

Ottawa Council of Women March / April 2016 Bulletin

*Women working together to
Improve the lives of women,
their families and
communities*



*2015 /17 Theme:
Safety and Security
of Persons*

contact us : www.ottawacw.ca

Welcome , 2015/16 Ottawa Council of Women Federate Members :

- * Acorn
- * Anglican Church Women, Ottawa Diocese
- * Beta –Sigma Phi, Ottawa
- * Carefor Health Community Service
- * Canadian Federation of University Women of Kanata
- * Canadian Federation of University Women of Ottawa
- * Dominion-Chalmers United Church Women
- * Home Economics Association of Ottawa
- * Ontario Association of Social Workers- Eastern Branch
- * Ottawa City Union, Order of King's Daughters & Sons
- * Polish Canadian Women's Federation Ottawa #8
- * Ottawa Presbyterial United Church Women
- * Quota Club of Ottawa
- * Retire- at - Home
- * Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Ottawa
- * Rideau Park United Church Women
- * Ukrainian Women's Association – Ottawa
- * Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
- * Zonta Club of Ottawa

From the President

March was an engaging month for women who are involved with community groups, service clubs, churches, and even governments. International Women's Week and the many events of International Women's Day (IWD) celebrated the achievements attained over decades and decades. Church Women, on their World Day of Prayer (WDP) also collected funds for empowering women's projects worldwide. This year, in the wake of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, many IWD events in our City looked at the situation of indigenous women and their families. At Centrepont, OCW federated members CFUW-Kanata and Ottawa, as well as CFUW-Nepean, and our Council of Women together with accomplished local indigenous women, presented a sparkling joint celebratory event in appreciation of First Nations' women talents, skills and business acumen in curated art, fashion design, story telling, dance, singing, and catering. It was an eye opening experience for the capacity crowd. Much is to be gained for all of us by keeping open doors for our indigenous sisters. Congratulations and thank you to the joint organizing Committee for all their efforts and work.

**Members are invited to the
Ottawa Council of Women
Annual General Meeting
On Monday, April 18, 2016
At the International Restaurant
Algonquin College - 1385 Woodroffe
5:30 p.m Registration - 6:00 p.m Dinner
- 7:00 to 9:00 pm AGM
DinnerTickets: \$ 38.00 per person**



An annual highlight of the AGM are the oral reports presented by the presidents or the representatives of each of our Federates. The electronic and written reports that are available are gathered after the AGM and included with the OCW Annual Report for historical reference.

(Continued from page 1)

Now that International Women's Day is over, the danger exists of letting many issues slip to the back burner of our mind. Monica Cullum, OCW Status of Women Convenor, won't let this happen with her article in this Bulletin.

At our Resolutions Meeting on March 19, our federated and individual members amended and voted on whether OCW would accept the proposed 2016 provincial (PCWO) and the national (NCWC) resolutions. Thank you to all who organized this meeting and to all who came and worked through the proposed policy concepts, and wordsmithed them further; to Monica Cullum, Resolutions Co-Chair, who led - and to Beverlee McIntosh who kept track of the lively discussions in the minutes. Our resolute time keeper, Petra Friedrichson, helped to move the proceedings along. Sheila McKay, Hospitality Convenor, kept everyone's spirits revived with sandwiches, sweets and trimmings and with copious cups of tea and coffee.

These resolutions will be discussed again and be accepted at the PCWO AGM in Toronto in April and at the NCWC AGM in Saskatoon in June respectively. They will become Council policy and the basis for our advocacy. In keeping with our Mission mandate, Council policy does not pertain strictly to the so called "women's issues" only, but includes all facets of women's world, work, the family, the community and the country; areas such as the physical environment, be it in the cities, agriculture or national parks, clean air and water, children's playgrounds, or arts facilities. This bulletin contains a couple of resolutions from 1948 that span Council concerns in that year from the arts to social policy.

Every Federate is entitled and invited to propose local, provincial or national resolutions to OCW. We hope that you will participate in the 2017 round. Look for the timetable for submissions in late summer. We have a new website, www.ottawacw.ca try it out for info.

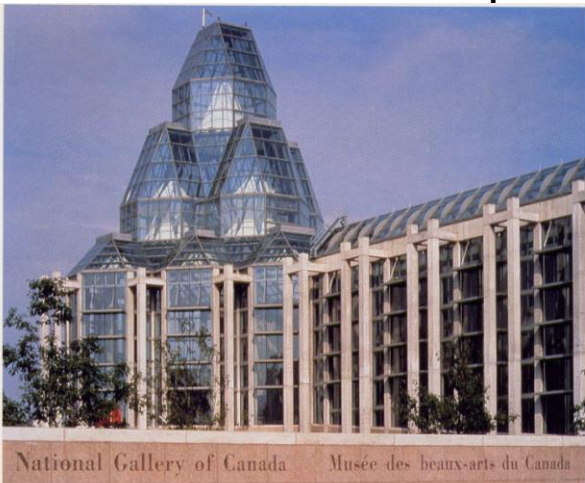
Meanwhile, your OCW Board of Directors and I are looking forward to exercising the other pillar of our Council: meeting each other face to face at the OCW AGM, breaking bread together, having conversations with each other about what we and our group are each doing to improve living conditions in Ottawa and elsewhere, and exchanging news and ideas.



Thank you for your support of the Ottawa Council of Women during the 2015/16 OCW Year.

Edeltraud Neal, President

From the 1993 Centennial Calendar published by the Council of Women of Ottawa and Area:



Photographer: Rob Fillion / Courtesy – National Gallery of Canada

Ottawa, Ont.

1948 Urging Construction of a National Gallery

"Resolved: - That the Provincial Council of Women urge the National Council to earnestly request the Government of Canada to consider the importance of erecting an Art Gallery worthy of the Dominion Capital City as soon as materials are available."

The new National Gallery of Canada opened with a Degas exhibition June 16, 1988

← *National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa June 1989*



Photo Courtesy: National Walking Campaign / Health and Welfare Canada

Participants in the National Walking Campaign, 1992*

Ottawa, Ont

1948 Advocating Old Age Pensions

“Resolved :- In view of the expressed desire of our Canadian Citizens to have economic security in their old age, we the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Dominion Government to inaugurate a contributory old age pension scheme to provide \$ 50.00 a month at 60 years of age without a means test.”

Today every senior in Canada receives an Old Age Pension indexed to the cost of living.

**The National Walking Campaign was sponsored by the Secretariat for Fitness in the third age and is funded by the Seniors Independence Program for Health and Welfare Canada.*

Condolences

Ottawa Council of Women would like to express our deepest sympathy to Ewa Zadarnowski and her family on the death of her beloved Mother .



International Women's Day – A Time for Reflection

By Monica Cullum - OCW Convener Status of Women

If you have been engaged at all with the news media over the last month you have already seen any number of opinions about issues important to women. Some have been cited here from time to time. International Women's Day just highlights things for us. Once a year we have the occasion to review the progress - or not - that women have made over let's say at least the last fifty years or so , with the rise of so-called second wave feminism in the 1920's and encouraged by Betty Friedan's seminal *The Feminine Mystique* in the 60's. Even if we begin with International Women's Year - 1975 - it's over forty years since women raised their voices to demand equal treatment. There is no doubt that women have made progress from the days of our grandmothers when women were relegated to their homes and expected to vote as their husbands told them. Well in some cases it was their great grandmother's lives but even these women inspired us as my own mother and grandmothers did.

We need look no further than our current government for positive signs. Prime Minister Trudeau's decision to bring gender parity to his Cabinet is a major step. Recognizing that intelligent, capable women elected on October 19 deserved to be made responsible members of the Cabinet is encouraging. The move by

women's organizations to advocate for women to be appointed to fill vacant seats in the Senate creating parity for the first time in history cannot now be ignored. The Famous Five would be proud.

And speaking of the Famous Five who had their image removed from Canadian currency, the Bank of Canada has asked for suggestions for putting women back on the banknotes. Time to put on your thinking caps and submit your ideas to the consultation. Go to the website and lobby for your choice

On another positive note this year the Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts is equally divided between men and women.

Our neighbour to the south may have the first woman president if the "father knows best" syndrome fails and young women can be convinced to vote for her. These young women forget that we have had the revolution and that their mothers were part of it. What is needed now is action to ensure that the revolution was worth it... What is more discouraging is the treatment of Ms. Clinton by men and women who fail to recognize an intelligent, experienced, progressive woman when they see one. This reminds us that there is no end to what still needs to be done.

While companies that have appointed women to their Boards are to be applauded, women either fail to be nominated or are overlooked. This means that women's voices are not heard in corporate Board rooms where women can benefit from representation and can make a valuable contribution.

We routinely hear that women cannot be compared to men when it comes to health studies. As an example the Canadian Women's Heart Health Centre reports that women presenting with symptoms of heart disease are told they have anxiety, depression or are going through menopause. More research is obviously needed focusing on women. In April we may be able to expect change when the Centre based at the University of Ottawa holds its first ever national conference addressing women's heart health.

Gender difference is not limited to health. Ageism - negative stereotyping of older women and older men - has focused on the older adult consequently the differential effect has not been well examined. Older women are often depicted as inactive, unhealthy, asexual and ineffective even passive, dependent and showing signs of hypochondria. In reality women are often required to be self sufficient. Poverty among women is nearly double the rate of men due to the long term effects of the wage gap or being involved during their work life in low-paying, informal or part-time jobs and women's life expectation... Aging is, to a significant degree, a women's issue.

Violence against women continues in spite of the best efforts of numerous actors. This was reinforced during the Jian Ghomeshi trial in Toronto. No decision has been reached but more importantly it reminded us why women frequently do not report sexual assault or abuse. The fact that the trial was about Mr. Ghomeshi and not about the behavior of the women was ignored or downplayed.

Currently Canada is ranked 30th by the World Economic Forum in wage parity. Women working full time still earn 73.5 to that of men even though women's educational levels have out-stripped men's achievement. The gender wage gap is complex but Canada must take this seriously and take aggressive steps to ensure change.

In yet another work related issue female criminal lawyers are reported to be leaving the profession. - Sexism, the impact of long hours on family life and low pay for hours worked are said to be the precipitating factors. Lawyers have pointed out that diversity is important to the legal profession.

Locally we don't escape issues that affect women and girls. In spite of the steady evolution of women's hockey the Ottawa Girl's Hockey Association found that girls' teams are forced to buy time on private ice more often than boys' teams. Consequently registration for a girls' team based on a higher cost for ice time, is higher. The City is revisiting how ice time is allocated. We certainly hope this will be corrected.

And while Algonquin College is a Provincial institution it is located locally. It is hard to believe that a respected educational institution would agree to establish a campus off-shore that does not allow the education of girls and women. This is 2016. How can that happen? This constitutes an insult on no small scale to local women who have spent many hours and concentrated effort to raise funds to educate girls in countries far from

Canada's shores. The education of women and girls is one of the greatest contributions Canada can make to women's equality.

Women's equality is no less important today than it was in the 1920's, 1964 or 1975 and continues to demand our close attention if it is to become a reality. Celebrate the achievements of the many that work for gender diversity and parity in every area of our lives but do your part to make sustainable progress possible.



2016 National Council of Women (NCWC) Proposed Resolutions and Up-date

To be voted on at the NCWC AGM, June 9 to June 12, 2016, in Saskatoon, Sask.

1. **Better Quality and Cruelty Free Meat** *proposed by Oakville & Area Study Group*
2. **National Dementia Strategy –** “ *by St. Catherine's & District*
3. **Plastic Microfibers in Bodies of Water -** “ *by St. Catherine's & District*
4. **Wireless Communication – A Hazard to Humans?** - *Proposed by Jeannette Logan, NCWC VP Environment*
5. **Paid Apprenticeships and Internships** - *by Gisele Saurette-Roche, NCWC Convener of Employment and Economics*
6. **The Right to Potable Water on First Nations Reserves** - *Proposed by the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba*
7. **Updated and Adequately-Funded National HIV/AIDS Strategy-** *Proposed by St. Catharines & District Council of Women*

Update

1. **Cessation of the Use of Solitary Confinement in Federal Prisons** *Proposed by Gracia Janes, NCWC Environment Convener*



2016 Provincial Council of Women (PCWO) Proposed Resolutions

To be voted on at the PCWO AGM, April 23 & 24, 2016, in Toronto, Ontario

1. **Co-payment a Barrier to Receiving home support services** – *proposed by Ottawa Council of Women*
2. **Integrated Domestic Violence Courts** – *proposed by St. Catherine's & District Council of Women*
3. **Decriminalizing Panhandling and Squeegeeing** - *by St Catherine's & District Council of Women*



A Very Happy Spring!

This OCW Bulletin appears monthly. Members' short contributions welcome. Please e-mail your contribution by the 20th of each month to news@ottawacw.ca or call 613-731-2737