



ONTARIO COUNCIL

Dates & Data

Ontario Council Newsletter

April 2006

Vol IV. Issue 8

NOTICE OF THE 2006 CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Executive of CFUW Ontario Council wishes to notify you that the 2006 Annual General Meeting of Ontario Council will take place in Burlington, Ontario on May 12th and 13th, 2006.

Business Meeting - Holiday Inn, Burlington, Ontario
Saturday, May 13th, 2006 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Evening Reception - Holiday Inn, Burlington, ON

Friday, May 12th, 2006 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

One Registration form enclosed - See page 2 for program information
Registration Form and Program information available on www.cfuwontouncil.ca

Reference: CFUW/OC By-Law VII - Meetings

1. CFUW OC shall hold an Annual General Meeting for the discussion of all matters of provincial interest and for the receiving of reports.
2. Annual General Meetings shall be open to all current CFUW members residing in Ontario and all members of prospective CFUW/OC Clubs.
3. Standing Rules for each CFUW/OC Annual General Meeting shall be adopted at the beginning of the meeting.

Jane Wandell Secretary, CFUW Ontario Council



CELEBRATING WOMEN: A PANEL

The Saturday May 13th Standing Committees' morning session at the Ontario Council AGM joins with CFUW-Burlington in Celebrating the Lives of Women. Our panelists for the morning will include **Alia Hogben**, Executive Director of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, **Bonnie Diamond**, past Executive Director of National Association of Women and the Law and **Dr. Ruth Bell C.M.**, past CFUW President..

Alia Hogben and Bonnie Diamond worked with CFUW/Ontario Council and the other core members of the No Religious Arbitration Coalition who succeeded in changing the provisions for family law matters in Ontario's Arbitration Act. Bonnie Diamond and Dr. Bell received the 2005 Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case (the Persons Award) acknowledging their work with women and for women.

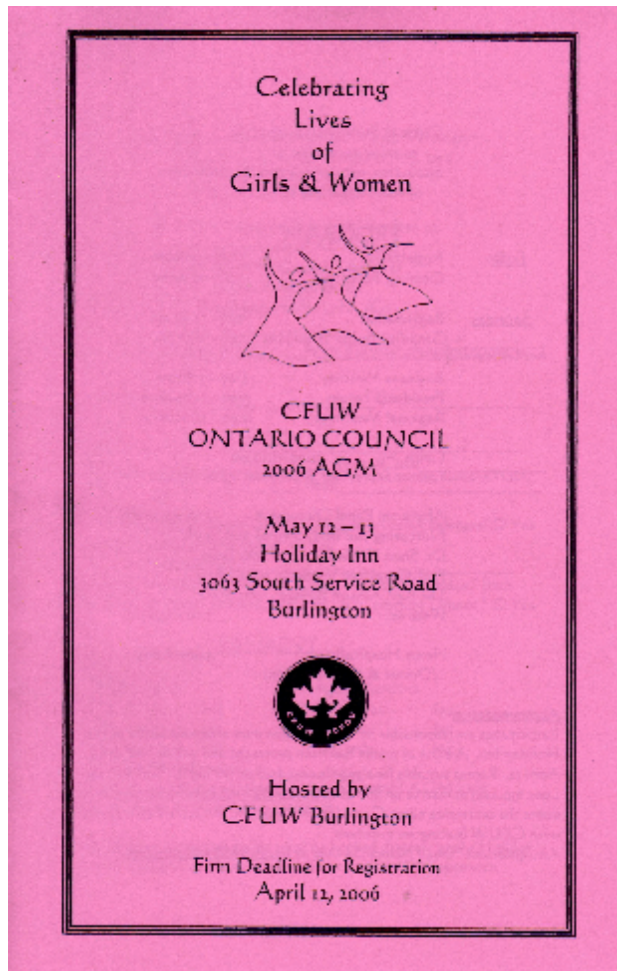
ONTARIO COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
Sabina Auburger, Resolutions Committee Chair

There is a single Ontario Council proposed resolution for the 2006 Ontario Council AGM. The resolution with the complete background is enclosed with this issue.

INCOME EQUALITY FOR ONTARIO'S CHILDREN Proposed by CFUW-Hamilton

RESOLVED, That the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Ontario to stop the claw back of the National Child Benefit Supplement from recipients of the Ontario Works program (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Plan (ODSP).

The Resolutions Committee Chair did not receive any amendments for the proposed resolution. Discussion and voting, by the voting delegates, will occur during the business meeting of the Ontario Council AGM, Saturday, May 13, 2006.



ONTARIO COUNCIL AGM
May 12 and 13, 2006
Holiday Inn, Burlington
Celebrating Lives of Girls and Women

The Burlington team looks forward to welcoming you to their community. Surrounded by the Royal Botanical Gardens, excellent shopping and the wineries of the Niagara Peninsula, it is a great location to spend a weekend.

The conference itself offers excellent speakers addressing topics that are both current and intriguing. **Dr. Sheri Findlay** will speak on the Eating Disorders Program at McMaster University. **Geraldine Voros** will address the role of women in history and the intellectual abilities of girls and women. **Rev. Allison Barrett** will be speaking about her work with girls and women in their spiritual lives.

The event, held at the Holiday Inn, which has full amenities with pool, restaurant, etc., begins with a Social on Friday evening. Take the opportunity to renew acquaintances, meet members from the various CFUW Clubs in the province and to have a wonderful weekend. See web site for details www.cfuwontocouncil.ca Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is sometimes good to look back over the years and to note that in some areas we have moved on and in other areas the same values and/or concerns persist. Chance had it that I found in my Club's October 1990 Board minutes the June 1990 Draft CFUW Long Range Plan. Then CFUW had more than 12,000 members. An operations review accurately assessed our federation's strength and weaknesses. An analysis today would come up with quite similar conclusions. Seen from the perspective of experience it makes fascinating reading. As a green VP CFUW/ Liaison for the Ottawa Club I remember, and the minutes record, that the LRP, as it was called, spawned lively discussion and observant questions around certain "Global Perspectives and Key Objectives". Our goals for the federation then were increased membership, better public relations and communication and increased finances. Sounds familiar. No one worried about the regional and provincial councils in our Club board discussion at that time. So I was quite struck to see in the plan clearly formulated Objective 2.2 proposing to strengthen provincial/regional councils by "encouraging contact among neighbouring Clubs..., develop means for Clubs to discuss briefs..., making resource material available... and in Objective 2.3: "develop leadership training opportunities for members at the provincial/regional level: strengthen lobbying and advocacy abilities and encourage involvement of members in public office and boards adopt proactive versus reactive policy setting."

Obviously, CFUW/Ontario Council has taken those key objectives to heart during the last decade and a half. And over the last four years it has been my challenge and pleasure as CFUW VP Ontario and President of CFUW/Ontario Council, with all the members of the Executive to continue to build and expand on this earlier work. During this time we have had ample opportunity to appreciate the long term preparation when putting our CFUW leadership and advocacy skills to the test provincially and at the local level (see advocacy report in this issue) and we need to bring it to bear on in the current childcare debate.

In one of my early *Dates & Data* messages, I submitted to you that at the Club level if as an

organization we are to be strong and stable we needed to stand on two equally strong legs: On one side our much valued personal CFUW social network and support, our fellowship, friendships, our study and interest groups promoting lifelong learning and fundraising for scholarships, and on the other side putting our education at the service of the community at the local, provincial, national and international level and advocate and work hard to make the world more equal for women and the disadvantaged. When starting out, we knew that all Clubs took pretty good care of the one leg. But some, including Council, were limping a bit on the advocacy side. So we proposed to concentrate working as Council, and with you, the Clubs, on advocacy. This meant to improve and develop appropriate advocacy tools needed for action: the communication, the contacts, the research etc. You came along with us on that road and together we were ready just in time to run pretty nimbly when the fight against religious arbitration needed all our quick leg work and determination. We will not always get clear results so quickly with our efforts, but CFUW is very much needed as a force for equity and equality in the community at every level.

A recent article in the Toronto Star by Carole Goar discussed that in many of the shared federal - provincial social policy and program areas the centre of power and responsibility has moved from the federal to the provincial governments, resulting in the much discussed federal - provincial fiscal imbalance. This applies to the areas that CFUW cares about, such as public education, public health care, child care, affordable, housing, anti - poverty measures etc. So, just as foreseen in the 1990 draft LRP, in order to advocate effectively, it will be even more important to have strong provincial councils. But we definitely need strong healthy Clubs to support a strong CFUW and its goals on both sides in the federal - provincial arena and with national and international issues.

Objective 5.1 in the 1990 draft LRP recommends: "emphasize "we"- unity through common goals at the Club, regional, national, international levels (in this order) - insure that image respects the Mission Statement" In my last president's message in *Dates and Data* this "we - unity" is my wish for you, for Ontario Council and

for CFUW. It has been great and a real privilege working with you and all the members of the two Ontario Council Executives during the last four years. Thank you for your enthusiasm, your work on behalf of CFUW/Ontario Council, your support, your trust, your fellowship and your friendship.

It was instructive to take a glimpse at the

planning thought that had gone into CFUW in earlier decades, but there is now another CFUW Strategic Plan. There will be another team with new tasks ahead. It is my hope that you will support that team with the same enthusiasm.

Edeltraud Neal



THANK YOU FOR MANY YEARS OF FAITHFUL EXPERT SERVICE AS CFUW/ ONTARIO COUNCIL WEB MISTRESS

Deborah Wills, CFUW/ Kitchener -Waterloo, has been our volunteer web mistress ever since CFUW/Ontario Council developed its first website under the presidency of Carolyn Day. Over the years she has accommodated our non-expert wishes and suggestions with patience. In spite of her

demanding work as a librarian at the University of Waterloo, Deborah has diligently kept our website up-dated. We are most appreciative of her efforts, and on behalf of CFUW/ Ontario Council thank Deborah most heartily for her precious gift of skills and time

MARCH 4TH STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT



Selwyn Pieters is a lawyer, specializing in education issues, working with parents and students in areas of human rights, safe schools, expulsions and suspensions. He also has an interest in refugee issues, and is a member of many professional and community associations.



Liz Sandals, MPP for Guelph-Wellington and parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, is a former chair of her local school board and Ontario representative on the Canadian School Boards Association

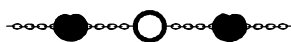
At the joint morning session, two speakers addressed the related issues of the high school drop-out rate and the Ontario Safe Schools Act. Both speakers have serious issues with the Act, and feel it exacerbates the dropout

problem.

Mr. Pieters is dead-set against the Act, and feels it should be repealed. He sees the policy as being unfair to disadvantaged and marginalized students, including immigrants, Blacks, and students with disabilities, especially learning disabilities, whose other problems may exacerbate their school behaviour and lead them into trouble. As these students' hope for any kind of future rests with their acquiring an education, it is seen as beneficial to keep them in school: removing them, even temporarily, leads to their dropping out altogether, a trend that he connects with street violence.

Liz Sandals is the only politician on the Safe Schools Action Team, appointed by Education Minister Gerard Kennedy to address safety in schools and review the Safe Schools Act. Although she acknowledges difficulties, she claims the Safe Schools Act is the "worst communicated Act ever", and that attention focused on the zero tolerance aspect ignores the fact that extenuating circumstances may be taken into account in considering suspension or expulsion. Furthermore, the Act deals with other problems, particularly bullying, which can lead to students dropping out, and offers Boards of Education methods of combating them. For full report on morning and afternoon session see February 2006 electronic Dates & Data on www.cfuwontcouncil.ca.

Peggy Pinkerton



WHAT IS THE GREAT LAKES CHARTER ANNEX AGREEMENT?

For more than a year CFUW/Ontario Council has been a member of the Great Lakes Charter Annex Advisory Panel assisting the negotiating team from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Here is a brief explanation of the issues and the results of the successful negotiations between Ontario, Quebec and the U.S. Great Lake States.

Ontario shares the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin with Quebec and eight U.S. States (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin). For the past 20 years, the premiers and governors of these provinces and States have followed a set of principles set down in an agreement called the Great Lakes Charter. This Charter was intended to protect and conserve the waters of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Basin (referred to in this report as the *Basin*). Renewed concerns over the years about proposals to export water in bulk led the provinces and states to sign a supplementary agreement to the GL Charter called the Great Lakes Charter Annex in 2001. It committed the 10 provinces and states to develop agreements that would provide better protections for the Basin.

There are two Great Lakes Charter Agreements: the **Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement** which is a good-faith agreement between the two provinces, and the eight States, and the **Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact** which is a binding compact between the eight States.

All levels of government in Canada and the

Unites States share a responsibility to protect and conserve the waters in the Basin. However, the Ontario government was concerned that the U.S. states outside of the Basin may have an interest in gaining access to Great Lakes waters and erode the protective provisions already in place between the two countries. Ontario's laws already met most of the requirements of the Charter Annex agreements and their underlying objective throughout the negotiations was to seek similar legislative protection for the Basin from all Great Lakes jurisdictions.

The first draft of the Agreement was released in July 2004. Unfavorable public response to the agreement, as well as the advice of the Annex Advisory Panel saw Ontario *go back to the table* seeking a *no diversions* agreements and better conservation. A second draft was introduced to the public in June 2005. Continued meetings with the public, input from the First Nations and other stakeholders resulted eventually in the final Agreement being signed on December 13th, 2005 by the 8 Great Lake States, Ontario and Quebec (individually referred to as a *Party*). It provides strong new protections for the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin waters.

NOTE: Twenty per cent of the world's fresh water supply is contained in the Great Lakes Basin !

Each of the two Provinces and eight Great Lakes States must now pass legislation to put into place the new protections for the Basin. The legislation in all jurisdictions:

1. is founded on the principles of ecosystem protection, a precautionary approach, climate change concerns and uncertainties, and the recognition of the impact of cumulative uses.
2. bans diversions with rare but strictly regulated exceptions, such as for
 - a. straddling communities;
 - b. straddling counties; and
 - c. intra-basin transfers.
3. requires each Party to make publicly available all applications for withdrawals, diversions and consumptive use that are subject to management and regulation under this Agreement and to make publicly available the record of these decisions.
4. strengthens water conservation and efficiency. Within 2 years, each Party will develop its own water conservation and efficiency programs through regional collaboration. These programs will be assessed annually by each Party and every 5 years by the Regional Body. These assessments will be made available to the public.
5. provides for the development of a collaborative strategy with other Parties to strengthen the scientific basis for sound water management and decision-making.
6. undertakes to resolve any disputes between Parties under this Agreement in a conciliatory, co-operative and harmonious manner.
7. provides a stronger voice for Ontario, its citizens and First Nations in the regional review of water-use proposals by other jurisdictions for exceptions to the prohibition against diversions.
8. formally recognizes the authority of the federal governments and the International Joint Commission under the Boundary Waters Treaty, which remain unchanged.

UPDATE ON GREAT LAKES CHARTER ANNEX AGREEMENTS

On Wednesday January 25, 2006, members of the Great Lakes Charter Annex Advisory Panel met at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto. Rob Messervey, Lands and Waters Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources for the Province of Ontario, began the luncheon meeting by introducing the Hon. David Ramsey MPP, Minister of Natural Resources and Deputy Minister Gail L. Beggs to the Panel members and their guests.

Both the Minister and Deputy Minister thanked all those present for their input and advice over the course of more than a year as interested and concerned stakeholders in protecting the waters of the Great Lakes Basin. This historic process implemented by the Ministry in Dec. 2004, led to a final agreement being signed in December of 2005 between Ontario, Quebec and the eight Great Lakes States. This agreement will now provide newer and stronger protections for the Basin. Minister Ramsey and his Deputy Minister presented each member of the Panel with a letter of appreciation and a copy of the book *Life of Water* including an essay by David Suzuki. The photographers *pioneered an art form, using their lenses to create social change.*

After lunch, Mr. Messervey gave us an update on the

implementation activities and timelines. Ontario's initial support to the Agreement begins with the creation of the new ten member Regional Body and the appointment of its representative. Using a Power Point presentation, he then briefly outlined the key activities of this Body beginning with the implementation of legislation by all Parties and consistent with the terms of the Agreement. This was followed by comments on the development of regional water conservation goals and objectives; baseline data for determining new or increased water withdrawals, diversions, consumptive uses; mechanisms to facilitate scientific, technical interaction, data exchange and dialogue; and the assessment of water conservation programs.

The meeting then focused on whether the role that Ontario should be to develop of an overall implementation strategy or to focus on specific priorities within the agreement such as conservation, science and research, intra-basin transfers, etc. The question that was uppermost in the minds of those in the MNR Working Group as well as those on the Panel was who amongst the Parties would take the upper hand and step forward as a leader on these issues. Elizabeth May from the Sierra Club felt that

a draft by Ontario on conservation should be developed that represents a high standard for the other Parties to use as their example. In other words, let Ontario begin by setting the level of the bar high for the rest of the Regional Body.

Many concerns were made about the lack of coordination between legislation that already exists, and legislation which is yet to be approved, the work completed by some municipalities in conservation, etc. It was agreed that this Panel would meet again with the MNR Working Group providing a *gap analysis* and the Panel members forming specific issue-related sub-committees on which they could

provide the necessary expertise. This would be Ontario's commitment to implementing the Agreement and this could take one to two years.

It will be a struggle for members to take this next step as there are so many unknown factors, i.e. what is already in existence that can be used, how will the legislation of the other Parties impact on the work of the panel, what ministry will take the lead in bringing this agreement to full implementation. I think the panel has a lengthy and difficult job ahead of them.

Linda MacGregor

REGIONAL REPORT ONTARIO NORTH Andrea Levan, Regional Director

I have now paid a visit to all of my Clubs: CFUW **Thunder Bay** in May, CFUW **Haliburton Highlands** in June, CFUW **North Bay** in September, and CFUW **Muskoka** in October. I was asked to be the guest speaker at all of these Clubs. At **Muskoka** Club I was invited to be part of their lecture series and spoke on Elizabeth Barrett Browning. At the others I spoke about CFUW, its strengths and my vision of its future. I will visit CFUW **Muskoka** again in June to meet with the executive and talk about CFUW affairs.

CFUW **Sudbury** hosted the Ontario North Regional Fall Gathering, which was held on October 15. Rose Beatty was our guest speaker. There were 35 attendees.

The Ontario North Clubs are all active. CFUW **Sudbury** is planning its 11th annual *Celebrate Women* fundraiser which will be held on May 5th. CFUW **Muskoka** has undertaken a review of their constitution and manual, and is cleaning out and storing archives. They have really appreciated having the policy book on line. Their spring lecture series is on enjoying the aging process. CFUW **North Bay** hosted a night on the AIDS crisis in Africa in conjunction with the Rotary Club. CFUW **Haliburton Highlands** is still a new club and is still at this point strengthening its program and beginning some fundraising activities. A silent auction in December was successful.

Andrea Levan



ADVOCACY AWARDS Entries due June 1st, 2006

- Application forms are available through your Regional Director or the Advocacy Committee at cshaw@cogeco.ca
- Documentation can also be submitted at the CFUW Ontario Council AGM May 12th & 13th in Burlington
- The winner in each category (relating to Club size) wins one registration to the 2007 Ontario Council AGM in Peterborough

ACTIVITIES OF THE CFUW/ONTARIO COUNCIL AD HOC ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD has been the theme for this last biennium, and this past year it has proved to be very fruitful. Our priorities and major involvement of this year have included equality in the Arbitration Act and concerns about water.

Arbitration Act

In January 2005, Marion Boyd spoke to the Standing Committees meeting about her Review of the Arbitration Process with specific reference to family inheritance and family law. It had become very obvious that women were extremely concerned about religious arbitration in general and the potential addition of sharia law to family law matters under the jurisdiction of the Arbitration Act, 1991.

During the Spring of 2005, Joan Dunn, OC Status of Women & Human Rights Chair and Edeltraud Neal, OC President, prepared a response to the Boyd Review, and CFUW/ Ontario Council joined with other women's organization in the No Religious Arbitration Coalition. CFUW/Ontario Council together with the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL), Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) and the Toronto YWCA met with the Liberal Women's Caucus of the Ontario Legislature concerning the Arbitration Act Review.

These actions plus letters from leading female personalities in the *Globe and Mail*, together with Ontario Council members voicing their opinions quite strongly and numerous to their MPPs throughout the province, led to the decision by Premier McGuinty to disallow religious arbitration. CFUW/Kanata's resolution on Equality in Family Law was an invaluable contribution.

Still there was more to be done. During the Fall, the legislation, Bill 27, the Family Law Statute Amendment Act, 2005, was proposed. In October, Edeltraud Neal, together with the other representatives of the No Religious Arbitration Coalition met with the Hon. Sandra Pupatello, Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate and the Attorney General, Michael Bryant. In December they met with John Tory, the Leader of the Opposition.

Linda MacGregor and Teri Shaw met with the

Attorney General's Office to receive a technical briefing on the Family Statute Law Amendment Act, and Joan Dunn and Teri Shaw joined members of the No Religious Arbitration group to meet with the Ontario Women's Directorate on the public education aspect of the proposed new law. A brief was sent to the Standing Committee on Social Policy with our comments on the Bill 27, the Family Statute Law Amendment Act in December, and on Feb. 23rd 2006, the Bill received Royal Assent.

Water

Carolyn Day and Linda MacGregor, CFUWRD Ontario Central, have been extremely involved with two aspects of the water file: the Great Lakes Charter Annex Implementing Agreements and source protection of water which has become the Clean Water Act.

In 2004, CFUW/Ontario Council was appointed to the Great Lakes Charter Annex Advisory Panel of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Carolyn and Linda, as our representatives, attended meetings and phone conferences, and wrote comments. This effort culminated with the signing of the Agreements between Ontario, Quebec, and the Great Lake States on Dec. 13th, 2005.

The next step of the Walkerton recommendations, the Clean Water Act was tabled in early December. We sent our brief to the Strategic Policy Branch of the Ministry of Environment studying Bill 43 on Feb. 3rd. Prior to this we had joined with the Canadian Environmental Law Association and other groups to send a letter to the Hon. Laurel Broten, the Minister of the Environment, about source protection.

Safe Schools Act, 2001

The review of the Safe Schools Act was also ongoing. Edeltraud Neal and Marianne Singh-Waraich, Ontario Council Education Chair, met with Roundtables in their respective towns to discuss the evaluation of the Act. On January 31st, a brief was sent to the Ministry of Education about our concerns and recommendations involving this Act.

Local Health Integration Network

Another concern has been the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) whose legislation, Bill

36, was tabled in December. Carolee Bailey of CFUW/Burlington and Myrtle Greve of CFUW/Hamilton helped to prepare our response to *Bill 36, Local Health System Integration Act, 2005* sent to the Standing Committee on Social Policy on Feb. 8th. The Bill calls for a review within three years, so this will be an ongoing concern.

For the March Standing Committees Meeting Sabina Auburger, Legislation Chair, prepared an excellent display showing the LHIN regions as they pertain to the Clubs across the province. Sabina also provided contact information for each Club and their LHIN. For more information concerning your LHIN, contact Sabina Auburger.

Other Activities:

The Standing Committee on the Status of Women and Human Rights with Dr. Andrea Levan, RD Ontario North, has been working on a **survey of women's shelters**. The report will come this summer.

The Standing Committee on Education and members of the Standing Committee on Legislation has also been studying **the high school dropout rate** and its relationship to other social determinants.

Each year CFUW/Ontario Council prepares a Brief for the **Pre-Budget Consultations** of the Standing Committee of Finance and Economic Affairs which was sent on Feb. 2nd. The topics, which are based on the annual discussions held at the CFUW/Ontario Council AGM, this year included **education, child care, health care, violence against women, family poverty, affordable housing and water**. Currently we are concerned about the proposed changes to Early Learning and Child Care

Agreement-in-Principle signed between the Ontario and federal government and the ramifications that will have on Ontario's Best Start program. A package of information and a suggested letter to MPPs has been prepared.

Each of the Briefs and letters can be found on our website at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca. You will find the links to them on either: the What's New page <http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/WhatsNew.html> or the Advocacy page <http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/Advocacy.html>, click on Ontario Council action at the top of the page.

THANKS

The success of advocacy by Ontario Council is a team effort. Edeltraud Neal has been the leader and the writer with a the strong knowledge of the political process; Carolyn Day and Linda MacGregor have attended meetings and written numerous briefs; as well the Standing Committee chairs Marianne Singh-Waraich, Joan Dunn and Sabina Auburger have worked on briefs, letters, and kept the Club representatives up-to-date. Others who have been invaluable have been Myrtle Greve of CFUW/Hamilton and Carolee Bailey of CFUW/Burlington, Andrea Levan, RD Ontario North, Myra Willis RD Ontario South and Margaret McGovern, National Director, Status of Women.

Teri Shaw, Chair
Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee



ONTARIO COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

The Ontario Council Resolutions Information and Guidelines manual has been prepared. It will be available April 15, 2006. Requests for this manual may be made through the Regional Directors.

Ontario Council Resolutions Process 2007 Schedule

October 14, 2006 Notice of Intent to Submit a Resolution received by the Resolutions Committee Chair, the proposing Club's Regional Director, the relevant Standing Committee Chair and the President of CFUW/OC.

November 18, 2006 Proposed Resolutions received by the Resolutions Committee Chair.

January 13, 2007	Proposed Resolutions e-mailed/mailed to all Clubs.
March 11, 2007	Amendments to Proposed Resolutions received by the Resolutions Committee Chair.
March 19, 2007	Proposed amendments sent to Proposers by the Resolutions Committee Chair.
March 31, 2007	Final version of proposed Resolution(s) e-mailed To all clubs.



THANK YOU FROM THE CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL PRESIDENT

During the 2005 /06 Biennium all members of the CFUW/Ontario Council have done their very best to make our Council a smoothly functioning organizations full of achievements, learning, fun and laughter and friendships. It took each and everyone to do what we have done, be it organizing the Standing Committee Meetings, Board Meetings, Regional Gatherings, Hubb Meetings, keeping in contact with Clubs here and in the US, keeping minutes, the books, the website updated, keeping listening to Clubs and assisting them, getting the newsletter out, good ideas, speakers, making

contact with the government, making deadlines, speeches, making friends, producing reports briefs, meeting materials, guidelines & manuals, revising procedures, traveling to Clubs, to AGMs and meeting, giving good advice, encouragement, support, empathy, The list goes on.

For their efforts and their dedication to CFUW/Ontario Council, its Mission and its members I'd like to commend and thank all the members of the CFUW/Ontario Council Executive, listed below.

- Linda MacGregor, RD Ontario Central
- Marylea Burt, RD Ontario East
- Elizabeth Haynes, RD Ontario West
- Andrea Levan, RD Ontario North
- Myra Willis, RD Ontario South
- Sabina Auburger, CFUW/Ontario Council Legislation and Resolutions Chair
- Joan Dunn, Status of Women & Human Rights Chair
- Marianne Singh-Waraich, Ontario Council Education Chair
- Ann McElhinney, Communications Chair
- Marjorie Melick, Treasurer
- Jane Wandell, Secretary
- Deborah Wills, Web Mistress
- Karen Empringham, Liaison - Out of Province
- Teri Shaw, Chair Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee
- Mary Hall, Past President



In our Own Backyards Important Club Action over Spring and Summer

Child Care and Early Learning Advocacy

This is a crucial issue for our daughters and granddaughters who will not be able to apply their education in a career without reliable, accessible, quality day care with firm standards. Our young women and men can no longer rely on family or neighbours to help look after their children. 70% of mothers work, few can afford to stay home with their children. The choice is often not to have children at all.

Pronouncements and rumours have been indicating that the new federal government under Stephen Harper will not continue to implement the federal–provincial child care accord. Instead parents will get a flat \$100 per child income supplement and help to employers to set up daycare at work. We are not opposed to this supplement nor against the help

to employers, but for many reasons this will not create publicly accessible quality day care spaces nurturing the development of the child.

By now you should have received “Women in Action” from CFUW National with information and talking points if you want to advocate at the federal level with your MP. Download also from www.cfuw.org We urge you to go and see your MP when s/he is home from Ottawa on weekends or during the summer. Contact Margaret McGovern re National action.

Look for the CFUW/Ontario Council advocacy package that takes into account the federal action according to the Throne Speech and provincial conditions. Contact Teri Shaw.

Study : Violence Against Women in Ontario –Your Club’s input needed

The Ontario Council Status of Women & Human Rights Committee are presently conducting research regarding the present state of services, policies and needs with respect to violence against women in Ontario. Although since the early 1980s there has been a huge increase in public awareness and in the provision of services, the fact remains that violence against women continues to be a major problem in women’s lives and we have seen no decrease in the incidences of violence. However, the issue is no longer the focus of public attention, or the priority for many women’s groups, that it was in the early 1990s. We wish to get a fuller picture of what is still needed in order to develop a position paper on the issue of violence against women, with a view to

developing further policy, reviving public interest in the issue, and identifying strategies that we can undertake to effect change. There are CFUW clubs in 58 Ontario communities, who can serve an important role in advocating and raising awareness of issues important to those who work with the women who have suffered violence.

The results from all of the Ontario clubs will be collated and developed into a study paper by RD Ontario North, Dr. Andrea Levan, who is an Associate Professor of Women’s Studies at Laurentian University in Sudbury. Contact Andrea Levan or Joan Dunn at cfuwontario@yahoo.com for telephone numbers consult the CFUW directory

Health Care: LHINs

The Ontario Government will be administering all health care through Local Health Integration Networks.(LHIN) These are large health regions. We are willing to give the initiative a try, but are watching for actions that will dilute quality public health care ever more, such as competitive bidding, contracting out, resulting in poor care and loss of health care professionals due to bad working conditions . We urge you to inform yourself about

what your LHIN is like, who runs it and monitor progress. Get together with the other Clubs in your LHIN. Sabina Auburger, Council Legislation Chair has made a map of the 14 LHIN regions and where your Club fits. Ontario Council has written a brief to the Ontario Government. Contact Sabina at cfuwontario@yahoo.com for her telephone number consult the CFUW directory.



**We look forward to seeing you
at the
CFUW Ontario Council AGM in Burlington**

Have a happy Spring and Summer

**We will meet again September 16th
at the Toronto Club House**

Dates & Data

Also available on www.cfuwontouncil.ca

Editor - Ann McElhinney - cfuwontario@yahoo.com

Submissions welcome - Please advise of any changes, additions or deletions to our mailing list

