

cfuw THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER

ANNUAL REPORT



2014-2015

Cover photos courtesy of:

Top left: UWC Montreal Inc.'s participation in Centraide's March of 1000 Umbrellas to fight poverty

Centre top: Club members Diane Siegel and Beverley Snow preparing new posters for CFUW St. John's, Newfoundland Art Posters in Schools (NAPS) program which feature the work of Newfoundland and Labrador artists and are distributed to schools in the St. John's and surrounding areas.

Centre bottom: CFUW Truro Book Sale

Top right: University Women Helping Afghan Women (UWHAW) - Afghan girls tossing their hats in the air having graduated from the Gawharshad Institute of Higher Learning in Kabul, 11 of them were supported by the CFUW Ottawa group.

Bottom: "Women on the Bridge" CFUW Guelph International Women's Day



Message from CFUW President and Executive Director

2014 was a year that saw CFUW rising to address the challenges that women and girls still face in the advancement of equality and social justice. CFUW continued its national initiative begun last year to support women and girls affected by violence in Canada. Members were active in their communities raising money to help women pursue post-secondary education. Not only was CFUW involved at the local, provincial and national levels of civic engagement, it was active on the international front through such initiatives as attending the United Commission on the Status of Women whose focus was the review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action since its adoption in 1995.

Throughout this summary report, you will see highlights of our actions which demonstrate the power of women working together to improve the human rights of women and girls.

Doris Mae Oulton
National President

Robin Jackson
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Doris Mae Oulton President
Linda Russell VP British Columbia
Fran Leggett VP Prairies
Brenda Robertson VP Ontario
Brenda Shanahan VP Quebec
Grace Hollett VP Atlantic
Fiorenza Albert-Howard VP Finance
Teri Shaw VP Advocacy
Karen Dunnett VP Membership
Cheryl Hayles VP International Relations
Kathryn Wilkinson.....VP Communications
.....& Governance

Standing Committee Chairs

Myra Willis.. Articles and Bylaws Committee
Patricia McGregor ..Fellowships Committee
Grace Stapleton....Nominations Committee
Eleanor Scarth.....Resolutions Committee

Regional Directors

Barbara DuMoulinVancouver Island
Marg Picard BC West
Ruth Mellor BC Interior
Madeline Kalbach..... Alberta
Margaret Hendry Saskatchewan
Fran MylesManitoba
Kaarina Tulisalo Ontario North
Cheryl Ambrose Ontario West
Deborah Harasym Ontario South
Pat Joyce Ontario Central
Leila MetcalfOntario East
Sandra Thomson..... Ontario Huron
Patricia DuVal..... Quebec English
Debra Christiansen-Stowe..Quebec French
Roseline AndersonNew Brunswick
Heather Huestis..... Prince Edward Island
Janet Willwerth..... Nova Scotia
Barbara Clancy...Newfoundland & Labrador

CFUW is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with over 100 CFUW Clubs, located in every province across Canada. Since its founding in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace. It holds special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. CFUW is the largest affiliate of Graduate Women International (formerly known as International Federation of University Women), which represents women worldwide.

CFUW's Mission Statement

CFUW will continue to enhance its role as a national, bilingual, independent organization striving to promote equality, social justice, fellowship and life-long learning for women and girls.

Strategic Aims

1. **Membership:** Build and strengthen membership to sustain a healthy organization while continuing our advocacy and educational support and initiatives.
2. **Public Profile:** Raise the public profile of CFUW so that our ongoing and significant contributions to Canadian society are fully recognized.
3. **Advocacy:** Increase the effectiveness of CFUW's advocacy role by assisting our membership to continue and enhance their involvement in advocacy and social action and extending our impact through partnerships.
4. **Scholarships/Fellowships:** encourage Clubs to begin/continue scholarship programs and strengthen the effectiveness of national fellowship programs.
5. **Sustainability:** Build organizational capacity at the Board, committee, regional and club level to maintain CFUW's ability to reach goals.

**SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:
NEARLY \$1 MILLION RAISED IN 2014-2015**

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" — Nelson Mandela

In 2014/15, CFUW Clubs and the CFUW Fellowships Program awarded close to \$1 million for education. CFUW has been helping women pursue post-secondary studies for over 96 years since its inception in 1919. Profiles of the winners of the 2015 CFUW Fellowships and Awards can be found online at: <http://www.cfuw.org/en-ca/fellowships/winners.aspx>

CFUW Scholarships and Bursaries 2014-2015			
CFUW Region	# of Clubs	Amount	
BC West	11	\$105,450	
BC Interior	5	\$24,170	
BC Vancouver Island	7	\$68,926	
British Columbia Region	23		\$198,546
Alberta	5	\$62,100	
Saskatchewan	5	\$30,800	
Manitoba	2	\$19,300	
Prairie Region	12		\$112,200
Ontario North	6	\$27,775	
Ontario West	9	\$51,450	
Ontario Huron	5	\$11,500	
Ontario Central	13	\$112,058	
Ontario East	9	\$85,095	
Ontario South	12	\$87,450	
Ontario Region	54		\$375,353
Quebec	5		\$82,950
New Brunswick	4	\$37,600	
Nova Scotia	6	\$13,400	
Prince Edward Island	1	\$10,000	
Newfoundland and Labrador	2	\$37,500	
Atlantic Region	13		\$98,500
	107		\$867,549
CFUW National Fellowships & Awards			\$84,500
CFUW Library Award			\$4,000
CFUW Creative Arts Award			\$4,000
CFUW Dr. A. Vibert Douglas International Fellowship			\$8,000
Nationwide Total:			\$968,049

CFUW IN THE COMMUNITY

CFUW demonstrates that women working together can be a powerful source of change. Through our network of more than 100 Clubs across Canada working within their local communities, and supported by our regional and provincial councils, the CFUW national office and Women Graduates International (formerly called International Federation of University Women), we are helping build a more equitable world for women and girls. Together we are facilitating positive change locally, provincially, nationally and internationally so that the human rights of all girls and women are respected. Ultimately we envision a world where poverty is reduced, discrimination and violence eliminated, and where women and girls are fully able to realize their potential through equal opportunities for education, leadership and employment.

Our initiatives are wide-ranging from our vibrant network of creative, dynamic and committed women. We offer life learning opportunities for our own members. We engage governments – municipal, provincial and federal. Our advocacy campaigns focus on social and economic issues affecting women's quality of life and career prospects. Individual Clubs work with local educational institutions, women's shelters, harm and risk reduction organizations and other community groups on specific projects and fund-raising initiatives. Clubs administer local scholarship and bursary programs and host a variety of events designed to promote awareness about the challenges faced by women, their families and communities, ranging from access to child care, preventing violence and helping women with health challenges.



CFUW White Rock/Surrey sponsored a community forum about bullying among school-aged children, young adults and their parents. Integral to the discussion was the serious lasting problems for kids who are bullied and those who bully others. To start a conversation about bullying, CFUW White Rock/Surrey used the story of the destruction by vandals of the horse sculpture, *Tattoo*.

IN THE COMMUNITY

In recognition of the need for people in Stratford to be able to commute to work and universities and colleges and access centralized medical services, CFUW Stratford has been working with the City of Stratford and other community groups on the need to have integrated public transportation. Recently, CFUW Stratford presented a transportation forum to introduce *Network Southwest* in Stratford, met with the president of Via Rail, continued their involvement with a local United Way transportation task force, and has continued to work with other communities to launch transportation forums.



CFUW Stratford presented a transportation forum to introduce Network Southwest in Stratford.



CFUW Guelph organized a panel entitled: A Community Forum on Child Care – We Need to Get this Right! Its goal was to raise awareness, provide information about the role of different levels of government in providing child care and to engage participants in discussions about needed policy changes.

CFUW Kanata organized the 'Shoe Box Projects' to supply women with cleaning materials to help celebrate as they moved out of a local shelter, Chrysalis House, and begin a new life. UWC Winnipeg organized shoe boxes for women in shelters at Christmas.

CFUW AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING

CFUW Clubs offered many learning opportunities to engage members and broaden their horizons.

A few highlights are:

CFUW Scarborough and Ajax-Pickering jointly celebrated International Women's Day with Anuradha Dugal, Director of Violence Prevention Programs, Canadian Women's Foundation, whose presentation explored root causes of violence against women in our society and around the world.

As well she spoke of the work that must be done to promote women's equality at work, in politics and in families.

CFUW Kelowna started a Financial Literacy Interest Group to help increase the financial knowledge of participants.

CFUW Victoria presented the film *Wadjda*, which is the first film ever shot entirely in Saudi Arabia by a women which included a panel discussion.

In conjunction with the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) Rainbow District Teacher Local, CFUW Sudbury presented the documentary film *Sext up KIDS* which explores the devastating consequences of porn culture in the lives of North American children along with a discussion panel of experts.

There are more than 200 CFUW book clubs across the country and 100 lecture series.



Keynote speaker, Anuradha Dugal , Canadian Women's Foundation, International Women's Day, Scarborough and Ajax-Pickering

CFUW AND ADVOCACY

Advocating for policy changes to improve the lives of women and girls in Canada and around the world is fundamental to our work. We engage decision makers, like-minded organizations and the public to advance our vision of a more just world.

Throughout 2014-2015, CFUW actively participated in consultations and meetings with politicians and their staff, monitored and responded to Government legislation and prepared briefs to the Government of Canada, including:

- The House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women's study on economic leadership and prosperity of Canadian women, including the importance of women's education;
- Pre-budget consultations and commentary on the 2015 budget;
- The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada's consultation on "Toward a National Strategy for Financial Literacy, Phase 1: Strengthening Seniors' Financial Literacy";
- The All Party Anti-Poverty Caucus meeting on poverty and childcare;
- Consultation on Workplace Protections for Interns with the Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour;
- Consultation with Thomas Perez, United States, Secretary of State, Labour to discuss family policy, specifically maternal and paternal leave policies in Canada;
- Calling on government to address the growing low literacy rates in Canada; and
- Meetings with: Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada; Kirsty Duncan, Liberal Party of Canada Critic for International Development and Status of Women; Lysane Blanchette-Lamothe, NDP Critic for Citizenship and Immigration; Marc Garneau, Liberal Party of Canada Critic for Foreign Affairs; Mylène Freeman, NDP Status of Women Critic; Megan Leslie, NDP Critic for the Environment; Peter Julian, NDP House Leader; Romeo Saganash, NDP Critic for Intergovernmental Aboriginal Affairs; and Canada's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Deborah Lyon.

Working Together to End Violence against Women and Girls

Over the last year CFUW has continued its efforts to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, and encourage more effective policy responses from all levels of government. Some of our activities in this area have included:

- Encouraging decision makers to develop a more comprehensive policy response to end violence against women and girls. Along with several organizations and academics, CFUW contributed to a *Blueprint for a National Action Plan on Violence against Women and Girls*, released in early 2015;
- Urging the Government of Canada to address the issue of the shocking number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. With the support of Clubs, CFUW collectively sent over 100 letters to politicians about this tragedy following the murder of Tina Fontaine;
- Successfully encouraging the Government of Canada to implement a legal framework similar to the Nordic model to help address the violence prostituted women and girls experience;
- In a brief to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women, highlighting the impacts of gender-based violence on women's economic well-being;
- Publishing news articles in the Winnipeg Free Press on Violence against Women and Girls and the need for further action on the Beijing Declaration; and
- Developing tools for our members to use during the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Violence, and particularly on December 6, the National Day of Action of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women.

Through our National Initiative, our Clubs have also been active in raising awareness about this important issue among their members and communities. During the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Violence several local Presidents published articles in various media outlets across the country and held community events.

Work on the National Initiative on Violence against Women was undertaken by such Clubs as CFUW Calgary and CFUW Calgary North who organized a panel discussion on Violence against Indigenous Women to discuss the disproportionate number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and why society has failed them. Another Club - CFUW Fredericton - hosted a public event titled "Human Rights: Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Torture" with speakers who discussed what is currently happening around the issues of human trafficking, prostitution and torture as well as a sharing of stories from survivors of these abuses.

Promoting International Women's Day

Working with Amnesty International Canada, Oxfam Canada and other organizations, CFUW organized the annual International Women's Day (IWD) event at the Library and Archives Canada attended by over 300 people in the National Capital Region.

Our network of Clubs also organized many events across Canada for IWD and published articles in local media outlets across the country. CFUW Cranbrook, for example, presented their annual Women of the Year award, and CFUW Saskatoon and CFUW Victoria organized screenings of topical films.



Women and the Federal Election

The past year we have devoted time and effort to strengthening our partnerships with a variety of organizations which allow us to increase our capacity to take action and raise awareness about issues important to our members. Primary among this work has been CFUW's support in building an alliance and campaign of over 150 organizations united in raising awareness about women's rights in the lead up to the 2015 federal election. *Up for Debate* calls on all political parties to commit to a federal leaders' debate on issues identified by women – the first in 30 years, and to make meaningful commitments to change women's lives for the better, at home and abroad by:

- Ending violence against women
- Ending women's economic inequality
- Supporting women's leadership and organizations

Regional/Provincial

During 2014-2015, CFUW regional/provincial councils across the country were very active. The Quebec Council continued advocacy efforts in support of First Nations women and girls with successful education initiatives. The Alberta Council focused on

the issues of literacy, violence against women, assisting women in need, the issue of fracking, and forging partnerships with community groups. The CFUW Ontario Council addressed and/or responded to various issues including: the environment, early learning and child care, poverty reduction, human trafficking, health and physical education curriculum, the Ontario retirement pension plan, domestic violence in the workplace, changes in post-secondary education, countering exploitive images of children, older women and homelessness, using a gender lens in developing public policy and integrated public transportation. BC Council focused its efforts on child care and poverty and were responsible for CFUW joining the coalition on Prevention of Violence Canada. The Atlantic Regional Council participated in national and regional initiatives and raised funds for scholarships.

Local

CFUW Clubs took action in the past year to engage decision makers through meetings and organized events to raise awareness about issues affecting women and girls and their communities. These included such initiatives as CFUW Nelson and District's All Candidates Forum for the 2014 Municipal Civic Election. As part of its Speaker Forum, CFUW Fredericton organized a public panel on Human Rights, Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Torture, which was held in partnership with the Fredericton Regional Resource Network.

International

Working with a group of more than 30 organizations, CFUW helped develop a joint shadow report on Canada's implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The report informed the 20 year review process that took place at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), where CFUW led a delegation of 20 women. Two CFUW members were resource people for three workshops which focused on the CFUW resolutions on Non-State Torture.



Quebec Council of University Women's Clubs' 2015 AGM at Stewart Hall, Pointe-Claire, hosted by Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club. From left to right: Connie Ellis, President of MLUWC; Brenda Shanahan, VP-Quebec CFUW and President of Quebec Council; Mutsumi Takahashi, keynote speaker, chief news anchor for CTV News, Montréal.



CFUW Delegation at UNCSW - Beijing Platform for Action 20 Year Review

and girls in developing countries.

CFUW has appointed a Representative to the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Education Sector (CCUNESCO). This year, our Representative attended the Annual General Meeting of CCUNESCO, where discussions were begun on how to stimulate action on the themes of knowledge plurality, Aboriginal languages and culture revitalization in Canada, and the common good of humanity. As well, the question of how to connect members of the various CCUNESCO networks and local communities, including Aboriginal communities and how to highlight the work of CCUNESCO's networks and stakeholders and the way they embody the ideals of UNESCO in Canada was considered. The Commission's work on *The Muscat Agreement (2014)* which focuses on "Ensuring equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030" is of much interest to CFUW.

Other international activities included participating in the Women, Peace and Security Network Canada, and calling on the federal government to take immediate action to the kidnapping of schoolgirls in Nigeria. Local Clubs undertook a variety of international projects such as supporting schools in Afghanistan and Malawi. Many Clubs organized specific fund raising projects for disaster areas such as Nepal.

CFUW also participated in three consultations with officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Development's Human Rights division in the lead up to, and following, United Nations Human Rights Council meetings in Geneva.

As a member of GWI, CFUW provided \$8,000 for the Dr. A. Vibert Douglas Award which GWI administers on behalf of CFUW. The Award is available to women graduates for advanced research, study, and training. CFUW Clubs also raised over \$3,500 for GWI Bina Roy projects to support women

MEMBERSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

CFUW values its members and continued in the year under review to work to provide them with services and support. "Operation Connect" was undertaken this year by the President to speak with all Club Presidents to learn about their specific challenges and issues and how the national executive and office could better support them to carry out their duties and responsibilities.

A special Task Force was established to supplement the work of the Membership Committee in their role of examining membership recruitment and retention in CFUW Clubs with a view to proposing ways to increase membership. The mandate of the Task Force, which spans two years, will include: creating a value proposition; investigating the viability of creating other classes of membership; examining best recruitment and retention practices of other organizations. The Membership Committee oversaw the successful program of grants to small CFUW Clubs to encourage those Clubs which have never attended the AGM to do so. The Committee held a number of teleconference workshops with Cubs across the country to discuss ways to increase member recruitment and retention.

The CFUW rebranding and modernization materials were provided to Clubs and assistance was given on how to implement them. An organizational Facebook page and Twitter account were created. Work began on redesigning the CFUW website to incorporate the modernization tools and assist in getting CFUW better known as well as to incite people to take action on our advocacy issues, fund women's education and provide support to our Clubs in assisting them to build leadership skills and opportunities for lifelong learning.

CFUW Affinity Partners



CFUW Clubs Across Canada as of April 30, 2015

BC WEST	ONTARIO NORTH	ONTARIO EAST
Abbotsford	Haliburton Highlands	Belleville and District
Coquitlam	Muskoka	Cornwall and District
New Westminster	North Bay	Kanata
North Delta/Surrey	Orillia	Kingston
North Vancouver	Sudbury	Nepean
Richmond	Thunder Bay	Ottawa
South Delta		Perth and District
Sunshine Coast	ONTARIO SOUTH	Peterborough
Vancouver	Brampton	Renfrew & District
West Vancouver	Brantford	
White Rock/Surrey	Burlington	ONTARIO HURON
	Georgetown	Kincardine
BC INTERIOR	Grimsby	Orangeville and District
Cranbrook and	Hamilton	Owen Sound and Area
District	Milton and District	Saugeen
Kelowna	Mississauga	Southport
Nelson and District	Niagara Falls	
Prince George	Oakville	QUEBEC
Vernon	St. Catharines	AFDU Québec
	Welland and District	Montreal Inc.
BC VANCOUVER ISLAND	ONTARIO WEST	Montreal Lakeshore
Comox Valley	Cambridge	Montreal South Shore
Cowichan Valley	Chatham-Kent	Sherbrooke and
Nanaimo	Guelph	District
Parksville -Qualicum	Kitchener-Waterloo	
Saanich Peninsula	London	NEW BRUNSWICK
Salt Spring Island	Sarnia/Lambton	Fredericton
Victoria	St. Thomas	Kent
	Stratford	Moncton
ALBERTA	Windsor	Saint John
Calgary	ONTARIO	
Calgary North	CENTRAL	NOVA SCOTIA
Edmonton	Ajax-Pickering	Cape Breton
Lethbridge	Aurora-Newmarket	Dartmouth
Strathcona County	Barrie and District	Halifax
	Etobicoke	Pictou County
SASKATCHEWAN	Leaside-East York	Truro
Estevan	Markham-Unionville	Wolfville
Prince Albert	North Toronto	
Regina	North York	PRINCE EDWARD
Saskatoon	Northumberland	ISLAND
Yorkton	Oshawa & District	Charlottetown
	Scarborough	
MANITOBA	Toronto	NEWFOUNDLAND
Portage la Prairie	Vaughan	St. John's
Winnipeg		Corner Brook