



## Dates & Data

### ONTARIO COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

**Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**

**YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH  
1585 Yonge Street, at Heath St.**

Some parking on North side of the church or 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

In one week, as many as 10,000 babies are born in Canada. Of these, three are born with muscular dystrophy, four are born with HIV infection, eight are born with spina bifida, 10 are born with Down's syndrome, and 20 are born with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Of all these birth defects, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is the one which is completely preventable by abstaining from drinking alcohol before and during pregnancy.

We have two articulate and dynamic speakers who are passionate about educating people about the importance of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

### PRESENTERS

#### **Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Ph.D.**

This presentation will draw on over 25 years of community work and research in Native communities across Canada and offer insights on service to 'high need' populations. Cynthia's work seeks to shift attention from an

overemphasis on identifying social problems toward building strengths and resilience. Mental health issues and high rates of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) are at a crisis level, creating multiple disruptions in

Native families and communities. FASD is one of the most demanding crises in Native communities along with suicide, sexual violence, and family disintegration, and the majority of troubled communities lie within areas lacking services and trained key workers to nurture and support positive mental health outcomes.

Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux will focus on building understanding about the impacts of historic trauma and its intergenerational effect,

### **Sheila Burns**

Sheila joined FASD task force in Durham Region and helped establish a collaborative strategy to increase awareness of FASD and to work towards its prevention. This led to the engagement of agencies already providing services to children and adults living with the disability and the tailoring of services to better meet their needs. Sheila's leadership role expanded to work in communities around the province.

Sheila is a founding member and past Chair of the FASD Ontario Network of Expertise. This

including rampant FASD, on First Nation communities. She represents a growing group of indigenous scholars who want to reframe the way we look at Indigenous history and health. Her work has already contributed to social welfare approaches taken by the next generation of First Nations community workers and their allies, each continuing to strive for an ending to the longstanding suffering of Native women and children.

collaborative group of clinicians and specialists is engaging provincial ministries to explore the implications of FASD on policy, programs and services. Sheila is a trainer and consultant on the disability, assisting parents, teachers, clinicians and other service providers to understand the impact of FASD on behaviour and learning and to inform approaches – from daily living to treatment – to enable those living with FASD to meet their full potential. She is a mother of four young adults and lives and works in Ajax.

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## **EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **Afternoon Session**

We will discuss Early Childhood Education and the implementation of full day kindergarten. Watch the website ([www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)) for special guests.

Gail Marriott, Committee Chair

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## **LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **Afternoon Session**

Both the morning speakers, Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Ph.D. and Sheila Burns, will join us in the afternoon, for further discussions.

Jane Sagar, Committee Chair

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## STATUS OF WOMEN STANDING COMMITTEE

### Afternoon Session

Watch the website ([www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)) for the afternoon program.

Rhea Pretsell, Committee Chair

### OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2010 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT



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 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) at the Ontario Women's Directorate.

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.

## ONTARIO EAST FALL GATHERING

### Hosted by CFUW Perth and District

It took almost 6 months to plan, organize and pull together but it was well worth it. We had a fantastic team of helpers, great speakers and wonderful sponsors.

The evening before the conference, we had a short cocktail party so all out of town guests could get acquainted and our arrangements committee could relax and have time to enjoy a glass of wine and a few snacks followed by a nice dinner before the big day.

The next morning, we started the day with coffee and treats with social time to share thoughts and greetings and time to browse the available CFUW information and books for sale. We began our conference at 10:00 am with opening remarks and thanks by me, **Anne Neil**, CFUW Perth and District President. We had a short talk on Perth and a welcome by **Lana March**, a community leader, past CFUW member and past Mayor. I think she almost convinced all guests to move to Perth. **Monique Tougas**, our new Regional Director also welcomed us and introduced **Ardith Toogood**, CFUW's International Coordinator. Ardith gave us a brief update on the International Scene with regards to women's issues at the United Nations and then introduced our Guest Speaker, **Caecilia van Peski**, UN Women's Representative from the Netherlands.

## CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

### Ontario Clubs Commemorate December 6<sup>th</sup>

- ★ The five Clubs that constitute the **Toronto Caucus** (CFUW Etobicoke, CFUW Leaside/East York, CFUW North Toronto, UWC North York and UWC Toronto) held their 11<sup>th</sup> annual December 6<sup>th</sup> Luncheon. This year's speaker was Catherine Porter of *The Toronto Star*. The proceeds of this event brought the 11 year total contribution to the Ecole Polytechnique Scholarship Fund to \$17,114.99.
- ★ CFUW **Southport** held its 11<sup>th</sup> annual December 6<sup>th</sup> vigil at noon in Coulter Park
- ★ Many Clubs marked the day with items in their newsletters

CFUW **Owen Sound** is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year



CFUW **Saugeen's**  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

CFUW **Kitchener-Waterloo** is celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Charitable Trust Fund

**CFUW Southport** member Laura Robinson was the recipient last month of the Debwewin Citation for journalism excellence in reporting on First Nations issues in the media. Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee presented the award November 9<sup>th</sup>, during a special fall assembly of the Anishinabek Nation.

When CFUW **Kitchener-Waterloo** published two volumes of *Proudly She Marched: Training Canada's World War II Women in Waterloo County* in 2006 and 2007, they donated copies to every middle school and secondary school in Waterloo Region. In their continued efforts to further the knowledge of this part of our history, they have now given copies to every secondary school in the Upper Grand District.

### **CFUW North Bay Supports Efforts in Tanzania**

As I begin this article, the snow is swirling all around on this frosty afternoon. Very different from my experiences in East Africa in November where the intense sun shines brightly and the hot sand fills your sandals. The inland areas are exceedingly dry and food shortages have impacted the Masai in the north. Our third journey to Tanzania was well planned and had a full schedule of activities. Three of us this time, Pat Kalapaca from Grand Valley, Christine Fortin, North Bay and myself travelled from Dar es Salaam to the central region, Dodoma, then north to Arusha and Longido. We met with many community groups, the youth, schools and health clinics..... Each time we are inspired by the resilience of the people, their determination to overcome adversity and build a better life for their children. We give out our supplies, baby hats, knitted teddy bears, school materials.....knowing that we receive far more than what we are giving. Over these seven years, we continue to build relationships, friendships in each of the areas we go. How wonderful to reunite, make new connections and share our stories. For me this is a special gift. Video and rolls of film tell more of the story. The Sauti Moja Org. works with the Masai in the north and are doing some amazing work supporting two Montessori schools along with other initiatives which include Community Conversations about HIV/AIDS, the Girl-child, and Widows.

Our Mpunguzi Youth Resource Centre in Dodoma area has become a hub of the community where the new Community Based

Council has set up their offices in an adjacent building that used to be the hostel. The community needs a Health Clinic closer to the distant villages. Travel distance is a huge concern for health care. These buildings are not large, but would provide some basic care that is not available at this time. One of the highlights of the trip was meeting with my sponsored child Asha now aged sixteen, and her family. If you have ever considered child sponsorship, I can tell you first hand how your sponsorship supports not only the child, but the whole community through assistance to schools, nutrition programs and building wells to name a few areas.

Numerous meetings were also in Dar es Salaam from the Canadian High Commissioner Robert Orr to the Tanzanian Ambassador's wife Joyce. Thanks to Dianne Rummery, CFUW Ottawa who introduced me to Joyce last July while at the AGM. Susan Phillips of IFUW was instrumental in providing me the name of the former CIR for Tanzania, Gertrude Mapunda who was a wealth of information on maternal health care and on other issues of concern affecting women in the country.

Pat and I will continue in the development work we started in 2003. We are grateful to CFUW North Bay for their generous support of schools in the Mpunguzi area and the materials/donations given by friends and neighbors to take with us.

In closing, I would like to leave you with this thought. When one dreams, it is only a dream.

But when many dream the same dream it becomes a reality.

Two dreams for the Mpunguzi community are building a health clinic and hiring a secondary teacher for English at the Youth Centre. I

invite you to consider the change you could make in the daily lives of one child, one family, one village, one community.

Brenda Robertson - RD Ontario North



This is the time of year that we give thanks, look back with joy and look forward with anticipation to what will come.

To everyone, a Very Happy New Year and all the best to you and yours now and throughout the year. From all of us at Ontario Council.

Myra Willis

President, Ontario Council.

## **Save the Date! Mark Your Calendar!**

**May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

The CFUW Ontario Council Annual General Meeting 2011 will be held May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Oakville. The Local Arrangements Committee has brought together an interesting programme around the theme of poverty and community action.

Details will be available shortly, in the meantime make plans to join us in Oakville

### **DATES & DATA**

Also available on [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca)

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Deadline for March 2011 edition February 20th, 2011

**Please let us know what is happening in your Club. Share your accomplishments!**

**Please advise of any changes, additions or deletions to our mailing list**