the quality of life of our citizens. One of our objectives this past year was to augment communication, through dialogue with our Federated societies and individual members.

In order to meet this objective MCW held its first ever Federates' Day of member organizations to open up discussion surrounding topics that touch women in Montreal. The goal of the event on June 17th, 2009 was to determine the current needs of Montreal women, families and children of different backgrounds to allow the Council to make better service recommendations to the City of Montreal. As such, the conference addressed important issues such as: 1) problems confronting seniors; 2) investing in Children's future; 3) Transit issues, for Elders and the Handicapped; 4) Health; 5) Social/Public Housing and 6) Diversity as well as information about services offered by the City of Montreal.

Presentations by three guest speakers were very relevant to the audience as well as being inspiring and informative. The speakers were Jean Freed, Financial Advisor, Charlotte Thibault, President of the Conseil des Montréalaises at City Hall, and Lorraine O'Donnell, Coordinator of a research project on English-speaking minorities in Quebec.

Our members discussed issues important to Anglophone and multicultural communities in Montreal. Open dialogue with the Council and the Federates provided a wonderful opportunity to network with groups of similar interests and also an opportunity both for the Council to communicate with Federates and the Federates with the Council. The process of meeting in groups in the morning led to the establishment of priorities. In particular issues that affect seniors, families and the general quality of life of our fellow citizens were the main concern. Following the discussion in the morning, the afternoon groups focused on various means and suggestions as to solutions for the issues identified.

A great part of the success of the day was due to the organization of the discussion groups. In the morning each of the groups was made up from representatives of different organizations and in the afternoon focus groups were made up of persons who had a particular interest in the specific topic. The implementation and follow-up of the issues and concerns of the group discussions will measure the factual success of the day.

This Fall, with the upcoming City of Montreal Mayoralty race, the MCW has a number of questions to put to our municipal candidates. These pertain to the issues that fall under their area of responsibility. The topics and solutions that are not within the City's mandate will be presented respectively to the Provincial Government by the Provincial Council of Women of Quebec and to the Federal Government by the National Council of Women of Canada.

A consensus of priorities was reached as to what issues MCW should address in the coming year. The process and results from Federates' Day has given rise to considerable changes in the MCW agenda for the monthly meetings. We will incorporate a short period into our monthly program to have an open discussion between the membership and the conveners responsible for each of the priorities. A blueprint has been prepared for the coming year.

Federates' day promises to be the first in a series of conferences dedicated to re-opening discussion about issues that will improve the lives of the population in our communities. We hope to continue an ongoing communication with our Federates and members particularly for their participation in determining the course of action and their support in the implementation of our priorities. Over 65 Federate representatives and individual members participated in this event. The many hours of preparation by the organizing team/committee contributed to the great success of the day. If you would like further more detailed information, please contact the MCW for a copy of the Newsletter of June 17th.

Many thanks and sincere appreciation is extended to the committee for contributing to the success of this event and most importantly to the participants who gave up a day to attend this symposium.

NEWS FROM FEDERATES

**Call to Anglicans in Canada for Vision and Action
on the Climate Crisis**

Climate change is the slavery issue of our day: we in the developed world are the oppressors in a system that victimizes the Earth, our neighbours in the global South, and future generations.

It's time for new vision and commitment to a new kind of life, to renewed care of the land on which we live as tenants, to deeper respect for all the creatures within the Covenant, for the mountains and hills that sing, the trees and rivers that clap their hands.

Time is urgent. At the December 2009 Copenhagen Convention on post-Kyoto reduction targets, we need Canada to be a voice for the serious cuts deemed necessary by the best science.

We call on the Anglican Church to join with environmental organizations and other faith communities in urging the Government of Canada to make the effective, timely commitments needed. We call on church leaders to take these concerns to all levels of government.

We ask Anglicans to support a national call for climate change action by signing the KyotoPlus petition. Sign it on line at <http://www.kairosCanada.org/en/get-involved/campaign/kyotoplus-petition>, and download it at <http://www.kyotoplus.ca/en/index.html>

Who is my neighbour? The command to "love one another" embraces people far away and future generations. The command to stewardship embraces the whole Earth, our island home, and all life dependent on it.

Phyllis Creighton, MA, adjunct faculty, Divinity, Trinity College; Honorary Canon
Joy Kogawa, CM, OBC, LLD (hon), DLitt (hon), DD (hon), author
Diane Marshall, MEd, RMFT, Director, Institute of Family Living, Toronto
Lynn McDonald, PhD, LID (hon), university professor emerita, University of Guelph

**CPFQ-PCWQ AGM
"Seniors – Aspects of respect"**

Report by Carol Schweitzer

In 2007, the Blais Commission, co-chaired by Marguerite Blais, the Provincial Minister Responsible for Seniors, held hearings throughout Quebec on the living conditions in which seniors find themselves - their financial and housing situation, yes, but also the public's attitude toward seniors. As one woman put it, "When I walk down the street, no one notices me, I have become invisible..." Minister Blais notes that "Some even feel belittled by the common stereotypes that, consciously or not, are used to transform them into 'a burden for the younger generations and a potential peril for our health system...'" In March 2008 the Blais report was issued: "Preparing the future with our seniors."

Sheila Goldbloom, C.M., co-chair of the Blais commission, was the afternoon guest speaker at the AGM. In 2007, Sheila travelled around the province with Marguerite Blais talking to senior citizens, asking them for their stories, their concerns, their ideas. She shared her fascinating journey with us, from the time she received the phone call asking for her help, through the sometimes sad, sometimes happy encounters with seniors to the final result, the report that hopefully will help everyone, young and not so young to be "preparing the future with our seniors." Sheila spoke of her own experience looking after aging parents. Most of us at the meeting are in the "not so young" category and we found her talk very enlightening.

NCWC is now a KYOTOplus partner organization. For more information on how your organization can join, contact Ruth Edwards, KYOTOplus Outreach Coordinator, ruth@kyotoplus.ca. You can also check our website at www.ncwc.ca for information on how you can participate.



By Arlene Draffin Jones, Chair, CW 2009

On July 16th, at 7:30 pm, the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba honoured the achievements of Manitoba women and recognized federate groups who have made a difference in the quality of life for women, their families and the community. The 3rd Annual Celebrating Women Gala was held at the Khartum Shrine House, 1155 Wilkes Ave. There were refreshments, door prizes, a Rainbow Auction and entertainment, capably emceed by Leslie Hughes. As nearly 200 persons folks lined up early in the evening for the celebrations Leslie noted that “The Celebrating Women Gala must be the hottest ticket in town tonight!” The honorees were piped in by Piper Barbara Wipf. Entertainment throughout the evening was provided by Julian Vanderput with piano selections and singer Marty Cashin and guitarist Jeff Hunter.

The four wonderful women honoured were:

Dianna Bussey - Salvation Army; Dianna is the Director of The Salvation Army Correctional & Justice Services and is particularly involved in The Salvation Army's work to combat Human Trafficking.

Sharon Taylor - Wolseley Family Place; “Social justice is at the core of anything I do.” Sharon has planned and managed innovative programs for this non-profit community based family resource centre, delivered social and health programs and services to “vulnerable children and families”, trained, orientated, supervised and evaluated a multi-disciplinary team and established extensive community, government and business partnerships.

Val Noseworthy - Ukrainian Women's Association in Canada, Manitoba Executive; She was the first Middle Years teacher in Manitoba to integrate special needs students into the regular classroom and she continued during her teaching career to advocate for their right to participate in the regular life and learning of school. Recently retired after 33 years as a classroom teacher, resource and special education and team leader, Val is currently employed as a Middle Years Consultant for Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.

Beatrice Watson - Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba. Beatrice is employed as a Community Outreach Liaison Officer with the MB Human Rights Commission where her work is much appreciated.

She is a volunteer Mediator with Mediation Services, and has been a Peer Counsellor with the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre and as speaker for the Winnipeg Race Relations Speaker's Bureau and Passages to Canada.



Honoree Beatrice Watson, Immigrant Women's Association & NCWC Convener of Citizenship, with Marilyn McGonigal, President PCWM

The two Federate members honoured were:

Council of Women of Winnipeg who celebrate 115 years of service to the community this year.

Heritage House Conservation Committee, CFUW MB Council. The HHCC has accomplished their three main objectives to: 1) achieve historic designation for Ralph Connor House, 2) publish a history of the House and of the University Women's Club's work, and especially, in the conservation and preservation of the House, 3) develop an interpretive program for Ralph Connor House. Their work to preserve Winnipeg's heritage is much appreciated.

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PCWM's Celebrating Women 2009 continued from page 6

Our sincere thanks to our Gala Sponsors:

Platinum:

Government of Manitoba and the Assiniboine Credit Union

Silver:

Steinbach Credit Union, Wolseley Family Place, Alyssa Stevenson Eating Disorder Memorial Trust Fund, Bob Jones

Bronze:

Carpathia Credit Union, Royal LePage Realtors, Life Members Councils of Women, Marilyn McGonigal

Special thanks to Maryanne Jones and Khartum Shrine House, Contemporary Printing Services, Inc., Caterer Wayne's Specialty Foods and all the generous donors to the Rainbow baskets.

Celebrating Women Planning Committee:

Arlene Draffin Jones
Shirley Walker
Maxine Balbon
Maj. Karen Hoeft

Mary Scott
Jo-Anne Yuskin
Marilyn McGonigal



Honoree Heritage House Conservation Committee of Manitoba Council of CFUW

Funds raised will support projects and programs of the Provincial Council and the work of member organizations.

NCWC AGM held in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan - June 5-7, 2009

By Marilyn St-Onge, President CPFQ-PCWQ

It was an early start on Thursday, June 4th, but we arrived in Saskatoon to be met by the husband of the president of Prince Albert's local Council of Women for the hour and a half ride north to Prince Albert. Upon our arrival in PA we went immediately to register at the E.A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts, followed by a quick drive to the hotel for check-in, then a return trip to the convention centre in time for the evening program.



Opening Reception

We soon realized that our hosts had gone to a lot of preparation to make this weekend a memorable one. This first event was an opportunity for the Prince Albert Council of Women to recognize the many contributions made by a number of the women from this area to their community. In all, twenty-one women were acclaimed for the work that they had done to enhance the quality of life for the residents of not only Prince Albert but the province of Saskatchewan as well.

Presentations were made by such notables as the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant-Governor; the Honourable Rob Norris, MLA in the Province of Saskatchewan; and greetings from the city of Prince Albert.

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Our National President, Karen Dempsey concluded the evening with her own welcome and challenge for the proceedings of the next few days. And so with the sun only recently setting in a northern sky, we readily welcomed our return to the hotel in preparation for the first plenary session on Friday. The next two days sped by very quickly as motions and resolutions were discussed, voted upon and duly passed in proper order.



Karen Dempsey, NCWC Pres. presenting orchids to PA President Patricia Leson at the AGM Banquet.

Among the speakers at this convention was Andrew Nikiforuk, author of "Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent". He gave an excellent power point presentation entitled the Myth of Abundance - dealing with the topic of Canada's water. Since the NCWC has chosen Water/Energy Connections as the Common Program for 2008-2010, this was extremely relevant.

This session was an open public meeting and it was attended by a number of local environmental activists. You can link onto this presentation via the NCWC web-site - www.ncwc.ca

The Resolutions approved for the year 2009 are as follows:

- Ensuring Police Accountability Through Effective Civilian Oversight
- Ensuring RCMP Accountability in Cases of National Security Complaints
- National Mental Health Strategy

Several Emerging Issue Resolutions were also discussed and voted on:

- The Need to Protect Canada's Navigable Waters
- The Need to Protect the Environment Through Comprehensive Federal or Joint Federal/Provincial Environmental Assessments
- Cessation of Irresponsible Production of Oil From Tar Sands in Canada
- Stimulating Socially Equitable Economic Activity at Times of Economic Downturn

In the midst of the paper work, we also learned about the Commission on the Status of Women which national delegates, including student members, had attended in New York City in March. You can also link onto this via the NCWC web-site. www.ncwc.ca

The NCWC Development Organization held their AGM & Fundraising Dinner on the Friday evening, at which the guest speaker was Linda Nosbush, Social development Manager with the City of Prince Albert. She was the recipient of the Prince Albert Council of Women's Hall of Fame Award in 2007, and was one of the 21 women honoured at the opening reception. She spoke very eloquently on building a better world for all by making it a better world for girls & women.



Presidents of NCWC & PA with Winnipeg group

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The final session was held on Sunday morning and as business finished and delegates prepared for departure, appreciation was expressed for the excellent arrangements provided by the Prince Albert Council of Women.

It was a time of learning, renewing friendships, as well as an enjoyment of the culture of the gateway to the north in Saskatchewan.



Bonnie Siemens & Marie Mathers-Ross

DR RUTH BELL, C.M.

The following citation was read when Dr. Bell received her Doctorate of Sacred Letters from Trinity College earlier in 2009.

Dr Ruth Marion Cooper (Rolph) Bell has been associated with universities for most of her adult life, whether as a Don at Trinity while completing a political science degree as a “mature” student, as Library Clerk at the University of Western Ontario, as Acting Executive Director of the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee (the Australian equivalent of the AUCC in Canada), as Dean (and political science lecturer) at Renison College at Waterloo, and as lecturer and seminar leader at Carleton University while successfully completing her MA, once again in political studies.

An American by birth, she married a young Canadian history professor, William Kirby Rolph, who was a Trinity graduate so her very first association with this particular university goes back in time for more than sixty years. From the very outset of their marriage, Ruth enthusiastically embraced the role of faculty wife at the University of Western Ontario where Bill was on the staff. But this was only the beginning. From London, the Rolphs moved on to NYU in New York, then Tulane University in New Orleans and finally to the Australian National University in Canberra. Tragically, the Australia years were cut short by Bill’s sudden death; Ruth decided to return to Canada.

As a young and impecunious widow, Ruth above all wanted to complete a university degree; as a faculty wife she had enrolled in a wide variety of courses from geology through English literature, and from fine art to economics and political science - or “politics” as she frequently refers to it in her biography. But nothing ever seemed to come together as a degree: “I continued to be the most educated BA-less woman in the world” she complained. Trinity came to her rescue and offered her a position as Don at St. Hilda’s, which made possible, in 1955, a U of T degree in “poli sci and ec” as it used to be called.

Some sceptics at the time were inclined to question the value of political science for career purposes for a woman. But it was “politics” broadly defined that turned out to be the leitmotiv and indeed the passion of Ruth’s life. After a variety of positions from secretary to research director, Ruth’s path led to the Headquarters of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada in Ottawa, where she met the then National Director of the Party, Richard Bell, Q.C., whom she subsequently married. When John Diefenbaker led the PCs to power a few years later, Dick Bell entered the Cabinet. As his wife, Ruth embraced public life just as she had previously embraced academe - with enthusiasm and intelligence and energy, but now, as often as not in leadership positions in her own right. An early and vigorous social and political activist especially in women’s issues, her role was not as an aggressive feminist but as a woman whose taste for “politics” taught her the art of the possible - an art she practised so well. She has been a staunch member of the Canadian Federation of University Women, and especially as its President from 1973 to 1976, she devoted her talent and efforts to promoting the participation of women in all phases of public life.

DR RUTH BELL, C.M. continued from page 8

She has been (and probably still is) actively associated with the International Federation of University Women. But the entire roster of organizations that have benefited from her participation is enormous, and encompassed - to mention only a select few - Canadian National Commission for UNESCO; National Association of Canadian Clubs; Forum for Young Canadians (President for 1977 to 1979); National Council of Women of Canada; National Action Committee on the Status of Women (Vice-President for 1975 to 1979); Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child (Commissioner for 1979 to 1980) - and of course her long-time membership and involvement in the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

In recognition of her contributions to Canadian public life, she was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 1981.

When Dick Bell retired from active political life, he and Ruth continued their teamwork until his death. Their partnership is commemorated in the family's endowment of the annual Dick and Ruth and Judy (Ruth's stepdaughter) Bell Public Lecture at Carleton University which had recognized Dick and Ruth together earlier through the conferring of honorary doctorates on them, the first such occasion in Canada where a husband and wife have been jointly so honoured. It was this very precedent that served as a paradigm for Trinity somewhat later in awarding degrees conjointly to Ruth and Terry Grier, and to Melanie and Peter Munk.

In other words a life well lived, exemplifying what has been called "the politics of conscience", operating in her case under the motto: "Behold the turtle - she makes progress only when she sticks her neck out". A life well lived, and indeed generously lived - and Trinity acknowledges its debt of gratitude for the Rolph-Bell Donship at St. Hilda's and the newly endowed position of College Archivist: how appropriate to the life and work of Ruth Bell are these two enrichments of our institution.

W. T. DELWORTH, Provost Emeritus.

In Memoriam



*Babs Friesen
A wonderful friend, admired a great deal,
We will miss her!*

STOP PRESS

Watch for Sarah Spring's 'H2Oil' film, that exposes the folly of the Tar Sands development.

Hot off Toronto's May '09 "Hot Docs" Film Festival H2Oil is coming to a theatre near you if you live in Edmonton, Calgary or Vancouver or nearby!

Edmonton International Film Festival

- > Screenings:
- > Saturday, SEPT 26th (opening weekend) at 4:45pm
- > Thursday, OCT 1st in the afternoon, hopefully with school involvement.
- > ACTION EVENT: Sunday, Sept 27th

Calgary International Film Festival

- > Screenings:
- > Saturday, OCT 3rd, Cineplex Eau Claire @ 2:00 PM
- > ACTION EVENT: Sunday, October 4th

Vancouver International Film Festival

- > Screenings: (to be confirmed)
- > Monday, OCT 5th
- > Tuesday, OCT 6th
- > ACTION EVENT: TBA

Hope you can make it to this amazing film!



ICW - CIF 32nd General Assembly
13 - 20 October 2009
Johannesburg, South Africa

Our own Rosemary Mallory has just returned from Johannesburg, South Africa, where she attended the 2009 ICW and carried the vote for NCWC.



**The National Council of Women of Canada
Development Organization
Organisation de développement du conseil
du Canada national des femmes
(NCWCDO) (ODCNFC)**

Celebrating 25 years of council work around the world!

NCWCDO held its 25th Annual Meeting and Dinner in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on June 5, 2009 at the Rawlinson Centre. Guest Speaker was Linda Nosbush, Social Development Manager for the City of Prince Albert and Recipient of the Prince Albert Council of Women's Hall of Fame Award in 2007. She spoke of her work in the community to enable girls and women to *"Help build a better world for all - by making it a better world for girls and women"*. The welcome and energy of the women of Prince Albert was infectious. All the delegates attending the NCWC Annual Meeting appreciated their warm hospitality.

National Council of Women of Canada Development Organization (NCWCDO) was established by the National Council of Women of Canada in 1985 as a **Registered Charitable Organization***. For a quarter of a century the NCWCDO grants have helped support educational and social welfare programs, and projects in countries such as Afghanistan, Ukraine, Bolivia, India, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, the Caribbean and in Canada. These funds have helped to improve the quality of life for women, their families and their communities.

However, many things have changed in the world over the past 25 years. HIV/AIDS, SARS, Katrina, tsunami are words that only recently became part of our vocabulary. The groups requesting grants reflect these new and challenging projects.

This year grant monies of \$2500 were awarded equally between the two groups who met the funding criteria. They are:

The Salvation Army Howard Hospital in Zimbabwe
This hospital serves the medical needs of the area in a rural area that has a catchment of greater than 270,000 people. The in-patient and out-patient departments receive 115,000 patients a year.

Eighty percent of patients are women and children, from obstetrics services, the under-5 clinic, and HIV treatment and care. Two thirds of HIV/AIDS services are provided to women. Funds will further the work with mothers and infants with HIV/AIDS, care for orphans and provide AIDS education and counseling. Costs of antiretroviral drugs are \$1.00 a day.

With the current economic and political climate in Zimbabwe, there are extreme challenges in providing health care services to the community, especially the requirement for general medical and surgical supplies. Many pharmaceutical companies have left Zimbabwe so most medical supplies must now be imported at costs unaffordable to the hospital and its impoverished clientele.

Canadian Harambee Education Society (CHES) project in Kenya and Tanzania
This project's mission is to "educate poor, bright high school girls" who qualify for Secondary School placements, but who need financial assistance in order to attend. CHES is a non-profit organization without affiliation to government or religious organizations. 100% of money donated for Africa goes to Africa. Administrative costs are covered by special fundraisers.

The school fees are \$450 a year and include tuition, books supplies and a school uniform, plus room and board. (Average annual income for Kenya and Tanzania is about \$300). An example of costs are: insecticide treated bed nets - \$10 per net and texts range from \$93 to \$105 depending on year.

You can help the NCWCDO continue to provide funds to groups in other countries and here in Canada who need support to develop projects such as these. Donations are welcome at any time and those over \$10.00 and received before December 31, 2009 are eligible for a 2009 charitable tax receipt. The deadline for 2010 applications for grants is March 30, 2010. For more information about donating money, to hold a fundraiser and application forms for grants please contact the NCWCDO c/o Sally Thomas at saladann@mts.net , phone: 257-5064

Many thanks to all those who have supported the NCWCDO for the past 25 years.

Reported by Arlene Draffin Jones
Chair: National Council of Women of Canada
Development Organization

* Registered Charitable No. 888285046 RR0001

Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of the National Council of Women of Canada, its members or federates.

Editor: Elizabeth Hutchinson

Articles may be emailed to the Editor at editor@ncwc.ca

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