



Dates & Data

ONTARIO COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES
Saturday September 27th, 2008

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

Some parking on North side of the church or Public Parking at Heath/Delisle lot
or

Take St. Clair car to Yonge St. or the Yonge subway to St. Clair Stop
and walk 2 blocks north on Yonge

Registration 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. SHARP!

Registration Form Enclosed

MORNING PROGRAMME

Theme: Religious Arbitration Revisited - Changes in Family Law - Family Law Education for Women.
Where do we go from here?

Speaker: Pamela Cross

From the breadth of her practical experience, Pamela Cross will speak to us about what family law reform and family law education means to the lives of all women and particularly to vulnerable women. Ms. Cross will raise some of the challenges ahead in several areas for efforts of improving family law for women and their children.

Pamela Cross

Pamela Cross is an accomplished feminist lawyer who has dedicated her life's work to improving women's access to justice. She is well known and respected in legal reform circles, and among isolated women experiencing violence for her expertise on family law issues as they relate to violence against women.

Ms. Cross is a consultant working with a number of women's organizations, primarily as Director of Strategic Planning and Policy with NAWL (National Association of Women and the Law), and was Executive Director of NAWL. She was recently the Director of Advocacy and Public Policy with YWCA Canada. Ms. Cross was also Legal Director of METRAC, a Toronto community agency committed to ending violence against women and children, where she led the development of the Ontario Women's Justice Network.

Ms. Cross has served in many other capacities as well, including co-chairing the No Religious Arbitration Steering Committee. She gave sound legal and political advice throughout the successful campaign to have the Premier of Ontario declare that there would be no religious arbitration in matters of Family Law in Ontario.

EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Afternoon Session

Welcome back for another year of working together on education issues in Ontario. The afternoon session will focus on the new “Safe Schools Act”, Bill 212, *Education Amendment Act (Progressive Discipline and School Safety)*, 2007 which came into effect on February 1, 2008. A representative from the Policy Development & Implementation Unit of the Ministry of Education will be our guest speaker for the afternoon.

I look forward to getting back together and having a discussion about the different challenges and opportunities that face our schools.

Wendy Taylor, Committee Chair

LEGISLATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Afternoon Session

At the September 27th Standing Committee meeting it is hoped that every Club will send a representative to the Legislation Committee from 1:30 to 3:00pm. Updates from CFUW members who are taking the lead on current issues will be presented. For example, Linda Hall from CFUW Hamilton will speak about the brief that her group submitted over the summer on poverty. It is our goal to have all of our Clubs informed and doing what they can to make Ontario a better place for all of its citizens

Myrtle Greve , Committee Chair

STATUS OF WOMEN STANDING COMMITTEE

Afternoon Session

We really look forward to meeting our Club representatives from across the Province and to learn about their expectations and what the hot button women’s issues are in their communities. There will be a short introductory report on the recent groundbreaking House of Commons Status of Women Committee Study on Gender Budgeting. Will these Commons Committee findings apply to the provincial or even the local context? We also hope to hear from our own Violence against Women Sub – Committee.

Edeltraud Neal, Committee Chair

GREETINGS FROM YOUR ONTARIO COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Greetings and a big welcome back from me and all of the OC executive.

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at the National AGM in Montreal. It’s important we use our voices to better the organization through discussion and thoughtful voting. The first step in being heard is to show up and show up we did. I felt very proud when so many Ontarians stood at the roll call showing our commitment to CFUW.

I know some of you are wondering about the little cat. Yes, I do have four of them but that’s not why I’ve chosen a cat and this is meant as no offense to dog lovers. I just know cats better and have always felt that we share with them these very positive attributes. Active, just look at us. Curious, we never stop learning. Inventive, we do so much with so little. Playful, we are welcoming and are just a great

group to be with. Protective, we work every day to try to make things better for others. Finally, ever aware, as we vigilantly protect past gains while moving forward.

Ontario Council is your council. You created us and we are thankful that we have the opportunity to serve the Clubs of Ontario. Ready, willing and able to help you are the Regional Directors: Joanne Jamieson, Ontario Central, who is also Vice President of Ontario Council, Arleen Midriak, Ontario South, Brenda Robertson, Ontario North, Elizabeth Pulker, Ontario East and Lynne Woolstencroft, Ontario West. Heading up the portfolios are Wendy Taylor, Education, Myrtle Greve, Legislation and Edeltraud Neal, Status of Women. Taking care of the administrative side are Ann McElhinney, Communications, Kathy Palmer, Secretary, Helen Sami, Treasurer, and Teri Shaw, Advocacy Coordinator. I want to say thank you to Ann and Teri for continuing their work on our website.

Due to the positive feedback we received last year on email updates regarding our website, look for "News from OC" in your inbox. Just drop us a line at cfuwontario@yahoo.ca if you would like to be on the email list. Check for new items yourself at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca. Be sure to visit the Club event page to see what's happening in your area and make sure your Club sends us postings. Looking for Club resources? Find them easily on our website. We will be adding to them.

Dates and Data is Ontario's newsletter. Send us news of Club happenings and pictures. We want to share your ideas and celebrate your successes. Last but not least, OC has had a really busy summer so please have a read through to see what we've been up to.

See you at the Standing Committee Meeting on September 27th !

Myra Willis

ADVOCACY ROUNDUP

Summer's here, and the living is ... busy. Governments really do not slow down in the summertime, and luckily neither do our volunteers.

In early spring, members of the Ontario Council Legislation Committee with M.Elaine Harvey, the 2006-2008 Chair, presented comments to the Hon. John Gerretsen, the Minister of the Environment concerning the Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) final report (March 31, 2008) concerning **waste electrical and electronic equipment better known as WEEE**.

One of the major excitements and activities of the early summer also involved the Ministry of the Environment when CFUW Ontario Council and many other organizations fought the **Bill 64, the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act**. While it sounds wonderful, in practice the legislation had a number of problems, in particular the overturning of stricter municipal bylaws. There is a more detailed article about all of our concerns by Sheila Clarke, Ontario Council's resource person on this file, on page 4 in this *Dates & Data*.

The theme of the Annual General Meeting of CFUW Ontario Council, held in North Bay, was Human Rights and **HIV/AIDS**. This was followed by letters from the Education Committee to the Curriculum and Assessment

Policy Branch, the Ministry of Education concerning an HIV/AIDS curriculum. We have learned that there will be a revised curriculum in the fall, in which there will be opportunity for input and feedback.

Lisa Cirillo of the **Family Law Education for Women (FLEW)** project also spoke at the OC AGM. This group, of which Ontario Council (represented by Edeltraud Neal) is a member of the Reference Group, have been busy this Summer preparing materials concerning legal matters on family law. These will be available in many languages.

One of the major consultations done by the Ontario government this year has involved **poverty reduction**. Some of our groups, such as CFUW Hamilton and CFUW Southport, have been invited to the consultations. Other groups such as the Toronto Caucus have created sub-committees to study this very important issue. Ontario Council, with the help of Linda Hall, Ontario Council's resource person on poverty, presented our thoughts on the questions prepared by the Cabinet Committee. This Fall should see some initial plans from the government.

Teri Shaw
Advocacy Coordinator
CFUW Ontario Council

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH HOME CARE?

Since Ontario Minister of Health George Smitherman put a moratorium on the request for proposal(RFP) process in January after a public outcry in Hamilton, there has been little information on what the ministry plans to do with the sector. This is not necessarily bad news as the Ministry has extended the contracts of current contract holders to two years, giving everyone more time to thoroughly study the issues. We also know that many meetings and consultations are going on with the stakeholders and CFUW advocacy committees will be apprised as developments occur.

Myrtle Greve

COSMETIC PESTICIDE UPDATE

This Summer saw the passage of Bill 64, the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act. CFUW Ontario Council strongly supports Ontario legislation to discontinue cosmetic use of pesticides. The act as it stands has a major strength in that it will prohibit the sale of most pesticides, both by name and by chemical constituents, along with the proposed prohibition of use of cosmetic pesticides except for certain exemptions. Unfortunately this is not the whole story.

There are several major concerns with the bill in the form which received Royal Assent on June 18th. CFUW Ontario Council participated in the consultation process for Bill 64, presenting a brief at the hearings held by the Standing Committee on Social Policy on June 9, 2008. We drew attention to the following points.

We expressed our serious concerns regarding: Section 7.1 (5)

“(5) A municipal by-law is inoperative if it addresses the use, sale, offer for sale or transfer of a pesticide that may be used for a cosmetic purpose.”

This section not only renders impotent all municipal by-laws instituting pesticide bans, it also makes it impossible for any municipality to protect its citizens beyond the bottom line criteria of the act. ALL medical, municipal, environmental, and health organizations that presented at the hearings strongly urged that this section be struck from the bill. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act permitted municipal by-laws to go beyond the basic requirements of the acts as passed.

The way the bill is currently structured, and with the proposed regulations at present, the bill will be weaker than many municipal by-laws including those of Toronto.

There is considerable controversy about this issue. The jury is still out as municipalities consider their next step. There are legal avenues that are currently being explored, as well as grave concern being expressed throughout Ontario, not only with environmentalists, but within the municipal world as well. Local control is being challenged by the province. Environmentally, this aspect of the bill is a serious step backward in cosmetic pesticide control.

The other major concern noted by CFUW Ontario Council was a particularly questionable exemption, 7.1 (2) .5. Following exemptions noted for Health, Safety, Agriculture, Forestry, and Golf Courses, another

**exemption was simply listed as follows:
“ 5. Other prescribed uses.”**

Clearly this exemption was wide open, and required attention. The recommendation by ALL medical, municipal, environmental, and health organizations and by CFUW Ontario Council was to remove this section completely. It was felt to be absolutely unnecessary, given the exemptions already listed. In the final amended version of Bill 64, the section was amended to read:

“5. Other prescribed uses, if any prescribed conditions have been met.”

- with the “prescribed conditions” still to be clarified within the regulations.

The CFUW Ontario Council brief may be found at: <http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/> (Follow the link for June 9th.)

The position of the Canadian Environmental Law Association may be found at: <http://www.cela.ca/newsevents> (Follow the link for June 19th)

Finally, the list of proposed chemicals and products has at present **a glaring omission, glyphosate, the active chemical in Round-up**. This pesticide is widely used, and will most certainly be aggressively marketed by lawn care companies if it remains off the list. Glyphosate has been associated with much wider spread and persistence than initially suggested, and has been associated with a wide range of human and wildlife health concerns. **It is strongly recommended that glyphosate and Round-up be placed on the banned list.** <http://www.pesticidereform.ca> (Follow the link to Adverse Health Effects of Glyphosates)

Clubs and individual members are encouraged to follow closely the progress of both the municipal by-law controversy, and the development of the regulations associated with this Act. Every voice will be important to ensure that the Premier and the Ministry of the Environment are aware that this bill, while having positive aspects, has further homework to do to become a bill that truly protects the health of our citizens and of the healthy ecosystem needed to support human health.

Sheila Clarke, CFUW Stratford
Ontario Council, Cosmetic Pesticide Issues

WORKPLACE HARASSMENT INQUEST ACTION GROUP NEEDS THE VOICES OF CFUW

The Inquest Action Group is calling on CFUW Clubs to help protect workers in Ontario. New CFUW policy calls for protections from psychological harassment and bullying in provincial Occupational Health & Safety Legislation. Ontario does not offer these protections and we want to change that.

We were shocked in November 2005 when we heard that a nurse was stabbed and killed by a colleague at a Windsor Hospital. An inquest into Nurse Lori Dupont's death found that time after time hospital administration missed opportunities to intervene and provide a safe work environment for Lori Dupont. Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Legislation does not offer protection from psychological harassment or bullying. But had protections been in place, a Ministry of Labour investigation into investigate Lori's complaints might have prevented the murder.

Lori's case was not an isolated one. In less than ten years, two South Western Ontario women were murdered at their workplaces. For Theresa Vince, unwanted advances, harassment and bullying in the workplace resulted in her murder on the day before her retirement from Sears Canada, Chatham (1996). These are just two cases in a long line of incidences of workplace harassment and violence. A 2004 Statistics Canada Study found that one in five violent incidents (including physical assault, sexual assault and robbery) occur in the victim's workplace.

Bullying and harassment occur in workplaces where:

- unacceptable behaviour goes unchecked
- a heavy volume of work is carried out under intense deadline pressures
- there is a casual use or abuse of power and control

In Canada only two jurisdictions include protections from psychological harassment or workplace bullying. They are Quebec and Saskatchewan. In Ontario, the issue has been brought forward in the legislature six times since 2001 as private member's bills. Five times these private members bills have been discharged or died on the order paper. In its current form, Bill 26 *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Protect Workers from Harassment and Violence in the Workplace* was brought forward by Andrea Horwath and has passed first reading.

Let's use our newly adopted policy and our collective voices to tell the Government of Ontario that we want to protect workers from workplace harassment, bullying and violence. It's too late for Theresa Vince and Lori Dupont, but its not too late us or for our sisters and brothers, daughters, sons, husbands, and grandchildren. The Clubs of CFUW Ontario Council have influenced provincial legislation in the past. So lets do it again.

The Inquest Action Group is a coalition of members from the Windsor community including CFUW Windsor, Professors from the University of Windsor Women Studies Program; the CAW Women's Directorate; the Ontario Nurses Association; the families of Lori Dupont and Theresa Vince, the Windsor Occupational Health Information Service and the Chatham Kent Sexual Assault Crisis Center. We came together after the Lori Dupont Inquest Jury Recommendations were released. Our goal is to insure that the 26 recommendations are implemented.

Beth Haynes,
CFUW Windsor

TELL US WHAT YOU ARE UP TO!

Ontario Council would like to make it possible for groups or individuals working on an issue to connect with others looking into the same or similar issues. This would make possible the sharing of research and tactics. Even in the case of very local issues, learning about the successful methods of others might prove useful to your actions. We propose a page on the website with brief listings of "Who's Working on What". To abide by privacy rules and to avoid any unwanted connections from people or organizations not a part of CFUW, there would be no direct contact information provided on the page. The Communications Director would relay initial messages between interested parties.

So, do tell us if your Club has an issue that they are involved with or want to work on and help us build some provincial links. We are particularly interested in hearing from Clubs who are unable to attend Standing Committee meetings as this would offer a way of "staying connected".

We look forwarding to hearing about your *Action Advocacy Education* ! cfuwontario@yahoo.com

FALL GATHERINGS

ONTARIO SOUTH

Host: CFUW Georgetown

Date: Saturday, October 25th 2008

Location: Eagle Ridge Golf Club

Speakers: Rick Bonnette, Mayor of Georgetown - *An Introduction of his Green Plan*

Contact: www.aztec-net.com/~cfuw

ONTARIO WEST

Host: CFUW Owen Sound

Date: Saturday, October 4th, 2008

Location: Stone Tree Golf and Fitness Club

Speakers: Daryl Wood - *Change: The Path to Possibilities*
Bonita Johnson De Matteis - *Black History: A Local Perspective*

Contact: cfuwowensound@gmail.com

ONTARIO CENTRAL

Host: CFUW Etobicoke

Date: Saturday, October 18th, 2008

Location: Humber College, North Campus

Speakers: Kay Blair, Executive Director of Microskills - *Putting Women Back on the Public Policy Agenda*

Contact: www3.sympatico.ca/annmce/CFUW%20Etobicoke%20Website

ONTARIO EAST

Host: CFUW Nepean

Date: October 25th

Location: Bells Corners United Church, Nepean

Speaker: Marie Fortier, Chair Champlain Local Health Integration Network

Contact: jddufresne@rogers.com

ONTARIO NORTH

Ontario North's next Fall Gathering will be held in 2009

We were saddened to learn that
Molly Coote, a member of the Ontario Council Finance Committee passed way on August 29th
Our condolences go out to her family and friends

DATES & DATA

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

Note

Current Club contact information is not available to Ontario Council at this time and therefore in some cases last years' information has been used for this mailing

Please advise of any changes, additions or deletions

