

News from National – May 2021

Our Virtual Annual General Meeting!

Patricia Leson, President, National Council of Women of Canada



Patricia Leson

It appears that spring is finally(!) here on the prairies although we are still dropping into the minus digits overnight. The news feed this morning showed the magnificent cherry blossoms in Toronto and Vancouver, while our trees still have a ways to go.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still exerting its influence across Canada, and this means our AGM will, once again, be conducted on a virtual platform. Margo Davidson-Wood facilitated our first virtual AGM last year, and we are so fortunate to have engaged her to do so again this year. She was so very kind and patient as she led us through the intricacies of voting via webinar; we will all be much more comfortable and confident this year!

The National Council of Women of Canada

cordially invites all members to attend our

128th Annual General Meeting

May 28 and May 29, 2021, via Webinar

10:00 am - British Columbia
11:00 am - Alberta/Saskatchewan
12:00 - Noon Manitoba
1:00 pm – Ontario and Quebec
2:00 – The Maritimes

Registration Fee: \$50.00



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Registration

Our Treasurer, Barbara Hall, would appreciate you registering with her via email at ncwctreasurer19@gmail.com with your intention to register, and then follow up by mailing a printed copy of your registration to her along with your cheque(s). You will find the registration form here: [Registration Form – NCWC AGM 2021](#). Thank you to those of you who have already registered! Don't forget to visit the [NCWC website](#) where you will find all the AGM details, documents and news on the front page (right-hand column and at the bottom under “Special Announcements”), as well as on a webpage devoted to NCWC's AGM and Conferences under [Communications/Members/AGM and Conferences](#)



AGM Orientation Session

Margo Davidson-Wood, our facilitator, will be conducting an orientation session prior to the AGM. Once again, please email Barbara Hall, our Treasurer, with your intention to attend, and she will ensure the link to the session is sent to you. Here are the details:

Saturday, May 15, 2021

- 10:00 am** - British Columbia
- 11:00 am** - Alberta and Saskatchewan
- 12:00 noon** - Manitoba
- 1:00 pm** - Ontario and Quebec
- 2:00 pm** - The Maritimes



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Our Charitable Branches: NCWCDO and NCWC EF

The NCWC Development Organization (NCWCDO): Advocacy in Action

The [NCWCDO](#) was established in 1985 as a Registered Charitable Organization dedicated to the support of national and international educational and social welfare programs that are reflective of our vision of improved conditions of life for women, children, and communities. The NCWCDO Board annually invites the membership to submit applications for worthy projects both in Canada and internationally. In the past years, the NCWC DO has supported programs for women leaving the sex trade, learning about cooking and nutrition, and improving literacy along with many other worthwhile projects across Canada along with some in India and Africa. The NCWCDO will be hosting its AGM on May 15, 2021. The guest speaker is Helen Fortin who is a Board member of Montreal's [minibiblioPLUS](#). They originated the idea of the mini-library “which aims to raise literacy levels by empowering partners to instill in children a life-long love of reading and to enable free access to books and animation services.” Please contact the NCWC DO Chairperson, Carol Schweitzer, via email at mailto:cb_hb@securenet.net for further information. Donate to the [NCWCDO Fund](#).

The NCWC Education Fund: Research and Education

The [NCWC EF](#) was founded as a Registered Charitable Organization to assist our membership with research and public education in areas related to the social, mental, physical, and health needs of women, families, and society, and of course, the environment. They have sponsored many education sessions that focussed on the best practices for addressing the specific issues of mental health, water, energy, housing, and food security. Donate to the [NCWC EF Fund](#).

The NCWC EF supports initiatives based on our Common Program that is adopted every two years. They also assist the NCWC by funding the speakers for our AGM along with programs throughout the year. Qaqai Robinson was the speaker at the 2020 AGM, and this year they have engaged Pamela Palmater to be the guest speaker. Here is a link to [Ms. Palmater's biography](#). We are looking forward to her presentation!



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Let's Do Lunch!

The NCWC DO (Development Organization) and the NCWC EF (Education Fund) usually sponsor the luncheons during our in-person AGMs. They are pleased to continue this tradition by inviting you to attend virtual luncheons during this AGM. The price is \$25, which is tax deductible. Please click here for the registration form: [NCWC DO and EF Virtual Lunch Invitation](#) Then, send it with your cheques to: **NCWC Treasurer #313, 13888 70th Ave Surrey BC V3W 0R8**, and she will ensure they are sent to the organizations.

Your continued support for the NCWC Development Organization (NCWCDO) and the NCWC Education Fund (NCWC EF) is vital and most appreciated. Thank you!!



Common Program

Every two years, the NCWC chooses a 'Common Program' that becomes the focus for our advocacy during that time frame. The 'Common Program for 2019-2021 was "Listening to, Learning from, Acting on the Recommendations of the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls". Councils across Canada hosted speakers during their Zoom meetings who presented on the themes of the recommendations and reported on the progress toward their implementation.

As our AGM has a condensed time frame, it would be best to decide on our Common Program topic for the next two years, prior to the AGM. Therefore, we are pleased to invite suggestions for the 2021-2023 Common Program! Please forward your suggestions to me, via email, presncwc@gmail.com by Sunday, May 16, 2021. A weighted email vote will then be conducted, and the results will be announced at the AGM.



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Elections 2021-2023

Our Nominations Convenor, Marianne Wilkinson, and our Elections Convenor, Rosemary Mallory, were very diligent in ensuring both the nomination and election processes were conducted with transparency and accountability. Their reports are included in the docket, and they have also included recommendations to streamline the process, while maintaining its credibility. Thank you, Marianne and Rosemary, for your perseverance, your persistence, and your adherence to ensuring the democratic processes of our organization were followed and respected.

NCWC Board 2021-2023

President: Patricia Leson

1st Vice President: Mary Potter

Vice Presidents

Daniela Chivu

Karen Dempsey

Carol Hiscock

Sheila Pepper

Treasurer: Bonnie Siemens

Convenors

Environment: Gracia Janes

Immigration, Citizenship and Global Affairs: Betty Zhang

Denise Mattok, NCWC President 2012-2015, will conduct the installation ceremony during the AGM. The elected candidates will take their oath of office and begin their work following the adjournment of the AGM.

As you will note, there are a few convenorships that are still open. The incoming Board will discuss appointments to fill the remaining slots. Please contact me, via email, presncwc@gmail.com if you are interested in serving as a Convenor in one of these areas: Culture and Heritage, Economics and Employment, Health, Justice and Legislation, Social and Senior Issues, or Youth.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to work with your Board as we continue to advocate for the betterment of society for women, children, families, and communities across Canada.



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Thanks to Our Outgoing Board and Convenors

At a delightful evening event during the 2019 AGM in Winnipeg, Druse Bryant presided at the installation of the Board and Convenors for 2019-2021. As their term comes to a close, we thank them for their generosity of time, expertise, and inspiration. Because of their work, we have been successful in advancing many of our policies.

We extend our deep gratitude to these individuals for their selfless commitment to serve our organization; thank you for your leadership, your support, and your dedication.

NCWC Board 2019-2021

1st Vice President, VP Environment: Gracia Janes
VP Administration: Bonnie Siemens
VP Economics: Randi Arnot
VP Justice: Trish Masniuk
VP Social Development: Brenda Mishak

Treasurer: Barbara Hall

Convenors

Citizenship, Immigration, and Global Affairs: Daniela Chivu
Culture and Heritage: Randi Gage
Economic and Employment: Karen Dempsey
Environment: Florence Erwin
Health: Beryl Matthewson
Senior and Social Issues: Sheila Pepper
Status of Women: Jaspal Gill and Kelly-Ann Stevenson
Youth: KayLyn Beckman
Nominations: Marianne Wilkinson
Elections: Rosemary Mallory

Elizabeth Andrew said, ‘*Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.*’ You have each shown that you do, indeed, have the heart; we wish you well, and we are very appreciative you shared some of your valuable time with us. We are so pleased some of you will join us in other capacities to continue our work over the next two years. No matter where your volunteering takes you, you will continue to share your wonderful ideas, positive energy, and passion for making a difference. Thank you!



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New Business

If you have any items to be placed on the agenda under 'New Business', please send them to me by Thursday, May 20, 2021, for inclusion in the docket; presncwc@gmail.com. Thanks!



Presidents' Meeting

Our in-person AGMs have always featured a breakfast meeting of the Council Presidents. This year, we didn't have breakfast together, but we did meet via Zoom on Saturday, May 8, 2021.

Our guest speaker was the [Honourable Ahmed Hussen, the Federal Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development](#). He gave us a snapshot of the childcare initiative that was presented in the April budget. He said would sincerely appreciate the assistance of the Councils in ensuring the provincial governments would sign onto the agreements. The Presidents then came up with plans to move forward on this file.

Penny Rankin, President of the Montreal Council of Women, presented a letter regarding the NCWC's long-standing policy on the need for a Commissioner for Canada's children. The Presidents also decided on a strategy for pressing this with the government.

It was a pleasure to meet all the Presidents and welcome some new faces; your passion and your commitment to mitigating the issues facing women, children, and families bodes well for the future of our Councils!



Reports

This is a gentle reminder to please send your reports for the docket to me presncwc@gmail.com as soon as possible and no later than May 20, 2021, for inclusion in the docket. It is hoped the docket will be sent to the delegates and observers by May 25, 2021, so they can have it printed. Thank you to those of you who have already submitted their reports; it is much appreciated!

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Resolutions

Our Resolutions Convenor, Jane Cowell, is conducting a vote on the acceptance of the Emergent Resolutions. If you have not yet submitted your acceptance/rejection of the resolution(s) as being truly emergent, please do complete it by May 10, 2021, and send it to Bonnie Siemens, our VP administration at vpadncwc@gmail.com.

Although the Resolution Committee has the responsibility to recommend or not recommend the submitted resolutions as being truly emergent, the Committee also respects the right of the membership to make this decision. Here is a copy of the [Emergent Resolutions, 2021](#). The accepted Emergent Resolutions will be included in the AGM docket, along with the other resolutions.



One Last Request!

We require the services of a secretary for our AGM. If you are able to volunteer your time, it would be greatly appreciated. The AGM will be recorded, but it is so much easier if the motions, movers, and seconders are recorded at the time they are presented. Please let me know if you would be willing to accept this task. Thanks for considering this opportunity to assist us!



Thank You!

It will be a pleasure to welcome each of you to our AGM! Please indicate your intention to register by emailing our Treasurer, Barbara Hall, ncwctreasurer19@gmail.com and follow up by sending her your registration fee; see details in [Registration Form – NCWC AGM 2021](#).

Your support for our two charitable branches, the NCWC Development Organization and the NCWC Education Fund, is also much appreciated. Just send your cheques to Barbara and she will forward them appropriately.

I am looking forward to our virtual gathering. Best wishes for good health and happiness until then!

Patricia Leson, President, National Council of Women of Canada, presncwc@gmail.com

