



Action  
Advocacy  
Education

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
ONTARIO COUNCIL

## Dates & Data

Ontario Council Newsletter Vol VI, Issue 1

September 2007

### ONTARIO COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup> 2007

***New location !!! CHRIST CHURCH DEER PARK New Location !!!***  
**1570 Yonge Street, at Heath St.**

Public Parking at Heath/Delisle lot or  
Take St. Clair car to Yonge St. or the Yonge subway to St. Clair Stop  
and walk 2 blocks north on Yonge

Registration 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.  
**Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. SHARP!**  
Registration Form Enclosed

### MORNING PROGRAMME

#### ***THE ONTARIO ELECTION: Women Candidates' Perspective***

with

Liz Couture, Green Party Candidate and President of her Constituency Association  
Catherine Fife, New Democratic Party Candidate and CFUW member  
Pamela Taylor, first Progressive Conservative Candidate for the new Toronto Centre Riding  
Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Liberal Candidate and Minister of Education

Hear your issues discussed. Yes, the panelists are familiar with the election questions you posed at the March meeting. [See the website at [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca) .]

This meeting brings together politicians from the four major Ontario political parties with you, the members of Ontario Council. You will hear the concerns of each panelist speaking as a woman from the perspective of her party.

What is on **your** mind? Be ready to ask your own questions.

Advocacy = Education and Action on public policy. Ontario Council has a mandate to seek to improve public policy in education, status of women and girls, environment, human rights, peace and justice. This panel offers the first step - education - by engaging with election candidates, potential Members of Provincial Parliament. Prepare for the next four years of Ontario Government. This is why Ontario Council was created – to have a voice provincially! Be there! Be alert! Ask questions! Be ready for the election on October 10!

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### EDUCATION COMMITTEE AFTERNOON SESSION

As we start into another year together I thought we could turn our focus to what is happening in Ontario post-secondary education. Our invited guest is a representative from the Canadian Federation of Students, the largest student organization in Canada. They are advocates for high quality, accessible post-secondary education at both the federal and provincial levels. The Federation represents over 500,000 full-

time and part-time students. As we will be very close to voting in our Provincial election this is an opportunity for us to ask questions about what is concerning students at the university and college level.

Please come prepared for an interesting, informative afternoon.

Wendy Taylor  
Committee Chair

## STATUS OF WOMEN & HUMAN RIGHTS AFTERNOON SESSION

In the afternoon, Vivien Green will lead us in a discussion of Violence Against Women. Ms. Green was formerly Executive Director of the Woman Abuse Council of Toronto (WACT) and is now at Ryerson University.

For some background, look at the Ontario

Women's Directorate for their *Domestic Violence Action Plan* at [www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/preventing/dv\\_ap.update.pdf](http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/preventing/dv_ap.update.pdf)

Judie Arrowood, Committee Chair

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## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE AFTERNOON SESSION

Do you have a burning environmental issue that you are working on? Tell us about it. The Legislation Committee might adopt it. Preparing for the coming year and mindful of the impact of the election on the work of Advocacy, we will divide our meeting into four parts, devoting most time on the last:

1. A short debriefing on the morning session election discussion and the referendum question.
2. A review of our role in advocacy and the methods we might employ.
3. A short report, if any, on the LHINS (Local Health Integration Networks)
4. The Environment (*the topic which was selected as being of greatest interest on our last Ontario Council survey*)
  - < What policies do we have on the environment?
  - < What topics has the Ontario Ministry for the Environment identified?
  - < What environmental issues have we dealt with in the recent past?
  - < Which issues are of most concern to us today?
  - < What do we want to do about them?

Handouts will be provided to simplify note-taking, and lead us to a focus this year on the environment.

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## A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT



Women are constantly made aware of how much work there is to be done to improve our status in this province, across this country and around the world. We read about it in our newspapers, hear about it on our televisions, when we attend conferences and when we study the latest statistics on pay equity, women and poverty, violence against women, the increasing costs of a post-secondary education, and so on. It becomes overwhelming and discouraging when we sense that governments are not listening and/or are too preoccupied with issues which have little or no bearing on our well-being.

We are a large group of educated women in CFUW

Ontario Council, close to 6,000 in numbers. Can we make our elected officials listen? Can we make them understand that affordable child care and housing is essential to women achieving equality, that women still earn 71 cents to the dollar earned by Canadian men, that one in six children live in poverty, that approximately 1 million women are battered or sexually abused in Canada each year and that post-secondary education is becoming more and more unaffordable?

The answer is “yes”! We have an election coming up on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Current MPPs seeking re-election are public servants, accountable to us in every way as are those men and women seeking election for the first time. Take advantage of every opportunity to ask questions on the issues which concern you and your

Club. There will be **All-Candidates Meetings** in your riding. Look for them in your local newspapers, attend and participate. In addition, there will be an **Ontario Council Standing Committee Meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>** focusing on the election and the issues of education, the status of women and the environment. Four women candidates representing the Liberal, Conservative, NDP and Green Parties will answer questions developed by our three OC Standing Committees. Go to our website at [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca) and look at the top right hand corner for more information.

Don't hesitate to go to the constituency offices of the candidates, ask questions, listen to their answers and judge whether or not you would want that individual to represent you in the legislature. This is your vehicle for getting issues about women, education and the environment on the agenda of our government.

I listened to Stephen Lewis being interviewed the other morning. He was so direct and unflattering towards our federal government and the large pharmaceutical companies and how their promise three years ago to send generic medicine to combat HIV/AIDs in Africa has collapsed. He simply said that there is not the political will in our politicians to correct this negligence. He was discouraged and overwhelmed, but has not given up. We could learn a lesson from this man.

The anti-poverty coalition, *Campaign 2000*, released a report on July 13<sup>th</sup>, calling on all Ontario political parties to commit to a "Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario" with a target to reduce the number of children living in poverty by 25% within 5 years and 50% in 10 years. It is a do-able and realistic strategy.

In the March 2007 provincial budget, our government made promises to support families and children. Would you and your Club be prepared to help with *Campaign 2000's* strategy? Ontario Council joined a coalition to protest religious arbitration in solving family disputes..... and we won! I am asking these same Clubs to help *Campaign 2000* to reach their goals. We have policy, we are a member of the *Campaign 2000* coalition at the national CFUW level and we have a brief written by Ontario Council on poverty which is on our website

[www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca) Scroll down on the home page until you reach February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Click and turn to pages 6 and 7 for specific information and statistics on poverty. Knowing the background of an issue gives you credibility when you are speaking or writing to your MPPs. In addition, our Standing Committee Chair for the Status of Women & Human Rights, Judie Arrowood, has summarized the recent history of Child Care in this province. The availability of affordable early learning and child care is absolutely essential for all women, but particularly single women with children, to achieve equality. Look for it in this edition. Use it!! The full report by *Campaign 2000* is at [www.campaign2000.ca](http://www.campaign2000.ca)

Thank you, Judi Chambers from CFUW Southport, for getting an article published in *Canadian Parents.com* regarding the speakers featured at the September 15, 2006 Standing Committee Meeting on the issue of child care, Elizabeth Ablett, Executive Director, Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care; and Dr. Gordon Cleveland, economist and professor at the University of Toronto.

A public education campaign was launched on August 16<sup>th</sup> by the Hon. Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. This campaign will ensure that women in this province know their legal rights under Ontario family law. The announcement took place at YWCA Toronto with myself, OC representative on FLEW, Edeltraud Neal and OC Advocacy Advisor, Teri Shaw in attendance.

The government is providing \$1.3 million in funding to a consortium of 24 women's organizations. The Canadian Federation of University Women Ontario Council is a member of this consortium. Led by YWCA Toronto, the Family Law Education for Women (FLEW) project is responsible for developing public legal education materials and community outreach activities that will help women make informed decisions about family law. The FLEW project was the outcome of the success in overturning the introduction of religious arbitration into settling family disputes in Ontario. In 2006, the Ontario legislature passed the Family Statute Law Amendment Act (Bill 27). Under this legislation, family arbitration based on non-Canadian law and principles, including religious principles, will have no legal effect and will not be enforceable by the courts. The particular focus of

FLEW is to reach women who may be vulnerable and isolated due to recent immigration or religious, ethno-cultural, linguistic, disability-related, geographic or other factors. CFUW OC is one member of the 17 member Reference Group which advises the 7 member Management Committee. In the near future, Clubs across Ontario will be asked to participate in helping to fulfill the goals of this project. For more information, visit: [www.familylawforwomen.com](http://www.familylawforwomen.com) and

[www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca)

I ask Clubs to use the information contained in this newsletter and those that will be sent to you during the year, to keep your members informed about the activities and positions of Ontario Council on our issues of concern.

I welcome all of you back! Enjoy the year with your fellow Club members.  
Continue supporting the advocacy of your provincial and national governing bodies.  
We need your voices to make a difference.  
Take care. Linda

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## ONTARIO COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO

*Much of this report is attributed to Caroline Honsberger of CFUW Ajax-Pickering. Her work is greatly appreciated.*

One hundred and seventy seven members of Ontario Council came together to participate in the business of their Council, attend workshops centered on the issues concerning our water, renew friendships and make new ones all between May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at its 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in Peterborough.

On the Friday evening, women from the Curve Lake Waashkiigonaang tribe described in song and dance, the importance of water in the lives of their women. The work of many Ontario Council Clubs was front and centre with the presentation of our Advocacy Awards. CFUW Belleville, Burlington, Hamilton, Oakville, Ottawa and UWC North York were recipients of the *Certificate of Excellence in Advocacy* while CFUW Barrie & District, Perth & District, Southport and Etobicoke were recognized by those in attendance as winners of the top three Advocacy Awards in Ontario Council. The Ontario Council Executive and Clubs across Ontario extend our congratulations to these winners and encourage every Club to focus on advocacy and the criteria to win the 2006-2007 Advocacy Award. Look for more information at the Standing Committee Meeting in September and on our website – [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)

After the customary welcome and introductions at the beginning of the Saturday Business Session, Ardith

Toogood, CFUW President in her opening speech, praised the members of Ontario Council for writing and meeting with politicians, for sponsoring special events and forums and for working on issues on the status of women. She remarked on her dismay that we have had to continue our advocacy for women's programs that we won thirty to forty years ago because they are now being challenged by our current Government of Canada.

The business meeting was a very interesting exercise in democracy. Everything, including the proposed 2007-2008 budget, was passing easily until we came to the resolution. The resolution, *RESOLVED: That the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of Women support a system of electoral reform that has been shown to elect more women to legislatures than the current Single Member Plurality (First-Past-The-Post) system* met first with a challenge of its validity as a Special Resolution and ended with a motion to re-introduce it as an emergency resolution. After continued debate, which kept Lynne Woolstencroft, our Parliamentarian and Elaine Harvey, Resolutions Chair *on their toes*, the resolution failed. The morning ended with members attending their first workshop on water, while incoming Presidents attended their Annual Leadership Workshop organized by the five Ontario Regional Directors.

After a delicious meal, Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party was introduced as our keynote speaker. With a sense of humour and a vast knowledge base, she

brought us up-to-date about the seriousness of water issues in Canada. She warned us that Canadians have become complacent and misinformed about being a water-rich nation. She urged us to be advocates to keep our water (ban bulk water exports), conserve our water (Did you know that Canadian toilets waste so much water that the USA has banned them in their own country?) and protect our precious resources (help to reduce climate change). Ms. May expertly answered questions and enthusiastically pledged to join CFUW.

The afternoon session continued with a repeat of the morning workshops and members enjoying their second choice. The Business Session reconvened at

3:30 p.m. with the presentation of the Ontario Council Executive members, the introduction of and appreciation given to the Local Arrangements Committee of CFUW Peterborough, chaired so capably by Marian Gallant. Martha Dagg, a former President of CFUW Peterborough and currently Treasurer of CFUW BC Council, brought greetings from and information about the British Columbia Council of CFUW. Rounding out the day were announcements about our Fall Gatherings in October and the next CFUW OC AGM to be held in North Bay on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2008. Its theme is ***Vision – Voice – Action: Human Rights and HIV/AIDS. SEE YOU THERE!!***

### **CFUW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - VANCOUVER**

“Majestic mountains, towering trees, warm waters and friendly members of the University Women’s Club of Vancouver welcome you to the 2007 CFUW/FCFUDU AGM and Conference celebrating *Women In Action*”

From July 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>, CFUW members from across Canada undertook the study of four proposed Resolutions and sixteen amendments to our CFUW Constitution and By-Laws and Standing Rules. At the conclusion of our discussion and, at times, heated debate, the following were the final decisions of the voting delegates and their Clubs: **Proposed Resolutions (approved and now part of CFUW Policy)**

1. A High Level Women Agency for The United Nations proposed by CFUW Victoria
2. Promoting HIV/AIDS Education in Canada proposed by CFUW North Bay
3. Practices of Canadian Extractive Industries Abroad proposed by CFUW Montreal South Shore
4. Independent, External Oversight Mechanism for Federal Women Prisons proposed by the CFUW Legislation Committee

#### **Amendments to the CFUW Constitution and By-Laws and Standing Rules**

1. The proposed title change of Regional Director to Regional Coordinator was voted down.
2. The remaining amendments that focused on nominations procedure and elections were all approved.

#### **IFUW Resolutions**

The following CFUW resolutions approved at the CFUW AGMs in Oakville (2005) and Edmonton (2006) will be presented at the IFUW Conference in Manchester. Each one approved will then become part of IFUW policy.

1. Commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
2. Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and Averting the Weaponization of Space.; and
3. Remedying Environmental Damage of Military Activities.

As of January 2009, CFUW may be required to pay annually 15.5 Swiss francs per member as its dues if the IFUW Proposed Dues Formula for the 2007-2010 IFUW Triennium is approved. Rose Beatty proposed the following motion to the voting delegates at this AGM: *That the CFUW Voting Body support the IFUW Proposed Dues Formula for the 2007-2010 IFUW Triennium, and that the CFUW Delegates and Alternates be given discretionary rights in voting as a CFUW group on any proposed changes through amendments related to Dues Formula at the IFUW Triennial Conference.* It was approved. For more information, go to

<http://www.ifuw.org/circulars/circular-2006-12.pdf> and <http://www.ifuw.org/circulars/proposed-dues-formula.pdf> and <http://www.ifuw.org/circulars/proposed-dues-chart.pdf> for full details of criteria, process and

explanation of formula to be used. The decision of the delegates from the 79 IFUW National Federations and Affiliates will be given to us shortly in the new Club year.

The International Women's Day project selected for member donations is called WaterCan, [www.watercan.com](http://www.watercan.com). WaterCan is a Canadian non-governmental organization dedicated to providing clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people. An informational flyer will be sent to Clubs in September. In addition, other international projects that a provincial or Regional Council may consider supporting along with WaterCan are [www.spreadthenet.org](http://www.spreadthenet.org), an opportunity to donate bed nets for families in third world countries to reduce the spread of malaria, the largest single cause of death among children under the age of five in Africa. The other is an IFUW Bina Roy project to support a multi-function clinic, providing medical, dental, clinical laboratory and pharmaceutical services to the urban poor of San Salvador. Go to [www.ifuw.org](http://www.ifuw.org) and click on *Projects and BRPID*

At the Regional Meeting for Ontario Council on Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>, a good portion of this meeting was turned over to the 50 + members in attendance to discuss the following membership proposal: ***That CFUW reconsider membership criteria and remove the associate member category opening full membership to all women who support the purposes and ideals of CFUW.*** For the complete information sheet used at the AGM, visit the CFUW website, log on to the Member's Section and click on the top right corner ***Strategic Planning Membership Dialogue.***

At the **Ontario Regional Meeting**, the following points were made. Some were in favour of the change, some against. These are many of the comments made:

- < Older members may feel they worked hard for their degree and, opening up the membership to this extent will lessen the importance of their efforts;
- < Some Clubs do NOT want Associate category and wish to keep the single qualification of a degree;
- < This change could *water down* a Club into primarily a social group;
- < Would governments listen if our organization were no longer a group with a common qualification;
- < Wrong to change just for monetary reasons;
- < This could result in one group in each Club breaking away from the rest of the Club, uniting to form another university women's group;
- < The underlying point in all of this is to increase membership;
- < Need better marketing, if this is the case;
- < By having Associate category, a 2-tier system is created. This undermines equality – counter to our values;
- < Associate members bring good skill sets and energy to CFUW;
- < We would become less elitist;
- < Associates do NOT threaten Clubs;
- < a 2-tier Club membership is very hierarchical.
- <

In the near future, there will be a report from the Directors of Strategic Planning, Beth Haynes, and Membership, Marylea Burt, which will summarize the comments and suggestions made by all 5 Regional Councils (BC, Prairies, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic). Stay tuned!

## AWARDS TO ONTARIO CLUBS

The Executive Board of Ontario Council and all Clubs across Ontario extend their congratulations to the following Clubs who received the Significant Increase in Membership Award (10% or higher in 2006-2007) and a CFUW Special Project Award at this AGM:

### Significant Increase in Membership

CFUW Haliburton Highlands – over 10%  
CFUW North Bay – 10%  
CFUW Orangeville & District – over 10%  
CFUW St. Thomas – 40%  
CFUW Markham-Unionville – over 15%  
CFUW Perth & District – over 10% for 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row

### CFUW Special Project Award

CFUW Belleville & District - Public Forum: *The Changes in the Delivery of our Health Care*.  
CFUW Chatham/Kent - *Christmas Party for Little Sisters*  
CFUW Hamilton – Author's Night  
CFUW Kitchener/Waterloo – *Proudly She Marched* book release & CBC *Newsworld* broadcast interview.  
CFUW London – *Write On* project  
CFUW North Bay – Public Forum: *Celebrating Heritage of Women in the Community*.  
CFUW Northumberland & District: Coordinator for *Habitat for Humanity Women Build* in Port Hope.  
CFUW Oakville – Federal changes to Status of Women community demonstration.

If your Club was not represented at the AGM in Vancouver, your Regional Director has your certificate and will make arrangements to get it to you. If you did not submit an application to be recognized for a project your Club organized and participated in, speak to your RD about next year.

## NATIONAL MAILINGS

Clubs should receive in an early National Office mailing this year, a copy of:

- < CFUW Club Directory (not distributed at the AGM)
- < Media Plan for Clubs (some Clubs received a copy at the AGM)
- < CFUW Annual Report 2007 (some Clubs received a copy at the AGM)
- < CFUW Membership Manual and Tool Kit (some Clubs received a copy at the AGM)

And finally, this is a national election year. Forms were distributed at the AGM. The position of CFUW President will be voted on first followed by all other positions, such as Regional Directors and Provincial/Regional Vice Presidents. If you require a set of forms, contact your RD or the National Office.

A very busy Annual General Meeting and conference with a great deal learned by everyone. Hope to see many of you at the 2008 Ontario Council AGM in North Bay on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, as well as the national CFUW AGM in Montreal between August 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.

Linda MacGregor

## ONTARIO WEST FALL GATHERING

### *Bridge to the Future*

**October 20, 2007**

Hosted by CFUW Sarnia Lambton

**Guest Speaker: Peggy Fletcher**, Writer and Artist of poetry, plays, stories and watercolors.

**Building Continuity:** A workshop to make the most of the opportunities of membership and leadership recruitment. Facilitated by Sabina Auburger, RD, Ontario West

**Finding Your Voice:** From Issues to Action – Finding a voice and telling a story workshop. Participants are assisted in determining an issue, creating a work plan and presenting the information to a wider audience. Presented by Jane Anema, M. Ed., MBA

**How to Organize an All Candidates' Night**  
Presented by Margaret Arthur, President, CFUW London

**How to Organize an Open Public Forum**  
Presented by Joan Goddard, Convenor, Issues Study Group, CFUW Guelph

**Low Maintenance Fund Raising Opportunities**  
Presented by Janine Allen-Jordan, Co-President, CFUW Orangeville & District

## ONTARIO SOUTH FALL GATHERING

Come out and hear how you can gently mix, shake or stir a great Club with ingredients from sessions on membership, leadership, advocacy, the Charitable Trust, community presence and strategic planning. CFUW Hamilton invites everyone to partake in

### ***A Recipe for a Great Club***

**Saturday October 27, 2007**

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**St. John's Anglican Church**

(272 Wilson St. East, Ancaster)

Registration forms are available at  
**[www.cfuw-hamilton.com](http://www.cfuw-hamilton.com)**

or

contact Myra Willis

**[mwilliscfuw@yahoo.ca](mailto:mwilliscfuw@yahoo.ca)**

Cost: \$35.00

\$40.00 after October 12th

## ONTARIO CENTRAL FALL GATHERING

Come join CFUW North Toronto celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as they host the Ontario Central Regional Fall Gathering

**Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup> 2007**

**at St Michael's College University of Toronto.**

In keeping with: *Working Together - Working With Others*, the morning programme will offer workshops focusing on: leadership, advocacy, archives, programme ideas and learning about our Federation.

In the afternoon you will have the opportunity to learn about Working with Others with a choice of 2 workshops: *Immigration- Welcoming the Stranger* or *HIV / AIDS the Grandmothers to Grandmothers initiative*.

Katherine Barber, Canada's Word Lady, will be the guest luncheon speaker and her books will be available for purchase

## ONTARIO EAST

For information on the Ontario East Fall Gathering contact: Petra Friedrichson **[petra\\_rich@rogers.ca](mailto:petra_rich@rogers.ca)**

## ONTARIO NORTH

For information on the Ontario North Fall Gathering contact Andrea Levan **[african@sympatico.ca](mailto:african@sympatico.ca)**

## A MOTHERS DAY REPORT CARD: The Best And Worst Countries to Be a Mother

Westport, Conn. (Tuesday, May 8, 2007)

*Save the Children*, a U.S.-based independent global humanitarian organization, today released its eighth annual Mothers' Index that ranks the best — and worst — places to be a mother and a child and compares the well-being of mothers and children in 140 countries, more than in any previous year. Every year, the State of the World's Mothers report reminds us of the inextricable link between the well-being of mothers and that of their children. Seventy-five years of on-the-ground experience has demonstrated that when mothers have health care, education and economic opportunity, both they and their children have the best chance to survive and thrive.

Sweden, Iceland and Norway top the rankings this year. Niger ranks last among countries surveyed. The top-10 countries, in general, attain very high scores for mothers' and children's health, educational and economic status. The 10 bottom-ranked countries — nine from sub-Saharan Africa — are a reverse image of the top 10, performing poorly on all indicators. The United States places 26th this year, tied with Hungary.

**CANADA RANKS 15<sup>TH</sup>**. For more information, cut and paste the following website to your Google address and read the complete report. [www.savethechildren.org/newsroom/2007/best-worst-countries-2ba-mother.html](http://www.savethechildren.org/newsroom/2007/best-worst-countries-2ba-mother.html)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

(or where do we stand now?)

There have been a number of announcements over the last year from the Ontario government regarding funding for early childhood education and child care. This has resulted in a patchwork of child care services across the Province. I will try to summarize and clarify where we stand now. This will prepare you to ask questions of your candidates for the October 10<sup>th</sup> provincial election.



#### **Child Care Still a Patchwork of Underfunded Programs**

The Ontario government in its spring budget announced its plan to spend an additional \$25 million on child care. On July 5<sup>th</sup>, Mary Ann Chambers, Ontario's Minister for Children and Youth detailed how and where the \$142.5 million pie was to be divided. This \$142.5 million includes \$20 million funding negotiated with all the provinces several years ago along with Ontario's share - \$97 million - of funding announced by the federal government. Major areas of support are detailed below.

Existing child care programs will have the funding to keep existing child care spaces open but, with the exception of improving accessibility for

aboriginal communities, there is no plan to expand the child care system for the immediate future.

Minister Chamber's announcement also included \$25 million for salary increases for Early Childhood Educators. This is welcome but insufficient. Because wages are so low for child care professionals, the increase will not likely lead to more professionals entering the field of early childhood education. An ECE making \$17,000 will only see an increase of about \$510 and an ECE making \$22,000 will see an increase of \$660.

The July 5 announcement also allocated \$2 million dollars in funding to training. The funding is insufficient to cover the needs of the 60% of child care professionals who would like to gain their ECE diploma and other qualifications in order to increase quality in Ontario's child care system. Money is also available to establish a College of Early Childhood Educators, a regulatory body for the profession.

A recently issued government-commissioned report called "Investing in Quality" calls for the provincial government to directly fund child care programs, immediately increase funding to enable programs to implement substantial increases in wages

and benefits, and invest in training. Advocates are demanding that the government implement the report's recommendations immediately.

Judie Arrowood,

Chair Status of Women &  
Human Rights



### Recommended Reading

C *Investing in Quality* - Policies, Practitioners, Programs and Parents - A Four-Point Plan to Deliver High Quality Early Learning and Care Services in Ontario. Report on the Expert Panel on Quality and Human Resources, March 2007.

[www.children.gov.on.ca/NR/CS/Publications/OHRReport\\_en.pdf](http://www.children.gov.on.ca/NR/CS/Publications/OHRReport_en.pdf)

C The Executive Summary begins on page 7.

C *Best Start* [www.children.gov.on.ca/mcys/english/programs/beststart/index.asp](http://www.children.gov.on.ca/mcys/english/programs/beststart/index.asp)

C *The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care* [www.childcareontario.org/ccwatch/CCWsummer07.pdf](http://www.childcareontario.org/ccwatch/CCWsummer07.pdf)

### The Liberal, New Democratic, and Progressive Conservative Parties



will be participating in

#### A DEBATE ON POVERTY AND HEALTH

Moderated by Carol Goar of Toronto Star

at

Innis Town Hall

NW corner of St. George Street and Sussex Avenue, just south of Bloor Street

Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 7 pm

For more information: contact Kate Melino at [kmelino@nao.org](mailto:kmelino@nao.org) or 416-408-5613

### ARE YOU CONSIDERING AN ONTARIO COUNCIL RESOLUTION FOR THIS YEAR?

#### TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE! HERE'S THE SCHEDULE FOR 2007-2008

- ' **November 1<sup>st</sup>** - Notice of *Intent to Submit a Resolution*, including draft resolved clauses received by Resolutions Committee Chair, the Club's Regional Director, the relevant Standing Committee Chair & the Ontario Council President.
- ' **November 26<sup>th</sup>** - Proposed Resolution, including background & bibliography received by Resolutions Committee Chair.
- ' **December 31<sup>st</sup>** - Proposed Resolutions e-mailed/mailed to all Ontario Council Clubs.
- ' **March 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Amendments to Proposed Resolutions received from Clubs by the Resolutions Committee Chair.
- ' **March 5<sup>th</sup>** - Proposed amendments sent to Proposers by Resolutions Committee Chair.

Resolutions Proposers study amendments and accepts or rejects them.

- ' **March 12<sup>th</sup>** - Proposers return acceptable amended Resolution to the Resolutions Committee Chair.
- ' **March 14<sup>th</sup>** - Ontario Council sends out amended Proposed Resolutions to all Clubs by e-mail/mail.
- ' **May 10<sup>th</sup> at OC AGM** - Discussion of Proposed Resolutions and voting. If approved, the resolution becomes part of CFUW/OC policy.
- ' **2 weeks following OC AGM** - Resolutions Proposers submit the Action Plan for the adopted Resolutions.
- ' **3-4 weeks following AGM** - Final Resolutions adopted at the OC AGM, including Background, Bibliography and Action Plan, sent to all Clubs by e-mail/mail and posted on the CFUW Ontario Council website: [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)

The Resolutions Guidelines can be accessed at [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)



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## ELECTORAL REFORM REFERENDUM - OCTOBER 11, 2007

CFUW and Ontario Council do not have policy on electoral reform, so neither Ontario Council nor the Clubs can make an official statement on the issue. However Clubs have been asking for information. We have therefore gathered some information and resources that we hope will be of interest to Ontario Council members. We have included a basic comparison of the two systems, and some websites to consult to get far more help.

### THE QUESTION THAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT

Which electoral system should Ontario use to elect members to the provincial legislature?

The existing electoral system (First-Past-the-Post)

OR

The alternative electoral system proposed by the Citizens' Assembly (Mixed Member Proportional)

### FIRST-PAST-THE-POST or Single Member Plurality System (SMP)

Canada inherited its system from Great Britain. It precedes Confederation and was first used to elect members to the Nova Scotia legislature in 1758. There are 3 main features that distinguish First-Past-the-Post from other types of electoral systems in the world:

1. Candidates represent a specific geographic area called a riding;
2. Only one member is elected in each riding;
3. In order to win, a candidate needs to receive more votes than any of the other candidates in the riding.

Positive Features	Negative Features
<p>Tends to produce stable, majority governments</p> <p>Tends to produce a strong opposition.</p> <p>Allows voters to support a local candidate who represents the geographical area in which they live.</p> <p>Easy for voters to understand how the system works.</p> <p>Tends to provide a clear-cut contest between two major parties.</p> <p>Majority governments allows the party to implement policies that it campaigned on.</p>	<p>Possible for parties with a smaller popular vote to win a majority of seats.</p> <p>Very difficult for smaller parties with a <b>national base</b> to win seats (e.g. Green Party &amp; NDP).</p> <p>Smaller parties with a strong <b>regional base</b> may win more seats than their share of the popular vote (e.g. Bloc Québécois)</p> <p>Perhaps a source of voter apathy when vote constantly does not translate into seats</p> <p>Historically women and minorities have been under represented in countries with SMP</p> <p>In a majority government, the Premier has almost dictatorial powers.</p>

### MIXED MEMBER PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM (MMP)

Mixed Member Proportional is a means of applying proportionality to the Single Member Plurality system. The main features that distinguishes it are:

1. There will be **one** ballot where you will cast **two** votes. One for the Party of your choice and one for the candidate of your choice in your riding. They may or may not be the same.
2. One of the votes you cast is for your preferred **candidate in your riding** and the winner is based on first-past-the-post system (whichever candidate wins the most votes wins)
3. The second vote you cast is for your preferred party. This is the critical vote. Why? Read further
  - a. Before the election, local ridings will nominate candidates as usual.
  - b. At the same time, each party will nominate their LIST of 39 candidates for the whole province (i.e. they are not connected to any riding).
  - c. The LIST will be given in the order of how valuable the candidates are to the party and therefore, how likely they will go to the legislature. Placing more women near the top of their list is an indication of how serious the party is about electing women. The same can apply to placing candidates from diverse backgrounds, diverse provincial regions, etc.
  - d. This LIST must be published in advance of the election so that voters can study its makeup (e.g. balance of men and women, fair distribution of the regions in Ontario and diversity of the province's population). A party may be "punished" if voters see the LIST as unfair in its composition.

4. If a party does not have enough local riding candidates elected to match its share of the party vote, it gets to “top up” their share of seats in the legislature from its LIST members. The list seats compensate for the lack of proportionality in the election of the local riding candidates.

Positive Features	Negative Features
<p>The number of seats will reflect popular vote</p> <p>Can vote for both an individual candidate and a political party</p> <p>Allows for smaller parties to be represented; will only need 3% of the popular vote to access seats</p> <p>Considered easier for minorities and women to get elected</p> <p>Coalition governments encourage cooperation between parties</p> <p>May increase voting turnout and decrease voter apathy</p>	<p>The system traditionally leads to minority governments.</p> <p>Coalitions become necessary, and these are negotiated after the election.</p> <p>May lead to weeks without a government (e.g. Germany in 2006)</p> <p>The system can be confusing to voters.</p> <p>The names on the List are determined by the party, not by the elected local officials.</p> <p>Smaller parties may still be left out. Parties still require 3% of the popular vote.</p> <p>Can create two classes of MPPs - one who represents his/her constituency (Riding/District MPP), another whose loyalty lies with the party leader (List MPP)</p>

For information on the Ontario referendum, coming as part of our election on October 10th, the government has set up a non-partisan site with basic information on our voting system as it is now, and the reforms that were proposed by the Citizen's Assembly this spring.

[http://www.yourbigdecision.ca/en\\_ca/default.aspx](http://www.yourbigdecision.ca/en_ca/default.aspx) Sign up for ALERTS, also watch the video, *BE CLEAR ON YOUR CHOICES*

Also visit the website of The Citizens Assembly: [www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca/en/default.asp](http://www.citizensassembly.gov.on.ca/en/default.asp)



## **HOW WILL YOU VOTE ON THE REFERENDUM?**

For the current *First-Past-The-Post* system ?

OR

The new system *Mixed Member Proportional* system?

Members are invited to share their decision with the rest of Ontario Council. Fill out a form at the September Standing Committee Meeting and we will put your comments anonymously on the Ontario Council website for others to read and learn. Like the *Election Questions*, this too will be educational.

## **Elections Ontario Launches Referendum Public Education Campaign**

### ***Understand the Question***

- < The Elections Ontario referendum public education website, [www.yourbigdecision.ca](http://www.yourbigdecision.ca) provides voters with impartial tools to define and understand both the First-Past-the-Post and the Mixed Member Proportional electoral systems. **You can also SIGN UP FOR ALERTS** on this website.
- < A public toll free information telephone line, 1-888-ONTVOTE (1-888-668-8683)
- < A Facebook profile and group launches today to increase referendum awareness and provide another channel for voters to make information inquiries through the email address [info@yourbigdecision.ca](mailto:info@yourbigdecision.ca)
- < A province-wide French and English newspaper advertising campaign and a further community and ethnic newspaper campaign in 25 languages will appear beginning the first week of September.
- < A province-wide *Understand the Question* French and English radio campaign launches today and will run until August 13, 2007.
- < Over 100 Resource Officers are being hired to deliver local community information sessions throughout the province. To request an information session voters may do so through [www.yourbigdecision.ca](http://www.yourbigdecision.ca), 1-888-ONT VOTE (1-888-668-8683) or [info@yourbigdecision.ca](mailto:info@yourbigdecision.ca).
- < An online advertising program will begin in early September targeting high traffic Ontario portals of Canadian websites to encourage voters to visit [www.yourbigdecision.ca](http://www.yourbigdecision.ca) for information.
- < A province-wide *Understand the Question* French and English television campaign will launch in September, 2007. - A French and English direct mail information program will be distributed in September, 2007 to all Ontario voters. - Householders (unaddressed ad-mail) will be distributed to homes across the province immediately after Labour Day and again in the beginning of October.

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## **MPUNGUZI LIFE SKILLS HIV/AIDS RESOURCE CENTRE TANZANIA, EAST AFRICA**

Returning to Tanzania, East Africa in August is like a dream come true for me. In 2003, four members of the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) were selected to travel to Tanzania to survey education in that country and determine the impact of HIV/AIDS on education. RTO partnered with World Vision Canada to carry out this mission, report back and suggest how help could be given. During this trip, we learned about the devastating impact that HIV/AIDS has had on Tanzania and sub-Saharan Africa. The community of Mpunguzi, Dodoma, Tanzania asked for our assistance to build an HIV/AIDS Life Skill Resource Centre.

On our return to Canada, we began to raise awareness, educate, and advocate in our own communities about the pandemic of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Through fundraising over a period of four years, enough money was donated to build the Resource Centre. The construction that began in the winter months is now near completion.

The community of Mpunguzi covers 16 villages with about 14 000 households. The total population is about 85 000 of which 17 000 are children under the age of five. The community will benefit greatly through

improved education and health awareness programs. This Resource Centre is the only one of its kind in the area.

Children in Mpunguzi have hopes and dreams not unlike those of our own children in Canada. In a country where 60% of the girls have little or no education, we are trying to make a difference through our support in this community. Youth, teachers, and community members will be able to access educational material, counselling and training programs, a learning place to meet and participate in sports activities.

The Life Skills HIV/AIDS Resource Centre will be officially opened in August 2007 by myself and Pat Kalapaca of Grand Valley, two of the original team of four. We will leave on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August and spend about two weeks in Tanzania. The remaining two members of the team are MaryAnna Beer of Newmarket and Marlene McCarthy of Brechin.

Along with initiating the idea for the Resource Centre, my home Club, CFUW North Bay, has been supporting two schools, Mwenge and Chibelela, located in the area of the Centre. Our Christmas donations have bought school supplies, materials for teachers, soccer balls and large cooking pots. The pictures of smiling children and teachers sent along with their letters to us, speak volumes and truly warm our hearts. We will be returning to visit these schools and bringing needed items for both students and teachers.

The Canadian Federation of University Women in North Bay has an international link that is making a difference in the community of Mpunguzi, Dodoma, Tanzania.

Brenda Robertson,  
President CFUW North Bay  
1-705-472-2758 [brenda.r@sympatico.ca](mailto:brenda.r@sympatico.ca)

### WRITE ON ! UPDATE

CFUW London Congratulates the 6 winners of our first annual *Write On !* creative short story contest. The winning writers in the Junior Category were:

Ben Martin, age 9 of London - *The Missing Stick*

Nicole Hernandez Viovy age 7 of London - *The Dolphin Adventure*

Carlie Vanderwerff age 9 of London for *Pet Show in the Park*

The winning writers in the Youth Category were:



Samantha Olthof age 14 of Ilderton - *Midnight Secret*

Nancy Wang age 14 of Waterloo - *Thro' the Eyes of a Classroom Desk*

Monique Pels age 11 of Norwich – *The Giggle School*

CFUW London sincerely thanks the published Authors who acted as the *Write On !* judges: Pauline Cormier, Barbara Haworth-Attard, Hanna Spencer and Maggie L. Wood. *Our Platinum Sponsor, The London Free Press*, gave the contest excellent coverage. The winning children were delighted to have their photos and stories published in *The London Free Press*. We thank Paul Berton, Editor in Chief and Joe Ruscitti, Managing Editor, along with staff members: Eileen Murchland, City Editor Greg Van Moorsel and Kate Dubinski, who were all very helpful and made the *Write On !* venture a success.

### NAWL NEEDS HELP!

 *The National Association of Women and the Law* has launched its *Staying Alive* campaign in response to changes in the mandate of the Status of Women Canada's Women's Program which make most of NAWL's work ineligible for ongoing funding. In order to continue their essential work for Canadian women, they must raise **\$300,000.00**. Although NAWL will seek appropriate partnerships with like-minded corporations, businesses, agencies and foundations, most of their *Staying Alive* support will come from individuals like you, who value democracy within Canada and equal rights for all women. 

If you would like to help, send your donation to:

*National Association of Women and the Law*

1066 Somerset West, Suite 303

Ottawa, ON K1Y 4T3

Please mark your cheque *Staying Alive* in the memo line.

**Dates & Data**

Also available on [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca) Editor - Ann McElhinney - [cfuwontario@yahoo.com](mailto:cfuwontario@yahoo.com)  
Submissions welcome - Please advise of any changes, additions or deletions to our mailing list