

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 Huron, Ontario South, Ontario Central, Ontario East, Ontario West
- These 6 regions form Ontario Council, which with the other Councils in CFUW - BC Council, Alberta Council, Saskatchewan Council, Manitoba Council, Quebec Council and Atlantic Regional Council - represent the over 9000 members in 112 clubs across Canada.
- CFUW is the largest of over 79 affiliates which make up the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).
- Councils are led by a President who in turn represents her members as a Vice-President 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)

CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2010-2012

Contact members of the Executive at info@cfuwontcouncil.ca, or at the generic ones, eg. president@cfuwontcouncil.ca.

President:	Myra Willis
Secretary:	Elizabeth Haynes
Treasurer:	Helen Sami
Communications:	Ann McElhinney

Regional Directors:

RD Ontario West:	Terry Hamilton
RD Ontario South:	Cheryl Hayles
RD Ontario North:	Brenda Robertson
RD Ontario Central:	Valerie Hume
RD Ontario East:	Monique Tougas
RD Ontario Huron:	Marianne Williams

Standing Committee Chairs:

Education:	Gail Marriott
Legislation:	Jane Sagar
Status of Women:	Rhea Pretsell

Special Appointments:

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

ONTARIO COUNCIL WEBSITE

Use Ontario Council website www.cfuwontcouncil.ca for the following

- Standing Committees meetings – speakers, dates, registration information and reports
- Advocacy alerts and updates
- Information about letters and briefs that Ontario Council has sent to the government
- Information for clubs: financial policies which benefit clubs, club president resource materials, advocacy tools
- Policy and resolutions
- Annual General Meeting – location, theme, registration information
- Ontario Council clubs contact information.
- *Dates and Data* issues, archived

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CLUB

❖ **Standing Committees Meetings:**

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

❖ **Fall Gatherings:**

Regional clubs come together to share ideas, successes and to learn from OC themed workshops.

❖ **Hub meetings:**

Where and when possible, some members of Executives come together with their Regional Directors to discuss issues.

❖ **Ontario Council Annual General Meeting:**

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.

❖ **Advertise your event/fundraiser on the website and/or *Dates & Data*.**

YOUR CLUB EXECUTIVE AND ADVOCACY

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 be able to authorize what's happening.

Concerning advocacy you receive from Ontario Council:

- ◆ Information about the three Standing Committees meetings – notices and registration in *Dates & Data*, reports in *NEWS FROM OC*; also available on the web at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca

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

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

- ◆ Our newsletters, *Dates & Data* and *NEWS FROM OC*.

Please use the articles and Standing Committees reports for your own newsletters, simply copy and paste from the electronic version.

NEWS FROM OC also includes links to advocacy work, letters and briefs done by Ontario Council found on our website at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca . Please pass this emailed newsletter along to members, especially to the Issues group, who could use it.

- ◆ How-to manuals concerning advocacy, such as *Act On It - Locally*, etc.

Please pass these on to others that you think might find them useful. They are available online at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca .

- ◆ 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 Committees meetings, and the Standing Committee chairs who are always available to help;
- ◇ Regional Directors who can direct you to others who could assist you;
- ◇ The reports of the Standing Committees meetings which can be found in *NEWS FROM OC* 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;
- ◇ The two policy books – Ontario and National – links can be found at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/policy.html , and
- ◇ The previously mentioned how-to manual, *Act on It – Locally*, and *Advocacy Primer* found on our website.

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 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 Ontario Annual General Meeting, will receive their current year Ontario Council club fees back. This is to give assistance to small clubs to send members to an Ontario AGM.
2. 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).
3. 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, and occasional local regional meetings.
4. For Standing Committee meetings, clubs at more than 75 km distance from Toronto are able to receive travel assistance.
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 \$300.00 may be offered to local clubs for a non-revenue generating special event or project.
8. An advance (loan) of \$300 is available for revenue-generating event or project to cover expenses incurred before revenue is received.
9. Ontario Council executive members are available to come and speak on a variety of topics at no cost to the club.
10. Standing Committee Chairs are available to help with advocacy.
11. The newsletter, *Dates & Data*, is mailed to clubs throughout the province, and is available in PDF on the website. An additional electronic newsletter, *NEWS FROM OC*, is produced after each Standing Committees meeting so that clubs may be informed of all the developments and make use of this information in their newsletters. *NEWS FROM OC* also includes website updates giving links to briefs and letters done by Ontario Council, plus other information about clubs and Ontario Council.

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. 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.
14. CFUW Ontario Council forms coalitions with like-minded organizations in order to extend or advocacy efforts.

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.