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### Message from the Leadership Team

Spring is a time of renewal. It doesn't always arrive with the equinox, but the birds are waking me up in the morning, and my crocuses are in bloom, so surely spring is here. We can look forward to an outdoor life soon. Many of us have been vaccinated or are about to be, so we can renew in-person visits with our families and those in our bubble with a little more confidence. There is much to look forward to.

It's almost time to renew our membership in the club. We all hope that by September we will be meeting in person. Although we had to give up some of our interest groups this year, Zoom has helped us maintain contact. Some members even found it easier to walk to their computer than drive through snowy nights to pre-pandemic meetings. There were bright spots in the year. Thanks to the creativity of the Program Committee we have consistently had more members on zoom than we get out to meetings.

This month, long-time member Bea C. was profiled. It was so nice to see Bea on the screen. Thanks to her daughters, Barbara and Joan, for making sure that Bea could attend. What an interesting and long life she has led. It was fun to hear about Groundhog Day celebrations. What a good idea. When I visited Marg S. the next day she laughed about the Upper Devon-Lower Devon story. We have enjoyed learning so much more about our friends in the club.

The Program Committee has done a very professional job of designing the profiles that so many of our members have provided. Norah O. said it best recently, "What an absolutely amazing group of women we are." While we missed having Trivia night, the Trivia Committee has provided us with fun trivia on several occasions. You can still send a cheque to Mieke to offset the loss of funds generated by Trivia Night.

We have welcomed new members to the club, to committees and to leadership roles. We seem to be thriving despite the pandemic. So don't forget to send in those membership renewals in to Dian K. in May.

Thanks to Marg E. for keeping us abreast of the situation in Long Term Care Homes. Her article in the last newsletter certainly kept us up-to-date. So many of us have family and friends in retirement and LTC homes and it has been distressing to watch the care being eroded and the deaths mounting. It is also distressing that it took a pandemic to do something about the conditions in these homes. We need to be vigilant but we also need to advocate for permanent changes. If ever renewal was needed it's needed in the care of our seniors.

Betsy C. has a group reviewing the Resolutions coming in from provincial and other clubs. You will be seeing their recommendations next month. Adrienne Roberts has put her name forward to run as the NDP candidate in the next Federal election. We are a diverse and committed group.

The issues over membership in GWI have plagued us for several years now. Although Brantford voted to opt out of GWI, I think most of us want to protect CFUW National and get us back to the wonderful work that GWI does for women and girls internationally. There are signs of renewal there too. Certainly care of women and girls has been a guiding principle for us in Brantford.

Easter and Spring Break have come. Spring has arrived. Enjoy watching the world renew itself. Stay safe.

*Diane M. President of the Month*



# National and Ontario News

## 2021 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

This year there are 5 different Resolutions, one from the Ontario Council, and 4 that have come via National. The Resolutions Committee has met and has made recommendations related to whether the club should support the individual resolutions. Below are the Proposed Resolutions and the recommendation of the Committee.

### The Ontario Council Resolution is as follows:

Title: Human Trafficking Awareness, Prevention and Detection Resolved, that Canadian Federation of University Women Ontario Council (CFUW) urges governments, police, social agencies, school boards, community organizations and other partners to continue to recognize and react to the reality and dangers of the human trafficking of Canadians, and to educate youth to be alert to luring and coercive control techniques via tools and methods including, but not limited to: A) that the Ontario Provincial Government make additions to the Grade 9 and 10 Health and Physical Education curriculum to include how to recognize unhealthy relationships, specifically the coercive control and luring techniques used by human traffickers and similar predators; B) that the Ontario Provincial Government require all educators grades one to twelve to complete a brief ten minute, yearly, online training on the awareness, prevention and detection of human trafficking;

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: The committee recommends supporting this resolution.

### The Resolutions from National are as Follows:

#### . Proposed Resolution 1. Single use Plastics and Plastic Packaging

**RESOLVED**, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada, and the Provincial, Territorial, and Municipal Governments to expedite the ban on single-use plastics (plastic checkout bags, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery, and food ware made from hard-to-recycle plastics) and to expand the ban to include all problematic and unnecessary non-recyclable plastics including plastic wrapping, plastic tampon applicators, disposable plastic beverage cups, plastic bottle caps, lids and plastic labels on containers;

**RESOLVED**, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada to implement Canada's Plastic Science Agenda (CaPSA) and, with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, to provide funding for, as well as following up on and fully implementing, a Canada-wide strategy on zero plastic waste.

**RESOLVED**, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada, and the Provincial, Territorial, and Municipal Governments to fully fund and promote programs to educate the public about the dangers caused to habitat, the environment (including fisheries and oceans) and to human health by discarded plastic waste.

**RESOLVED**, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada and the Provincial, Territorial and Municipal Governments to use incentives including start-up funding to create alternative uses for discarded plastics, biodegradable alternatives to single-use plastic packaging and to work with academics and industry to support the creation of alternative uses for discarded plastics.

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: The committee recommends supporting this resolution.

#### .Proposed Resolution 2: "Right to Repair" for Large Household Appliances

**RESOLVED**, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Federal, Provincial, Territorial, and Municipal governments to work together and create "right to repair" legislation, making the repair of large household appliances used in Canada easier, to reduce waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and create local jobs.

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: The committee DOES NOT recommend supporting this resolution.

#### . Proposed Resolution 3: Canada's Opioid Crisis

**RESOLVED**, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Canada to work with the provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to address Canada's opioid crisis, as outlined in its December 16, 2020 document, Federal Actions on Opioids to Date, by:

- improving access to, and the number of, safe injection and overdose treatment sites;
- expanding public awareness of addiction to prescription and street drugs;
- updating current prescription and treatment guidelines;
- improving access to harm reduction treatment, such as access to Naloxone and safer alternatives;
- restricting the influx of illegal opioids and the tainted drug supply.

**RESOLVED**, That the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the Government of Canada to work with the provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to expand its commitment to addressing Canada's opioid crisis by additional means, including but not limited to, the following:

- working with stakeholders, including health practitioners and counsellors, on best practices in pain management;
- increasing support and psychosocial services for vulnerable people by increasing the number of trained professionals available to address the opioid crisis;
- training counsellors and public security personnel to better recognize and address addiction by integrating such training into their core curriculum and ongoing professional development;
- establishing a cross-Canada electronic prescription drug registry.

Recommendation of the Resolutions Committee: The committee recommends supporting this resolution.

#### .Proposed Resolution 4: Post-Pandemic Recovery for Women in Canada

**Resolved**, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Federal Government of Canada to develop a comprehensive Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery Plan including specific interventions to address the disparate effect of pandemics on the lives of women.

Recommendation of the Brantford CFUW Resolutions Committee: The committee recommends supporting this resolution. The Resolutions will be discussed and voted on at the April General Meeting.

Respectfully yours, Betsy C.

# Committee Updates

## UPDATE FROM the AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FUTURE DIRECTIONS 2020-22

This month, CFUW National provided a status report from the Mediation Implementation Committee. You will have been sent this material in an e-mail from CFUW Brantford on April 3rd and 14th.

The key areas of interest to our Ad Hoc Committee are:

CFUW National is NOT moving forward with the number one recommendation of the Mediation Working Group:

“CFUW should update their Articles and Bylaws to remove all references to external organizations over whom CFUW does not have complete managerial authority and governance; specifically, Article 4.”

It is disheartening that the Board is not following the recommendation of the Articles and Bylaws Committee, independent legal advice, the Mediation Working Group, the professional Mediator and Professor of Law, the Auditor, Accountants and the Attorney General’s Office - Directorate for Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. Their rationale is that introducing the opportunity to opt-in/opt-out of paying GWI dues is an interim step.

To date, 51 Clubs have decided to opt-out with 3,766 members, 42 Clubs have voted to opt-in with 2,549 members, and 3 Clubs with 417 members have not indicated at this time.

Clubs voting to opt-in represent just under 38% of CFUW membership - about the same number as those voting against the removal of Article 4 from the Articles and Bylaws.

The statistics regarding the number of members who have chosen to Opt-In is critical because this number will determine the rate at which CFUW Reserve funds are depleted to pay GWI. Our estimate is that the drain will reduce from a projected \$234,300 to \$89,000 in 2022. While this number will delay the depletion of reserves beyond the 2022 projected date in the amber alert, it simply forestalls the inevitable, given the current course, and begs the question of whether the Board will address their fiscal responsibility to CFUW versus GWI and limit or eliminate the drain on CFUW funds.

**NEXT STEPS:** The Ad Hoc Committee is working with CFUW National to create a chart that depicts the depletion of funds over the past decade and highlights the date when CFUW will be out of funds. The Ad Hoc Committee will be making a recommendation to CFUW Brantford to register a third letter of concern before the National AGM.

CFUW National is satisfied that the terms of the agreement of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with GWI have been fulfilled. A review of the current GWI dues structure is being conducted by GWI and CFUW has provided feedback. We have not been able to ascertain what options are being considered that could help CFUW address its financial exposure and amber light status.

CFUW National did commission the VP International to lead “an ad-hoc committee to investigate international organizations” and compare their efficacy and dues structures with GWI. However, much of the work has been delayed until CFUW’s strategic plan is formalized and CFUW International Relations and Action Framework defined. It appears that assessments of external organizations and GWI will be delayed until 2022 and 2023, which is late based on the current drain on CFUW’s reserve funds.

In the meantime, some actions may take place, such as strengthening CFUW’s relationship with Global Affairs Canada and the department of Women and Gender Equality, evaluating and optimizing relationships with organizations with which CFUW currently has formal relationships/memberships, and optimizing informal relationships CFUW currently has with Canadian NGOs that have an international focus or international areas of action.

CFUW did establish a Communications Committee to increase understanding of CFUW amongst its members, to create a sense of belonging to a national and international women’s movement with education and skills to change the world, to provide two-way communication, and build trust.

We would like to thank Norah O for her valuable participation on the Ad Hoc Committee. Norah is being replaced by Linda T whose decades of work with World Vision and her wealth of knowledge about International NGOs will be of tremendous help as we navigate our way through these challenging times.

We encourage you to attend one of the CFUW National Townhall meetings (April 22 at 7 pm or April 24 at 12 pm noon), that have been set up to allow members an opportunity to discuss the report and to ask questions.

The links to registering for these Townhalls is provided in the April 3rd e-mail. Please contact [lin\\_fines@icloud.com](mailto:lin_fines@icloud.com) if you would like to receive the link(s) to register.

Lin F., Ad Hoc Committee on Future Directions

# Committee Updates continued

## Long-Term Care Update

The Ontario budget for 2021/22 was announced on March 24<sup>th</sup>. For long-term care the budget items are:

Increasing long-term care capacity and access with an additional \$933 million over four years, for a total of \$2.6 billion. Approvals of new and upgraded beds to date represent more than two thirds of the government's commitment to build 30,000 new beds by 2028, as well as 15,198 upgraded spaces.

Investing \$246 million over the next four years to improve living conditions in existing long-term care homes, including air conditioning, so loved ones can live in comfort, and with safety, dignity and respect.

Investing \$4.9 billion over four years to increase the average daily direct care for long-term care residents from 2.75 hours to four hours.

Providing more than \$121 million to accelerate the training of nearly 9,000 personal support workers (PSWs).

More beds, more staff, increasing direct hours of care, more personal protective equipment, renovating older homes to include air conditioning and removal of four bed rooms and building new homes, are and have been needed, but will these measures by themselves prevent the terrible atrocities that COVID-19 revealed within our long-term care homes from arising in the future? Let us not forget the stories of abuse, lack of assessment for treatable conditions, the hours of documentation that staff are required to do in order to meet ministry guidelines which takes away from delivery of care, the bath lists that dictate when a resident can have a bath, and activity lists which dictate when fun can be organized. And then there are the long institutional hallways of 32 beds/unit which look like a hospital and residents become a room and bed number.

There are more than 11 long-term care homes in Ontario that have adopted a transformative culture change in long-term care based on a relationship-based approach to organizing and delivering care. Eight to sixteen residents live in warm, caring environments that look and feel like home. These small home-like environments provide residents with the 'stuff of life' and meaningful activities; the residents are surrounded by staff who interact and care for them with empathy, kindness, love and laughter. Family style dining, helping with daily activities such as peeling potatoes, setting the table, baking, enjoying a concert on television together are just some of the "normal" everyday activities which help residents feel they are at home. They hire staff for emotional intelligence, provide empathy training and education on communication and teamwork. These homes have shown better outcomes both before and during COVID-19 than the traditional, institutional long-term care homes in Ontario.

The Ontario government wants residents in long-term care homes to live in comfort, and with safety, dignity and respect. They could learn from the success stories that are already happening in Ontario and build on them to make all long-term care homes a place to call "home". Marg E., LTC Ad Hoc Committee

## 75th Anniversary

### Update on the Treasure Hunt

A few of us have been working on centralizing our 'treasures' from the last seventy-five years. We have moved a number of files, such as background material related to the book, 'Significant Lives' to DropBox. DropBox is an electronic filing system that allows us to keep one centralized copy of items such as Meeting Minutes that Executive and other members can access.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

The Executive is considering how to commemorate our 75th Anniversary, and perhaps connect it with a Banquet in the fall. We are particularly interested in any membership lists that you might have from years gone by, as we would like to create a master list of all members from the inception of our Club. We are also interested in photographs or newspaper clippings, and summaries of any key events or publications that we accomplished.

Please e-mail, phone or text Lin F about the treasures you know about and whether you would like to participate with our project.

## 75 YEARS! LET'S CELEBRATE THIS AMAZING MILESTONE

We need your help to plan this Special Celebration which we are hoping will occur on Thursday September 30. Could you volunteer to be part of a Planning Committee, consisting of members from the Program and Social Committees and at least 3 of you from the general membership? Perhaps you could discuss this at your next Zoom Book Group or World Awareness and team up with a couple of others to join a Planning Committee. The Executive would really appreciate those of you with fresh ideas and new energy to help to plan this special occasion. It is a short term commitment and the executive is recommending extra money be available for the event. I will try to set up an initial meeting in May. Lynn Haylock has already arranged with the City of Brantford for a Floral Display. Much appreciated. Please give this some thought and then contact me to volunteer.

Many hands make light work!!

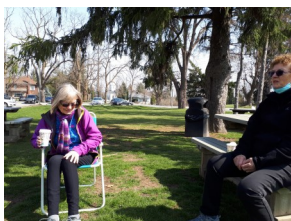
Thanks.

Brenda M.



# Interest & Community Groups

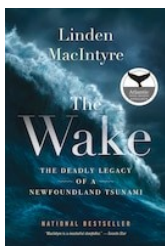
**Walking Group:** Enjoying coffee at the Windmill after our walk, April 6th.



## Monday Book Group:

The Monday evening book group read Linden MacIntyre's novel *The Wake* about the miners of the Burin Peninsula on the southern shore of Newfoundland. In this book, he writes about the 1929 tsunami that wiped out the small communities, killing 28 people. The subsequently impoverished people were later exploited by an American empire builder, who had the men working for more or less nothing, opening up the rich veins of fluorspar for mining. Later they suffered immeasurably from not only TB, but silicosis and cancer. MacIntyre's quietly restrained and impeccably researched prose movingly depicts the poverty, hard work, tenacity and genuine humanity of the folk of St. Lawrence. Their strength of spirit - as well as of body - is also revealed in the stoic tenacity in their heart-rending efforts to save US sailors from two ships that ran aground on the rocks. Their kindness, selflessness and generosity were never forgotten, especially by a young sailor of colour. It changed his life, for the better. Years later, the US funded a hospital for St. Lawrence. Later, Kay sent me an email: "Here's an interesting coincidence: my doctor sold his practice and building as of Jan 1. Met the new guy last week. He's from Iraq, but ...he was in Newfoundland for 9 years. I asked where. He said Burin Peninsula. I asked, Burin or St. Lawrence? He was in St. Lawrence! He loved it and was near to tears when he talked about missing it and especially the people. "How very kind they are", he said. I'm going to give him my book". We were all moved by this book, and recommend it to all who are interested in understanding the rich, varied history of some of the settler people of this country. Back then, the people of the Burin Peninsula, Newfoundland were still under the thumb of inept and corrupt representatives from London. It is a most interesting read.

Jen D.



The **Thursday Book Group** choice in April was *The Innocents* by Michael Crummey. The Canadian author masterfully portrayed the Newfoundland coast through poetic and descriptive imagery. The two youngsters, brother and sister, were innocent orphans, maturing in a vacuum, without social, ethical, cultural, or religious guidance. The group agreed that the story was an intriguing, disturbing, and compelling read. Dian K.



**Bridge Group:** The Monday evening Bridge continued on line using BBO on April 5th. High scores were Dian K. and her partner Bev. G. The usual suspects continued to enjoy the game while hoping for in-person playing soon. Brenda M.



**It's time to book your Covid-19 Vaccination if you haven't done so already!**

Vaccine appointments are available for Brant residents 60+. Check the Brant County Health Unit website for updates after 11 a.m. each day, as the age level gets lower each week.

[InfectiousDiseases Coronavirus \(bchu.org\)](http://InfectiousDiseasesCoronavirus(bchu.org))

The **Grand River Grannies** have a new website up and running at [www.grandrivergrannies.com](http://www.grandrivergrannies.com). Please open it for an invitation to purchase a Mother's Day Tea and Treat Box ready for pick-up on Saturday May 8, Gardeners Cottage, Glenhyrst between 1 -4 pm. Early bird savings of \$5 if ordered before April 24 for \$20.00. After this date \$25.00. Thank you, Jen D.



## CFUW Orillia Fundraiser

CFUW Orillia is sponsoring a virtual **Homes for Scholarships Tour** as their major fundraiser on June 6, 2021. Interspersed among the homes, local experts will be featured with summertime entertaining tips and words from a few dignitaries and former scholarship winners. Go to <http://cfuwhomestour.ca/> for more information and to purchase tickets.

(from CFUW Ontario South Regional Presidents' Meeting)

## 2020 –2021 EXECUTIVE

### PRESIDENT IN NAME:

- Janet Rubas

### PAST PRESIDENT:

- Brenda Malvern

### ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:

- Elizabeth Capitano
- Lin Fines
- Lynn Haylock
- Brenda Malvern
- Anne Martin
- Diane Morgan
- Dian Kuzyk

**SECRETARY:** Gay Henley

**TREASURER:** Mieke Schroeder

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Advocacy:** Betsy Capitano
- Communications:** Sandra Hughes
- Interest Groups:** Jane Binkley
- Membership:** Dian Kuzyk
- Program:** Anne Martin
- Scholarship:** Naomi Kral
- Social:** Lynn Haylock

### Help is needed on the Executive!!

We need someone to set up Zoom meetings and someone to monitor and forward emails to the membership. If you can take on one or both of these jobs please let me know as soon as possible. Lynn H., President for April

### CFUW Brantford Annual General Meeting and Banquet 2021

The AGM and the Banquet will be held separately this year. The AGM will be held by Zoom in May as usual, while the Banquet will hopefully be held in September if the Covid-19 situation allows. More details to follow!

KEEP IN TOUCH

We're doing what probably everyone else is doing---walks, reading, games, jigsaw puzzles, watching tv., and enjoying virtual video chats with our children and grandchildren, as well as keeping in contact with friends via emails, texts, phone calls, etc.

Hopefully, our friends and families will all survive this unscathed. Take care and be safe!---Gloria S.

Evelyn P has a new email address: [gogogrannyp@gmail.com](mailto:gogogrannyp@gmail.com)

We wish Kathy B. the best as she recovers from a fall that caused a cracked pelvis.



Our condolences to Lynne M. on the passing of her father-in-law, George. She shared that he had lived a very full and satisfying life ... traveling, gardening, photography and family celebrations were just a few of his favourite ways of passing time. At the age of 98, he was one of our few remaining WWII veterans.

### Membership Renewal 2021 -2022

Thanks to all the members who have been sending in their membership renewals. And if you haven't, I'm anxiously awaiting your cheque, form, and choice of those wonderful Interest groups. I think we all appreciate the emotional support that our Club members have given us through these trying Covid times. Let us pray that next year we return to socializing in person. Dian K.



Many thanks to the Interest Group contacts and participants who provide news and pictures for the newsletter. In this time of self isolation due to the pandemic it becomes even more important to

keep connected. If your Interest Group is finding another way to stay connected, let me know. If you have updates about members concerning important family or personal events like births, deaths, marriages, special celebrations to share with the members, send them also to Sandra H.

The due date for articles and photos for the May Newsletter is Friday May 7th.



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Dynamic Women Can Make a Difference