cfuw fcfdu BRANTFORD

Realizing potential for all women

November, 2026





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Leadership Team President's Message

October is such a wonderful month. Everything pumpkin comes alive — from pumpkin spice lattes, to pumpkin muffins and cookies, to pumpkin decorations to get us into the Halloween spirit. The leaves are turning red and orange, the weather is cooling and CFUW Brantford Interest Groups and activities are in full swing. From book clubs, to games to various groups involving food, there are enough activities to keep us all busy and engaged (and hopefully working on our mental plasticity).
October has been a very exciting month for CFUW Brantford. This month saw the culmination of a year's worth of work come together in the wonderfully successful High Tea Scholarship Fundraiser. Kudos to all of the members who made this event such an incredible success. For those of us lucky enough to attend we enjoyed the incredible food in a beautifully decorated hall. We were also treated to an amazing speaker in Chantel Saldanha. Ms. Saldanha gave an excellent talk about her rise in the male dominated world of software and cybersecurity, and gave us a wonderful example of a woman who mentors other women. To date, the event has exceeded its goal of raising $25,000.00.
The speaker at this month's general meeting, Rola Berger of Move with Compassion-Senior Move Management Company, gave us a great deal to think about in terms of streamlining and "rightsizing" all our "stuff". She gave us suggestions on how to not only change our mind set about possessions, but also practical suggestions on how to go about divesting ourselves of stuff that we no longer need or that no longer give us joy. I actually went home and tackled a closet, and came out with three bags of stuff– a sale, a donation and a toss bag. The process was very cathartic.
As we get deeper into fall and closer to the holidays, let us all remember to support the Nova Vita Hope for the Holidays Campaign. Nova Vita depends on donations to ensure that its residents, women and children, have a real holiday with presents to enjoy— a bright spot in a difficult situation.



As I sign off I wish you all a Happy November. Betsy Capitano,
President of the Month of October

October General Meeting

Our October General Meeting provided enjoyable social activity at the beginning and at the end of the meeting, a motivating presentation on decluttering by Rola Berger. A productive business meeting followed the presentation.

De-cluttering Made Easy



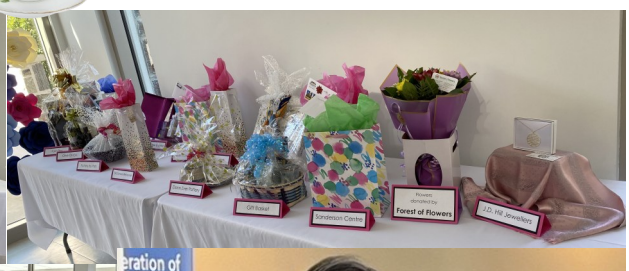
Our lovely speaker, Rola Berger, owns *Moving With Compassion*, a local moving company that specializes in helping seniors downsize, let go of belongings and move more easily. As well, she will help individuals just de-clutter their homes. She motivated us by pointing out the advantages of de-cluttering e.g. safety at home, reduced cost, and peace of mind. Start, she said, by setting a goal and putting it on paper. Then, break down the job into tasks, and set a timer for the amount of time you have for one task. Next, gather supplies such as boxes, totes, tape. It is helpful to set up boxes designated for garbage, donations, re-location, seasons, and for sales. Then tackle one room, one closet or one drawer. Members of the audience had questions and suggestions to add to the talk. It was apparent that this is a topic on the minds of many, and we appreciated Rola's excellent advice.
Colette Wilson, for the Program Committee

2026 High Tea Event

We wish to thank all of our members for their amazing support for our first High Tea Fundraising Event! All of your donations from china teacups, plates, and teaspoons to prizes and, of course, your generous donations to our Scholarship Fund, have made this a financial success. The High Tea acted as our vehicle to fundraise, and the Scholarship Committee hopes to host a second High Tea next year.
Teddy and Arlene will provide a financial statement for this year's tea.
Arlene C.

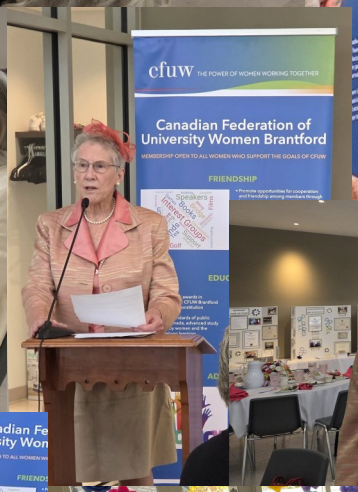
High Tea


CFUW
Brantford
High Tea
Scholarship
Fundraiser
2026



Forest of Flowers



INITIATIVES
OVER THE YEARS


cfuw THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER
Canadian Federation of
University Women Brantford
FRIENDSHIP












ADVOCACY

SUBMISSIONS FOR ALLOCATION OF CFUW BRANTFORD'S INTERNATIONAL DUES- 2026

The Advocacy Committee was grateful to have received five submissions from members, one of which has been withdrawn as it did not meet our criteria. The Committee has worked hard to present pertinent information on each of the four remaining charities. The following highlights each. Please note that the statistical information comes directly from Charity Intelligence Canada.

Amarok Society; Start With Mothers

Core Mission: Bypassing conventional educational barriers by empowering mothers to become neighbourhood teachers in urban slums

How It Works: Operates on highly scalable "teach your mother to teach others" micro school model. Each mother attends an Amarok school daily to learn literacy, math, health, and nutrition, and then returns home to teach five local neighbourhood children everything she learned. Program operates in Bangladesh, Uganda and India.

Impact: Elevates the social status and leadership of women while providing a pathway to high school and university for the world's most vulnerable children.

Where the money goes (2024):

Program-	81 cents per dollar
Administration-	19 cents per dollar

CUSO International

Core Mission: Reducing global poverty and inequality through a sustainable partnership-based model of skill-sharing.

How It Works: Originally founded in 1961 as Canadian University Services Overseas, CUSO connects highly skilled professionals and expert volunteers with local community organizations and small businesses in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Northern Canada. (**Note**- we were unable to find out how much $$ goes to Canada's North!)

Impact: Focuses heavily on economic resilience, gender equality, climate action, and sustainable agriculture.

Where The money goes:

Program-	35 cents per dollar (of each dollar donated)
Administration-	65 cents per dollar

This is a relatively high fundraising and overhead cost under Charity Intelligence's Methodology. However, CUSO also receives substantial government funding and the calculation is not the same as saying that only 35% of all its money helps people. It reported $19.1 Million in international program spending in 2024.

Right to Learn Afghanistan

Core Mission: Serving and upholding the fundamental human right to a quality education for Afghan women and girls.

How It Works: Formerly known as Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, this charity pivotally adopted its approach following the Taliban's comprehensive bans on female education. They provide free virtual high schools, distribute laptops and Internet packages, host massive open-access digital libraries, and train remote educators.

Impact: Has trained more than 10,000 teachers and provides digital lifelines, online secondary school, pathways, and higher education, and scholarships to thousands of isolated girls.

Where the money goes:

Programs/grants	84 cents per dollar
Overhead	16 cents per dollar

Stephen Lewis Foundation-Grandmother's for Grandmother's Campaign

Core Mission: To Raise awareness, build solidarity, generate financial resources to support African grandmothers and community-led organizations responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

How It Works: Launched in 2006, this campaign unites thousands of "grandmothers and grandothers" across Canada, Australia, the UK and the US. These groups host grassroots fundraisers (such as craft marketplaces and cycle tours) to channel resources directly into frontline, community-led African groups.

Impact: $46 Million has been raised to help African grandmothers secure food, healthcare, grief counselling, micro-loans, and legal property rights for their families.

Where the money goes:

Program/Cause	73 cents per dollar
Fundraising	19 cents per dollar
Administration	8 cents per dollar



Nova Vita Hope for the Holidays Campaign CFUW Brantford members, let's spread holiday cheer! Support Nova Vita's Hope for the Holidays campaign with a generous donation to help fulfill the wish list for women and families in residence. Together, we can make their holiday season brighter. How to donate? Cheques , via the Nova Vita website , your own shopping or by Amazon. Any way is a good way! Santa's helpers Pat McGinnis and Diane Bradley are available to pick up donations at any time. Just reach out and we will be there. P.S. Don't forget to let us know if you submit a donation on line. We need you on the Giving Tree.



The Advocacy Committee, Teddy Buzek, Betsy Capitano, Carol Kent

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

Nov. 25-Dec. 10, 2026

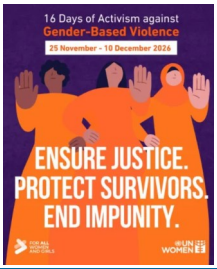
The 2026 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence runs from November 25 to December 10, 2026. The official UNiTE campaign theme is "*UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensure justice, protect survivors, end impunity*", focusing on removing legal, social, and digital barriers to justice.

Key Dates

November 25: **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

December 6: **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

December 10: **Human Rights Day**



Did you know that the "How could I live without wind shield wipers?", were invented by a woman, Mary Anderson in 1903 in NYC. She saw bus drivers reaching out the window to try to clear them- and solved it!"

The Advocacy Committee

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ONTARIO COUNCIL

The Catalyst

ONTARIO COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER

Vol 3, November, 2026

Speaker Series | Advocacy | News



CFUW Brantford, with Ontario Council president Sandra Shaw in attendance, pushed their scholarship fundraising to over $33,000 at their inaugural High Tea. A fabulous event co-chaired by Teddy Buzek and Arlene Cass. Congratulations!

Teams and Techie Tidbits

Here are a few interesting tidbits to help you navigate your online experience.

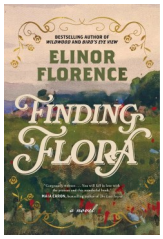
No One in the Meeting?
You are in the right spot if you followed the link you were sent. It is most likely the meeting has not started yet. Either stay or try back closer to the meeting time.

Can't see the Presentation or another issue?
Drop a quick text to 416-276-0590 to make sure all is working on the end of the presenter.

Can't hear?
Same as above—send a quick text to 416-276-0590.



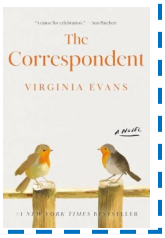
Monday Evening Book Group: The Monday evening Book Group recently met at the home of Barb M. for a lively discussion of *Finding Flora* by Elinor Florence.
This is a compelling work of historical fiction set on the Alberta prairie in 1905, during the early years of Western Canadian homesteading. The story follows Flora Craigie, a young Scottish immigrant who escapes an abusive marriage by jumping out of a moving train west of Calgary. Finding a loophole in the law that prohibited single women from claiming land, she sets out to build a new life by claiming her own homestead. She soon discovers that her nearest neighbours in 'Ladyville' are also women carving out independent lives in a challenging and often unforgiving landscape. As they face prejudice, hardship, and threats to their homes, these very different women learn the strength of standing together. There is a cast of unforgettable characters, ranging from friend to foe. The themes of murder, romance, fire, politics, friendship and constant adversity keep the reader engaged and wondering what on earth will happen next!
Author, Elinor Florence, draws on her own prairie upbringing and Scottish homesteading and Indigenous ancestry to bring this fascinating period of Canadian history to life. A former journalist and bestselling novelist, Florence is known for her carefully researched stories that highlight the often-overlooked experiences of women in Canada's past. *Finding Flora* is ultimately a story of courage, resilience, independence, and the power of community. Kay R.



Day Trippers: Our first event of the year, a murder mystery dinner, took place at The Rope Factory. We 5 amateur sleuths attempted to discover "who done it" while being entertained and enjoying a delicious meal. Colleen P.



Thursday Book Club: Thursday Book Club enjoyed a lively discussion of *The Correspondent* on Nov. 5. The group consensus was that the book is highly recommended. Colleen P.



Creative Cookery:
The Creative Cookery group enjoyed the results of our experimenting with new recipes chosen by our hostess, Linda H.
Sandra H.





Walking Group:
Out enjoying a glorious fall day!





Food for Thought: Pot luck fun!

Dining Out: In October, the Dining out Group chose to attend our Club's High Tea fundraiser. Devlin's Country Bistro catered the event and it was no surprise that the food and presentation were outstanding. The venue was lovely. It was delightful to see everyone all dolled up in our finery for the event. The atmosphere was optimistic and joyful. We would like to give high praise to our club for its first - and hopefully annual - high tea. Linore F.



2026-2027 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT IN NAME:
- Barbara Melara

PAST PRESIDENT:
- Janet Kempster

ROTATING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM:
- Diane Bradley/Pat McGinnis—June to August
- Catherine Sawyer— September
- Betsy Capitano—October
- Wendy Bethune—November
- Maria Timmons—December, January
- Catherine Sawyer- February
- Linda Tripp—March
- Dian Kuzyk—April
- Barbara Melara—May

SECRETARY:
Arlene Cass

TREASURER: Maria Timmons

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
- **Advocacy:** Teddy Buzek
- **Communications:** Sandra Hughes
- **Interest Groups:** Roma Makkreel
- **Membership:** Marsha Skrypuch
- **Program:** Linda Tripp
- **Scholarship:** Karen Innes
- **Social:** Kate Gardiner/Karen Spada

2026 Tax Receipts

The tax receipts will be made available in January. Tax receipts will only be issued for donations of $20.00 or more in the calendar year.

Maria T., Treasurer

AGM and Banquet



The AGM and Banquet for 2027 will be on Wednesday May 26, 2027. The location is yet to be finalized.
Karen S.



General Meeting

Time: 6:30pm, November 25, 2026
Location: Best Western Hotel, Alexander Graham Bell Meeting Room or in your home, at your computer on a Teams call.



Program: Tobi Bruce is Head of Exhibitions and Collections and Chief Curator at the Art Gallery of Hamilton with over 35 years experience. She has curated over 80 exhibitions, lectured and published extensively, and participated as a panelist at conferences nationally and internationally. Tobi has also been an invited essayist for publications with the National Art Gallery of Canada, The Art Gallery of Ontario, The McMichael Canadian Art Collection, and the Vancouver Art Gallery, among others.

Tobi has taught Canadian Art at McMaster University and has been a Board member with the International Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC) and Galleries Ontario Galleries (GOG).

Tobi will be speaking about the steps taken to prove or disprove the authenticity of artworks. Using two works that might be by famed artist, Tom Thompson as a case study, she will walk through the various questions asked and raised in the authentication process. Janet K.



It is time once again for our annual pot luck Holiday Social.

This year's Holiday Social will be held on **Wednesday, December 2nd, beginning at 5:00 p.m.** We hope you will join us!

Barb Melara has very kindly offered to host again this year. Barb's address and phone number will be sent as we get closer to the date.
As in previous years, we will celebrate with a potluck of appetizers and desserts. To help organize the food, please bring the following according to the first letter of your last name:

A to K: Appetizer
L to W: Dessert

This year's social will be an **alcohol-free event**. The Social Committee will provide non-alcoholic punch, sparkling water, tea and coffee. Please do not bring any alcoholic beverages. You are welcome to bring another beverage of your choice, provided it is alcohol-free. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping us comply with the CFUW insurance policy.

Please bring a **toonie** to help cover the cost of renting plates and glasses.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our Holiday Social! What a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season, with great food and, most importantly, the pleasure of spending time together and enjoying the company of our amazing members.
Karen S.