

NEWS FROM OC

Reports from the September 26th Standing Committees meeting Links to and updates on our Ontario Council website & some other notes of interest

October 2009

Hello everyone,

Welcome to our new year. As you can see we have amalgamated two of our editions, NEWS FROM OC and E-D&D - one email but with the same information. We hope you enjoy it.

As always, please forward this email to any of your club members who might be interested especially those involved with Issues Groups, and feel free to copy what you need.

Myra Willis
President, Ontario Council
cfuwontario@yahoo.com
www.cfuwontcouncil.ca

By the time that you get this email, the web links (URLs) might be dead. If so, please copy and paste the URL into your web browser.

Standing Committees reports

The reports of the three afternoon meetings of **Legislation, Education and Status of Women & Human Rights** are attached.

September 26, 2009

Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) Why were they established? How do community members measure the success of their local LHIN?

Speaker: Juanita Gledhill, Chair, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network.

Juanita Gledhill is an award-winning Human Resources professional, with 20 years experience in the field, specializing in organizational development and operational leadership. She is principal in a HR consulting practice.

In 2006 Ontario established 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) across the province to plan, integrate and fund local healthcare. They are run by 9-person-volunteer-boards, whose members serve 2-3 year terms.

The LHINS mandate is to serve the local community, concentrating on

- Promoting wellness and prevention,
- Providing quality, accessible health care in the community.
- Guaranteeing that the system will be there for the long term.

The LHIN does not provide health services, but works closely and continuously with local providers - hospital boards, mental health facilities, CCAC's, for example, to provide funds for operating expenses based on local requirements. It does not fund capital costs, although it is consulted on them to ensure that local needs are met. Its community focus allows it to

respond to differing communities; Juanita's region, for example contains two large First Nations communities and one Francophone community; others may contain a large proportion of the elderly, all of which may require specialized attention.

Work is being done on new initiatives, both by individual LHINs and the provincial Ministry of Health and Long Term Care:

- Aging at Home: a 3-year, \$60 million dollar program of the province to fund, through LHINs, programs to allow the elderly to remain in their homes.
- Clinical Services Plan: continuously works to integrate information received from various sources.
- Integrated Health and Service Plans: developed by individual LHINs to supply a road map for the community outlining future services

In addition, work is being done on such goals as reducing wait times in Emergency Rooms and wait times for long term care; increasing hours of palliative care; increasing care for patients coming out of hospital, allowing them time at home to make decisions as to their future placement; services for children, especially for mental health; care at the end of life; care for those with disabilities; integrating information among LHINs to avoid duplication.

What we have been doing this summer

Much of our work this summer has revolved around water – and it wasn't all the rain that we got.

“Stewardship - Leadership - Accountability: Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario's Water Resources for Future Generations” Proposal Paper from the Ministry of the Environment

- The paper outlined options for enhancing three key elements of water management in Ontario: Water Conservation strategies; Regulations to restrict Intra-Basin Transfers; and Water Charges to Commercial and Industrial Users
 - EBR Register #010-6350 (<http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca>).
- As a member of the Ontario Government's Great Lakes Annex Advisory Panel, CFUW Ontario Council has been invited to participate in stakeholder consultations on water conservation.
- We have also joined with a coalition of other organizations to support the document *H2Ontario: A Blueprint for a Comprehensive Water Conservation and Efficiency Strategy* which can be found at <http://www.poliswaterproject.org/publication/262>
- Carolyn Day and M. Elaine Harvey attended public consultations in Toronto, London and Kingston
- Oct. 3, 2009. Our Brief, while congratulating the Government for being proactive, notes the major concern concerning Intra-Basin Transfers around the redefinition of watersheds and a related proposal around the return of water.
 - www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/issues%20clean%20water.html

“Simcoe Area: A Strategic Area of Growth (2009)”

- Sept. 1, 2009 - Due to its potential impact on other areas of the province, CFUW Ontario Council sent comments to the Ontario Growth Secretariat, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure on the proposal, *Simcoe Area: A Strategic Area of Growth (2009)*
 - www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/issues%20clean%20water.html

What we are currently working on

Workplace Violence Prevention – NDP legislation is being discussed in the Legislature

Monitoring the LHINs – legislation is up for renewal in 2009-2010

Poverty Reduction Strategy – continual monitor; attended meetings of Campaign 2000

Pascal Report on Early Childhood Education – the January Standing Committees meeting will focus on this

Family Law Education for Women (FLEW) project – one of our basic projects. Many of the clubs are involved in the distribution of these materials to community groups, religious organizations, parenting and child care centres

Upcoming events

<http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/club%20events.html>

October 15th 2009

Intents for 2009 Ontario Council Resolutions are due

October 27, 2009

CFUW Aurora-Newmarket Open Meeting

“Moving Beyond Historical Trauma to Reconciliation” with Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Professor of Aboriginal Studies, University of Toronto

December 4, 2009

CFUW Toronto Caucus 10th Annual December 6th Memorial Luncheon
Susan Ormiston, Journalist with CBC Television and Radio

December 5, 2009

CFUW Perth & District's Annual Christmas Heritage House Tour

December 6, 2009

CFUW Guelph & Kitchener-Waterloo December 6th Memorial Luncheon
Jessica Yee, 2009 YWCA Young Women of Distinction Award,
“Taking Charge, Indigenous Youth, Violence and Activism”

Upcoming meetings

Regional Gatherings

<http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/gatherings.html>

Ontario West	Nov. 7
Ontario Central	Oct. 24
Ontario South	Oct. 17
Ontario East	Oct. 24
Ontario North	Oct. 24

Of Interest ...

“Women on their own are the poorest of the poor, especially women raising children in lone-parent families, who are almost five times more likely to be poor than those in two-parent families. Yet their plight has been virtually ignored by the policy-makers. Older women on their own are also 13 times more likely to be poor than seniors living in families, with more

than 14% of them having had low incomes in 2007. That these two groups of women had such high rates of poverty, at a time when poverty rates for others had dropped to relatively low levels, must surely be a cause for serious concern.”

Monica Townson, Sept.8, 2009 editorial www.policyalternatives.ca

Prepared by:

CFUW Ontario Council

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info@cfuwontcouncil.ca

www.cfuwontcouncil.ca

Teri Shaw, Advocacy Coordinator

Ann McElhinney, Communications Coordinator