



Dates & Data

ONTARIO COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES

Saturday January 19th, 2008

New location !!! YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH New Location !!!
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

Aboriginal Education and Culture from Pre-school to Post-secondary Graduation

The morning session will look into the challenges and issues facing Aboriginal youth in the elementary and post-secondary education system. A representative from the Aboriginal Education Office of the Ministry of Education will discuss their focus on improving the education for First Nations, Metis and Inuit students.

The Aboriginal Education Office was formed in 2006 subsequent to the Ministry of Education identifying Aboriginal education as a top priority. Their vision and goals are to close the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in literacy and numeracy, retention, graduation rates and

advancement on to post-secondary education.

Our second guest will be Lu Ann Hill. Ms. Hill is a member of the Bear Clan, Haudenosaunee, from the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is currently employed with the *Aboriginal Institutes' Consortium* where she advocates for increased recognition and resources for Aboriginal post-secondary education and training institutes in Ontario and nationally. She played a facilitative role in the creation of the National Association to advance the goals of Aboriginal Education and Training Strategy.

What's Inside

- Afternoon Standing Committee programmes
- President's Message
- Referendum Statistics
- Home Care Forum Report
- Tanzania Update
- Challenges For Children in Shelters
- Fall Gathering Reports
- Women and the Canadian Social Transfer
- The Media in Post-Genocide Rwanda
- Tribute to Sandra Choquette

EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE
Afternoon Session

Our afternoon session will be focused on the Aboriginal early learning program *Head Start*. Our guest will be Kim Kirkley, from the Native Child and Family Services of Toronto Epnigishmok Aboriginal Head Start Program.

Aboriginal Head Start is a federally funded program for Aboriginal preschool children and their families. The program was initiated in Canada in 1996; the first location was Windsor, Ontario. The program is at no cost to the participants and targets the at-risk Aboriginal population.

Wendy Taylor, Committee Chair

LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE
Afternoon Session

Talk, talk, talk. We love to do it. But do we take action on our talk? University Women are truly concerned about the environment. Let us take concerted action on the environment together!

We will look at the pros and cons of *compact fluorescent light bulbs*. The Ontario government has moved to make the use of CFL bulbs compulsory by 2012. What do you know about them? Are you using them in your own home?

In what kind of environment does your Club meet? Is it a *friendly environment* for all your members including those with special needs? Let's make sure we provide an inclusive environment for *all members!*

At our last Legislation Committee meeting, you selected the following topics of concern: dumping sewage, packaging, pesticides, electronic waste, and landfill/garbage. Even limiting environmental issues to these topics is far-reaching! We will consider one aspect of each. Can we encourage CFUW Clubs and members to come on board?

As if that isn't enough, we will continue our monitoring of the LHINs. Do you know what the letters stand for? Do you know what LHIN area you live in? Go to http://www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation/lhin/lhinmap_mn.html to find the answer to both these questions.

Our speakers at this session will be the best around! -- those that know CFUW and have expertise in the subject -- our own members!

*Let us be the yeast that gives life to the environment,
not the hot air that comes with climate change!*

Elaine Harvey, Committee Chair

STATUS OF WOMEN STANDING COMMITTEE
Afternoon Session

The committee will hear from several members regarding a number of current and upcoming issues. They will include Big Box Daycare, health issues, Status of Women Canada update, *Out of the Kitchen - Cooking Up Equality* cookbook, and an introduction to our March morning session with Laura Robinson regarding "How are the Status of Women and Human Rights influenced by athletics?"

The potential for Big Box Daycare has become a hot issue in Ontario, Alberta, and B.C. We will have material for letter writing for you at the January 19th Standing Committees. Please keep your eyes and ears open for discussion and newspaper reporting on this issue.

Judie Arrowood, Committee Chair

FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Several times during my term as Regional Director, I was asked why our sister organization in the USA is an association while ours is a federation. After looking into this I found that we have chosen a very different structure. AAUW is a top down organization where decisions are made by their Board without consultation with their members. An example of this was their decision to no longer fund IFUW. Their members learned of this decision after the fact.

Back in 1919 our founding members realized that its effectiveness in influencing the policies of our provincial and federal governments rested with the number of voices that came from its Club members - the *grass roots* voices. The more voices, the “louder” and more influential their message. These women did not intend our organization to be a top-down, “you will do as we say” structure. In fact, just the opposite.

We begin with the Clubs. Members have the greatest influence in persuading their elected officials to take measures and adopt legislation in this country that would meet the goals of our federation. After all, they helped to put these MPPs and MPs into office.

It seems that without much assistance, Clubs have been involved in advocacy issues within their local communities for quite some time and they are very good at what they do.

To increase the probability of changing federal and provincial government policies around our issues, the Councils and national Board members can assist the Clubs by taking an issue to our provincial or federal Cabinet Ministers and our Premier or Prime Minister.

The current *Nuts and Bolts* and any provincial primer should reflect a proposed division of labour for advocacy, one that can be changed at the request of its members. It should not be a publication that is *cast in stone*, but the result of a collaboration of all parties whose purpose is to assist the Clubs in doing the work of CFUW.

The word “assist” is key to understanding the relationship between Clubs and their regional Council Executives and national Board members.

- < Regional Directors (RD), provincial/regional Vice Presidents, national Directors and the President of our federation are all elected by you, the members.
- < Regional Directors represent the Clubs and relay what their members want the Council Executive to do on any matter. For example, a Club who has advocated locally on an issue, such as violence against woman, becomes concerned with its increase within their community. With their Regional

Director speaking on their behalf, the Council Executive could be asked to organize a province-wide advocacy action on this issue. Those *grass roots voices*, now multiplied across the province, are much louder and more influential; OR

- < The Council could be asked that the funds to organize the Council Annual General Meeting (AGM) come from both the Council members’ dues and the AGM registration fees, thereby lowering the costs to attend.
- < To summarize, the Regional Directors assist Clubs by bringing their matters to the Council but it is the responsibility of the Council to address those matters to the satisfaction of its Clubs.

Not all matters that concern the Clubs can be dealt with by just the provincial Council Executive.

- < CFUW Councils also represent the interests of its Clubs and it is their responsibility to relay what their members want the national Board to do on any matter of concern to them. With the provincial Vice President speaking on their behalf, the Board could be asked to form partnerships with other organizations that advocate on a similar issue, thereby substantially increasing the influence of these voices; OR
- < They may request that all documents related to their national Annual General Meeting be mailed to them well in advance of the actual meeting dates.
- < To summarize, the provincial Council Executives assist Clubs by bringing their matters of concern to the national Board but it is the responsibility of the Board to address these matters to the satisfaction of its Clubs.

The National Office serves the members. It gets its instructions from the Board who, in turn, receives its instructions from the Clubs by way of the national Vice Presidents and Regional Directors.

Ensuring that our organization remains a federation involves all members assuming certain responsibilities. Do not become insular. Become involved in the activities of your Council Executive and national Board of Directors, even if it is simply reading their newsletters and mailings. Speak out if there are any actions about which you object. Use your Regional Directors as your vehicle to make objections, suggestions and recommendations known to your Council Executive. Use your provincial Vice President as the next vehicle to make your objections, suggestions and recommendations known to your national Board. If you fail to maintain this involvement in a federation that exists because of the vital work it was intended

to do almost one hundred years ago, it will revert to one that is so different from ours, far less effective and considerably exclusive of member input..... it will become a top-down association

How successful CFUW can be in improving the status of women and human rights and promoting public education, peace and justice rests solely on how well its members understand the organization to which they belong. How well do you understand CFUW?

Linda MacGregor

RETIREMENT NEWS

I am taking this opportunity to tell you that I will not be continuing for a second term as Vice President Ontario/Ontario Council President. It was not a easy decision for me to make. When I retired from teaching in 1998, I went *full tilt* into the work of CFUW; from Treasurer and President of my home Club, CFUW Etobicoke, to Regional Director for 4 years and eventually two years as Ontario Council President. I postponed travel to specific places that I wanted to visit 10 years ago. It was a significant birthday in September that made me realize that time goes by too quickly and we never know how long we will be able to do things that came so easily to us just a few years ago. Having said this, I am still in this position until next May and August and have no intention of doing less than what is required in this position.

I encourage members of Ontario Council to consider applying for a position on Ontario Council. It is absolutely essential for *new blood* to come into any governing body. If this doesn't happen, it sends a message to members that their governing body is closed and it stops the input of new ideas and initiatives that would take the Council on a new and exciting direction.

I would definitely recommend that a candidate have a background as a past President of her Club. Additional experience that could help would be participating as a member of a Standing Committee or as a Standing Committee Chair. If you would prefer, start by applying for the position of a Standing Committee Chair. A candidate should have a good understanding of the structure of CFUW; what a bottom-up federation is and what her role would be in this kind of organization.

We need our members to become involved and work alongside one another as a member of the Council Executive in assisting our 58 Clubs in doing the work of CFUW. Talk to me, talk to others on the Executive, if you have questions.

Take care,
Linda

DID YOU KNOW

That Muriel Smith, CFUW Director of Legislation was given the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case. She was one of six recipients across Canada. Look for more information in the next *Communicator*.

That Ontario Council has 21 of its 58 Clubs with an active advocacy or issues group. That's 37%. If your Club would like to become more involved in advocacy of issues of concern, contact your Regional Director.

That you can honour some of your members for the contributions they have made to your Club OR for their length of membership in your Club. Contact your RD for the necessary information and form.

FALL GATHERING REPORTS

ONTARIO WEST

The 2007 Ontario West Regional Gathering was a leadership training opportunity for Clubs by Clubs. The morning workshop on leadership and membership recruitment were facilitated by Sabina Auburger, RD Ontario West; Margaret Arthur, President, CFUW **London**; and Karen Levenick, CFUW Liaison for CFUW **Owen Sound**. The workshop involved discussions on the topics of expressing the benefits of leadership and membership; how to “ask” people to join CFUW; and opportunities to recognize and show appreciation to CFUW volunteer members. The workshop was followed with presentations by Margaret Arthur on How to Organize an All Candidates’ Meeting; Joan Goddard, CFUW **Guelph** Civics Group Convenor on How to Organize an Open Public Forum; and by Janine Allen-Jordan, co-president, CFUW **Orangeville** on Low Maintenance Fund Raisers.

The keynote speaker, Peggy Fletcher, local artist and published author and poet, made an incredible moving presentation which received a standing ovation. As Margaret Binek of CFUW **Kitchener-Waterloo** wrote: “Peggy Fletcher was such a revelation!”

CFUW **Sarnia** took the opportunity to recognize its members with 20+, 30+, 40+, 50+ and 60+ years of continuous CFUW membership with certificates from the national office. This remarkable event was topped off by Jane Anema, CFUW **Sarnia**, a professional trainer, who made a presentation on advocacy: “Finding Your Voice”.

Everyone participated in this opportunity to network for the purposes of leadership training. All members were very generous in sharing their skills and expertise for the benefit of achieving CFUW goals.

Sabina Auburger, Regional Director

ONTARIO SOUTH

On Saturday, October 28, CFUW **Hamilton** cooked up a wonderful day for the Clubs of Ontario South. You don’t have to be a master chef to cook up a great Club. You just need a terrific recipe and enthusiasm. Plus, they say never to skimp on the quality of ingredients and CFUW **Hamilton** made sure our attendees received not only the best recipe and but also great ingredients.

Roberta Brooks, CFUW Director of Finance, took us through the intricacies of the National Trust. Arleen Midriak, Past President of **Burlington**, shared her insights into Strategic

Planning. Marianne Singh-Warrich, Director of Education, passed along helpful advocacy tips. Susan Walkinshaw, Past President of **Oakville**, explored publicity strategies. Myra Willis, Regional Director Ontario South, looked at the motivation and personality traits of members and the positions that would suit them. Sabina Auburger, Regional Director, Ontario West, added some ideas on membership.

After a wonderful lunch, Ardith Toogood spoke on her experiences at the IFUW meeting in Manchester. Since very few of us have the opportunity to attend these wonderful events, her talk offered a welcomed insight into IFUW.

The afternoon found us learning a bit about women and the history of Ancaster and its churches and having a chance to tour the church and cemetery.

A huge thank you to Myrtle Greve and her LAC and to Marilyn Hill, President of **Hamilton** for all their hard work to make this event flow so effortlessly.

Myra Willis, Regional Director

ONTARIO CENTRAL

The Ontario Central Fall Gathering was hosted by CFUW **North Toronto** who were celebrating their 30th anniversary. The event was attended by 68 registrants at the University of Toronto’s St Michael’s College, on Saturday October 20th 2007. The theme of the day’s events : *Working Together-Working with Others* was well incorporated into the programme. Morning workshops focused on CFUW themes and the two workshops offered in the afternoon session focused on “Working with Others”.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn and share ideas during the morning sessions on: Leadership, Advocacy, Programme Ideas and Knowing Your Federation. In the Advocacy workshop registrants learned how to act locally on an issue and were given the tools required to advocate on issues at the various levels. At the Know your Federation workshop, members learned about Ontario Council, CFUW and IFUW, the structures and the interconnections and the difference between a “ top down “ association and our “ grassroots bottom up “ Federation.

The Programme workshop gave the members in attendance the opportunity to share activities, speakers and programme ideas which have worked for their Club. In the Leadership workshop attendees described the qualities of a good leader and discussion followed on how to look for leaders within your own Club.

Emphasis was put on : informing members about CFUW, knowing your membership, asking your members for their involvement, inviting your membership to CFUW and OC events and meetings and above all the importance of being open and friendly and thanking your members.

After a delicious buffet lunch and the opportunity to network and chat with members from the Central Region, Katherine Barber, Canada's Word Lady entertained the audience with highlights of her latest book *Only in Canada You Say*.

The "Working with Others" themed afternoon workshops featured Carolyn Nixon from the Stephen Lewis Foundation who spoke on the *Grandmothers to Grandmothers Project*, which we will be hearing more about at the Ontario Council AGM in **North Bay** in May 2008. The Welcoming the Stranger session featured Major Holly Patterson who spoke about the Refugee Services offered by the Salvation Army. Major Patterson gave a very educational Powerpoint presentation and also left us with ideas on how we could help recent immigrants and refugees: We could offer to be a conversation partner a few hours per week, we could offer our skills as an ESL teacher, and more simply just ask "what can I help you with". Most important, we could be advocates by finding out who our senator is in our area and writing to them asking for immediate approval of Bill 280, which is in its final stage. The workshop concluded with handouts with useful web sites we could educate ourselves with.

The day wrapped up with a Lucky Draw and members left with new information and ideas to share with their Clubs.

Joanne Jamieson, Regional Director

ONTARIO EAST

After coffee, muffins and registration, the day began with four speakers: opening remarks by CFUW **Kanata** President, Elizabeth Pulker, reflections on leadership from Regional Director, Petra Friedrichson, information about the Charitable Trust by trustee Louise McArthur from the **Orleans** Club and a talk by National President Ardith Toogood on the activities of CFUW National.

Three workshops followed: *Advocacy* with Marianne Wilkinson, *Leadership* with Petra Friedrichson and *The Environment* with Barbara Moogk, President of the **Renfrew** Club. Eight presidents gave Club reports before lunch. After a delicious lunch of soup, chicken salad and chocolate cake, our Keynote Speaker, Valerie Knowles spoke about three women who have made a huge difference in Ottawa and Canada. They were horticulturist, Isabella Preston, arts activist, Trudi LeCaine and Senator Cairine Wilson. What surprised everyone is that these women accomplished so much yet were unknown to many of us.

The three afternoon workshops were: *Connect with Your Audience* with Elizabeth Pulker, *Creativity in Action* by Lorraine Drewell and Joelyn Gregory and *Wonderful World of Websites* given by Donna Hedley. The six workshops were all very well received. Following Closing Remarks in the Sanctuary of St John's Church, volunteers were thanked and, attendees were presented with a special memento of the day – a CFUW brown sugar keeper made by LAC chair Lorraine Drewell.

Elizabeth Pulker, President
CFUW Kanata

PUBLIC FORUM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING January 30th in Ottawa

CFUW KANATA, the **ZONTO CLUB OF OTTAWA** and **UNIFEM**
are co-sponsoring a Public Forum on Human Trafficking

Time: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Place: The National Library and Archives Auditorium, Wellington Street, Ottawa.

Seating is limited so please reserve by emailing cfuwontario@yahoo.com

RESULTS OF OCTOBER 10TH REFERENDUM

In the Ontario Referendum on Electoral Reform held on October 10th, 2007, Ontario voters rejected an alternative electoral system proposed by the Ontario Citizens' Assembly - a mixed member proportional system.

Just to recap, two thresholds were required for the referendum to be decided in favour of a change to the electoral system:

- 60 percent of all votes cast in the province, and
- a simple majority of more than 50 percent of votes cast in at least 64 provincial electoral districts (the equivalent of 60% or more of provincial electoral districts).

A. Results of the referendum vote by Ontario voters for the alternative electoral system on Oct. 10, 2007:

- 36.9% of all votes cast in the province;
- a simple majority in only 5 electoral districts.

B. Results of the referendum vote by OC members for the alternative electoral system on Sept. 15th, 2007 at the Standing Committee Meeting:

- 105 members were in attendance;
 - 57 members (51.4%) of those present at this meeting responded.
- | | | | |
|--|----|----|--------|
| • In favour of First-Past-The-Post | 10 | or | 17.5 % |
| • in favour of the Mixed Member Proportion | 42 | or | 73.7 % |
| • Not decided | 4 | or | 7.0 % |
| • Spoiled response | 1 | or | 1.8 % |

	Ontario Voters	CFUW OC Voters
Mixed Member Proportional	36.9%	73.7%

A SUCCESSFUL HOME CARE FORUM

On September 8th, 2007 *Hamilton Cares*, the **Hamilton & Burlington** CFUW Clubs, and Mohawk College presented another in their series of Forums to the public regarding the on-going need for **continuing supportive care in the home** for persons of any age who are unable to undertake all the activities of daily living yet do not want to enter an institution. In other words, they want to stay at home with some assistance. As taxpayers, we want the same for them because it is less expensive for the public purse to keep people at home than to provide institutional care. In the late 1980s into the mid 1990s home care was designed around the idea of "aging in place" that

is, supporting people to live independently with dignity. In the late 1990s that role for home care was largely replaced by home care as an extension of the hospital system. However, the lack of continuing supportive care in the home increases the number of persons inappropriately using a hospital bed and, paradoxically, increases the pressure on hospital bed use.

Mr. Hugh MacLeod, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health and Long Term Care, spoke to the audience regarding the changes in approach to this issue that the present government is prepared to consider. The Local Health Integration Networks (LHIN)

have been directed by the government to develop innovative ways to deliver services in the Home Care sector. And significant money has been allocated to assist people in "aging at home" for the next three fiscal years. The request of the community for continuing supportive long term care in the home is one of the issues the present government would like to support. Community Care Access Centres appear to be equally supportive of the option. However, there are some hurdles to overcome, e.g.

- the present CCAC criteria militate against the provision of continuing supportive care
- the CCAC is geared toward relieving the pressure on acute care (hospitals) by providing acute and palliative care in the home, however, if continuing supportive care is not available in the community many persons remain in hospital until a long term care bed is available, this approach actually increases the pressure on keeping people in hospital
- there is a province wide shortage of nurses
- nurses in community programs do not receive salaries and benefits equal to nurses in hospitals
- supportive care workers are poorly paid and usually do not receive benefits, pension plans, etc. and are therefore hard to recruit

- non professional supportive care workers are not provided with adequate education for the important roles that they play in supportive care
- the CCAC regulations require that contracts be awarded to community based care providers following a rigorous application process known as RFP (Request for Proposals). This is expensive for the applicants, small companies often cannot afford to comply with the RFP process
- the RFP process uses a competitive market model and awards contracts to the companies which offer the lowest cost (downward pressure on already poorly paid staff), although 35% of the RFP does focus on quality of care
- companies which lose in the RFP process often have to fire their staff and, research has shown, these workers seldom stay in the home care workforce and so their work related knowledge is lost to the system.

We urge all Clubs to advocate for this initiative and to monitor the LHIN in their own areas so that these funds are used in the best possible way to achieve the goal of most seniors and persons with disabilities to age in place.

Myrtle Greve
CFUW Hamilton

EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN SHELTERS

The Community Social Planning Committee of Toronto and the Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre have released a report *Lost In The Shuffle* authored by Ann Decker, stating the challenges faced by 6 to 12 year old children living in homeless shelters. What does *Lost In The Shuffle* mean? "To move from place to place; to be in chaos; to be neglected; to not be noticed or considered".

According to an article in *The Toronto Star* on October 1, 2007 approximately 3,000 children in Toronto alone are affected by this chaos or disruption in their education. Some families move up to three times per school year. Children in these situations are more likely to experience stress, social isolation, uncertainty and the stigma of being homeless. Mothers who have experienced violence in the home and have moved to a shelter for safety are often forced to choose between living with violence in the home or having their children receive a continuous education in the school they are accustomed to.

The report *Lost In The Shuffle* makes several recommendations, These may be viewed with the full report at www.socialplanningtoronto.org Focus on pages 1 to 5 of its summary.

In 2006, Deb Matthews MPP London North Centre served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community Services and the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. On June 22nd, Ms. Matthews introduced Bill 133, a private members bill: *An Act to amend the Education Act to provide stability for students in transition housing*. The Bill was intended to amend the Education Act to guarantee that a child who is a ward of the children's aid society, is in the care of a children's aid society, is in emergency housing or temporary housing or is homeless, can continue, at the parent's or guardian's request, to attend the school they were attending before falling into one of those categories until the earlier of the end of the school year and the child being established in a permanent housing arrangement. Unfortunately, on June 5, 2007, the Government prorogued the House and Bill 133 died on the order table.

After the October 10th provincial election, Premier McGuinty appointed Ms. Matthews as Minister of Children and Youth Services. It is hoped that the Bill will be re-introduced after the Speech from the Throne on Nov. 29, 2007. Members are encouraged to listen to the Throne Speech that will outline the agenda of this newly elected government.

Wendy Taylor
OC Education Chair

CONGRATULATIONS TO WENDY TAYLOR !

Two years ago, Wendy Taylor, Ontario Council Standing Committee Chair for Education, started to work on the issue of the relationship between education, poverty and social health. While doing research with her committee from CFUW Orillia, she came across an outstanding program involving Regent Park in Toronto called *Pathways to Education*. Wendy looked into introducing this program into Orillia, but at the time the *Pathways* program was waiting for funding from the Government of Ontario to expand into other communities. She waited, and in early November 2007, the Government of Ontario announced a \$19 million dollar investment over four years to extend the program to communities across Ontario.

Wendy has now received the go-ahead from the Director of Public Health in Barrie to make contact with *Pathways* and work towards establishing this program in Orillia.

We know that all members of Ontario Council will join the Executive of Ontario Council in congratulating Wendy on her successful advocacy actions in bringing the *Pathways To Education* program to Orillia; a program that has proven to dramatically reduce high school dropout rates and increase post-secondary enrolment.

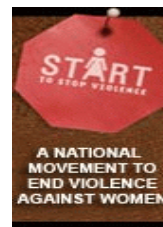


Source Protection Committees are currently being set up across Ontario as part of the Clean Water Act to oversee research, plan programs and establish policies that will ensure the safety and sustainability of our drinking water resources. Because of her work through Ontario Council on Water Issues, **Carolyn Day, CFUW Southampton**, has been appointed to the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee. Congratulations Carolyn!



I don't understand all the fuss about private clinics. What's wrong with letting these clinics operate in Ontario? If people have the money to pay for their own health care, why deny them the choice?

“The problem with private, for-profit clinics is that they cater only to those who can afford to pay. There is a lot of evidence that private, for-profit health care is more expensive and provides lower quality than not-for-profit care. While for-profit care may improve access for the few who can afford to pay, it will lengthen the wait for most people. This is because a parallel, private system siphons off health-care professionals from the public system, resulting in even longer waiting lists for most of us.”



COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

hosted by

The Family Violence Project of Waterloo Region

and funded by

The Government of Ontario

February 25th to 27th, 2008

for more details, visit the conference website at

www.communitiesworkingtogether.ca

**WOMEN AND THE CANADA SOCIAL TRANSFER:
SECURING THE SOCIAL UNION
March 2007**

“Over the last 14 months, many women’s advocacy organizations have fallen victim to the funding cuts announced by the Conservative Government in September of 2006. These cuts reflect the ideological view of this government that “equity-seeking groups in Canada have too much power and that challenges to our Charter of Rights and Freedoms should be stopped where possible”. These actions are simply the most recent of those taken by previous governments that saw the erosion of Canada’s social safety net and its human rights commitments, both damaging to Canada’s strong social union. Continued decentralization of our federal government as well as the downloading and withdrawal of providing social programs by all levels of governments, has had its impact on all Canadians. The following is a brief summary of a report made by **Shelagh Day, currently Director of the Poverty and Human Rights Centre, and Gwen Brodsky, who practices, teaches and writes in the areas of human rights and constitutional law**, on specific changes made by governments during the 1990’s that had a negative effect on women’s equality, the social union and Canada’s reputation as a promoter of human rights.”

Linda MacGregor



Since the repeal of the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) in 1995, social assistance and civil legal aid have been in decline. The CAP provided for cost sharing (50:50) between the federal government and the provinces for social assistance and related services. Under its terms, provinces and territories were required to spend federal monies on designated programs and to meet legislated standards for social assistance.

It was neither a gender-specific nor a human rights-promoting instrument. By setting spending designations and standards for this funding, it protected the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living and promoted women’s human rights. The poorest of women were ensured basic economic security and access to justice. Even the Canadian Constitution committed federal and provincial governments to “provide essential services of reasonable quality to all Canadians”. [Section 36 (1)©]

In 1995, the CAP was replaced by the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST). Canadian women were told that shifting to unconditional block funding, as provided by the CHST, would increase innovation by the provinces and foster improvements in basic social programs. Evidence shows that

this has not happened. In just 10 years, social assistance and civil legal aid have been devastated by cuts and rules that shrink access to aid. In the absence of standards set through conditions attached to federal transfers, governments have resisted acknowledging their obligation to use this block of public funds to address social issues, such as poverty, homelessness, pay equity, to name but a few. The federal government's constitutionally approved power to attach conditions to its social spending would be an essential tool to restore social assistance and promote women's human rights to pre-CHST days.

In 2004, the CHST was divided into two transfers: the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) and the Canada Social Transfer (CST) which supports both post-secondary education and social assistance, related social services and early childhood and

early learning programs. To make federal transfers work, the federal government has a responsibility to establish standards and provide stable funding to support provincially delivered programs, while the provinces have a responsibility to account for how they spend these public funds.

Women must not allow Canada's social programs to further erode. Governments must evaluate current transfers through the CST to provinces and redesign them so that social programs meet the needs of women in Canada as well as satisfying Canada's compliance with its human rights obligations.

For the full report, go to

www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/pubs/pubsalpha_e/html#W



MEDIA IN POST- GENOCIDE RWANDA

Sponsored by CFUW Saugeen



On October 22nd, I visited **CFUW Saugeen** in Walkerton and heard Allan Thompson, reporter, journalist, professor and editor of the newly published *The Media and the Rwandan Genocide*. Mr. Thompson discussed what happened in Rwanda, the tiny country in central Africa where it has been estimated that nearly one million people perished in the 1994 genocide and how local and international news media contributed to the events.

The two ethnic groups in Rwanda are actually very similar - they speak the same language, inhabit the same areas and follow the same traditions. Tension between the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis grew substantially during the colonial period starting in 1916 when the Belgian colonists arrived. In 1959, three years before independence, the majority ethnic group, the Hutus, overthrew the ruling Tutsi king. Tutsi refugees in Uganda formed the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) with the intent to overthrow the Rwandan President, Juvenal Habyarimana. In April of 1994, Habyarimana's plane was shot down and its effect was both instantaneous and catastrophic. Over the course of 100 days, an unofficial Hutu militia group, along with sympathetic civilians, slaughtered roughly 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Rwandans were largely left alone by the international community. Mr. Thompson argues that both domestic and international media contributed to the genocide. Local hate media fuelled the killings while international news organizations largely downplayed or misconstrued events. Most countries, including France, Belgium and the United States declined to

prevent or stop the massacres. It was seen as an "internal affair". Canada continued to lead the UN peacekeeping force in Rwanda, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). Despite specific warnings and requests from UNAMIR, their commanding officers, Romeo Dallaire among them, were told by the UN Security Council not to intervene and refused to send additional support. In fact, the Council even scaled back UNAMIR's forces and authority.

After the genocide, news media in Rwanda were left decimated. Carlton University's Rwanda Initiative was launched by Allan. He remarked that "Its essence has been to address both sides of that media equation, to build the capacity of the media in Rwanda and to foster an interest in Africa among a new generation of Canadian journalists".

This was a presentation I will not forget. From a distance of a few hundred feet, a photographer filmed the machete killing of a young woman. She was begging for her life but to no avail. Recently, Allan located her mother. She gave him a photograph of her daughter. He put her image on the screen for us all to see. A beautiful woman in her early 20's who wanted to become a doctor.

And now there is Darfur with roughly 400,000 dead and 2 ½ million refugees.

Linda

MPUNGUZI HIV/AIDS YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE
Mpunguzi, Dodoma Area, Tanzania East Africa

On August 14, 2007, the Mpunguzi Youth HIV/AIDS Resource Centre was officially opened by Brenda Robertson CFUW North Bay and Pat Kalapaca, Grand Valley, two of the original team of four who accepted the invitation from Retired Teachers of Ontario in 2003 to travel to Tanzania in partnership with World Vision Canada and World Vision Tanzania to look at Education in that country and the impact of HIV/AIDS.

The centre has many possibilities for expansion in resources, vocational training and other activities to strengthen and support youth in the area. The vision that began four years ago has become a unified symbol of hope for the Mpunguzi youth. Through the partnerships formed with Mpunguzi, we can care for each other, grow in compassion for those who are infected and ill with the HIV virus, and through the Centre provide knowledge, attitudes and understanding that will keep the youth healthy and free of the HIV virus.

Along with time spent at the Centre, we also went to schools such as Chibelela and Matambulu. At Matambulu primary school, we spoke with some of the 700 students and the nine teachers. Class size, and lack of resources are continuing concerns. The students and teachers enjoyed their introduction to the frisbee and appreciated the many donated school supplies. CFUW North Bay has been supporting schools in this area for four years.

The women's health clinic opened our eyes to the needs of expectant mothers and their children. Only one birthing pad, old and well worn with disinfectants was available. One young mother had just given birth on her way to the

clinic. In the folds of fabric in the grandmother's arms lay the newborn baby boy.

Opportunities for women through food process are being encouraged and more acreage is under cultivation for families through sharing of oxen and plough. The Chair of the group *People Living with HIV*, Veronica led us into their garden where the members worked to provide food for themselves and some for sale. Much labour would be needed to prepare the hard clay earth with the heavy hand hoe. The PLWHA group which had recently been formed are mostly women. They wanted to declare their status and become champions to educate others while providing support for each other. Tragically the numbers of HIV cases are climbing with the increase in testing.

The children at the Village of Hope, an orphanage for 150 HIV/AIDS children at capacity, smile the language of children everywhere. They are provided with a nurturing family, health care and the opportunity to go to school. The work of many volunteers is giving these children a chance at life to grow and be productive members of society. How many other children and adults would welcome such a place of hope.

The immense gratitude from the Mpunguzi community, and from Pat and I, is extended to the individuals and groups who saw the worthiness of this project and donated monetary gifts and other items. Our efforts will continue to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and assist the community of Mpunguzi, central Tanzania. Support for this endeavor can be directed to me at cfuwontario@yahoo.com.

Brenda Robertson, President
CFUW North Bay

!!! DAY CARE ALERT !!!

The potential for **Big Box Daycare** has become a hot issue in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

We will have material for letter writing for you at the January 19TH Standing Committees. Please keep your eyes and ears open for discussion and newspaper reporting on this issue.

Judie Arrowood, Chair
Status of Women & Human Rights Committee



In Memory of Sandra Choquette
1957 - 2007
CFUW Ottawa

Sandra Choquette passed away suddenly at home on October 8, 2007.

She was a respected alumni of both the Centre Universitaire de Moncton and the University of Ottawa who enjoyed a successful and varied career in the Canadian Public Service with recognized achievements and contributions in the fields of human rights, employment equity and workplace health policy.

"Sandra was larger-than-life in all respects. She had an exuberant nature, was generous to a fault and could project her magnificent stature to impress and if she wanted, to intimidate.

When I became Director of Resolutions and was looking to improve the website presentation of the policy book, Sandra was approached and was overjoyed at being offered the job. She spent an enormous amount of time on the design of the data base and the inputting of the resolutions book. Her Powerpoint presentation to Jacqueline Jacques' Board on its design was a significant factor in its decision to approve the project. At the CFUW AGM in 2004, she instructed the members on how to use the system. Back home she spent many additional hours vetting the version as it appeared online.

We reap the fruits of Sandra's labours daily. Putting our policies online has made our policy book accessible to the outside world, increased our visibility and made our policies more influential

She was looking forward to taking a larger role in CFUW upon retirement. We mourn her loss"

Marianne Singh Waraich

"She was bright, funny and determined, a truly wonderful woman."

Carolyn Day

"Her many accomplishments included the great amount of work she did to get CFUW's policy online. I am not sure she received significant recognition."

Margaret McGovern

"She brought CFUW into the 21st century with her online policy book. Her children had Edith Piaf's "Non, je ne regrette rien" played at her funeral. Her smarts, her generosity of mind and heart, and her sense of fun came through in all the testimonials."

Edeltraud Neal

"She believed in the impact CFUW had on social justice, social change, policy development and the lives of girls and women. She was one of the founding members of the Young Members' Network for CFUW Ottawa. She was a writer, a poet and a dear friend."

Kathleen Molloy

CFUW Ontario Council Annual General Meeting

VISION – VOICE - ACTION

Human Rights and HIV/Aids

Friday, May 9, 2008 – Saturday, May 10, 2008

As your host, CFUW North Bay extends a warm northern invitation to all CFUW Ontario members to attend AGM 2008. We are offering a program both interesting and stimulating.

Come to hear our speakers as they share the challenges and successes in their lives.

- Louise Binder, lawyer for Human Rights, co-chair of the Federal Ministerial Council on HIV/Aids
- Mary Anna Beer, special advisor to the Stephen Lewis Foundation on the *Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign*
- Christine Fortin, co-founder of the www.patrick4life.org Foundation, North Bay

The Clarion Pinewood Park will be the location of the meeting. This is a full service hotel with an outdoor heated pool and an eighteen hole golf course.

Come also to enjoy our waterfront paths and gardens on the shore of Lake Nipissing.

The AGM will begin with entertainment and refreshments on Friday evening and continue on Saturday with the business meeting and speakers.

**CFUW North Bay members look forward to welcoming you
to an enlightening, entertaining weekend.**

Dates & Data

Also available on www.cfuwontcouncil.ca
Editor - Ann McElhinney - cfuwontario@yahoo.com

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

