



Thinking Outside the Club

Ontario Council and your Club Executive

COMMUNITY → CLUB → REGION → ONTARIO COUNCIL → CFUW → IFUW

Members come from many different communities with diverse needs and concerns.

- § Their Club is part of a Region:
Ontario North, Ontario South, Ontario Central, Ontario East, Ontario West
- § These 5 regions form Ontario Council, which with the other Councils in CFUW, BC Council, Prairie Council, Quebec Council and Atlantic Council, represent the over 9000 members in 121 clubs across Canada.
- § CFUW is the largest of over 80 affiliates which make up the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).
- § Councils are led by a President who in turn represents her members as VP (name of Region) on the National Board of Directors.
- § Regional Directors (RDs) are the Clubs' link to the Ontario Council and in turn to the CFUW Board of Directors. Your RD is in the position to help you and to bring your concerns forward, in the direction of our "bottom up" Federation.
(Club → region → Council → CFUW)

WHAT DOES \$5.50 BUY?

In a mall not much, but within Ontario Council it provides Clubs with many benefits. Ontario Clubs pay **\$5.50 per member to Ontario Council** and receive the following:

1. Clubs with a membership of 50 or fewer regular and life members, who have a member attend an AGM, will receive their current year OC Club fees back. This is to give assistance to small Clubs to send members to an AGM.
2. For Standing Committee meetings, Clubs at more than 75 km distance from Toronto are able to receive travel assistance on a scale ranging from \$17.00 to \$52.00.
3. Standing Committee meetings are held three times a year with speakers on education, legislation and status of women issues. The speakers are provided by Ontario Council and Ontario Council subsidizes the venue and lunch.
4. Ontario Council negotiates with an Ontario insurance company to provide group liability insurance for all our Clubs and all your Club functions (individually Clubs would have to cover each function separately at a much higher cost).
5. Clubs hosting a Regional Fall Gathering are given a \$100 grant in recognition of their efforts. A \$300 advance (loan) is also available to cover expenses incurred before registration fees are received.
6. The Host Club of an Ontario Council AGM is given \$200.00 in recognition of their efforts. A \$1,000 advance (loan) is also available to cover expenses incurred before registration fees are received.
7. A Grant in the amount of \$200.00 may be offered to local Clubs for a non-revenue generating special event or project.
8. An advance (loan) of \$200 is available for revenue-generating event or project to cover expenses incurred before revenue is received.
9. Club members are given opportunities to get together with other Club members through Regional Gatherings, Standing Committees meetings and the Ontario Council Annual General Meeting.
10. Ontario Council executive members are available to come and speak on a variety of topics at no cost to the Club.

11. Standing Committee Chairs are available to aid in advocacy.
12. The website, www.cfuwontcouncil.ca , provides information about Clubs in Ontario and their activities, as well as about Ontario Council, its work and policies.
13. The newsletter, *Dates & Data*, is mailed to Clubs throughout the province, and is available in PDF on the website. An additional electronic version is produced after each Standing Committee meeting so that Clubs may be informed of all the developments and make use of this information in their newsletters.
14. CFUW Ontario Council speaks to the government of Ontario on behalf of our members on issues that are of concern to ourselves and to other women.

WHAT CLUBS CAN DO FOR ONTARIO COUNCIL

1. ***Think Outside the Club*** by presenting members with news from Ontario Council, CFUW and IFUW at Club general meetings.
2. Encourage members to read the Ontario Council publication, *Dates and Data*, and the National publication, *The Communicator*. Try to copy and paste articles from these publications into your newsletter if you have one.
3. Encourage members to attend the networking and learning opportunities that Ontario Council offers: e.g. Standing Committees Meetings, Fall Gatherings and the OC AGM.
4. Assist in the provincial advocacy actions that are sent out periodically by the Standing Committee Chairs.
5. When asked by your Regional Director: provide information about your Club and its activities for the Regional Review.
6. Send a copy of your Club newsletter to your Regional Director, the Ontario Council President, the CFUW President and the Director of Membership.
7. Strive to build and maintain **a strong and healthy club**.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITES FOR YOUR CLUB

✓ **Standing Committees Meetings:**

Held in September, January and March; travel assistance (based on distance) available

✓ **Fall Gatherings:**

Held annually (except Ontario North), Regional clubs come together to share ideas, successes and to learn from OC themed workshops.

✓ **OC AGM:**

Held annually in May, a great opportunity to meet members from across Ontario. Small clubs (with less than 50 members) qualify for financial assistance to attend an OC AGM.

✓ **Club Guest Nights:**

Invite OC clubs in your region to attend one of your meetings, or accept an invitation from another Club, share in their fellowship and perhaps come home with new ideas for your own Club.

✓ **Host an event with another OC club:**

For example, Earth Day Activity, Breaking Bread for Afghanistan Dinner, International Women's Day event.

✓ **Sharing of newsletters and programme ideas with other OC clubs**

Keeping your Charitable Number

Treasurers over the years have stressed the importance of keeping your Club's scholarship charitable number. Once lost, through not fulfilling the requirements of the government regulations involved, it is difficult to regain, plus your Club might be subjected to a fine!

It's important that the treasurer of your scholarship fund stays abreast of what's new. Information can be found on line at www.cra.gc.ca/charities . If you have any questions you should direct them to the government at 1-800-267-2384. Better to spend a few minutes calling than have to fight to get your status back.

ONTARIO COUNCIL WEBSITE

Use Ontario Council Website: www.cfuwontcouncil.ca for the following

- † Advocacy alerts and updates
- † Standing Committee Reports
- † *Dates and Data* issues , find out what clubs in Ontario are doing
- † Information for Clubs: Financial policies which benefit clubs, Club President resource materials, advocacy tools
- † Policy and Resolutions
- † Ontario Council Club contact information.

CFUW Ontario Council Executive 2008-2010

Contact members of the Executive at cfuwontario@yahoo.com

President:	Myra Willis
Secretary:	Kathy Palmer
Treasurer:	Helen Sami
Communications:	Ann McElhinney

Regional Directors:

RD Ontario West:	TBD
RD Ontario South:	Arleen Midriak
RD Ontario North:	Brenda Robertson
RD Ontario Central:	Joanne Jamieson
RD Ontario East:	Elizabeth Pulker

Standing Committee Chairs:

Education:	Wendy Taylor
Legislation:	Myrtle Grieve
Status of Women:	Edeltraud Neal

Special Appointments:

Advocacy Coordinator:	Teri Shaw
Administrative Resources:	Ann McElhinney
LOOP Coordinator	Karen Empringham
Web Managers:	Ann McElhinney & Teri Shaw

ADVOCACY AND YOUR CLUB EXECUTIVE

As President and members of your Club's Executive, you will find yourself involved in advocacy done by your Club. Ideally you will have an Issues group who are prepared to do the actual work, but you need to know about and authorize what's happening.

During the year you will get from Ontario Council:

- ± Information about the three Standing Committee meetings

Please pre-register those attending, for the sake of our caterers.

- ± Templates and suggestions for letters that you can send to your MPPs

Please, if you feel comfortable with the letters, send them.

- ± Our newsletter, *Dates and Data* Please use the articles and Standing Committee reports for your own newsletters, simply copy and paste from the electronic version.

- ± How-to manuals concerning advocacy, such as *Advocacy Primer*, *Act On It*, *Meeting with Politicians*, *Writing Letters*, etc.

Please use these and pass them on. They are available online at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca.

- ± Emails about the website www.cfuwontcouncil.ca and its updates

Please pass these emails along to members, especially to the Issues group, who could use them.

Please use the website to learn about Club events, resources for Clubs and the activities of Ontario Council.

- ± Emails asking for your help concerning some advocacy activity – perhaps a letter writing campaign, notice about government consultations, a petition campaign that a Club has initiated...

Please respond if you can, or delegate it to your Issues Committee to work on the project.

- ± Ontario Council Resolutions for Club discussion

Please study these, prepare amendments to return to Ontario Council and be prepared to discuss the Resolution(s) at the next AGM.

To help you with advocacy, there are

- ± Standing Committee meetings, and the Standing Committee chairs who are always available to help
- ± Regional Directors are available to help.
- ± The reports of the Standing Committee meetings which can be found in *Dates & Data* and on the website.
- ± The website www.cfuwontcouncil.ca, in particular the Issues page which has links to letters and briefs prepared by Ontario Council
- ± Access to the two policy books – Ontario and National – links can be found at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/policy.html
- ± How-to manuals, such as the *Advocacy Primer* and National's *Nuts and Bolts*

CFUW GUIDELINES for ADVOCACY

- ± When writing, or speaking, “on behalf of CFUW” and asking for some action, this **must be based on CFUW policy** as found in the *CFUW Policy Book* or *Ontario Council Resolutions*.

When there is no policy, letters may be written asking for information only – “Our club is studying ...”

If a Club needs to react to a local situation when there is no policy, a vote shall be taken of its membership before committing the Club to any course of action. Any action must be consistent with CFUW purposes.

- ± **Local clubs write to their local MPs, MPPs**, and other local elected officials, but not to the Premier, the Prime Minister or Cabinet Minister (unless he/she is the local MPP or MP).

When a number of Clubs write on one issue, this can create a critical mass on issues.

- ± **Letters must be sent out under the signature of the Club President, or designated member of the Executive, on Club letterhead.** The Club President or designated member of the executive committee should have the support and authorization of her executive.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN

Summer

- Please send contact information for the Club: President, CFUW Liaison, Treasurer, Membership chair, Newsletter editor, Issues committee chair to Ontario Council at cfuwontario@yahoo.com
- Please send us information about your Club's coming events to be published in *Dates & Data* and on the website.

Fall

- September Standing Committees meeting held in Toronto, followed by electronic *Dates & Data* for Club and newsletter use.
- Template of an Annual Letter is prepared by Ontario Council to be sent by Clubs to their MPPs concerning the provincial implications of Resolutions that have been passed, both nationally and provincially.
- Regional Gatherings held throughout the province. Ontario North meets every two years.
- Ontario Council Resolution Intent due Oct 1st; the resolution with background and bibliography due on November 15th.
- December 6th events in commemoration of the 14 young women killed at the École Polytechnique in Montreal.

Winter

- January Standing Committees meeting in Toronto, followed by electronic *Dates & Data* for Club and newsletter use.
- Remittance of Ontario Council dues and insurance levy due. Thank you.
- Ontario Council Resolutions emailed to Clubs on Dec.31; Amendments due March 1st.

Spring

- March Standing Committees meeting in Toronto, followed by electronic *Dates & Data* for Club and newsletter use.
- Regional Directors (RDs) request Club information and statistics for the Ontario Council Annual Report to be presented OC AGM.
- AGM information package mailed in April.
- Ontario Council Annual General Meeting held in May.
- Ontario Council's Resolutions, as passed at the AGM, will be posted on the website. Action Plans for these Resolutions will be sent to Clubs.