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**President's Message**  
**Brenda Wallace****Reason, Season or Lifetime?**

When you joined your local CFUW club, did you do so for a reason, a season or a lifetime? A reason meets a need or answers a prayer; a season offers an opportunity to share, teach or learn, and a lifetime builds a solid foundation. My reasons for joining CFUW were to support scholarships for women and to work with like-minded women. My seasons have taken me on to local executive, as liaison for the National General Meeting we hosted, a term as Regional Director of Saskatchewan, Vice President of the Prairies and now, as your National President. What experiences I have had to share, learn from and enjoy! My lifetime is a commitment to the goals of CFUW that resonate within my soul. I have made many new friends across the country and enjoyed learning from the experiences working with such knowledgeable and talented women.

I hope you still have many reasons for participating in CFUW. I hope you enjoy all your seasons with us. If you have a lifetime commitment to CFUW—bless you. You are the strength that holds us together through good times and bad. Thank you to all, whatever your own reasons, seasons and lifetimes you have devoted to CFUW. As individual women, we do have a right to speak and a responsibility to act. Together, we will make a difference.

Brenda Wallace  
CFUW President



## **Message de la présidente Brenda Wallace**

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### **Un engagement qui peut mener loin...**

Lorsque vous avez décidé de vous joindre à votre club local de la FCFDU, l'avez-vous fait pour une raison précise, pour quelque temps ou en vue d'un engagement à long terme? Selon le cas, cela pouvait être la réponse à un besoin ou à un désir, une saison de votre vie propice au partage, à l'apprentissage et à l'enseignement, ou l'occasion d'établir des bases solides et durables. Je me suis jointe à la Fédération pour encourager l'octroi de bourses d'études aux femmes et pour travailler avec des femmes ayant des objectifs similaires. Au fil des saisons, je suis devenue membre du comité de direction local, soit agente de liaison pour l'assemblée générale nationale se déroulant dans notre région. J'ai occupé le poste de directrice régionale de la Saskatchewan, de vice-présidente de la région des Prairies et, maintenant, je suis votre présidente nationale. Que d'expériences j'ai pu partager, vivre et apprécier! À long terme, je souhaite continuer à adhérer aux objectifs de la Fédération qui me vont droit au cœur. J'ai lié de nombreuses amitiés dans toutes les régions du pays et j'ai pris plaisir à apprendre de femmes chevronnées et douées.

J'espère que vous avez encore de nombreuses raisons pour participer aux activités de la Fédération et que cela demeure, au fil des saisons, toujours agréable. Si vous vous êtes engagée à long terme, nous vous en sommes très reconnaissantes. Vous êtes la force qui nous permet de tenir le coup durant les bonnes et les mauvaises périodes. Je vous remercie toutes, peu importe la raison pour laquelle vous avez décidé de faire partie de la Fédération. En tant que femmes, nous avons le droit de parler et la responsabilité d'agir. Ensemble, nous allons changer les choses.

La présidente de la FCFDU,  
Brenda Wallace

**About this Edition:  
CFUW – What are We? The View of the Past Presidents  
Doris Mae Oulton, VP Communications**



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As many of you know, we have been looking at how to market CFUW; what makes us different, appealing, what would attract new members to join us.

Some of you participated in the discussion about ‘what are the ten things we do best’. Our current list reads:

1. We have welcoming, inclusive Clubs that support education and life-long learning.
2. We promote equality and justice for girls and women.
3. We build partnerships and work for social change on many fronts.
4. We encourage our members to use their education and training to serve in their communities.
5. We raise millions of dollars across Canada to fund fellowships, scholarships and awards.
6. We act independently as a national, self-funded, non-governmental, and non-partisan organization.
7. We speak with a voice that is heard by governments.
8. We identify emerging issues for action.
9. We encourage leadership and fellowship among our members.
10. We work to do all of these on an international basis through our active participation in IFUW.

It is part of a ‘branding exercise’ that is planned to help CFUW ‘stand out’.

We decided that one of our really important resources was our Past Presidents so we asked them the question “what does CFUW mean to you?” This issue includes their responses.

Our next issue will have articles by Linda Souter and Susan Russell to answer the question “Why does CFUW matter? If any of you are inspired to contribute to the edition, please contact me: Doris Mae Oulton, VP Communication:

[cysolutions@shaw.ca](mailto:cysolutions@shaw.ca) . And please, join me on FACEBOOK:  
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=2232370205>

## **CFUW: Friendships, Fellowship, Participation**

### **Dr. Ruth M. Bell, CM, BA, MA, LLD, DSL (1973–1976)**

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It took 10 years at 7 universities in 3 countries on 2 continents to earn my BA and then to get a job in Ottawa. In September 1955, I noticed in the social column of a local newspaper that the University Women's Club invited new graduates to its meeting.

At that meeting I encountered women who became friends for years. I also learned of the need for equality for women and about volunteerism and participation. I learned about a meeting in Paris of the IFUW where members of the Ottawa club attended. These members reported on a project of the IFUW in which the Ottawa club wished to participate. I replied to the request for help. My first assignment was to lick envelopes and stamps. Later I became President of the Ottawa club, then President of CFUW and led a delegation of members to an IFUW meeting in Japan; we also visited University women in South Korea, Hong Kong, China and California. In IFUW I was on the executive in status of women and in academic credentials.

In CFUW I learned of the significance of participation in public affairs and actions to strengthen the status of women.

In my long membership in CFUW I have treasured many friendships in IFUW countries, achieved many benefits for women, enjoyed volunteering and valued CFUW as a vital role in my long life.

Enjoy your fellowship and friendships. Participate in volunteering in equality for women at home and in the world.

## **What CFUW Means for Me**

### **Tammy Irwin (1988–1990)**

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Several key words describe CFUW for me. **Flexibility** is the first, not meaning *without backbone*, but *with the ability to answer many needs*. Members may join at any point in life for any of several reasons: we offer friendship, networking, intellectual stimulation, personal development, involvement in advocacy, the administration of scholarships and bursaries, and leadership opportunities.

**Grassroots** is over-used, but in our case means that the Federation depends on the solid base of our clubs. Most of our policy originates with the clubs and they are

passionate in developing and debating the proposed resolutions. The funding to support our national and international activities comes from the clubs. While we offer national fellowships, most clubs also offer some form of educational assistance to students.

**Policy** underlies our advocacy and we have a broad base of democratically developed and approved resolutions reflecting the concerns of our membership. I am concerned that much of our policy pertains to both sexes, yet some may discount it if it doesn't appear to focus on women and girls. I do not want my grandsons to be perpetrators of violence any more than I want my granddaughters to be its victims.

**Independence** is important when we go to government to forward our policy. Because we are self-funded, we are beholden to no group or government. We are free to advocate on behalf of those who are unable to speak for themselves. We do not fear funding cuts from programs that have become unpopular with one or more levels of government, as has happened to several of our sister organizations.

We are proving to have more **visibility** in our national advocacy when government knows us and seeks our opinion before they develop new policy, and also when we work with other organizations on a common goal. Unfortunately **invisibility** is still a challenge at the local level. How many of us have heard the comment that a woman graduated some time ago but has never heard of us? I feel we need to concentrate our efforts in promoting ourselves to graduates rather than lowering our standards of eligibility.

And finally, **Communication** has improved considerably with our use of the internet. However, we still have a challenge in convincing our club members to access the information.

## Reflections of a Past President Peggy Matheson (1990–1994)



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When I joined the Victoria UWC in 1955, little did I realize the doors that were opening for me—for personal growth, as well as for the opportunity to make a difference in the local, national and international communities. CFUW is a unique organization in which membership is open to a wide spectrum of women with common objectives but individual ways of approaching the challenges presented.

We can be proud of the privilege of meeting with various levels of bureaucracy on an annual basis but never asking for financial support. We can be proud of having been awarded a certificate as a UN/50 Global Citizen in recognition of our ongoing activities in areas of peace, security, education, health, poverty and the environment. That we continue in these endeavours is particularly important, as we are the largest federation

within the IFUW. We can be proud of having initiated the Commission on the Status of Women, of promoting Phys Ed for elementary school students and Guidance programmes at the high school level. We can be proud of the way in which our resolutions are derived, cumbersome as it may superficially appear.

Issues that start within clubs or committees, after careful review by the total membership, may become national CFUW policies, policies that are well respected—and even sometimes solicited—beyond our own borders. Annual conferences and the establishment of a national office 25 years ago have allowed CFUW to become more proactive in supporting and initiating efforts to improve the health, education and status of women and girls throughout the world.

**CFUW is...**  
**Phyllis Scott (1994–1996)**

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CFUW is an organization for all women who:

- Believe in equality of opportunity for all
- Want the opportunity to enhance the Status of Women and Human Rights locally, provincially, nationally and internationally
- Believe that organizational policies begin at the grassroots
- Desire the opportunity to provide leadership by making beneficial changes through projects large and small
- Believe that women have unique abilities to be catalysts for policies that improve life for all—but especially for women and girls
- Wish to belong to an organization known to be diverse that reaches out to all cultures
- Want the companionship of informed, committed women
- Know and believe in the value of working in coalitions with other like-minded organizations
- Want to use their own life experiences to mentor girls and women, assisting them at many stages of their working careers
- Want to know that this organization has a strong vibrant Board whose goals are well known and evaluated often, whose methods are acceptable and whose expectations are attainable

## **CFUW's Victories and Important Work**

### **Mavis Moore (1998–2000)**

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CFUW has done much in the 20th century and still has jobs to do in the 21st century. We have scholarships from coast to coast sponsored by individual clubs as well as the National Fellowships to promote the education of women. In our beginning we also fought for suffrage for women. The rights and education for women and girls has always been a focus at home and in the world.

Dec. 6, 1989 is a day no one in Canada should ever forget. Fourteen bright young women were gunned down at École Polytechnique in Montréal. Their crime was being female and seeking an education in what in a deranged mind was thought to be a "Man's Field". As CFUW recoiled in horror we also got busy writing resolutions for gun control. From the beginning, Betty Bayless, Susan Russell and I worked closely with Wendy Cukier and Heidi Rathjen of the Coalition for Gun Control. We were so happy when Bill C-68 passed and CFUW had had a hand in working with the Coalition and the government of the day in bringing that about. I wish I could say that was it but, as you all know, the battle continues and we must make sure that all clubs across Canada write letters to the editors advocating the need for the Long Gun Registry. I know we have been in this battle for nearly 21 years now, but we must not back off. The long gun is the weapon of choice in domestic violence and suicides; we must keep saying that at every opportunity.

We need to go out and recruit aboriginal members for our local clubs. In Saskatchewan many of these women have degrees and Doctorates. We need them and their ideas for the future of CFUW.

When the troops leave Afghanistan, what will happen to the women and girls in that country? How will CFUW /IFUW help them? We must start thinking of that.

Since 1999 the National office has been involved in outreach to other organizations and the government of the day. I am very proud that my board of 1998–2000 hired Ms. Russell and encouraged her to network extensively. She did and this has raised the profile of our organization in the nation's capital.

I am proud of many things the organization has done and we are keeping up with the changing society we live in. Keep those resolutions coming. We will build a safe and better world for women and girls.

## **CFUW – What are We?** **Roberta A. Brooks (2000–2002)**

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CFUW is a nation-wide organization that brings women of like mind together in a spirit of fellowship to share ideas and to take action on issues that are of mutual concern to women and girls to make society better for all.

CFUW provides an environment for educated women to enjoy each other's company in whatever way is most appropriate at whatever stage in life they find themselves.

CFUW welcomes each member in a warm and inviting atmosphere to find friendship, to expand her life experience and to grow intellectually.

CFUW provides opportunities to meet women from all regions of Canada, to learn of their concerns and to work together to find solutions to problems that affect everyone.

CFUW gives each member the opportunity to make a difference in the world through its United Nations connection and through IFUW.

However, most of all, it is the women a member meets—whether in her own community, in her province or region, or in a country half way around the world—that impacts her life in truly meaningful ways.

## **What does CFUW Mean?** **Rose Beatty (2004–2006)**



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CFUW has been an important part of my life for almost 30 years. Although I first joined CFUW for the friendship of women in a new environment, I soon found that many other influences of the organization continued to enrich my life and educate me in so many ways.

There are many ways that CFUW has meaning:

- Provides a true base on which to find meaningful friendships and fellowship in a community of educated and caring women
- Allows for establishing key policies through researched resolutions that make a difference to others
- Advocates for women and children locally, provincially, nationally and internationally through governments and the United Nations consultations

- Provides opportunities for self-enrichment and confidence-building through leadership experiences and working with others
- Delivers fun times through interest groups and functions locally, provincially, nationally and internationally
- Allows a global connection and links of friendship through internet discussion groups and websites, all of which increase our understanding and appreciation of global issues, especially as related to women
- Provides a chance to see so many parts of our country and the world by attending organizational meetings such as AGMs and Triennial Conferences
- Provides lifelong learning through many stimulating programmes and related activities at all levels
- Provides an organization in which we can further support education for women through our Fellowship, scholarship and bursary programmes in Clubs, CFUW and IFUW
- Opens the doors to elected officials and making a difference in advancing causes for the rights of women through the voices of over 9000 women in CFUW

**Voice and Friendship - Caecilia van Peski and Ardith Toogood**  
**Ardith Toogood (2006–2008)**




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CFUW is a voice on grassroots policy issues and, while our voice in Canada is in itself an influential instrument, its international scope through our affiliation with IFUW and special consultative status with the UN makes it amazingly and widely significant. Roll in the opportunity for members to forge friendships in our communities, across the country and among our global sisters and the result is a vibrant and dynamic organization.

Voice and friendship: —what we do and why we stay. These features of CFUW are interconnected; and although they vary in proportion depending on member/club interests and expectations, they nevertheless define our federation. Let me give an example of their tandem force.

In October, voice and friendship merged in a unique way when a friend I had met in New York City at the 2010 UN Commission on the Status of Women was able to speak at the CFUW Ontario East Gathering on 1325, the UN Security Council Resolution on women, peace and security that CFUW has been championing.

Caecilia van Peski, Dutch Women’s Representative to the UN, was intrigued by the work of CFUW and, in preparation for her visit, contacted the Dutch Association of University Women that she plans to join.

Caecilia spoke compellingly about her observations in Rwanda and Eastern Congo and about her upcoming mission in the Republic of Georgia where she will be the only woman among 40 peacekeepers. She ended her speech with a re-reading of her address to the UN General Assembly, delivered the week before in observance of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1325 and outlining needed steps for successful implementation.

Members of the audience warmed to Caecilia and asked her to stay in touch and to send reports of her peacekeeping experiences. Voice and friendship: —a powerful combination for the advancement of women’s rights.

*Note: Caecilia van Peski’s Address to the UN on 1325 and the Press Release of her visit to CFUW are posted in the International Section of the website.*

## **Opportunities Patricia DuVal (2008–2010)**



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What CFUW has meant to me is *opportunities*: opportunities to meet people and make friends; opportunities for life-long learning; opportunities to help other women and to have fun. I met new and interesting people in my local Club, learned from a wide variety of speakers at our monthly meetings and participated in interest groups as varied as gourmet cooking, travel and music history.

CFUW grows on you. The more I participated, the more I learned about the organization and the more interested I became in its many activities. At Provincial and National AGMs I met women from across Canada, helped decide our national policies, and heard speakers from around the world. On the National Board I was impressed by the variety of members’ experience and talent. Visiting clubs across the country as national president, I had the opportunity to appreciate both our geographic and cultural diversity and the common interests that hold us together. I also met with legislators, experienced the generosity of my many hostesses and had a wealth of new and interesting experiences, including lunch at a sheep farm in Alberta, a boat tour of the Newfoundland fog and my first flight in a float plane from the Sunshine Coast to Nanaimo.

CFUW is an organization with many levels. It is active local Clubs, an independent national organization that is not afraid to speak out for women’s interests and an organization of women helping women in 72 countries. Where else can you learn so much and do so much to help women while making such good friends and having so much fun?

## Club Milestones

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### CFUW Kelowna Celebrates 50 Years of Service

On Saturday, September 11, 2010, CFUW Kelowna celebrated 50 years of service and conviviality. Sixty current and former members wearing 1950's hats and gloves gathered to recall and enjoy past achievements and good times. Held at Sarsons Activity Centre on the edge of Lake Okanagan in beautiful fall sunshine, it was a setting worthy of this festive event. To entertain, several members performed a radio skit, *Have You the Minutes?* one of many plays written by Nancy Woodworth, in which individual foibles, club business and Kelowna happenings intertwine to everyone's amusement. The 93-year-old playwright commented on how her plays, written over the years, reflect Kelowna life and as such are like time capsules. After a pot luck feast, individuals recollected memorable club happenings over the years—interesting and entertaining to all present. Nancy Woodworth cut a commemorative cake and special mention was made of two other 90-year-old former members present at the event. Members are looking forward to the book, *Ahead of Our Times* edited by Pam Laing, in which many of the historical and personal anecdotes of CFUW Kelowna over its 50 years have been recorded. It will be for sale in November. This grand occasion took a long time to disperse as members reminisced and visited and took pride in their efforts to promote education and well-being for all women.

Congratulations to the Kelowna Club for the publication of *Ahead of Our Times: Five Decades of Forward Thinking*. This is the club's history and includes an overview of each decade since the Club's founding in 1960, plus chapters summarizing their active role in the National CFUW and in BC Council. Photographs, anecdotes and a look at where CFUW is today are included. They prepared it scouring minutes and archives and adding personal reminiscences from over past events.

## Hotel Discounts for Members staying in Ottawa and Montreal

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CFUW National Office has secured discounted rates for CFUW members travelling in Ottawa and Montreal.

Best Western Victoria Park Suites  
377 O'Connor Street  
Ottawa, ON K2P 2M2

[Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2011:

\$112/night for standard room,

\$132/night for 1 bdrm suite, \$152 for executive one bdrm suite]

Holiday Inn Montreal Midtown

420 Sherbrooke Street

Montreal, PQ H3A 1B4

[Nov. 1 – Dec.29, 2011: \$115/night]