EDITOR’S COMMENTS

Welcome to our third quarter edition of The NCWC Newsletter! Our contributors have done us proud in bringing interesting news and writing articles on some very important topics, despite their busy schedules. A great read! Now a few highlights. NOTE: Read the CSW Notice on page 1.

President Patricia Leson begins by talking about the issues that are top of mind for women and Canadians, causing us to live in “interesting times.” She tells us what NCWC is doing to address some of these matters with our government and points to letters posted on the NCWC website that we have sent to the Government to express our concerns and offer opinions. In the background, we have some diligent members who do research and help us write these important letters, such as Gracia Janes, 1st Vice President and VP of Environment and Monica Cullum, Convenor, Special Committees. Find them under the President’s Corner and Government Correspondence. You too can help us if you are interested and have some background in specific topics that are ongoing concerns for women, and which NCWC needs to address. If you want to get involved, ask our President presncwc@gmail.com.

It is NCWC Resolution Month! Remember, the deadline for submitting your amendments to the Resolutions for 2020 is March 31. Jane Cowell Poitras is eagerly waiting for your proposals and comments. Your contributions are important to NCWC. Our Policy can influence our nation!

Read the latest news from the Montreal, Niagara District and Winnipeg Councils. Penny Rankin and her team from MCW invited Marie-Josée Potvin, a survivor of the Polytechnique Massacre, to commemorate the 14 women who died tragically 30 years ago. This occasion was close to our hearts and minds since our Common Program for 2019-2021 is focused on “Missing and Murdered Women”. Adriana Greenblatt, an MCW member who works with UN Women, writes about sexual harassment and informs us about new approaches for victims and survivors to deal with this ongoing injustice toward women. She strongly encourages us to collaborate with partners like the UN which can be helpful in preventing and addressing this very important women’s issue.

Past President Sandra Cohen-Rose talks about the importance of good nutrition and that everyone must be focused on eating right to fight illness and viruses. She reminds us that this is March Nutrition Month and, thus, a good time to refocus on our eating habits.

Trish Masniuk calls to mind the many national and local women’s organizations that are fighting daily for women’s rights, and some of them are members of NCWC. She points out that NCWC provides “a special framework for collective action through its federate structure and advocacy work, supported by a strong, clear resolution process” and reminds you to reach out and talk about the benefits of your organization. Tell us what you are doing and how we can work together...remember, together, we are stronger! Send us your news and inform us about your initiatives and projects.

Read the articles by our Board of Directors and Convenors from our Standing Committees. They are well-informed women writing about matters they care about, such as Environment, Communications, Health and Economics. They bring important information to our attention so we can be on top of matters affecting women and our families. BTW, some of our members have published books...congratulations ladies!

Lastly, we need donations to support our projects and our organization. Both the NCWC Education Fund and the Development Organization would be most grateful for your support.

Beverley Colquhoun, Editor, The NCWC Newsletter
editornewsletter@ncwcanada.com, www.ncwcanada.com
NOTE: Browse our website. Learn about our Board & Convenors, and read the sections on Policy, Calendar, Members, etc.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

IMPORTANT CSW NOTICE: The two-week CSW meeting, scheduled from March 9 to 20, has been cancelled until further notice due to the coronavirus COVID-19. This includes all CSW64 government sessions and side events, all NGO-CSW64 parallel events, Consultation Day, the Canadian government reception and others. Please refer to: CSW64 Advisory and NGO CSW64 Notice.

The phrase “may you live in interesting times” has certainly taken on special meaning in Canada and throughout the world these past few months. Here at home, we are struggling to recommit to the ongoing process of truth and reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Canadians, the clash between resource development and Canada’s climate change approach, and the increase in violence – just to name a few issues. Throughout the world the fears regarding the mounting incidence of COVID-19 coronavirus, civil unrest in many countries, and concerns that women’s rights are in danger of being eroded are only a part of the daily news cycle that seems to spin from crisis to crisis.

As an organization, we certainly cannot be expected to alleviate and reduce all these pressures and concerns, but we also are willing and able to step up to the plate and do what we can. Our members have prepared letters on radio-active waste, gun control, the necessity for the implementation of Pharmacare, the proposed Teck Frontier oilsands mine, and human trafficking. These letters are posted on our website. Our Annual Brief to the Government laid out our policies for the coming year. The report for the ICW newsletter outlined our advocacy and our actions on specific issues. The triennial report for the Commission for the Status of Women showed our commitment to not only maintaining the gains we have made for women, but also enhancing them. It is through the activism of our individual members the NCWC takes flight by displaying its vibrant, relevant approach to concerns facing Canadians today. Please take a moment to visit the NCWC website to review these and other documents; the submitters of these took particular care to note our policies which reflect our vision, our mandate, and our dedicated commitment to work for the betterment of all society.

You will have received a copy of the resolutions that will continue our tradition of grassroots Council and Affiliate involvement in setting our policy and direction for the future. This grassroots involvement is an essential component to our advocacy communication strategies and a way to cultivate new relationships. You are invited to review them and submit your comments and/or amendments to our Resolutions Chair, Jane Cowell, by March 31st. They will be discussed and voted on at our Annual General Meeting, and if accepted by a majority of the delegates, they will then become part of our policies. This grassroots advocacy approach has proven to be effective for the past 127 years, and, with your assistance, it will continue to be an

...cont’d on page 2
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
...cont’d from page 1

Influential and creative approach in working with governments and similarly focused organizations.

Yes, our AGM and Conference 2020 is mere months away! We are just putting the final touches on the registration package, and we hope you will be pleased with it. So, if you haven’t yet saved the date on your calendars, please do so! We are booked into the Novotel Hotel in Ottawa from May 28th through to Sunday, May 31st. It is a wonderful time to rekindle friendships, dialogue on our resolutions, be inspired by our speakers, and share the camaraderie of like-minded women.

While we are appreciative of the many women who devote so much time and energy to the NCWC, we also realize there are times in our lives when one must step back and let other matters take precedence. Such is the case with Jaspal Gill, who was elected to serve as one of our Vice Presidents. Launching her new business, coupled with pressing family matters, had to take priority in the allotment of her time, and it was with regret we accepted her decision to leave our Board. To keep the transition as seamless as possible, Trish Masniuk has moved over to assume the Justice portfolio. It was decided we would leave the position of Vice President of Communications and Public Relations vacant for the time being. The Convenorships under that portfolio will now use the President as their conduit to the Board and the membership. We plan to make a permanent decision regarding this position in May. Jaspal, we wish you much success in setting up your new business along with improved health within your family circle. We are truly appreciative of your desire to continue to work with the NCWC as time and circumstance permit.

It is impossible to give enough credit and thanks for the incredible contributions of so many of our individual members! Those writing letters have been mentioned and documented, but there are many others who deserve a great deal of credit for advancing our work. Daniela Chivu has dedicated many hours to ensure the NCWC delegation to CSW64 is well prepared, informed, and in concert with our policies. Trish Masniuk and Daniela are excellent ambassadors for the NCWC and represent us well within the Caucus for Europe and North America. Our webmaster and Editor of our Newsletter, Beverley Colquhoun, continues to keep us up to date in the eye of the public. Karen Dempsey continues to do a super job with maintaining our Facebook page, an all-important social media platform for the membership to share their concerns and their activities. Additionally, there are many, many of you who courageously advance our cause each and every day by turning advocacy into action; we are honoured to have your personal support.

While we cannot control the myriad of pressures, issues, and concerns in Canada and the world, it is encouraging to know that no matter what, the NCWC, its individual members, and its affiliates are continuing to work together to offer viable solutions in a proactive manner. Thanks to each of you for offering hope, empathy, and understanding.

Onward and upward!

Patricia Leson, President, NCWC
presncwc@gmail.com
613-712-4419

MARCH—NUTRITION MONTH

More than Food

“Nutrition month 2020. “Cook, Share, Enjoy builds on the theme “More Than Food” : How you eat is important too!”

Nutrition Month 2020 focuses on healthy eating habits, like eating mindfully and cooking more often. Every day of every month we should be aware of what we eat and the setting in which we eat – March, Nutrition Month, reminds us of the importance of good nutrition for good health.

As far back as 400 BC Hippocrates, the father of medicine, emphasized the importance of nutrition to prevent or cure disease, “I will apply dietary and lifestyle measures to help the sick to my best ability and judgment; I will protect them from harm and injustice. “

The most readily available reference for eating well every day is the Canadian Food Guide. The latest guide advocates eating more unprocessed food – more fruits and vegetables and whole grains and small amounts of unprocessed meat. This way of eating is not only good for us, but it’s also good for the planet.
NCWC EDUCATION FUND

The NCWC Education Fund was set up in 2008 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 societies.

Each year since its inception, our Education Fund Board of Directors has worked with NCWC to present a “Common” (theme) program at the NCWC Annual General Meeting Conference. For the next two years, we will dedicate our work to “Listening to, Learning from and Acting on the recommendations and themes of the report on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.”

As you may have noticed in our Fall Newsletter, NCWC President Patricia Leson gained the help of Chief Connie Big Eagle, Chair of the Women’s Council of the Assembly of First Nations, who offered the assistance of her Council in developing programming in this area. They were very pleased our membership wishes to walk with them on the journey to Truth and Reconciliation and to continue the struggle to eliminate violence against all women.

In this regard, the Provincial Council of Women of Saskatchewan and the Prince Albert and Saskatoon Local Councils of Women have built on existing policy to develop a 2020 Update on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA Persons, and in Ontario, Ottawa Council of Women was fortunate to feature former Inquiry Commissioner, Oajaq Robina at their November meeting. For our part, we are very fortunate that this excellent resource person has agreed to be our feature speaker on Saturday May 30th at the 2020 NCWC/NCWC Education Fund Common Program afternoon session.

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 National Council of Women of Canada Education Fund, c/o Ruth Robinson, 117 Mt Allison Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7H 4A4. Also, donations can be made through Canada Helps: CanadaHelps.org.

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

CHARITABLE RECEIPTS FOR TAX PURPOSES for both NCWCCEF 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 the NCWC website under Charitable Organizations / NCWC Development Organization; see: http://www.ncwcanada.com/fundraising/national-council-of-women-of-canada-development-organization-ncwcdc/

Donations over $50 are recognized in the NCWCDO Annual Report. Three projects were supported in 2019.

- The twinning program of Action Réfugiés Montréal (ARM) creates social support for newly arrived refugee women by twinning them with Montreal women for regular meetings and group activities.

- The non-violent communications (NVC) book club at the Saskatoon Mothers’ Centre (SMC) provides drop-in services, programming and hospitality to women and children in the core neighbourhood which has the highest number of families of indigenous origins and of new-comers to Canada.

- Hope Restored Canada’s mission is the eradicating of sexual exploitation and trafficking through its H.O.P.E. Model (Holistic Restoration, Outreach, Partnership and Education). The average age of entry into trafficking/prostitution in Canada is 12-14 years old. This organization has connected over 280 women who are in the sex trade through circumstance and/or coercion and range in age from teens to grown women in their 20’s through 50’s. The project submitted enabled a start-up branch in Prince Albert

Do you know of any projects that might qualify for financial aid from NCWCDO? Ask the organization to fill out a grant application. Monies received during the 2019-2020 fiscal year will support projects that qualify for consideration.

Carol Schweitzer, Chair, NCWCDO
ncwcdc@gmail.com

NCWCDO TREASURER

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
MONTREAL
MCW Initiatives

The Montreal Council has approached the new decade with a number of initiatives and efforts that we hope will set the stage as we move towards 2030 - not least of all adding PayPal, upgrading our website and increasing our presence on social media!

Our monthly events continue with a variety of guest speakers and special events - including a panel discussion held in October that included four women candidates representing four different parties from across the city.

Our strategic planning exercise - held last summer has also informed decisions on a number of advocacy proposals - including our continued effort to encourage support for warming and day centres for the homeless. Most recently we have also raised concerns about a recent decision on the part of the city not to adopt the IHRA definition on antisemitism.

Some "outside the box" efforts include pairing up with a theatre production company (and new Federate member) to host a theatre event next month that we hope will raise awareness of the implications imposed by Bill 21 - a provincial law that impacts (among many others) Montreal teachers who wear a hijab - essentially denying their right to choose to wear one or not.

Here is a link to the play:
https://www.teesriduniyatheatre.com/press/counter-offence-at-the-segal

In this issue of the NCWC Newsletter, we have also included a report on our December meeting marking the 30th Anniversary of Polytechnique massacre. Another report is submitted by Adriana Greenblatt on her work with UN Women (pg. 13).

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Montreal Polytechnique Massacre

On Thursday, December 5, 2019, the MCW held its annual Holiday Luncheon which commemorated the 30th anniversary of the "December 6th Massacre at the École Polytechnique de Montréal."

President Penny Rankin introduced special guest speaker, Marie-Josée Potvin, a survivor of the 1989 shooting. This was the first public speech she had ever given about the experience, which took her 15 years to seek help for. She gave a deeply moving speech sharing her feelings and the following poem:

"They died for a cause; We didn’t know we could die for. They died in a war; Existing only to the aggressor. They only wanted to live. Live to the fullest. Live without limits. Live to grow tall. We owe it to them to make such a life possible. We owe it to them to ensure all can grow tall. We owe it to them to remember."

We commend Potvin for her courage and are extremely grateful that she spoke to our members to commemorate this anniversary, a day we will never forget and forever grieve. We also thank her daughter, Emmanuelle, for assisting her mother with a ceremonial tribute to each victim by reading out each name and asking us to take a moment of silence to remember each woman.

Following lunch, MCW members of different faiths spoke about their traditions and celebrations. It was interesting to listen to each speaker describe the various histories and practices of her religion, and it was especially remarkable to hear about the common values that all faiths share.

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude and thanks to our guest speaker, the speakers from different faiths and the members who provided us with a fabulous lunch. This was a very memorable MCW Holiday Luncheon.

Here is a link to photos of this event: https://www.flickr.com/gp/99877680@N08/w7657C

Penny Rankin, President, MCW
As many of you know, on September 11th, we got off to a very stimulating and educational start to our Fall programs, when over 50 attendees came out to hear environmental steward Ed Smith talk about Niagara’s current global warming crisis, and the urgent need for us all to help counter this looming world threat.

To begin, Ed, a new Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Board member, gave us a glimpse of the environmental damages Niagara has already experienced such as shoreline flooding and the warming of Niagara’s only ‘cold water’ stream in Effingham. He warned of the newly limited role of Ontario’s Conservation Authorities in ameliorating this and future warming events, due to the Province’s recent Bill 108, which severely constrains the Conservation Authority’s important environmental protection and educational work.

On a hopeful note, Ed cited several local climate change initiatives such as the beautiful Henley Island spit naturalization, but concluded by urging us to each make a “cultural shift”, for instance to get away from the neat green lawn ideal and into the preservation and cultivation of our natural areas.

Looking ahead, our program this month, “Homelessness in Niagara-Community Solutions” highlights another “crisis” which is growing at a rapid pace and demands that we work together as a community, province and country as quickly as possible to serve those in need of affordable, accessible, appropriate housing. We look forward to a compassionate, intelligent and helpful Forum!

Gracia Janes, President, NDCW
3. Funding for individuals and non-profit organizations in Manitoba for the distribution and publication of booklets and newspapers for the advancement of education related to women’s issues,

4. Funding to assist in the costs of an archivist to ensure documents relating to work done on women’s issues will be preserved.

For the last 25 years they have come together to learn about the current issues and activities of the councils, including the National Council of Women of Canada and the International Council of Women. Speakers and programs have included researchers, journalists, former and current politicians and historians.

The support, encouragement and mentorship of the Life Members Association is appreciated by the Councils of Women in Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba.

Arlene Draffin Jones, Life Member, NCWC

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Arlene Draffin Jones, Life Member, NCWC

25th Anniversary of founding of Councils of Women Life Members Association

Back row: (L-R) Elizabeth Fleming, Pat Powell, Arlene Draffin Jones, Monika Feist, Maxine Balbon, Shirley Walker, Mary Scott, Barbara Kendel, Joan Butcher

Front row: (L-R) Muriel Smith, Mary Pankiw, Bonnie Siemens, Elaine Adam, Marilyn McGonigal, Sandra Kloss

Missing: Carolyn Garlich, Monica Singh, Kelly-Ann Stevenson, Sally Thomas, Peggy Barker

MARCH—NUTRITION MONTH

More than Food (...cont’d from page 2)

Most meat comes from cattle fattened on grains in stockyards, leaving a large carbon footprint. Fortunately, meat produced in a way which is best for the planet, free range, is also best for man. It is leaner, and higher in essential nutrients. The kind of fat that it carries is better for us, being higher in polyunsaturated fats than saturated fats, which have been shown to be detrimental to our health—often associated with heart disease.

“Life Skills Education, which food and nutrition education is a part of, was first promoted in 1894, by NCWC member Adelaide Hoodless. With the greater access to information via the Internet, it is more important than ever before for today’s generation to make informed judgements based on nutrition and food knowledge. Accordingly, the NCWC common program for 2017 to 2019 was, “Eliminating poverty through life skills education and women’s empowerment.”

NCWC continues to promote life skills education for both boys and girls from an early age. Not only during nutrition month, but all through the year, mindful eating should be practiced.

Obesity rates among children and youth in Canada have nearly tripled in the last 30 years. Generally, obese children grow up to be obese adults, being more prone to a wide range of medical problems.

Children who from an early age develop an appreciation for the importance and pleasure of sharing nutritious, well-prepared meals, in an amiable environment, grow up to be healthier adults who are more conscious of their environment.

Sandra Cohen-Rose, Past President, NCWC
ENVIRONMENT

“The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC), representing thousands of Canadians from coast to coast, has, for many years, studied the destructive impacts of resource exploration, development, and use on Canada’s environmentally sensitive ecosystems. Therefore, we have often urged the Government to act in a “precautionary” manner to protect these treasured natural areas.”

Thus, begins a letter prepared by 1st Vice President Gracia Janes whose portfolio is responsible for addressing environmental concerns. The Federal Government was slated to decide the fate of the giant Teck Resources Oilsands Mine development near Wood Buffalo National Park in northern Alberta by the end of February. We wanted to ensure the Ministry was aware we have had policies dating back to 2009 urging the Government of Canada to “cease supporting the irresponsible production of oil from tar sands in Canada”.

In the end, the decision was taken out of the Government’s hands when Teck CEO Don Lindsay announced its withdrawal of the application. In doing so, he stated, “Global capital markets are changing rapidly, and investors and customers are increasingly looking for jurisdictions to have a framework in place that reconciles resource development and climate change in order to produce the cleanest possible products. This does not yet exist here today…”

We are very pleased the Teck oilsands project has been cancelled thereby ensuring the long-term protection of this fragile environment along with the health of its Indigenous population, their territorial lands, and their traditional ways of life. It is interesting to note that, further on in his letter, Mr. Lindsay acknowledges this when he states, “Questions about the societal implications of energy development, climate change, and Indigenous rights are critically important ones for Canada, its provinces, and Indigenous governments to work through.” This is a very astute comment and one that should be taken to heart.

As we contemplate the best way to move forward in addressing these societal implications and their entwinement, we must continue to be vigilant in urging the government to act in a responsible manner regarding not only resource development and its relationship to the urgent threat of a changing climate, but also in recognition of its commitment to walk in partnership with the Indigenous community. It is only then Canada will achieve its greenhouse gas emission targets in a responsible, inclusive manner.

Patricia Leson, President, NCWC

COMMUNICATIONS—Our Key to Success

NCWC strives to share information through our communication channels. To do this, the NCWC produces four Newsletters every year. It is sent to all NCWC Councils and Federates; distribution to all their members is expected. We depend on you to distribute our newsletter to all your members and others. We encourage you to share it with friends.

Newsletters are also placed on the NCWC Website, where you can review all past editions and other extensive information on a wide range of topics from our history, to our policies and executive.

The NCWC Newsletter and Website are both managed by Beverley Colquhoun. If you have any questions Beverley may be reached at editornewsletter@ncwcanada.com.

For everyday happenings and events [communication], we depend on the NCWC Facebook. It is our everyday face and where we can all participate. Facebook manager, Karen Monnon Dempsey, puts a lot of effort into posting articles. Visit often and send your comments to her. Once approved, they will be posted. We like to have a diversity of topics to discuss and encourage more involvement by our members.

All NCWC members can post on Facebook by sending their post to our Facebook manager, Karen Monnon Dempsey at kdempsey624@gmail.com.

In conclusion, we ask our members to be more active on the NCWC Facebook page and please LIKE the posts that you agree with. Ask your Facebook friends to become NCWC Facebook friends. We would like lots of discussion on topics that concern NCWC about women’s issues!

Sandra Cohen-Rose, Past President, NCWC
The focus of my activity has been national and international meetings. Representatives from 40 national feminist organizations met in Ottawa, January 16-17, 2020, to "define the feminist influencing agenda in Ottawa". It was organized by Action Canada for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Canadian Women's Foundation, Canadian Labour Congress, National Association of Women and the Law, Women's Shelters Canada and Oxfam Canada, which hosted the event at their headquarters.

The gathering's purpose was to build on the major wins since 2015 for the women's rights movement in Canada (federal pay equity legislation, gender budgeting, housing investments with a gender lens, the Feminist International Assistance Policy, and major investments in women's rights organizations and global sexual and reproductive health.)

The participants were a veritable Who's Who of national women's organizations old and new, including our federates: Council of Muslim Women, Canadian Federation of University Women, and Canadian Women's Foundation.

Other participants were Amnesty International Canada, Canadian Association for Gender and Sexual Diversity, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives CCPA, Child Care Now, DisAbled Women's Network DAWN, Equality Fund, Feminists Alliance for International Action FAFIA, Federation des Femmes de Quebec, Girls Action Foundation, West Coast LEAF, National Abortion Federation of Canada, National Association of Friendship Centres, National Congress of Black Women, Pauktuutit (Inuit Women of Canada), UNIFOR, Women of the Metis Nation, and Young Women's Leadership Network.

On January 22nd, the Canadian Labour Congress hosted a meeting for NGOs sending delegates to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York March 9-22. Many of the participants had been at the feminist meeting. The hope is to mobilize a strong collective voice to influence the Canadian government at the official CSW table in the United Nations building.

These successful events forged personal contacts between these strong and diverse women's groups and creating a listserv and electronic bulletin board to link all of us into a collective feminist force with a strong voice.

NCWC provides a special framework for collective action through its federate structure and advocacy work, supported by a strong, clear resolution process. Our work would be even more successful with the active participation of these organizations.

The first recruitment step has been taken by NCWC's presence at these historic meetings.

To build on this outreach, I encourage all of you to reread the above list of organizations carefully. If you are a member or if you know members, please reach out to explain the benefits of joining their voice to ours.

Daniela Chivu and I are members of the Core Group for the Europe / North America Caucus preparing for CSW 64 Beijing+25. This two-week event involves nearly 12,000 delegates from nearly 200 countries. The rapid emergence of the new virus COVID-19 has raised concerns for the safety of delegates to this event, so the Core Group has asked NGOCSWNY, CSW and WHO to provide guidance.

Trish Masniuk, VP, Public Relations, NCWC

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RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS 2020: Deadline March 31

Any questions about this year's Resolutions? Ask us!

Download the Rules for Proposing Resolutions from the NCWC Website (see front page, right-hand column under “NCWC Resolutions 2020 and Rules.”)

A copy of the Resolutions for 2020 are also posted.

Contact Jane Cowell, Convenor, NCWC Resolutions jane.cowell.poitras@sympatico.ca or call 514-250-9527
ECONOMICS AND EMPLOYMENT

In 2017 persons living below the Poverty Line declined, however, the total number still living in poverty was 3,412,000 or 9.5%. Of those, 2,553,000 persons between the ages of 18 and 64 comprised 11.1%; 238,000 persons over 65 were at 3.9%. Source: Canadian Income Survey 2017, Statistics Canada

The Gender Wage Gap, Statistics Canada, from 2018 evidenced that women earned $4.13/hr less than men, or $0.87 for every dollar earned by men. This ‘gap’ was explained thus: $1.87 was due to the fact that there are more men in the higher paying sectors; $0.38 was due to the fact that more women worked part-time (16% for women and only 4.8% for men). $2.62 left in the gap was unexplained. It was stated that the wage gap would have been higher if not for the fact that 1) women had high rates of employment in the public sector and in unionized jobs; and 2) women had attained higher education with at least 41.2% holding a bachelor’s degree.

The gig economy is essentially precarious employment and its workers, the precariat. In 2005, all workers in the ‘gig’ economy comprised 5.5%; women equaled 6.2% of the total. In 2016 those numbers had increased with all workers at 8.2% and women making up 9.1% of the total in the gig economy. Gig workers in the lowest 20% of the individual income distribution were comprised of 12.3% women; in the highest 20%, 6.9% were women. Source: Measuring the Gig Economy in Canada Using Administrative Data. Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper No. 437. Statistics Canada.

In his book, A Precariat Charter, Dr. Guy Standing (a Cambridge-educated economist) states that: “The precariat can only face the future with optimism if the state moves towards paying a guaranteed basic income, a monthly amount sufficient to provide every legal resident with basic security. Without such a claim right, insecurity, indebtedness and inequality will continue to grow.... Every type of economy has a distinctive mode of income distribution. Under industrial capitalism, the two main modes were wages and profits; governments mediated the struggle for shares of total income with regulations, taxes and subsidies. But in a globalized system wages have

lost ground, while rental income and financial capital are high and rising .... Any progressive should want a society in which everyone has basic security, regardless of age, gender, race, marital status, labour status, disability or whatever.”

The Huffington Post reported on the recently issued (January 23/20) 65-page report, Basic Income: Some Policy Options for Canada, by the Basic Income Canada Network, stating: “The analysis from the Basic Income Canada Network (BICN) used a simulation database and model from Statistics Canada to predict how three different basic income programs would work. It picked $22,000 as the level because it’s an approximation of the cut-off point for a number of measures of poverty. It found all three options would virtually eliminate poverty in Canada, with the share of people living below the low income cut-off dropping by as much as 95 per cent, depending on the program type. Families in the bottom 10 per cent of earners would see their disposable incomes jump by 3.5 to 4.5 times current levels. The country would also see an immediate and significant shrinking of the income gap.”

The International Monetary Fund has stated that a universal basic income could reduce income inequality and protect workers affected by globalization and technological change.

To read Basic Income: Some Policy Options for Canada (in English or French) please go to: https://www.basicincomecanada.org/policy_options. A summary is also available.

Karen Monnon Dempsey, Convenor, NCWC

Karen Monnon Dempsey

NCWC FACEBOOK

VISIT and READ all about matters that concern the National Council of Women and its federates at www.facebook.com/thencwc/

LIKE NCWC Facebook and invite your friends to like and follow us too. Any member/affiliate who would like to have an item posted to our Facebook Page should send the item/link to Karen Monnon Dempsey, Facebook Manager, at kdempsey624@gmail.com
Antibiotics can quickly help heal some types of infections caused by bacteria, but when used too often may no longer be effective. Antibiotic resistance is a threat to human health. The Canadian Patient Safety Institute reported that 8,000 Canadians died from hospital-acquired infections in 2016 when 23 million antibiotic prescriptions were dispensed by pharmacies (Public Health Agency of Canada).

“Bugs & Drugs” is a peer-reviewed, evidence-based and frequently updated antimicrobial reference guide available on-line. The “Do Bugs Need Drugs? “ Program is supported by many Provincial Health Ministries and Pharmaceutical Services. The development of super-antibiotic resistant- bacteria has become a new threat. Hospitals have seen a rise in vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus over the past decade (CMAJ September 2019), as monitoring programs for these infections were stopped due to cost.

Then, there are the new viruses. January saw the outbreak of coronavirus in China with 3,802 deaths worldwide as of March 8, and fears of a pandemic have led to quarantine measures there and precautions locally. North America has recorded nine cases from patients who have recently visited Wuhan China. Canada remembers the spread of the SARS virus 20 years ago with 8,000 cases and 774 deaths and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) with 2,500 cases and 858 deaths worldwide so programs to monitor airports and hospital patients is well-established and should successfully handle this threat. The problem that we do need to prevent is the reoccurrence of Measles, a highly contagious preventable disease. The appearance of outbreaks is a public health tragedy with a solution, universal immunization. The World Health Organization reported a 300% increase in cases during the first 3 months of 2019 (CMAJ, September 2019). There were more cases in the United States than have occurred since the 1990s. In Canada only 90% of two-year-olds were vaccinated in 2017 but to prevent the spread of this disease the level needs to be much higher. There were over 82,000 reported cases of Measles in Europe in 2018, 15 times what was seen in 2016, which resulted in the death of 72 vulnerable children under the age of 5. Although there were over 140,000 deaths globally due to measles the vaccination prevented 21 million in 2018 (WHO statistics).

Beryl Matthewson, Convenor, NCWC

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Practical Tips to Prepare for COVID-19 Coronavirus

A reliable website for update on the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19 is: https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/

Its statistics correspond accurately with the information from the World Health Organization and the Government of Canada. At the same time it provides a wealth of helpful detail.


Here is a quick and handy copy of their checklist for basic emergency supplies:

Basic Emergency Kit Recommended for General Emergencies

- Water– at least two litres per person per day; include small bottles that can be carried easily in case of an evacuation order
- Food that won’t spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods
- Manual can-opener
- Crank or battery-powered flashlight and extra batteries
- Crank, battery-powered radio and extra batteries, or Weatheradio
- First aid kit
- Extra keys to your car and house
- Some cash in smaller bills, such as $10 bills and change for payphones
- Banks and bank cards, credit and debit machines may not work
- A copy of your emergency plan and contact information
- If applicable, other items such as prescription medication, infant formula food, water and medications for your pets or service animals, equipment for people with disabilities or infant care (personalize according to your needs)
CHW is pleased to announce that the 2020 Annual Campaign, *Home Is Where the Heart Is*, begins on March 1, 2020, in support of CHW projects. This pillar of CHW’s fundraising efforts provides $1.5 million in support of Children, Healthcare, and Women in Israel and Canada.

CHW is a non-political, nonpartisan national network of dedicated volunteers and professionals who strongly believe that the advancement of childcare, education, healthcare and women’s issues transcends politics, religion and national boundaries.

“Your gift to the CHW Annual Campaign will support vital services and help us to create a future filled with hope and opportunity for those we serve.” said Marilyn Libin, CHW National President. “When you give, you are impacting the lives of thousands of people and ensuring the future of Israel. CHW has strengthened, and continues to strengthen, the very fabric of Israeli society.”

The theme of this year’s CHW Annual Campaign, *Home Is Where The Heart Is*, honours the age-old Jewish vision of “one nation, one heart.” said Alina Ianson, CHW National Executive Director. “Each person has their own reason for supporting CHW, but together, we make a positive impact on our Jewish Homeland, our Heart, and support one another in times of need. When you give to our campaign, you are helping countless lives who depend on the support of CHW projects each and every day.”

Since 1917, Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) passionately supports programs and services for Children, Healthcare, and Women in Israel and Canada. CHW strongly believes that every human being deserves to achieve their full potential, while living in safety and security. Our support of excellent education, advanced medical care, and groundbreaking research benefits people globally, improves lives, and provides hope. By providing donors and volunteers with a vehicle to effect meaningful changes through their philanthropy, CHW enables its supporters to make the world a better place.

*Marilyn Libin, National President, CHW*

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Learn more at www.chw.ca; Tel: 202-255-3208 |

**DONATE NOW** Support us!

**COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS**

Recommended additional items

- Two additional litres of water per person per day for cooking and cleaning
- Candles and matches or lighter (place candles in deep, sturdy containers and do not burn unattended – keep out of the reach of children)
- Change of clothing and footwear for each household member
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each household member
- Toiletries
- Hand sanitizer
- Utensils
- Garbage bags
- Toilet paper
- Water purifying tablets
- Basic tools (hammer, pliers, wrench, screwdrivers, work gloves, dust mask, pocket knife)
- A whistle in case you need to attract attention
- Duct tape (to tape up windows, doors, air vents, etc.

Three useful additional items during the COVID-19 emergency are:

- A digital thermometer since fever is an important symptom
- Tissues to cough or sneeze into, then discard safely
- A fully charged cell phone and charger for easy communication

*Trish Masniuk, VP, Justice, NCWC*
IN MEMORIAM

Leonore Saunders, O.M.

January 19, 1925 to December 16, 2019

The Councils of Women of Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada lost a loyal friend with the recent death of Leonore Saunders. She worked to help women and families in many ways, not least as President of Winnipeg council 1972-74 and Provincial council 1994-95 and through the University Women's Club.

Born in Cheshire, England, Leonore attended a co-ed Quaker boarding school in Somerset, England, during the war. She took to heart its motto, "Thus do ye, but not for yourselves". She graduated as a physiotherapist and married her physician husband, Michael. They emigrated to Canada, settling in Winnipeg with a two year old in 1949 - just in time for the 1950's flood which caused them to be evacuated twice. Ever able and cheerful, Leonore and family carried on. They raised five children while Leonore was busy working with a small group to establish the School of Medical Rehabilitation at the University of Manitoba. She practiced as a physiotherapist specializing in helping children with polio and other disabilities. Over the years, she mentored many physiotherapists and was a leader in her profession. Sadly, Michael died suddenly in 1975, but Leonore persisted with her work and her strong commitment as a volunteer in many community groups. She married again, continuing with her many activities. Leonore was honoured to receive the Order of Manitoba and the Queen's Jubilee Medal for her contribution to the community.

Leonore had a deep sense of the values of the councils. She led by example, encouraging many women to get involved in policy issues and to further the causes of councils. At the same time, she had a twinkle in her eye and was fun to work with. Warm, hospitable and always curious, Leonore will be missed.

Elizabeth Fleming, Life Member, NCWC

TOPICS OF INTEREST

WE HEAR YOU: A victim and survivor-centered approach to sexual harassment

What is a victim and survivor-centred approach? Why is it essential to address sexual harassment?

During a recent series of three-day participatory workshops I gave for UN Women Georgia partners in Borjomi, Georgia, these were key questions we addressed.

As a member of MCW (Montreal Council of Women), I am called to share this work with all of you at NCWC!

This work is part of an ongoing collaboration with UN Women Georgia partners including NGOs, private, public and academic sectors on a project to strengthen capacity to identify, prevent and address sexual harassment. Partners in this project include signatories to the United Nations Women's Empowerment Principles and/or the United Nations Global Compact. The initiative was funded by the UK Conflict, Stability and Security Fund and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, inequality and discrimination are the foundation of the continuum of violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, which for too long has been normalized, justified and made invisible. During the workshop, participants developed the capacity and skills necessary to apply a victim and survivor-centered approach to sexual harassment prevention and investigations in their organizations. They learned to use their new victim and survivor-centered lens to approach and understand sexual harassment as what it is: a form of normalized sexual violence.

I strongly believe this complex area requires deep, ongoing reflection, and a safe space to challenge internalized beliefs and biases about victim-blaming. During our workshop, we prioritized time to unpack common and damaging misconceptions around sexual harassment, including:

“It can't be harassment; they were only joking.”

“It can’t be harassment; it was a compliment.”

“Women often invent stories of sexual harassment or exaggerate them.”

Do these statements sound familiar to you?

cont’d on page 13...
This activity hit home and challenged all of us to be our most courageous selves. As a facilitator, participating in the process of unpacking these beliefs with people of all genders was profound. This workshop produced a powerful impact greater than any of us could have predicted. Due to the commitment and engagement of participants, we moved far beyond the technical aspects of a sexual harassment investigation. Various participants bravely challenged their previously held beliefs about victim-blaming, openly committing to raising awareness of the importance of victim and survivor-centered approach to their colleagues. The next step in this project is virtual coaching with participants; I can't wait to speak with them again to hear more about their reflections and support them in the development of their sexual harassment investigations protocols.

This UN Women article paints a picture of these workshops, photos included!

Click here for an article summarizing the previous phase of my work on this project in 2018.

For those of you interested in reading more on this topic Click here to read my recent article: "Me Too, What Next?"

Finally, click here for a new UN Women publication, "What will it take? Promoting cultural change to end sexual harassment" which inspired our work and discusses a victim and survivor-centred approach to end sexual harassment.

I will leave you with the final words: “we hear you”.

“We hear you” was the title of the training. This goes to the core of a victim and survivor-centered approach.

These words run deep.

I encourage all of us to contemplate what "we hear you" means, and how to embody this. Let's continue holding space for these courageous conversations with people of all genders; conversations that challenge internalized victim-blaming beliefs, conversations that help us dialogue across difference, conversations that help us grow and create a safer and better world, together.
TOPICS OF INTEREST

PUBLICATIONS BY NCWC MEMBERS

SANDRA COHEN-ROSE, PAST PRESIDENT

“Waskaganish: a novel”

After writing two well-received non-fiction books, NCWC Past President, Sandra Cohen-Rose, has published her first novel, to five star reviews. Alex

5.0 out of 5 stars  

“Waskaganish: heart’s journey”

Now read this! Waskaganish sets a firm print on the path from a deep unwritten past toward a shared fragmented present. People and places appear in vivid detail. The setting is local, Quebec. Those who know, recognize. Others discover. That’s who we are. So the settings and dynamics are specific, and universal. The net of disparate stories recalls Isabelle Allende. The web of connection resonates in the spirit of Wagamese, our lately lamented voice.

“Waskaganish” is a classic Canadian epic of love lost and found, brutality, and murder that stretches from the Polish pogroms to southern England to regions of Quebec affected by political unrest in the 1980s: Waskaganish, Montréal, and the Eastern Townships. The journey through the boreal forests of Waskaganish and the genteel urban quilt of the unique Montreal neighborhoods are described intimately as the lives of the leading characters emerge and the novel’s complex plot unfolds.

Her previous books include Canadian bestseller, “The New Canadian High Energy Diet,” and the first published book about Canadian Art Deco, “Northern Deco-Art Deco Architecture in Montreal.” Sandra is presently working on the sequel to Waskaganish.” She hopes you enjoy reading it as much as she enjoyed writing it, and welcomes your comments and reviews.

“Waskaganish” is available on Amazon and a number of other online bookstores, in Montreal bookstores and libraries across Canada.
ATTENTION

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, The NCWC Newsletter
editornewsletter@ncwcanada.com
Editorial Board: Rosemary Mallory, Trish Masniuk, and Carol Schweitzer

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

VISIT NCWC’s WEBSITE: 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

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

May 1, 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’S 127TH ANNIVERSARY
1893-2020

Celebrating 127 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


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