EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As Editor of The NCWC Newsletter, I have the privilege to review and edit articles written by bright and professional NCWC women from across our country. They are concerned with issues that affect all Canadians. These women have served NCWC for years with passion and purpose, and they spend valuable time writing thoughtful and inspirational features. They are the reason why our newsletters are always informative and interesting!

Our contributors comprise members of the NCWC Board and Convenors of the Standing Study Committees who bring our attention to important topics of the times. Additionally, we receive articles from Presidents and their representatives of Local and Provincial Councils and Nationally Organized Societies (NOSs). They share news about their work, members, milestones and celebrations. We are fortunate to have this newsletter as it is an important communication vehicle to share news and our concerns with each other, government MPs and visitors to our website.

This quarter’s newsletter is another fine example of an interesting read. Our President, Patricia Leson, begins by reminding us of the challenges that our minority Liberal Government faces. She talks about the significance of the work that NCWC has done over the years in advocating for and promoting the status of women, as well as the value of our Resolutions process and that our Policy can influence our nation. Past President, Sandra Cohen-Rose explains why NCWC must continue to support “Life Skills Education”, a component of our 2017-2019 Common Program. She explains why, surprisingly, Canada is falling behind other nations. Read the latest news from the Vancouver and Manitoba Councils. Did you know that LCV is celebrating its 125th Anniversary, and PCW Manitoba just celebrated its 13th Annual Gala Celebrating Women? In additional, PCW honoured three women and an organization for making a difference in their communities. They also awarded the “Not Afraid to Get Her Hands Dirty “apron to five worthy women for their collective presentation at the UN CSW63 in New York.

Trish Masniuk, VP of Public Relations, writes that despite the challenges facing the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Daniela Chivu, Convenor of Citizenship/Immigration/Global Affairs, and she will represent NCWC in March 2020 to bring together the voices of NGOs. She asks Canadian Councils to join them. Sheila Pepper, Convenor of Social Development, describes important concerns of seniors today. Karen Dempsey, Convenor of Economics, informs us about two remarkable women who won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for their approach to alleviating global poverty. She explains why the Canada Child Benefit has boosted Canada’s economy. Beryl Matthewson, Convenor of Health, describes the problems of the aging baby boomers, how the rise in numbers of dementia over the next 10 years will impact us, and what is needed in the Canadian strategy to prevent or treat this disease. Jeannette Logan, Convenor of Justice, explains the updates and improvements of the Energuide Rating System from Natural Resources Canada. Three NOSs, BPW, CHW and CCMW, submitted must-read articles! Under “Topics of Interest”, President Leson reminds us of the importance of commemorating “16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” and how easily we can support this critical women’s issue. Finally, Penny Ranking, President of the Montreal Council of Women, conveys some startling facts about Human Trafficking and articulates why it is urgent to fight the second most profitable criminal enterprise in the world!

Enjoy this issue of the NCWC newsletter! We love hearing from you and encourage ALL our members to submit articles, photos and news. Happy Holidays to you and your families!

Beverley Colquhoun, Editor, The NCWC Newsletter
editornewsletter@ncwcanada.com, www.ncwcanada.com  NOTE: Changes to the website’s front page, new Board & Convenors with Bios, updated Policy, Calendar, Members, etc. Try it out!
Autumn has gently(?!) morphed into winter with snow blanketing much of our country; the changing of the seasons always seems like the opportunity to take stock of where we have been, where we need to go, and how best to get there. Perhaps no one feels this more than Prime Minister Trudeau following the October election which resulted in a minority government. Canadians voted for progressive priorities which addressed the climate crisis, cost of pharmaceuticals, affordability, housing, reconciliation with Indigenous people and women’s reproductive rights. These were the core issues that dominated the campaign and they are very ones for which the NCWC has long been an advocate.

During the election, the parties were invited to answer a series of questions based on our policies. We were pleased the Liberals, the Green Party and the NDP were prompt in doing so; However, even after two additional reminders, the Conservatives did not reply. Our webmaster, Beverley Colquhoun, has posted these on the website, and they will remain there for the next while. As the Liberals now form the Government, you are invited to peruse their responses to our queries for areas in which the NCWC has policy and that we believe should be prioritized for action.

As an organization dedicated to gender issues and the advancement of women in leadership roles, it was a pleasure to note Prime Minister Trudeau’s cabinet is gender balanced with many women assigned the responsibility to act on important core issues. Your Board and Convenors are in the process of making plans and writing letters to be certain the new Ministers are aware of our Council and our work. Please be in touch when you note an issue or concern that needs to be addressed so we can work together to bring it to the forefront.

Over the past 126 years, the work of the NCWC and its Local and Provincial Councils has resulted in many remarkable achievements enabling women, children, and families to access programs, benefits, and opportunities that were once out of their reach. Yes, we are firmly rooted in the past and rightfully proud of it, but we are just as firmly focussed on the future. Our grassroots resolutions process enables each of us to have input into policies that will result in an improvement in the status and well-being of women, children, and families across Canada. Jane Cowell and her Resolutions Committee have received many resolutions and they are diligently reviewing the submissions.

...cont’d on page 2
Their assistance and gentle mentoring of those of us who are new to the process is very much appreciated!

The resolutions will then be sent to the Local and Provincial Councils for amendments prior to being presented to the delegates at the Conference and AGM for discussion and debate. Once passed, these resolutions will form policies for the advocacy efforts of the NCWC. These policies comprise the basis for our work in ensuring Canada becomes a more caring nation where acceptance, equality and respect are integral parts of our society.

Please save the dates of May 28–May 31! It would be wonderful to have as many of our members as possible gather for our 127th Conference and AGM in Ottawa to celebrate our rich history and many past successes along with formalizing our path forward. More information will be forthcoming in the new year. Until then, let’s continue to imagine a better world and work together, in unity and friendship, to build a more just, equitable and inclusive society.

Patricia Leson, President, NCWC
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LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION

Life Skills Education—Is Canada Falling Behind Other Nations?

The importance of Life Skills Education resonates more strongly than ever in the social media.

Teaching empathy is a part of Life Skills education, which should be taught from an early age to all boys and girls. In addition to producing a happier population, teaching empathy has the capacity to lower rates of violence and sexual abuse.

Iceland has made it illegal to pay women less than men

The World Economic Forum for nine years in a row has ranked Iceland, home to more than 323,000 people, the best in the world for gender equality.

Could this be the result of The Icelandic National Curriculum, which includes the subject, Equality –
NCWC EDUCATION FUND

The NCWC Education Fund founded as a charitable foundation to work with the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) through research and public education regarding the environmental, social, mental, physical, and health needs of women, families and society.

Each year since its inception, our Board of Directors has worked with NCWC to present a “Common (Theme) Program” at the NCWC Annual General Meeting Conference. This year, our area of interest and action is “Murdered and Missing Women”, and our federated member groups across the country have been invited to hold programs featuring this very timely and extremely important subject, which will be featured in the NCWC Newsletter along with a feature article on what is being planned for our AGM in Ottawa.

In addition, due to the looming world-wide climate change crisis, and keeping in mind a duo of ‘Common Programs’ from 1992 to 1995 and 2008 to 2011 on the significant theme of water and energy conservation, we will, for a third time, survey NCWC members and the public about their current energy and water use, intentions to improve their level of support for various government programs and ideas for the future. Surveys will be sent electronically before the end of November along with instructions as too how to fill them out and send back to me. I note also that excellent background material on the two previous water/energy programs can be found on our NCWC web site at www.ncwcanada.com.

Again, if you wish to financially support the Education Fund to help carry out this kind of important Common Program work, please send a donation to the address shown below or on-line to Canada Helps: CanadaHelps.org.

Gracia Janes, President, NCWC Educational Fund gracia.janes@bellnet.ca

CHARITABLE RECEIPTS FOR TAX PURPOSES for both NCWCEF and NCWCDO are issued promptly.

NCWC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

NCWC members and friends donate money to provide assistance for specific projects, in designated communities, for the advancement of literacy and basic education and for skills training for women and girls. The educational and social welfare programs supported by NCWCDO are located in Third World countries as well as Canada. The criteria for eligibility are included in the NCWCDO grant application form which can be found on NCWC website under Charitable Organizations / NCWC Development Organization, see: http://www.ncwcanada.com/fundraising/national-council-of-women-of-canada-development-organization-ncwcdo/

Donations, by individuals or groups, are always welcome and those over $50 are recognized in the NCWCDO Annual Report. This is a non-profit organization and tax receipts are issued for donations over $10.

Some projects NCWCDO is supporting in 2019 were:

- The twinning program of Action Réfugiées Montréal (ARM) creates social support for newly arrived refugee women and allows Montreal women to learn about refugee experiences firsthand. ARM matches refugeed women with women already living in the Montreal area. Through regular meetings and monthly group activities for all participants, the “twins” create bonds of friendship, exchange and solidarity.

- Hope Restored Canada’s mission is the eradicating of sexual exploitation and trafficking through its HOPE Model (Holistic Restoration, Outreach, Partnership and Education). The average age of entry into prostitution in Canada is 12-14 years old. This project, submitted by a Prince Albert member, asked for funds for the initial start-up costs of program office space and contractual program developer for the Holistic Restoration of HRC. It aims to function by fall 2019 and launch program offerings with small groups, coaching, mentoring and space to house its outreach supplies.

Carol Schweitzer, Chair, NCWCDO ncwcdo@gmail.com

Please send your donations (cheque or money order) to NCWCDO Treasurer
P.O. Box 67099 RPO Westboro
Ottawa, ON K2A 4E4

OR on-line CREDIT CARD-NCWCDO CanadaHelps.org

Please send your donations (cheque or money order) to NCWC Education Fund
P.O. Box 67099. RPO Westboro
Ottawa, ON K2A 4E4

OR on-line CREDIT CARD-NCWCEF CanadaHelps.org
5-17 are overweight or obese. Obesity cost the economy up to $7 billion a year. The cost of sexual assault and other sexual offences is $1.6 billion. For those who feel Life Skills should be taught by parents, not in the schools, one must appreciate in order to give all children an equal opportunity – level the playing field – all children must have Life Skills Education. We are aware that there are many parents who do not have the ability and/or the time to teach their children Life Skills.

As Canada’s longest established women’s association, NCWC’s leadership in promoting Life Skills Education can make a difference in the well being of all Canadians – and Canada’s economy.

_Sandra Cohen-Rose, Past President, NCWC_

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**LOCAL COUNCILS**

**VANCOUVER**

**Anniversary Tea**

On November 10, 1894 the Vancouver Council of Women was formed by sixteen women’s groups in Dunn Hall with Lady Reid its first president. The Vancouver Council of Women celebrated their 125th anniversary with elegant tea on September 23, 2019 at the University Women’s Club of Vancouver. President Barbara Hall welcomed our guests, as well as several Past Presidents (Evelyn Anderson, Rosemary Mallory, Rani Gupta, Gwen Smith, Beryl Matthewson). The current Mayor of Vancouver was represented by a City Councillor. The guest list included our Board members, representatives of all federates, members of the Provincial Council of Women of BC, and public officials from all three levels of government in Vancouver, including civic, provincial and federal representatives. Chantelle Krish, Director, Communications, Programs and Outreach at the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, represented Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin, who suffered a shoulder injury just prior to the ceremony, and was unable to attend.

_Jo Swann, Local Council of Vancouver_

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Opening the ceremony by singing the National Anthem
Celebrating Women 13th Annual Gala

On June 14, 2019, PCWM held its 13th Annual Celebrating Women Gala. Over 125 persons attended the evening event held at the Viscount Gort Hotel in Winnipeg. This year, delegates to the National Council of Women of Canada 126th Annual General Meeting being held in Winnipeg were invited to attend and many enjoyed the gala.

The Celebrating Women Gala is the “signature” event for PCWM and honours women nominated by council federates and a federate organization. Pam Roz, local radio 103 personality emceed the evening. There was entertainment by the Colleen Morrison Jazz Trio, a Rainbow Auction, delicious refreshments and lots of great networking.

Greetings were received by the PCWM Patroness, The Honourable Janice Filmon, Lt. Governor of Manitoba, the Honourable Rochelle Squires, Minister for the Status of Women for the Manitoba Government and His Honour Brian Bowman, Mayor of Winnipeg sent greetings. Carol Hiscock, President of the PCWM presented the awards.

The Celebrating Women Award recognizes women within our membership who have a history of making a difference within their communities. Throughout history women, women’s work and women’s achievements often go unacknowledged. Celebrating Women is the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba’s way of showcasing the diverse ways that women impact the communities and people around them.

Funds raised support the work of PCWM including programs, education, research, advocacy and developing briefs to the provincial government.

The three individuals honoured this year were:

1. Susan Hancharyk - nominated by the Council of Women of Winnipeg
2. Gerri Prymak - nominated by Women Healing for Change
3. Dr. Lynn Scruby - nominated by Women’s Health Research Foundation

The Federate organization honoured was: The MATCH The International Women’s Fund, The Winnipeg MATCH Group. Kristie Pearson, Chair MATCH (with corsage) accepted the award.

The “Not Afraid to Get Your Hands Dirty Award”

This award was established in 2013 by UNPAC (United Nations Platform for Action Committee, Manitoba) to honour the long time service of their Executive Director, Jennifer De Groot. UNPAC provided leadership to the province following the 1995 United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing, with a particular focus on women’s economic literacy. When UNPAC closed its doors in 2014, the responsibility for continuing the annual award was taken up by the Provincial Council of Women Manitoba. Each recipient receives an apron and their names placed on a special quilt. The Not Afraid to Get My Hands Dirty award is intended for a Manitoba woman/girl who has recently demonstrated a creative activist response to an identified injustice, in an attempt to bring about social or political change for women. Uniquely this year, the we are honouring five women whose work together was outstanding.
MANITOBA

Five amazing women brought the issues faced by Manitoba young people affected by the social protection system to the world’s attention through a panel presentation at the United Nation’s Commission on the Status of Women in the spring of 2019. Their collective action raised awareness, offered direction for positive change, and challenged the assumptions of the powerful. The diversity among them in background, story, and perspective is the hopeful face of today and of the future.

The recipients are: Jamilah Naso, Jenny Lay, Ashley Daniels, Brittany McIntosh and Kim Fontaine

The “Not Afraid to Get Your Hands Dirty Award”

Jamileh Naso is a Yazidi refugee from Iraq, who came to Canada with her family at the age of four. She has been instrumental in Operation Ezra, a community-wide, multi-faith initiative to sponsor and resettle Yazidi refugees in Winnipeg. She will graduate this fall with a degree in Political Science and Human Rights from the University of Winnipeg. “The news doesn’t cover the positive stories, so to share your work, and be supported by others as you hear about their struggles, and successes, is very uplifting. Our voices are making a difference!”

Jenny Lay is from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in Northern Manitoba. Now in Winnipeg and having completed a degree in psychology, she works in disability and employment counselling. From a young age, Jenny was in the care of the child protection system and her dynamic political and social analysis of the issues are rooted in her lived experience. Jenny’s story is one of resilience against the odds. The protective love of her sister, an aptitude for learning and the support of a few individuals in the system were key to her survival. She said, “I share my story to promote resilience and the will to succeed, especially in Indigenous women and girls.”

Ashley Daniels is a proud Dakota Ojibway woman, with a tie to Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and a member of the Swan Lake Nation where she is Youth Chief. Ashley is proud of her community and the strong women mentors who empower her to represent her community. She has won awards from the University of Manitoba, where she is studying, acknowledging her leadership role. She said, “Now I am dreaming big. Youth voices need to be at the centre, need to be at the big tables at the UN, so our voice is heard. This is motivation for that goal.”

Brittany McIntosh balances her work with vulnerable and violence-affected young people at NorWest Co-op Community Health Centre with studies in Social Work at Booth College. She has an impressive resume of activity in local and international initiatives to empower women economically and politically. She said, “As many as half of people in violent relationships are young, and the social protection system is not prepared. Youth don’t have to wait until they are formally in power to see standards change. We are speaking out now.”

Kim Fontaine, Program Support Coordinator for Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, moderated the panel presentation. Kim has dedicated her life and work to advocating for a just and safe world for Indigenous women and girls. She is the proud mother of four beautiful Ojibway children. She said, “You can get your head down with the day-to-day and not see the horizon, but I was so proud of the four young women [at the Commission]; they are shifting the horizon and it is powerful.”

Arlene Draffin-Jones, Provincial Council of Manitoba; Life Member, NCWC
As many of you already know, as well as working directly within NCWC, Convenor Daniela Chivu and I are the two representatives for all Canadian women’s organizations on the seven-member Core Group for the UN CSW Commission on the Status of Women Europe/North America Caucus.

This year’s CSW64 is particularly significant. It is Beijing+25, when the goals agreed upon at the last UN world conference of women will be reviewed with the hope of seeing real progress and agreeing on further steps toward equality for all women and girls.

CSW64 occurs at a time when the United Nations is under extreme financial crisis, due to the fact that only 70% of the member nations have paid their dues. This has resulted in austerity measures -- turning down thermostats, shutting off lighting and escalators -- and threat to ability to meet payroll.

2019 brought changes in the countries providing leadership to ECOSOC, the United Nations Economic and Social Council. According to the UN, “ECOSOC, one of the six main organs of the United Nations established by the UN Charter in 1946, is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of the internationally agreed development goals.” The leadership states are now Armenia, Australia, Algeria, Trinidad and Tobago, and Iraq, countries with minor influence or even hostility toward improving rights for women.

This at a time when less progressive states, where women have few rights, have allied themselves with Russia and Trump’s America, to roll back the progressive agreements of Beijing 1995 and entrench the inequality of women, particularly reproductive rights.

So, just at a time for celebrating progress and planning future movement toward equality, just when we were expecting CSW64 Beijing+25 to be the best ever, it would appear that activities will be scaled back at the UN in New York March 9-20.

Mexico City will be scaled back to two days, May 7-8 and 2,000 participants. Paris in mid-July will be limited to 5,000 participants. It feels as if we are being divided just at a time we need to network in large numbers.

These numbers include delegates from government, business and civil society combined. The voice of NGOs is being further and further marginalized. This is damaging their ability to speak out to the official decision-makers and to network with each other while gathered in the same place.

Most NGOs will find that three major events in just over four months is hopelessly unaffordable even if granted one of the limited spaces. This is even more acute for all-volunteer women’s organizations such as ours, where all participation must be self-funded by the individual delegate.

Nonetheless, Daniela and I are determined to be there for the entire two weeks of CSW 64 in March and to do everything we can to bring together the voices of NGOs through the Core Group and electronic means. We ask as many as possible of you from Canadian Councils of Women to join us there to work to make a difference.

Trish Masniuk, VP, Public Relations, NCWC
ECONOMICS

The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences was recently awarded to economists Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, and Michael Kremer for “their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty.” The Academy noted that “The research conducted by this year’s Laureates has considerably improved our ability to fight global poverty. In just two decades, their new experiment-based approach has transformed development economics, which is now a flourishing field of research.”

NOTE: At the age of 46, Esther Duflo is the youngest person to have ever won this prize and only the second woman.

• Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo are two of 11 living Nobel Prize winners who are pro-UBI (basic income) – Scott Santens, Vocal Swamp, November 14, 2019.

• Banerjee and Duflo just published “Good Economics for Hard Times”; in 2012 they published “Poor Economics, the Surprising Truth about Life on Less than $1 a Day”.

On September 19, an economic analysis of the Canada Child Benefit was released, showing that not only has it lifted kids out of poverty, but it has boosted the country’s economy by $139 billion since 2016. The report says that the Canada Child Benefit “acts as a basic income guarantee for families with children.” The Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA), an independent, non-partisan economic research firm, states that every dollar Ottawa spends in child benefits generates almost $2 in economic activity. At an annual cost of $24 billion in 2017-18, the report figures the benefit generated more than $46 billion in economic activity, or about $139 billion in three years. The analysis, which measures the impact of increased family spending due to the benefit, also shows that 55 cents of every dollar Ottawa distributes is returned to federal and provincial coffers in taxes.

• The Canada Child Benefit has helped reduce food insecurity for some of the poorest Canadians, according to a new study by Valerie Tarasuk, a nutritional sciences professor at the University of Toronto. - Leslie Young, Global News, November 7, 2019

A legislative committee has been given the task of costing a plan for a Basic Income Guarantee pilot project in Prince Edward Island.

Basic Income Marches were held across Canada and around the world on October 26. Basic Income Week in September saw events held in 18 countries on 5 continents.

The new International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief, Kristalina Georgieva, has stated that economic studies clearly showed that improving gender equality would boost growth.

“The European Investment Bank (EIB) has endorsed the 2X Challenge aimed at shoring up gender equality ……The 2X Challenge commits the G7’s development finance institutions (DFIs) “to unlock a collection total of $3bn in investment in projects supporting the economic empowerment of women in developing countries by 2020.”

Government Europa, October 21, 2019.

Karen Monnon Dempsey, Convenor, NCWC

HEALTH

More and more baby boomers in Canada are entering their senior years. The need to care for this ageing population will create many employment opportunities. On average a long term care bed costs taxpayers $28,000 more per year than 2 hours of daily home support. Health care workers who provide this, have the highest rate of part-time work but their numbers have not kept up with the need and growing number of seniors. The Federal Government must invest in training programs, infrastructure and technology to create a secure well paid work force.

Currently over 500,000 Canadians have been diagnosed with some form of dementia and numbers are expected to double in 10 years. Our Government has released its first National Dementia Strategy outlining the priorities and objectives to prevent or treat the disease by improving the quality of life. The available
screening tests diagnose 1 in 4 non-symptomatic seniors incorrectly. Data suggests that pharmacological treatments are not as effective in early stages as exercise and social interaction. The Canadian strategy which is aligned with that of other G7 countries focuses on caregivers, women, social isolation and treatment barriers but what is required is increased funding specifically to understanding the pathophysiology, pharmacological and non-pharmacological needs of the patient. That funding presently sits at 10% of what is spent on cancer research.

Beryl Matthewson, Convenor, Health, NCWC

EnergyStar ratings are probably familiar, but these applied primarily to appliances such as your refrigerator. If you had bought one of these you expected to get better energy efficiency, that is, you expected to pay less to run it. Now new ratings will rate how your whole home is operating. As of January 2019, there is a new updated Energuide Rating System from Natural Resources Canada.


Some of the main updates include:

• Introduction of a new, consumption-based rating scale using gigajoules per year (GJ/year);
• Redesigned informative house label;
• New rating details report for homeowners;
• New renovation recommendations report for homeowners;
• Changes to elements included in the rating;
• For the professionals who deliver the rating system: updated energy modelling software, house evaluation procedures and quality assurance procedures; and
• Updated delivery network testing, licensing and registration.

The EnerGuide rating demonstrates the energy performance of a home, rather than an indicator of energy efficiency.

The updated EnerGuide label has brought many improvements including:

• **New EnerGuide rating scale** gives you a consumption-based rating measured in gigajoules per year (GJ/year). The annual gigajoules per year rating allows you to see your score using units of energy similar to how you would see a consumption rating of kilowatt hours per year for home appliances, miles per gallon for vehicles, or calories per serving for food.

• **Your home’s EnerGuide rating calculation** helps you understand your energy sources and the math that produced your home’s rating. The more intuitive rating scale makes it easier to understand the lower the number, the better energy performance of the home.

• **Unique and innovative label design** is an energy performance snapshot of the more detailed information that you will find in the new Homeowner Information Sheet and allows you to see at a glance the largest energy uses in your home.

• **Your reference house, uniquely created for every home that’s rated**, allows you to compare your rating to the rating your house would achieve if it were built to meet typical new home energy performance construction requirements.

Jeannette Logan, Convenor, Justice, NCWC
Now that the Federal election is over, all the Municipalities and Regional Governments can see their priorities in their Provincial Budgets (or not!) and can press for the inclusion of, in our Council's case, several urgent Social Development issues -- our local and provincial elected representatives.

Affordable Housing, Homelessness, Transportation and Safety for Seniors are important issues. I have attended several meetings on housing issues, particularly for single parent families, homeless singles of all ages and for seniors' accessible, affordable, appropriate and available housing. It seems that the waiting lists for these availabilities are being addressed in many municipalities, but partnerships with many groups, such as: socially conscious developers, service clubs, churches and non-profit, advocacy organizations, is essential for their implementation. Municipalities are being squeezed by their provincial and the federal governments to depend less on them and more on outside partnerships. This was obvious when I attended a City Budget consultation and we were asked to make suggestions, yet again, on other than full government funding sources. Perhaps this is also the case in other areas of Canada?

Some of our cities have reorganized their public transportation systems recently, with more high speed rail lines; however, some have months of problems in the initial stages. Seniors, in particular, have had their usual routes changed, (in the interests of streamlining the whole system), but the results seem to be fewer direct trips and more changes to and from buses. This can be more difficult for seniors, particularly in winter, and for many workers who then must take more time to their work places instead of the assumed less time! With more changes from LRTs to buses and to walking to and from more central stations, safety is more of a problem for some than less so.

Often, it seems, seniors in old age cannot rely on their families to sustain them, though they have multiple physical (and perhaps mental) ailments, requiring many medications and treatments, housing modifications, and additional equipment. The various types of assistance requires them to navigate many application forms, locations and medical specialties, which may become more difficult, depending on their circumstances. As we live longer, more resources are required, which, even 20 years ago, was not the case. Seniors more often are not living with their families and must depend on others. Provincial Home Care often does not include basic home maintenance or other needs, just essential personal care.

Some provinces have focused on reducing their debt and have cut several services to all residents, previously considered necessary and the ‘dance’ continues to try to provide more help with fewer resources. Hopefully, these problems can be lessened with compromises for all, and help for those who need it most!

*Sheila Pepper, Convenor, Social Development and Senior Issues, NCWC*
The 2019 BPW Canada AGM was held in beautiful Montreal, hosted by our BPW Montreal Club on August 9 to 11.

It was a full weekend which included the BPW International Regional Meeting for North American and the Caribbean. We were honored to host the meeting which included representatives from the United States, Cayman Islands, St, Maarten and St. Kitt's. In attendance were BPW International President Dr. Amany Asfour and Regional Coordinator Dawne Williams.

In between AGM Business sessions, we were treated to a number of speakers who presented on a variety of topics including Women's Health, Commission of Human Rights, Feminine Negotiation and The Keys to Success. An incredibly powerful panel featuring Indigenous Women, the current struggles they face and how we can be allies.

There was a workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that dove into how each goal affects women and included actionable ways that clubs can contribute to the SDG project. BPW members can access the guide and workshop on our member resource page under Member Resources. We are encouraging all clubs to use this to help them educate their members on the SDGs.

A huge part of our AGM Business Sessions is our Resolution Process. Every year clubs submit resolutions that we vote on to include in our brief to the Federal Government. These briefs contain directives that urge our Federal Governments to take action on a number of topics that concern our group.

We have engaged several members to take on some key positions to assist the Board with our Priority Themes. Katherine Wentzell from BPW Edmonton has taken on the Gender Wage Gap priority, Kelly Franklin from BPW London has taken on the Anti Human Trafficking priority, and Doris Hall from BPW London continues with the Women’s Empowerment Principles priority.

We received the Canada Summer Job Grant and were able to hire a Fanshawe College student, Fiona Magor, who worked from July 2 until August 30, to help us with our archiving project. In those nine weeks Fiona was able to scan stacks of BPW Canada historical newsletters, photographs and other historical documents. These documents are now available for us to post on our website or in our newsletters. What a treat it will be to read what BPW was up to 70 years ago.

We would also like to congratulate BPW Ontario, for a very successful Human Trafficking Awareness Day, held on the World Day to End Slavery, July 30, 2019. BPW Ontario organized rallies at many ONroute (food and fuel) stations located along the 400 series highways in Ontario. This highway has been identified as the major Human Trafficking route in Canada. The goal was to raise awareness with travelers encouraging them to report any suspicious activity or generally to be aware of this growing crime in our neighbourhoods. Kudos to BPW Ontario members on a job well done.

We are excited for the year ahead.

Linda Davis, President, BPW Canada

www.bpwcanada.com
For over 100 years, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) has been passionately supporting programs and services for Children, Healthcare, and Women in Israel and Canada. CHW is proudly committed to improving and enriching the lives of families; empowering people to reach their full potential; and offers education and leadership opportunities.

On Saturday, November 2, CHW hosted the iChange Gala at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel in support of CHW Hadassim Children and Youth Village. CHW Hadassim serves both immigrant and Israeli children from disadvantaged families. Many of the children live in dormitories and come from families unable to care for them. Children at CHW Hadassim have experienced emotional and physical abuse or anti-Semitism in their home countries. It is the hope that by living in this vibrant environment, the children will feel at home and excel in their studies.

Gala attendees were welcomed by Alina Ianson, National Executive Director, CHW; Marilyn Libin, National President, CHW; and Event Co-Chairs, Brondell Shapiro (National) and Barb Rosenstein (Toronto). CHW was proud to receive official greetings from Galit Baram, Consul General of Israel to Toronto and Western Canada and the Honourable Fleur Hassan-Nahoum, a Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem.

The event was emceed by 21 year old, Michelle Shimonov, a rising music star and actress from Rishon LeZion, Israel, and graduate of CHW Hadassim. Her humour and elegant poise put the audience at ease as she introduced speakers to the podium. After a fabulous 3-course dinner, Michelle returned to the stage accompanied by musician, Yonatan Doron, for a dynamic and heart-warming concert performance. Yonatan is the Musical Coordinator at CHW Hadassim and also a graduate. Both shared their moving stories about their difficult family hardships, how they found CHW Hadassim, their experiences living and learning at the school, and what they are doing now. They are truly a success story! The duo performed original music, beloved Hebrew songs, but the audience was truly touched by the debut of a stunning ballad written especially for CHW.

Following the event, the centre pieces, comprised of a variety of non-perishable food items, were proudly donated to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success at Beyond 3:30 — a safe and welcoming after-school program for students ages 11-14 across the GTA offering meals, sports, and homework support.

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On November 3rd, CHW hosted the iCHW National Conference and AGM in Toronto. The full-day event featured CHW project news and reports conducted by the CHW Leadership Team; as well as motivational and inspirational speakers from Israel and Canada. The keynote speakers at the Conference were Fleur Hassan-Nahoum, a Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem; Galia Alef, Director, CHW Nahalal Children & Youth Village; Dr. Iris Morag, Director of Neonatology, The Shamir Medical Centre (Assaf Harofeh); and Mark Kachuck, National Education Director, Canadian Young Judaea (CYJ). Each offered an impactful presentation about their respective areas of expertise that had attendees mesmerized, informed and, at times, in tears.

Reeva Waksberg, National Marketing Communications Manager, CHW

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UPDATES ON THE NCWC WEBSITE VISIT NCWC’s WEBSITE - CHANGES (www.ncwcanada.com), I have made improvements to the front page to make it easier to navigate and find information. Check out the pages on our Board and Convenors and read their Bios.

NCWC Policy —over 50 years—1967-2019

See Communications and explore Policy Listed By Year and Policy Listed Alphabetically

The NCWC website is a huge data base of over 1,000 documents, including letters to the Government from our Presidents and Board members since 1967. Read about NCWC’s history, governance, team, Board, Convenors, members, NCWC Education Fund, NCWC Development Organization, become a member, get copies of current/past NCWC Newsletters and News from National and lots more.

Beverley Colquhoun, Convenor, Website, NCWC

During the past several years, the Canadian Council of Muslim Women (CCMW) has undertaken initiatives to inform Muslim women, the legal profession, community service agencies, policy-makers, and the general public about Muslim family laws and how they compare with Canadian family laws. From successfully advocating against the use of religious family laws under Ontario’s Arbitration Act, to publishing Muslim and Canadian Family Laws: A Comparative Primer in English and French and a series of booklets in several languages on family law topics; CCMW continues to educate and empower Canadian Muslim women.

Knowledge Sharing workshops are a continuation of this process of educating and empowering Canadian Muslim women. The aim of these Knowledge Sharing Workshops is to build the skills of individuals, organizations, and communities so that they are better equipped to increase access to justice for Canadian Muslim women in family law issues. With your participation, we aim to serve community and build the capacity of CCMW chapter members, legal professionals, community leaders, service providers and educators across Canada.

To preregister for a Knowledge Sharing workshop in your locality, or to learn more, please contact Sabrine Azraq at projects@ccmw.com or (416) 897–1907.

Thank you in advance,

Sabrine Azraq
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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign started by activists at the inaugural Women’s Global Leadership Institute in 1991. It begins on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Monday, November 25, and ends on International Human Rights Day, Tuesday, December 10. These 16 days are set aside to increase global awareness of the disproportionate levels of violence faced by women and girls, as well as diverse populations, including Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ2 community members, gender non-binary individuals, those living in northern, rural, and remote communities, people with disabilities, newcomers, children and youth and seniors. The international theme this year is ‘Generation Equality Stands Against Rape’.

The Canadian theme is #OurActionsMatter. The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality issued this statement: “No one person or government can end gender-based violence alone – it will take all of us to create safe homes, communities, and workplaces. To join the chorus of voices calling for an end to gender-based violence, use #OurActionsMatter from now until December 10th to share messages of support and how you are taking action to end violence against women and girls, LBGTQ2 individuals, and people of all gender identities and expression…”

The 16 Days of Activism also includes the National Day of Remembrance on Friday, December 6. On December 6, 1989, thirteen female students and a female administrator at l’École Polytechnique de Montréal were murdered because they were women. The shocking impact of their deaths led Parliament to designate December 6 as a national day of remembrance.

Thirty years later, the effects of this tragedy continue to be felt, and women remain targets because of their gender. Women around the world, and yes, in Canada too, continue to face disproportionate levels of violence as a daily reality. The Commission into the “Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls” file gives credence to the fact that Canada simply must do better in enacting concrete solutions to eliminate all forms of gender specific violence.

We cannot believe legislation and good intentions will solve this problem. We each have the opportunity and the responsibility to stand up against misogyny, sexism, and hate. Small actions can have a big impact in creating a culture of respect for all. Visit the Status of Women Canada site https://cfc-sw.c.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/commemoration-en.html for ways to start a conversation about violence against women and girls, raise awareness of the problem, and inspire yourself and others to action.

Patricia Leson, President, NCWC

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING

It is brutal, it is shocking and it is happening right now. Lurking behind the curtains of denial we draw to avoid confronting difficult issues is the dark underbelly of our “civilized” society. Now ranked as the second most profitable criminal enterprise in the world (between drugs and arms trafficking), human trafficking is both alive and very much present at our doorstep.

While it is true that the transatlantic slave-trade was abolished more than two centuries ago, today there are close to 40 million people who are living in forced servitude around the globe: men, women and children traded, abused and used, their market value in 2017 generating well over $150 Billion USD dollars in profits alone. New figures suggest these “profit figures” are nearing $190 billion.

This “modern slavery” is driven by an array of dynamics that include imbalances in power (e.g. poverty and gender) and is fueled by an increasingly globalized marketplace. Easy profits and greed, combined with a willingness to objectify and commodify others for personal gain are also driving factors.

The Palermo Protocol, adopted by the UN in 2000 outlines its’ definition of human trafficking as:

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ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- The Act: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons
- The Means: Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim
- The Purpose: Profit-garnered through intentional exploitation

“This exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery such as debt bondage, servitude or the removal of organs...

Importantly, the consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth [above] shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth [above] have been used.”

Child marriage, the recruitment of children into the militia, as well as child labour that involves slavery and/or hazardous labour are also recognized or categorized as being part of this crime. Most disturbing is the sexual exploitation of children — including cybersex abuse — an issue that is growing exponentially. Estimates today suggest that the number of photos and video film circulating on the “net” has morphed into the millions- with millions of customers seeking them out daily. A New York Times report (September 2019) states that: “Last year, tech companies reported over 45 million online photos and videos of children being sexually abused — more than double what they found the previous year.”

These figures speak to the addictive appetite, affordability and “anonymous” accessibility that is literally harming children here in Canada and beyond our borders, even as you read.

As of 2019 the NCWC has policy on this crime — a crime in which Canadians have been identified as being key players in the “web hosting”, distribution and purchase of such “products” (Interpol 2018). I encourage you to insist that this issue be tackled forcibly. Please write, phone and demand that your representatives at all levels of government recognize the need to develop, tighten and enforce laws to protect all children. Encourage them to allot funding and training to support local, provincial and the RCMP police forces such that they target — not just those who profit — but those whose demand are behind this heinous behavior.

Penny Rankin, President, Montreal Council of Women (MCW)

For more information, contact Penny Rankin directly at: penelope.m.rankin@gmail.com

Facts at a Glance

Almost 1/3rd of all trafficking victims world wide are children.

Average age Canadian children are first approached for exploitation is 13.5 years. (Noting too their first exposure to pornography is on average 9 years of age.)

The younger a victim the more "profit". In Canada the average money generated by trafficked victims is $280,000 a year.

Only 7% of all females trafficked here are trafficked in to Canada.

The single greatest risk associated with being trafficked in Canada is to be born a girl. That said, nearly 50% of trafficked victims are Indigenous women and girls (a population that makes up only 4% of the general population).

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-833-900-1010

Other Information

Read this report on a sting operation from 2013:

NOTE: Please note that this crime is escalating despite some progress. Ultimately, until the demand itself is addressed, this highly lucrative crime will continue. Please use #endhumantrafficking in any posts you make about this issue.

1  https://unicefusa.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdf/End-Child-Trafficking-One-Pager.pdf
ATTENTION

CONGRATULATIONS GRACIA JANES!

NCWC is proud to congratulate one of our long-time members, Gracia Janes, NCWC VP Environment and Honourary Life Member, for being awarded the prestigious Living Landmark by the Niagara Foundation. This award is given to a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake for outstanding contribution to the quality of life in the region. A not-for-profit organization, Niagara Foundation advocates for the preservation of heritage lands. Janes has been a vocal advocate for Niagara-on-the-Lake’s historical preservation. She has demonstrated leadership and love for her town, province and country. Janes is also President of the NCWC Education Fund, VP of the Environment for the PCWO, and President of the Niagara District Council of Women. Well done Gracia!

DISTRIBUTE NCWC’s newsletter to ALL MEMBERS of your organizations. NCWC continues to work on improving communications and much work is put into preparing The NCWC Newsletter. Help us reach all our members!

Beverley Colquhoun, Editor, Newsletter, and Website Convenor
editornewsletter@ncwcanada.com

Editorial Board: Rosemary Mallory, Trish Masniuk, and Carol Schweitzer

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

EMAIL YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, ARTICLES and PHOTOS
To The Editor: editornewsletter@ncwcanada.com
Submission date for the next issue of NCWC newsletter
February 15, 2020

FORMAT: WORD, Rich Text, Arial 11 pt, 500 WORD MAXIMUM

The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit all material submitted

Submit articles about issues that concern your organization, your special events, your members, your celebrations, and include some photos. Ask your Federates to participate.

NCWC NEWSLETTERS DATES: Submission (Distribution):
AGM Special Report - Sept 15 (Oct 1); Regular Issues - Nov 15 (Dec 1); Feb 15 (March 1); May 1 (May 15)

NCWC FACEBOOK: We post information about matters that concern the NCWC: https://www.facebook.com/thencwc/
Contact NCWC Facebook Editor: Karen Monnon Dempsey, kdempsey624@gmail.com
NCWC’S 126TH ANNIVERSARY
1893-2019

Celebrating 126 years of working to improve the quality of life for Canadian women, their families and communities.

National Council of Women of Canada
www.ncwcanada.com

Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/thencwc/

Join us! Become a MEMBER of an organization for women that continues to make a difference!

For information

CONTACT OUR PRESIDENT: presncwc@gmail.com


FIND A PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN IN YOUR AREA:

FIND A LOCAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN IN YOUR AREA:
http://www.ncwcanada.com/membership/council-structure/