

# NEWS FROM OC

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Links to and updates on our Ontario Council website  
[www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)  
& some other notes of interest

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

Presidents, please feel free to pass this along to interested fellow members, especially your executive.

Oct. 15, 2010

Hi Everyone,

Welcome our new year of advocacy and action with our first Standing Committees meeting held October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Toronto.

This edition of **NEWS FROM OC** includes the reports from these Standing Committees meeting, as well as links to updates on our Ontario Council website.

Also included are links to the upcoming Regional Gatherings in Scarborough, Welland and Perth. Take advantage of our "Club Events" page to advertise your event to all clubs. Send us a short blurb with all the details and we will post it on the Ontario Council's website, and advertise in this newsletter as well.

Wishing you all the best for the coming year,

Myra Willis  
President, Ontario Council  
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[www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)

## Standing Committees Report

More than eighty members from Clubs in every region of Ontario met at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street, Toronto, October 2, 2010.

### JOINT MORNING SESSION:

The topic for the morning session was: Sexual Violence from Horror to Healing

The first speaker was Rhea Pretsell, President of CFUW Belleville & District and the Ontario Council Chair of the Status of Women and Human Rights Committee. She presented her paper entitled *Sexual Violence as a Weapon of War: The Case in the Congo*. This discussion paper was chosen to be presented at the IFUW Triennial in Mexico City last summer. The historical background of hostilities in the Congo dates back to Belgium's rule, the Mobutu era, and ongoing tribal hostilities. The sexual violence perpetrated by all armed

groups in the Congo is the worst seen anywhere in the world. Rape victims, judged to be soiled and dirty, suffer in shame and silence. The present situation is fuelled by demand for natural resources and the militarization of the mineral trade. The international community has a responsibility to protect and to promote the establishment of a civil society that builds democracy and educates its women and girls.

The next speaker was Jacqueline Benn-John, Executive Director of the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services of Halton, and the president of the Ontario Coalition for Rape Crisis Centres. The OCRCC has been in consultation with the government to establish a Sexual Violence Action Plan. There is a long waiting list for services and centers need the capacity to respond. The plan will focus on prevention through education and publicity, improved community services, training for staff, and better co-ordination between agencies. The goal is to establish long term solutions, not just temporary easing of problems. The consultation document is online ([http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/women/svap\\_doc.shtml](http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/women/svap_doc.shtml)) at the Ontario Women's Directorate which is one of the responsibilities of Laurel Broten's ministry.

The final speaker was Kim Charlebois, the Executive Director of the Sexual Assault Centre for Quinte & District. The focus of her presentation was the healing process, which is unique to each person. They had seen a need among their clients for a residential healing program in addition to the personal and group therapy available. They developed a 1 week program to serve a group of 10 in a rural setting. The *Paths of Courage* is a holistic program that includes intensive therapy in the morning coupled with physical, emotional and spiritual emphases.

The morning session ended with a presentation by the CFUW Burlington. They role-played visits with various elected officials that were both educational and highly entertaining.

With thanks to Barb Willoughby, CFUW Etobicoke for the report

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

## Thank you for your help

Thank you to those of you who assisted CFUW Oakville with their campaign concerning the 900mg natural gas **power plant** to be located in the heart of Oakville. It has now been cancelled.

## What Ontario Council has been doing

- **August 31, 2010** Ontario Council sends comments to the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare on their report, Towards Sustainable Child Welfare in Ontario. The Commission was established by the Minister of Children and Youth Services in November 2009 with a three-year mandate to study the sustainability of child welfare in Ontario by developing and implementing solutions.
  - The Commission report can be found at <http://www.sustainingchildwelfare.ca>
  - Our report can be found at [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/issues.html](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/issues.html) On the Issues page, click on Child Welfare under Children
- **August 30, 2010** Ontario Council sends comments to the Ontario Women's Directorate for the public consultation to help develop the first Sexual Violence Action Plan of Ontario.
  - The consultation paper can be found at [http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/women/svap\\_doc.shtml](http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/women/svap_doc.shtml)
  - Our report can be found at <http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/issues%20violence%20women.html>

- **July 9, 2010** CFUW National, with the support of Ontario Council, signs on to comments and statements prepared by Great Lakes United concerning the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
  - Information about this can be found at <http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/issues%20great%20lakes.html>

## What the clubs have been doing

October 13 - **University Women's Club of North York** presented an evening calling for a National Housing Strategy with Senator Art Eggleton, Chair of the Senate Committee that produced the report on housing, poverty and homelessness.

Sept. 17 – **CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo** helped convince the Kitchener-Waterloo Regional Council that the Gun Registry is an important tool needed to fight domestic violence and homicide. The Council voted 14-1 to officially support it.

August 19 – **CFUW Southport** submits comments concerning the report, "Towards Sustainable Child Welfare in Ontario"

August – **CFUW Perth and District** convince their town to pass an anti-idling bylaw that will take effect June 2011.

## Club Events:

Links will be found at <http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/club%20events.html>

**CFUW Perth & District will hold its 5th Annual Heritage Christmas House Tour**

**When:** Between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on December 4th and 5th, 2010

**Lunch** will be served, for a small fee, by the United Church women on December 4 and by the Anglican Church the following day.

## What Ontario Council is working on

- Affordable Housing
- Put Food in the Budget campaign
- *Bill 72 - Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act*

## Upcoming meetings

Links will be found at <http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/gatherings.html>

### ONTARIO CENTRAL Fall Gathering

**Host:** CFUW Scarborough

**Date:** October 30th, 2010 - 9:00am to 2:00pm

**Location:** St. Thomas Moore Church, 2234 Ellesmere Road (East of Markham Road)

**Theme:** What's Happening

**Speakers:** Professor Franco Vaccarino, Principal of UTSC and Vice President of the University of Toronto

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## **ONTARIO SOUTH Fall Gathering**

**Host:** CFUW Welland & District

**Date:** November 6th, 2010

**Location:** Sparrow Lakes Golf Club, 105 South Pelham Road, Welland

**Theme:** Farm to Fork: A locavore Strategy

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## **ONTARIO EAST Fall Gathering**

**Host:** CFUW Perth & District

**Date:** October 23rd, 2010 - 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

**Location:** 26 Beckwith Street East

**Theme:** *Reflections of the Past; Inspiration of the Future*

**Keynote Speaker:** Carol Ann Cole

**Prepared by:**

**CFUW Ontario Council**

**October 15, 2010**

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