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Please circulate this publication to all of your Club members

President' Message**Patricia DuVal**

Spring is here and we are all starting to think of relaxing in the summer sun. But spring is still a busy time for CFUW.

Advocacy: As organizations disappear, those of us who remain become more and more important. Among her other meetings, our Executive Director Susan Russell was called to present a brief to Parliamentary Committee on the Status of Women on the lack of women in non-traditional jobs – on four days notice! And our Coordinator of International Relations has been attending UN meetings in New York. Check out their reports for more details.

Finance: Spring is budget time for CFUW. The finance meetings are being held this week to review our progress so far and to prepare a draft of next year's budget for your approval at the AGM.

Fellowships: It is also the time for the annual meeting of the Fellowships Committee. After a winter of emails and phone calls, they meet to make the final decision on which of the 630 applicants will receive the 15 fellowships.

Governance: As you may know, the Governance proposal has been approved, with a 75 percent majority, and the applications are in for the Board and RD positions. The Governance Committee is now working on the details of the change-over. As requested at last year's AGM,

the Constitution and By-Laws Committee is on track to have a proposal for streamlining the documents ready for the AGM.

While you are planning your vacation, don't forget to reserve July 15 to 18 for an enjoyable visit to our capital city of Ottawa. This is a great opportunity to see the city and its many attractions. And it is your best opportunity to participate in CFUW decision-making at a national level. Come and make your club's wishes known and share your experiences with other women from across the country.

Spring also means Provincial Council meetings, so I will be seeing some of you there – as many as my travel budget will stretch to attending!

Message de la présidente

Patricia DuVal

Le printemps est ici, et nous commençons toutes à songer à nous détendre sous le soleil d'été. Toutefois, le printemps demeure une période occupée pour la FCFDU.

Sensibilisation: Tandis que certaines organisations disparaissent, celles qui demeurent deviennent de plus en plus importantes. Parmi plusieurs autres réunions, notre directrice générale, Susan Russel, a été priée de présenter au Comité parlementaire sur le statut de la femme un mémoire sur l'absence de femmes dans les emplois non traditionnels – à quatre jours d'avis ! Et notre CRI a assisté à une réunion de l'ONU à New York. Consultez leurs rapports pour de plus amples détails.

Finances: Le printemps est pour la FCFDU le temps du budget. Les réunions des finances ont lieu cette semaine pour passer en revue nos progrès jusqu'à présent et pour préparer l'ébauche du budget de l'an prochain, qui sera soumis à votre approbation au cours de l'AGA.

Bourses: C'est également le temps de la réunion annuelle de notre Comité des bourses. Après un hiver rempli de courriels et de coups de téléphone, les membres se réunissent pour décider, parmi les 630 candidates, lesquelles se mériteront une des 15 bourses.

Gouvernance : Comme vous le savez peut-être, la proposition sur la gouvernance a été approuvée à une majorité de 75%, et nous avons reçu des demandes pour les postes au Conseil et au RD. Le Comité de la gouvernance se penche maintenant sur les détails de la transition. Tel que demandé lors de l'AGA de l'an dernier, le Comité de la constitution et des règlements aura une proposition de prêter, pour l'AGA, au sujet de la simplification des documents.

En planifiant vos vacances, n'oubliez pas de réserver du 15 au 18 juillet pour visiter Ottawa, notre superbe capitale. Ce sera une merveilleuse occasion de visiter la ville et d'apprécier ses nombreuses attractions. C'est également votre meilleure occasion de participer au processus de prise de décisions de la FCFDU au niveau national. Venez faire connaître les désirs de votre club, et partager vos expériences avec celles d'autres femmes

President Elect Brenda Wallace is already hard at work learning about CFUW and the things that she will deal with when she becomes President in July, 2010 at the end of the AGM in Ottawa.

de partout au pays.

Le printemps est également l'occasion des réunions des conseils provinciaux, et j'espère vous y rencontrer – et participer à autant de rencontres que le permettra mon budget de déplacements !

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER OF CFUW? (What I get for my dues.)

Why I belong to CFUW

Being a member of CFUW gives me:

- A network of friends with like minds
- The opportunity to share and use my talents and knowledge
- The ability to support and influence change for better
- The chance to contribute in a positive way to the future of women and girls and a place where my contribution is valued
- A sense of focus that will sustain advances achieved
- A voice to speak out in ways that will improve/protect status of women
- The opportunity to work and network with like-minded groups¹
- Discuss and research resolutions, make amendments, vote on policies – that will be acted on locally, nationally and internationally
- The opportunity to be an advocate on a CFUW policies²
- Membership in a nationally and internationally recognized and respected group for women
- Opportunity to take on a leadership roles in IFUW and in CFUW
- Special consultative status at the UN
- A voice at the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (Education Sector)
- Be part of an organization that prepares and presents briefs to Parliament and Senate committees on behalf of women
- Be a voice for women and girls education and safety
- A qualified staff in Ottawa – fellowships, representation at meetings and events, preparation and distribution of materials, research, contacts
- Opportunities for personal growth
- Recognition of local accomplishments as a member of a well respected group
- Ability to work on local worthwhile projects
- A ready-made network of women to socialize with
- A fellowships and awards program that I can support locally, nationally and internationally

Your dues have more influence in a larger area than you think!

¹ Ad Hoc Coalition for Women's Equality and Human Rights; National Association of Women and the Law; Feminist Alliance for International Action; Canadian Network Against Nuclear Weapons etc.

² Pay equity; employment equity; gun control; nuclear disarmament; peace; climate change; women's equality; financial literacy; UN resolution 1325 – women, peace and security; literacy and more

Membership Survey: A big thank-you to all of the members of CFUW who participated in the on-line members' survey. **The deadline is extended to April 15** so keep your surveys coming. All questions should be directed to Elizabeth Haynes. Her contact information is on the Survey. cfuw.stratplan@gmail.com

Fellowships and Finance: March 25, 26, 27- hard working members of the CFUW Fellowships³ and Finance⁴ Committees met in Ottawa to review the CFUW finances, set a budget and to revise CFUW Finance and Investment Policies for 2010-2011. Working in a parallel session, members of the Fellowships Committee struggled with the choice of winners among the short-listed candidates. We are proud of our Fellowships winners – and their names will be posted on the website after they have been notified.

Out and About – CFUW Representation
Susan Russell, Executive Director

March 8 marked International Women's Day 2010. I was able to attend several events including CFUW Kanata's Optimal Sexuality for Older Women, by a medical expert in the field. On Monday morning the celebration moved to Parliament Hill and women of all ages gathered at a Breakfast hosted by the NDP party to celebrate their challenges and achievements. That evening, at a large gathering of groups we all celebrated the second annual Femmy Awards. Mr. Ignatieff and members of the Liberal Caucus joined us for that event.

The Parliamentary Committee on the Status of Women called for a study into the representation of women in non-traditional work, both at the university and in trades. CFUW's presentation on March 17 focused on women from a university background and the other two presenters talked about the trades. What followed was a lively discussion with members of the committee and the presenters. Stereotyping appears to be one of the biggest deterrents to women's success. Other items discussed included access to childcare and credit. This committee is made up of members from all parties.

And on March 22 the Famous Five Foundation organized an event and feminists of all ages turned out to hear the Honourable Sheila Copps tell us of her life and times and the many firsts that she brought about: the first MP to give birth while serving in the House; work on women's equality in sport and much more. She told us how she was inspired by the words: "I am woman, hear me roar" saying that there is still much to roar about.

March 23: Brenda Wallace, Patricia DuVal and Susan Russell met with Irene Mathysen, NDP Critic for the Status of Women and among other things discussed we talked about the coming G8 event and the need to continue to advocate to support gun control and the gun registry.

March 24: CFUW President, Patricia DuVal, President Elect Brenda Wallace and Executive Director Susan Russell met with Status of Women Critic, Irene Mathysen to discuss issues related to women's equality.

March 26: Letter to the Ottawa Citizen re support for Gun Control.

On March 30 I served as a panelist at an event called "Reconnecting on the Women, Peace and Security"⁵ Agenda: New Developments, New Opportunities. This bilingual workshop was

³ Martha Kennedy stepped in as Acting Fellowships Chair this year when Beulah Fernando was sidelined by illness. Beulah is recovering and Martha did a splendid job for CFUW.

⁴ Chaired by Lynn Franklin and assisted by several new members. Carol Hare of CFUW Mississauga will become Director of Finance after the AGM in July.

⁵ WPS

sponsored by *Peacebuild's Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group (GPWG)* that brings together Canadian academics, organizations, and activists. The workshop objectives are to:

- Reconnect the GPWG membership and reach out to new actors interested in the WPS agenda;
- Update the membership on national and international developments on WPS and provide an opportunity for learning from recent practice;
- Provide an opportunity to initiate planning on initiative(s) to mark in Canada the 10th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; and
- Explore potential projects on the WPS agenda that could move forward.

Since the adoption of UNSCR 1325 ten years ago, further UN resolutions⁶ have been developed in support. They deal with other aspects of women's involvement in peace and security, and in particular focus on the use of rape as a weapon of war, intimidation and ethnic cleansing. Canada's action plan remains situated on the desk of a bureaucrat. Organizations at the meeting plan to develop an alternative and woman centred action plan that can be shared with the government.

April 1: CFUW participation in an Ottawa University based study on State funding and the Canadian Women's Movement.

AGM 2010: Registration for AGM 2010 will be launched April 6, 2010 – go to www.cfuw.org to register. And don't forget to bring an item to contribute to Monique's Boutique and raise money for the CFUW Charitable Trust Fund for Fellowships.

AGM 2011: "Mark your calendars, top up your travel fund, and plan an exciting trip way down east. CFUW AGM 2011 will be held at the Sheraton Newfoundland Hotel in St. John's, August 4-6, 2011. Those who have visited Newfoundland always want to return; those who have not, always want to go! We look forward to seeing you here.

Contact: Grace Stapleton- ges@nl.rogers.com for more information."

And more AGM news: CFUW Victoria will host the CFUW AGM in 2012

⁶ UNSCR 1820, 1882, 1888 and 1889

INTERNATIONAL SCENE

CFUW Coordinator, International Relations (CIR)
Ardith Toogood

IFUW News

1. **30th IFUW Triennial Conference, Mexico City, August 5 – 9, 2010:** If you are planning to attend, let the Ardith Toogood (CIR) know so that she can add you to the attendees listserv. Check for conference at www.ifuw.org.
2. **IFUW Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions:** The proposed six Constitutional Amendments and ten Policy Resolutions (three from CFUW) for consideration at the 2010 Triennial Conference are posted on the IFUW website. Send your suggestions for amendments to the CIR with a copy to the CFUW National Office.
3. **Candidates for IFUW Leadership Positions for the 2010 – 2013 Triennium:** CFUW is proud of four members who are running for IFUW office: Phyllis Scott (currently IFUW VP) for IFUW President; Roberta Brooks (currently IFUW Assistant Treasurer) for a second appointed term; Marianne Singh-Waraich (currently CFUW Director of Educational Affairs) for member, IFUW Resolutions Committee; and Marian Ennis for another term as Convener, Hegg Hoffet Fund. The complete list of candidates is on the IFUW website. Send your thoughts on voting to the CIR.
4. **IFUW Fellowships and Grants International Competition for 2011 – 2012:** Applications are due October 1, 2010. Competition details are available at www.ifuw.org/fellowships/international.shtml. CFUW funds the A. Vibert Douglas Fellowship, named in honour of the first CFUW member to serve as IFUW President (1947 – 1950).

UN News

1. **UNCSW54:** CFUW was represented at the 54th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) March 1- 12, 2010 in New York City with the theme **Beijing +15**. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the General Assembly on International Women's Day, speaking on the progress made, and challenges still unmet, in the implementation of the 12 points of the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference for Women in 1995, a landmark blueprint for women's equality and rights. The CFUW Report on UNCSW54 will be posted at www.cfuw.org.
2. **Signatory** – CFUW is a signatory to **two letters to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:** one requesting improved conditions for civil society participation and input at UNCSW sessions, and the other calling for women representatives on the recently appointed all-male High-Level Advisory Board on Climate Change Financing.

International News

1. CFUW is working with the **People's Summit on the G8 and G20**, preparing for peaceful action/demonstration in Toronto, June 18 – 20, just prior to the world leaders' 2010 meetings in Canada. Details soon.
2. **Thank you** to all Clubs and individuals who contributed to the **International Women's Day fundraiser, Sahabhagita**, a project of our partner CARE Canada to empower marginalized Nepalese women. Donations are still welcome and will be quadrupled by CIDA. All cheques must be received by CFUW National Office by **May 21, 2010**.
3. **Second notice:** Send your suggestions for the **CFUW International Women's Day 2011 Fundraiser** to the CIR by June 30, 2010.
4. **World March of Women:** Clubs are encouraged to plan a march in their communities for the fall of 2010. In 2005, over 5000 organizations marched in 164 countries to highlight issues of concern to women. See the kit on the website for details and get involved.
5. **Signatory** – CFUW has supported work on the Human Right to Peace since the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace was first presented to the 4th session of the Human Rights Council on March 15, 2007. In February 2010 both IFUW and CFUW proceeded to the next stage, and with a host of other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) signed the **Joint Written Statement on the Codification of the Human Right to Peace** that has been presented to the 13th session of the Human Rights Council. A UN Convention on the Human Right to Peace is expected this year. Collaborative global efforts by NGOs on pressing issues like peace, climate change and women's economic situation form the voice of civil society in influencing and shaping Conventions, Protocols and Declarations that can in turn influence national legislation.

Hold Up Half the Sky Event

CFUW members had the opportunity to join with CARE Canada for a special showing of the *Hold Up Half the Sky*. Those of us who attended in Ottawa listened to women's stories from Afghanistan and Africa and had time to think about the value that women add to their society where they literally hold up half the sky. The New York event was filmed just weeks earlier with Mia Farrow, the Duchess of York and several UN representatives as well as the author. The American Association of University Women, like CFUW has supported CAREs overseas development aid.

This spring, join your fellow CFUW members to support SAHABHAGITA - CARE Canada's Gender and Peacebuilding Project in Nepal

CARE is working in Nepal, one of the world's most impoverished nations, to help some of the poorest and most vulnerable women in the region stand up for their rights and have a voice in community decisions.

Through the SAHABHAGITA project CARE is reaching out to key influencers, including social and political leaders, existing women's alliances and networks and the media, to promote social inclusion and to advocate for justice, equality and human dignity for the most marginalized women in Nepal.

Peacebuilding community groups are being created as a forum for women to gain awareness of their rights and to develop the confidence to speak out against practices that are harmful to women.

The SAHABHAGITA project is also helping women enter decision-making roles, where they can effect positive change for other women who would otherwise have no rights and feel very much alone.



A powerful story

Thanks to CARE's SAHABHAGITA project, Kalawati Bogati has been empowered to fight for her rights.

Kalawati Bogati lives with her husband in the village of Krishnapur in western Nepal. Kalawati used to suffer nightly beatings from her alcoholic husband. Having lost all dignity and self-respect, she felt powerless and imprisoned in her own home.

Then Kalawati decided to get involved in one of CARE's women's forums. She started interacting with other women in her community, taking part in workshops and training sessions. For the first time ever she felt empowered to fight for her rights. With the support of other women in her community, Kalawati was able to stand-up to her husband and regain her dignity and self-esteem.

With CFUW's support, CARE can inspire powerful transformations for thousands more women like Kalawati.

Make a powerful gift today with CARE! Thanks to a special partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency, every dollar donated to the SAHABHAGITA project will be matched three to one, making four times the impact!

There are only a few months left to fundraise for SAHABHAGITA, all donations need to be received by June 1st!

For more information, fundraising ideas or to make a donation please contact Sarah Wilson, CARE Canada, 200-9 Gurdwara Road, Ottawa, ON K2E 7X6 e. sarah.wilson@care.ca, t. 613-228-5689.

www.care.ca

Update on Polygamy

West Coast LEAF has been granted leave to intervene at the British Columbia Supreme Court in the Reference on the constitutionality of section 293 of the *Criminal Code* - the "Polygamy Provision".

The practice of polygamy can limit women's choices and create serious vulnerability for young women and girls to sexual and other exploitation.

"We intend to argue that the polygamy provision of the *Criminal Code* is there to prevent the practice of polygamy where such practice is exploitative or abusive of women and children, and so should be interpreted to prohibit harmful conduct," asserts West Coast LEAF Legal Director Kasari Govender.

West Coast LEAF also continues to work with community partners such as CFUW BC Council to ensure that women and children who choose to leave the Bountiful community can access the services and support they need.

The trial is scheduled to take place from November 15, 2010 to January 31, 2011.

La Fondation AFDU Québec remet 27 000\$ en bourses d'études à 19 étudiantes de l'Université Laval!

Le 26 février dernier, au Cercle de l'Université Laval, a eu lieu la cérémonie annuelle de remise de bourses de la Fondation AFDU Québec, filiale de l'association des femmes diplômées des universités de Québec (AFDU Québec) dont un des principaux objectifs est **la promotion de l'éducation supérieure chez les femmes**. La présidente d'honneur était Madame Michèle Audette, ancienne présidente des femmes autochtones du Québec et membre de la Commission de la santé et des services sociaux du Québec et du Labrador. Des bourses pour une valeur totale de 27 000\$ ont été remises à 19 étudiantes de l'Université Laval, dont deux étudiantes autochtones, l'une en médecine et l'autre en astrophysique. Plusieurs invités de marque, notamment mesdames Gina Morency, déléguée de Madame Christine Saint-Pierre, ministre de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition Féminine, Julie Picard, déléguée du recteur de l'Université, et Patricia Duval, présidente de la Fédération canadienne des femmes diplômées des universités étaient présentes. Ces dernières, de même que les partenaires de la Fondation et les membres de l'AFDU Québec, ont eu le plaisir d'entendre les jeunes boursières dévoiler leurs projets de carrière. Toutes ont pu découvrir une relève particulièrement dynamique et prometteuse pour l'avenir de notre société.

Sur la photo on voit madame Julie Picard, déléguée de Monsieur Denis Brière recteur de l'Université Laval, remettant la bourse à Vanessa Bergeron, étudiante autochtone en deuxième année de médecine.

Bomb Scare Interrupts International Women's Day in the Cowichan Valley, Vancouver Island

Judith Blakeston

President, CFUW Cowichan Valley

As part of a community outreach effort this year, the CFUW Club in the Cowichan Valley with other women's groups planned the annual International Women's Day celebration. Using the theme of circles of friendship to link the goals and activities of diverse groups, the traditional potluck supper was to be augmented by a program featuring a speaker on "Food Enough for All - Surviving this Century" as well as song and dance.

About two hundred attendees, primarily women and several men and children, enjoyed the varied buffet. Just as the program started, however, there was a bomb threat and we had to evacuate.

Luckily the nearby Native Friendship Centre could accommodate us for the hour and a half it took to discover the bomb was a hoax. A guitarist sang, we had the 50/50 draw, but when we returned to the rented venue, we could do little more than enjoy the youthful dance theatre, draw for door prizes and clean up.

The perpetrator of the hoax had used his cell phone and was quickly caught. Our event was not the specific target. (A fracas with bar staff earlier was!) Yet our celebration was in disarray. The hall is in a poorly lighted industrial area; roads are uneven, and concrete barriers a hazard in the dark so that several women fell and had minor injuries. Luckily the reality of friendship - among the groups, in the kindness of the RCMP who acted quickly and of the community police who found us a warm place to stay- saved the evening.

Fredericton
Sydelle Grobe

CFUW Fredericton held a luncheon meeting to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Club. Luncheon catered by Windsor Court Residence was followed by UNB Department of History professor Dr. Bonnie Huskins' presentation "Just the Usual Work: the rhythms of work in the diaries of an ordinary woman, Ida Louise Martin (nee Friars) Saint John, N.B. 1945-1992." Windsor Court residents joined club members for the talk and afternoon tea.

"The first recorded meeting of the Club was held on April 19, 1944," said Archivist Elizabeth Malmberg. Within the first few years the Club established aims and objectives which have endured: enlarging and deepening educational interests, promoting friendship among university graduates and stimulating interest in problems of the day. The six decades since its founding have included involvement in numerous community projects, among them: prizes awarded at the Fredericton Music Festival; presenting classic Children's Films at The Playhouse; funding a kindergarten child yearly prior to establishment of public kindergartens; awarding annual school library grants; supporting Transition House and the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation. Providing scholarship money for university women undergraduates is a project that reflects the group's educational interests. Fundraising for scholarships is enthusiastically supported by club members. "These awards are possible because of our annual book fair which has been in existence since 1964," said Malmberg. University awards have benefitted also from the generosity of the late Marjorie Barberie Logue and Charlotte Van Dine who designated funds for scholarships in their estates.

This year's book fair will be held on May 28-29 at the Brookside Mall. "The book fair enriches scholarship funds and also promotes community literacy by offering, affordable books for sale to the public," said President Sydelle Grobe. "Public announcements requesting donations of books for this year's sale will appear in the media next month."

"Staff at Windsor Court are pleased to host receptions of this kind for community groups," said Marketing Director Paul Doucette. "These occasions give our residents opportunities to socialize with the wider Fredericton community and permit residents and staff to demonstrate their pride in the residence."

"Shall We Dance?"

CFUW St. John's added another Interest Group in September: "Women on Tap". The members of this dance group, most of whom had not tap danced before, began with such enthusiasm and commitment that they performed at the club's Christmas Social, making a very impressive debut! Led by members Riva McKee and Judith Prior, the group practices once a week at a local dance studio, and describe the sessions as great exercise, and lots of fun. They are literally "women in action". Members of CFUW St. John's have eight other active interest groups: Crafter's (craft group); Alley Cats (bowling); Ladies Who Lunch; Dining Out; Bridge (four different groups); Art Appreciation; Morning Book Club; and Murder and Mayhem (mystery readers).

BC Council AGM 2010

BC Clubs will meet April 23-25 in Parksville on Vancouver Island to hold their annual AGM and conference. Claire Martin, senior meteorologist with CBC, will be the keynote speaker on Saturday and we look forward to great workshops and fellowship.

Recent News from BC East/North

- CFUW Kelowna is working on the publication of a book celebrating their 50th anniversary this year
- CFUW Prince George President Wendy Thiel and RD Donna Brundige did a half hour interview on their community radio station about CFUW
- The CFUW Cranbrook 2010 Woman of the Year award winner Sandy Zeznik wrote to thank the Club and acknowledged the honour in the Cranbrook Daily Townsman newspaper
- CFUW Vernon is presenting their spring Capsule College series of speakers to the community
- CFUW Nelson recently hosted two speakers who organized the Nelson annual Christmas pantomime and who talked about the history of pantomime around the world

Reminders:

Notice of **CFUW dues** went out at the beginning of March. We very much appreciate all of those who have already completed their **Club information** and sent in their dues. Please be sure to fill in your **membership numbers** and your Club information at the www.cfuwadmin.org site. If you have any difficulty at all with this or with access to the members' only section of the website please contact Gailene Green at cfuwgen@rogers.com or phone 613 234 8252 Ext. 101.

Clubs are reminded that National Office is happy to prepare Anniversary Certificates and "long membership" recognition certificates. Please contact Gailene Green for these.

Now is the time to get saleable items to honour your outgoing President – again contact Gailene Green.

The deadline for articles to the next Communicator is **April 10**. Articles should be between 250 to 300 words. The final Communicator for this year will come out at the end of April.