



Action
Advocacy
Education

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
ONTARIO COUNCIL

Dates & Data

Ontario Council Newsletter Vol V, Issue 7

March 2007

NOTICE OF THE 2007 CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The executive of CFUW Ontario Council wishes to notify you that the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Council will take place in Peterborough, Ontario on May 11th and 12th, 2007

Business Meeting - Holiday Inn Peterborough Waterfront - Saturday May 12th, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Evening Reception - Holiday Inn Peterborough Waterfront - Friday May 11th, 7:00 pm to 10:30 pm

Registration Form and Programme information available on www.cfuwontcouncil.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.

Wendy Frew, Secretary CFUW Ontario Council

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have just returned from the **International Women's Day March & Rally** in Toronto. Walking alongside CFUW members Judie Arrowood, Barbara Ritchie, Anne Gilbert, Joanne Jamieson, Anne Smith and myself were Elizabeth Ablett, Executive Director of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, Eileen Morrow from OAITH representing emergency shelters for abused women and their children, organizations committed to ending child poverty, as well as hundreds of women advocating for a \$10 minimum wage. These were the key issues of this IWD March: the lack of affordable child care, child poverty, the need to raise the minimum wage and the effect of the funding cuts and guideline changes to Status of Women Canada on the work of organizations that provide services to women who are victims of violence.



I can recall reading about the struggles that the Royal Commission on the Status of Women encountered during the late 1960's. Florence Bird remarked later about the attitude of many of the federal politicians at that time who were determined not to address the issue of violence against women because they felt it did not fall within the government's responsibility to do so, but rather it was a woman's responsibility. In Sunday's *Toronto Star* of March 11th, 2007, Olivia Chow is quoted as saying "The reason why we don't have a national child-care program is because children are seen again as a woman's responsibility, not a government responsibility"!!

The provincial election is definitely on *our radar screen*. I would like to remind you that the Standing Committee Chairs will be sending out materials for Clubs to use when questioning their MPPs and/or when attending or organizing an All-Candidates Meeting on issues of concern to us all. The Ontario Citizen's Assembly will be announcing on May 15th, 2007 its recommendation for an electoral system in Ontario. We certainly had a knowledgeable speaker in Professor Graham White at our last Standing Committee Meeting who very clearly compared our present electoral system (First-Past-The-Post) primarily with that of Proportional Representation, such as the Mixed Member Proportional System (MMP).

I suggest that you go to the website of *Equal Voice*, a group of more than 1200 women and men nation-wide who have formed a multi-partisan, non-profit organization devoted to the still-bold idea that more women must be elected to every level of government in Canada. Go to www.equalvoice.ca and look for **FAST FACTS – Women in Federal Politics** for more insight into the number of women in the House of Commons and the Senate and a wealth of statistics from which you can clearly analyze and draw conclusions. They also have a course called **Getting To The Gate**, an online tool for women interested in getting into politics. It is free and can be found at <http://gettingtothegate.com>

I submitted for the May *Communicator* an article which exceeded the word limit and had to be shortened. I decided to include those paragraphs here and give you my impressions of Ontario Council Clubs since taking over the Presidency in May of 2006. After having read over two hundred Club newsletters from all over the province and dozens of letters written to their elected officials, this is my sense of Ontario Council and its members:

Over the last few years, Ontario Council Clubs have become increasingly engaged in advocacy at the local, provincial and national levels. Each year, more advocacy groups are formed to tackle the increasing number of social and environmental problems facing our society. Clubs have spoken out in support of a national child care and early childhood education program and the continuation of the long gun registry. They have challenged their elected officials to find the political will to end the debilitating effects of living in poverty and the physical, sexual and psychological harm inflicted on many women. They have joined with other environmental NGOs in protecting our water and air quality....and I could go on. Evident in their advocacy is a determination to advance social justice and equality for woman and create a safe environment for us all. Recently Clubs are reaching out to the general public by organizing forums which showcase our social concerns about poverty, healthcare, long-term care, the environment and women and government.

These activities are testament to how well Clubs have learned to speak out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. Our Ontario Council Executive and National Board have simply provided the vehicle by which Clubs do the work of CFUW collectively and effectively.

The Clubs of Ontario Council continue to make positive contributions within their communities through their generous scholarships and donations to local charities, as well as offering programs to their members on gardening, local archeological sites, the effect of humans on our environment, HIV/AIDS, food, travel to the Antarctic and many others. It is with great pride and appreciation that, as President of CFUW Ontario Council, I am able to communicate their successes to a broad audience.

Please refer to the **Advocacy Report** for all of the advocacy activities your Executive participated in over this past year. I thank the Executive and our ad hoc Advocacy Chair, Teri Shaw, for all of the hours they spent on behalf of Ontario Council. It has been a year with a very steep learning curve for many of us. Without the help of those who are “veterans”, the road we took would have ended at many *dead ends* or *been very bumpy with little success*. We look forward to continuing our support and assistance to every Ontario Council Club and its members during 2007-2008.

Linda MacGregor

CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL

ADVOCACY AT A GLANCE IN 2006 - 2007

THE CLAWBACK OF THE NATIONAL CHILD BENEFIT SUPPLEMENT

1. Letters from Ontario Council President to
 - a. The Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
 - b. John Tory, Leader of The Official Opposition
 - c. Howard Hampton, Leader of the New Democrat Party
2. Letters from CFUW OC Clubs to The Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Affairs
3. Endorsed Income Security Advocacy Centre's *Hands Off* Campaign along with 130 organizations.
4. Petitions with 1625 signatures from 39 CFUW OC Clubs presented to the Ontario Legislature by 17 MPPs.
5. Follow up letter from OC President to Premier McGuinty on ending the clawback along with details of CFUW Hamilton's petition campaign.

ONTARIO COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

1. Letter from the President congratulating Kathleen Wynne on her appointment as Minister of Education.
2. Letters from **Wendy Taylor**, OC Standing Committee Chair for **Education**, to:
 - a. The Hon. Kathleen Wynne on committing \$20 million to encourage community use of schools.
 - b. The Hon. Kathleen Wynne on the Government of Ontario's funding formula.
 - c. The Hon. Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services, on the provincial initiative "Best Start".
 - d. The Hon. Chris Bentley, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities commending the Ontario Government on the substantial investment made to the "Pathways to Education" program in Regent Park
3. Letters from **Judie Arrowood**, OC Standing Committee Chair for **Status of Women and Human Rights** to
 - a. Senior Policy Advisor, Housing Division, Government of Ontario on its Policy Review consultations.
 - b. The Hon. Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services, on the Government of Ontario's \$300 million for early learning and child care promised in 2003.
4. Letter from **Elaine Harvey**, OC Standing Committee Chair for **Legislation**, on Bill 67, Organ and Tissue Donation Mandatory Declaration Act, under signature of OC President to
 - a. The Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario.
 - b. The Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long Term Care.
 - c. The Hon. Donna Cansfield, Minister of Transportation.
 - d. Ernie Parsons MPP, Chair of Standing Committee on Social Policy.
 - e. Frank Klees, MPP.
5. Letter from the OC President to The Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario and The Hon. Greg Sorbara, Minister of finance, commenting on the Ontario Budget 2007.

ONTARIO COUNCIL SIGNATORIES

1. Signatories to the following letters to:
 - a. The Hon. Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment written by the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)
 - b. The Hon. Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment on the proposed extension of the York-Durham Sewer System prepared by the Sierra Club of Canada
 - c. The Chair and Council of the Regional Municipality of York concerning the extension of its sewer system prepared by the Sierra Club of Canada.
2. Signatory to the Terms of Reference for the Water Guardian Network, a network of individuals, environmental and citizen's groups committed to watershed-based source protection.

ONTARIO COUNCIL BRIEFS

1. An oral presentation made by Carolyn Day on behalf of Ontario Council to the Standing Committee on Social Policy concerning Bill 43, the Clean Water Act, at its hearing in Walkerton, Ontario.
2. Comments sent to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment concerning the Regulations for the Clean Water Act with regard to the establishment of the Source Protection Committees.
3. Comments on the renewal of the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA) to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.
4. Comments on the proposed legislative amendments to the Ontario Water Resources Act sent to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.
5. A brief, *Family Poverty*, submitted to Premier McGuinty, John Tory, Leader of the Official Opposition, Howard Hampton, NDP and fourteen Ministers, MPPs, and Critics.

FAMILY LAW EDUCATION FOR WOMEN (FLEW) PROJECT

As a follow up of our involvement with the No Religious Arbitration Coalition, Ontario Council, is now a member of the Family Law Education for Women (FLEW) Project Reference Group.

CFUW OC will play a key role in helping to devise an outreach strategy to increase access to legal information for marginalized women in Ontario relating to their public law rights in the area of family law. Edeltraud Neal will continue as our representative on the Reference Group.

THE FAMILY STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT 2006 (BILL 27)

1. Letter sent to Premier McGuinty, John Tory, Leader of the Official Opposition, Howard Hampton, Leader, NDP and eight MPPs urging the Government of Ontario to proclaim Sections 1, 4 and 5.
2. Two Action Alerts are sent to Clubs
 - a. asking for their help in getting Sections 1, 4 and 5 of the Act proclaimed.
 - b. followed by another to inform their MPPs that, while the Act had been passed, it was not yet in force because of these unproclaimed sections.

ONTARIO COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES MEETINGS, SPEAKERS 2006-2007

1. **The Reform of Ontario's Electoral System: Saviour or Threat to Democracy?** With Graham White, PhD., University of Toronto
2. **Education, People for Education and the Upcoming Election** with Annie Kidder, *People for Education*
3. **Ontario's Rape Crisis Centres** with Marilyn Oladimeji, President, Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres
4. **Creating Healthy Communities through Education** with Sue Sigurdson, *Pathways to Education* and Lucy Di Carlo, *Roots of Empathy*
5. **Maintaining Public Health Care** with Natalie Mehra, Ontario Health Coalition
6. **Early Childhood Education and Childcare - Policy & Advocacy** with Gordon H. Cleveland, economist, University of Toronto, Scarborough and Elizabeth Ablett, Ontario Coalition for Better Childcare

NATIONAL CONCERNS WITH PROVINCIAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Status of Women Canada:
 - a. Many Clubs responded to a request to pressure their MPs for answers to the administrative cuts to the Women's Programme, changes to the SWC guidelines and the removal of "equality" from its mandate..
 - b. Letter from OC President to The Hon. Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues asking the Ontario Liberal Women's Caucus for their position on the actions of the Federal Government to the SWC.
2. Code Blue for Child Care - Clubs responded to the demise of the Early Learning and Child Care Agreements
3. Closing of the Isabel McNeill House - a request to keep these women in this minimum security facility, the only one in Canada, until others are established.

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. A package of questions for the provincial election to be held October 10th.
2. Electoral reform
3. Ongoing monitoring of the above concerns, including the LHINs, Safe Schools among others.

More information and copies of the Briefs and letters mentioned above can be found on the Issues page of the Ontario Council website, www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/issues.html .

ADVOCACY AWARD 2006-2007

- Has your Club been active in issues and advocacy of any kind?
- Does your Club have interest groups that discusses or has speakers on serious issues?
- Is your Club involved in the community?
- Has your Club been involved in some type of major activity involving issues?
- Does your Club's programme have speakers on some of the serious concerns of today?

You might be surprised to discover that your Club is a candidate for the Advocacy Award.

Check out more information on our website at www.cfuwontcouncil/advocacyawards.html . Here you will find the application form and some ideas from other Clubs.

If you would like to have the application form electronically, either in Word or Word Perfect, please contact either your RD or Teri Shaw at cfuwontario@yahoo.com .

Deadline for applications for the 2006-2007 Award is June 1st, 2007.

ADVOCACY AWARD 2005-2006

Please join us on Friday, May 11th at the evening reception of the Ontario Council Annual General Meeting being held at the Holiday Inn Peterborough Waterfront when the Advocacy Awards for 2005-2006 will be officially presented to:

CFUW **Barrie & District** and CFUW **Perth & District** – Grand Prize winners for Clubs with less than 50 members

CFUW **Southport** – Grand Prize winner for Clubs with between 50 and 149 members

CFUW **Etobicoke** – Grand Prize winner for Clubs over 150 members

Advocacy Award of Excellence Certificates will be presented to:

CFUW **Belleville**, CFUW **Burlington**,

CFUW **Hamilton**, CFUW **Oakville**,

CFUW **Ottawa**, University Women's Club of **North York**.

ARE YOU MONITORING YOUR LHIN?

Here in Mississauga we are struggling somewhat. About a year ago we realized that our LHIN (Local Health Integrated Network) had started a series of focus group meetings to obtain public input for their Strategic Plan. Although we had not received advance notice of all the meetings, we did attend and provided input.

The strategic plan has now been published and we are pleased to see that it definitely reflects the priorities of the focus groups we attended. Recently we had an excellent presentation at a General Meeting from the Senior Director of Planning, Integration and Community Engagement. Our LHIN chief executive officer has already departed for other challenges.

Our attempts to attend local Board Meetings have been an exercise in frustration, although we have managed to attend one to date. None of us seem to be receiving the flyers being used to alert the public to the existence and purpose of the LHINs.

In March we attended a local focus group with regards to the Ontario Government's 10 year strategic plan for health and felt that it is too late to be doing this.

Come April your local LHIN will be dealing with a very large budget on behalf of you, the public. Have you become involved? How have your experiences differed from ours? Certainly the Mississauga LHIN is now aware of our existence but I fear that all the obfuscation may lead to us dropping the issue since I see little opportunity to influence decisions being made on our behalf. Is this another layer of bureaucracy shielding the government from criticism regarding decisions around Healthcare?

Let Legislation Chair Elaine Harvey <meharvey@kos.net> know of your experiences.

Elaine Sutherns
CFUW Mississauga

Muskoka Aids Bartleman Book Collection

Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman was born and raised in Muskoka and CFUW Muskoka feels a special affinity for his aboriginal literacy projects.

In January, members generously donated funds to purchase 294 new books. The books were assembled into school library collections for five different aboriginal communities. The collections were chosen to support curriculum and reading interests, to be culturally sensitive and were selected by a member with education and library experience.

We hope Mr. Bartleman will be able to continue his literacy efforts in retirement.

CFUW Northumberland Boosts Scholarship Fund

CFUW Northumberland is holding their 16th Annual Spring Luncheon to benefit scholarships.

Wednesday, May 9th, 2007
Best Western Cobourg Inn
Guest Speaker: Erika Ritter,
Playwright, Novelist, Journalist, broadcaster

Cash Bar 11:30 am - Luncheon 12:00 noon
Tickets \$40.00

Contact: cfuwontario@yahoo.com

**Ontario Council AGM
May 11th and 12th , 2007
Holiday Inn, Peterborough Waterfront
*Women, Water and Well-Being***

**KEYNOTE LUNCHEON SPEAKER
ELIZABETH MAY**

Most notably the leader of Canada's Green Party, Elizabeth May is also known as an environmentalist, activist, lawyer and author. She was the founding executive director of the Sierra Club of Canada, a former vice-chair of the National Round Table on the Environment and Economy and an Officer of the Order of Canada. Elizabeth will speak to us about Water Issues from a National Perspective.

WORKSHOPS

Women and Water: The Global Reality by Rosemary Ganley

Rosemary Ganley is a graduate of the University of Toronto and has spent several years involved in international development co-operation especially with regard to third world countries. She is also the founder of the Jamaica Self-Help Centre in Peterborough. In her workshop, she will outline the water situation in several developing and developed countries from a woman's point of view.

Human and Environmental Impact on Fresh Water by Marguerite Xenopoulos

Marguerite Xenopoulos is a professor of Biology at Trent University. She has just been awarded an Early Researcher Award from the Ministry of Research and Innovation to study the impact of climate change on freshwater ecosystems. In her workshop, she will be discussing her current research.

Interactive Program on Water Use, Management and Distribution by Karen Kun

Karen Kun is a professional consultant for, and founder of, a company called *Waterlution*. She has a background in business and geography with a focus on water and environmental management. She will be leading a two-part interactive workshop on the long-term solutions we can use to sustain the water health of our communities.

Municipal Water Treatment and Conservation Techniques by Rosemary Kelleher-MacLennan

Rosemary Kelleher-MacLennan is a past Chair of the Ontario Municipal Water Association, a political advocacy and public education organization representing over 180 municipal water authorities. In that role she lobbied the Ontario government to retain public ownership of provincial water systems. She now serves as a Councillor for the Municipality of Trent Hills. Rosemary will speak to us about municipal water treatment and conservation techniques.

In addition, the Friday evening reception will feature the drumming and dancing of WASHKIIGONAANG, a group of aboriginal dancers from the Curve Lake Reserve.

The weekend promises to be both exciting and stimulating. Please make plans to attend.

REMINDER

- ✓ Holiday Inns rates are guaranteed until April 11th
 - ✓ Deadline for the early bird AGM registration rate is April 20th
 - ✓ Club banners cannot be accommodated this year
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**Help Wanted!!
CFUW Ontario Council is looking for
An Archivist!**

If you or anyone you know would like to fill this very important function for our organization, please contact

Linda MacGregor
cfuwontario@yahoo.com

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Note from the Editor: In furtherance of the above research, all typos in *Dates & Data* are on purpose!

Dates & Data

Also available on www.cfuwontcouncil.ca

Editor - Ann McElhinney

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Submissions welcome

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