

EVENT, ISSUES AND PROGRAM IDEAS 2016-2017

As your Club develops its program, plans events or public forums, and decides what issues to focus on for 2016-2017, CFUW National invites you to consider some suggestions. Here you will find suggested speakers, videos, workshops, trainings and other resources related to the following topics:

Canada's 150th birthday
Women's History Month
Climate Change
Digital and Computer Literacy
Early Learning and Child Care
Elder Care
Elections
Financial Literacy
Girls

Health
Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada
International Women's Day
Leadership – in your Club and in Canada
Post-Secondary Education
Poverty, Housing and Homelessness
Violence against Women and Girls
Women in Non-Traditional Occupations

Important Dates

Women's History Month

October

Sisters in Spirit Vigils for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

October 4

International Day of the Girl

October 11

Persons Day

October 18

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and start to 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

November 25

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

December 6

Black History Month

February

Royal Commission on the Status of Women established

(thanks to CFUW President Laura Sabia)

February 16

International Women's Day

March 8

Canada's 150th Birthday

Our wonderful country is celebrating a milestone birthday this year.

Possible Speakers:

- Many cities and towns will be having special events. Is someone in your area responsible?
- Try local museums
- Try an evening with those who celebrated the 100th or the 125th, talking about the differences today
- Celebrate our past and our future
- Have an evening with friends and members who immigrated to Canada
- Have an evening with our First Nations, our founding peoples

Resources:

- Canada 150: Join the Celebration <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1342792785740>
- Our Canada, Our Stories: Canada 150 <http://canada150.ca/>

Women's History Month

October 18th is Persons Day in Canada. It is the day in 1929 that the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council held that women were eligible to sit in the Senate of Canada, hence determining that women were "persons" with the answer "why should it not" to the question posed "Does the word 'Person' in section 24 of the British North America Act, 1867, include female persons?"

Possible Speakers:

- Local historians or lecturers, especially those specializing in gender studies
- Members of local feminist organizations, the YWCA, L.E.A.F the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund
- Have an evening discussing "you've come a long way" or have you
- Local female politicians
- Host your own "Pink Tea" www.famou5.ca/resources

Resources and films:

- Status of Women Canada www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/whm-mhf/index-en.html
- Famous Five Foundation www.famou5.ca/the-famous-five-women/
- Nellie McClung Foundation www.ournellie.com
- Governor General Awards in the Commemoration of the Persons Case www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/gg/index-en.html
- National Film Board - Status Quo? The Unfinished business of feminism in Canada www.nfb.ca/film/status_quo_the_unfinished_business_of_feminism/

Climate Change

With the signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Canada has pledged, by 2030, to cut its emissions by 30% from the 2005 levels, plus assisting developing economies to deal with climate change.

Possible Speakers:

- Local environment groups, or representatives from the myriad of national and provincial environmental

organizations

Government ministry officials specializing in the environment

Local elected officials who may want to talk to a group to determine the best ways to meet the future commitments

Local university lecturers, scientists and engineers specializing in this field

Resources and films:

CARE Canada <http://care.ca/climate-change-and-environment>

Charles Ferguson, Time To Choose www.timetochoose.com/

Climate Action Network Canada: <http://climateactionnetwork.ca/>

David Suzuki Foundation www.davidsuzuki.org/

HANDS ON - Women, Climate, Change: <http://redlizardmedia.com/climateandgender/>

Natural Resources Canada, Climate Change: www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/climate-change/13083

The Climate Reality Project Canada www.climateReality.ca/ourmission.aspx

This Changes Everything: <http://thischangeseverything.org/>

World Wildlife Fund- Canada www.wwf.ca/conservation/global_warming/

Digital and Computer Literacy

There are two aspects of this – the excitement of learning something new and the concerns of cyberbullying.

Possible Speakers:

Technology:

Hire a local tech firm to give your Club a workshop on digital/technology literacy or ask if they will work with you on a pro-bono basis

The local public library might give courses or offer a speaker

Local academics, researchers or students in media, communications, or even gender studies, for instance, many colleges now have programs in digital communications and media, and Dalhousie University hosts a Social Media Lab www.socialmedialab.ca with academics from different universities and across departments

Non-profit organizations focused on media related issues, like “Media Smarts”: <http://mediasmarts.ca>

Cyberbullying:

Check if your local police force has a cyberbullying section.

The Red Cross and PREVNet www.prevnet.ca/ are excellent resources on cyberbullying

Suggested Videos:

Connected, but alone? With Sherry Turkle

www.ted.com/talks/sherry_turkle_alone_together?language=en

Generation Like

www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/generation-like/

Resources:

Digital Literacy Fundamentals from Media Smarts <http://mediasmarts.ca/digital-media-literacy-fundamentals/digital-literacy-fundamentals>

Online video tutorials and training – technology, creative and business skills www.lynda.com/

PREVNet www.prevnet.ca/resources/

Early Learning and Child Care

Access to affordable early learning and child care has long been a concern for CFUW. All children can benefit from quality early learning opportunities, and while this is an issue that affects both women and men, women's workforce participation and career progression still tends to be affected to a greater degree.

This year CFUW National will be starting their Telling Our Stories campaign. For more information about that please see National Initiatives on the Advocacy pages of the CFUW Member Resources website.

www.cfuwadmin.org

Possible Speakers:

If your Club has not recently explored this issue, you could consider inviting local child care providers, academics, and other advocates to speak to your members.

Resources:

Early Learning and Child Care page on the National Initiatives section of the CFUW Member Resources www.cfuwadmin.org/AdvocacyResolutions/NationalInitiatives.aspx

The Child Care Research and Research Unit list many videos and films:

www.childcarecanada.org

Let's Rethink Child Care <http://rethinkchildcare.ca/video/>

Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada <https://ccaac.ca/>

Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development

www.oise.utoronto.ca/atkinson/Main/index.html

Elections and Voting

With any election, provincial, federal or municipal, your Club may want to be involved in the election locally.

At time of writing, CFUW is studying a proposed resolution on electoral reform. If adopted, there will be resources available later.

Suggested Activities:

- Organize a session with members to identify what key issues they'd like to see addressed in the election, and develop questions to ask candidates.
- Organize an All-Candidates Meeting once an election is called. Your Club may consider partnering with a few other local organizations. Some instructions for organizing one found in the CFUW Advocacy Toolkit www.cfuwadmin.org/AdvocacyResolutions/AdvocacyToolkit.aspx
- Encourage members to attend All-Candidates Meetings with key questions.
- Encourage members of your Club and community to vote. You can help familiarize Club members with the candidates in your riding, political parties and information on voting. Elections Canada is a very an important resource during the election: www.elections.ca
- Provinces also have their own election organizations.

Added Resources:

CFUW suggested actions for Increasing Voter Turnout: CFUW Member Resources www.cfuwadmin.org in Advocacy & Resolutions, in Issues under Democracy

Elder Care

With the aging population in Canada, access to elder care is becoming a pressing issue. Your members may be interested to learn more about access to long term care and home care in Canada and what more governments could be doing to provide support to families and older persons, including promising practices in other countries. Members may also be interested in sharing their personal experiences and learning about the gender dimensions of elder care, especially considering that women represent the majority of older persons in Canada and are also to a greater extent providing unpaid care work for aging family and friends.

Possible speakers:

- Academics working in the area of health care policy, including social work, political economy, gender studies, gerontology, and public policy and administration, etc.
- A local council on aging
- Social workers and nurses working with the elderly in hospitals, long term care facilities (you can try contacting the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions <https://nursesunions.ca/> and the Canadian Association of Social Workers www.casw-acts.ca)

Suggested Documentaries and Videos:

- The Remaining Light - A documentary film about how we care for seniors: <https://vimeo.com/19531328>
- House Calls, National Film Board Documentary: www.nfb.ca/film/house-calls

Financial Literacy

Financial literacy is an essential life-skill for women of all ages. You can help your members strengthen their financial knowledge and skills by integrating some aspect of financial literacy in your Club's program.

Possible Speakers:

- The Canadian Bankers Association (CBA) launched a financial literacy program for seniors in 2014, offered free of charge to groups across Canada. Contact the CBA for more information:
- www.cba.ca/en/consumer-information/79-banks-and-financial-literacy/692-your-money-seniors

Suggested Videos:

- The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada offers 7 e-learning videos available online: www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca/Eng/resources/educationalPrograms/financialBasics/Pages/elearning-apprligne.aspx

Other Resources and Tools for Self-Guided Learning:

- Financial Consumer Agency of Canada – Educational Programs www.fcac-acfc.gc.ca/Eng/resources/educationalPrograms/Pages/home-accueil.aspx
 - Financial basics workshop
 - Your Financial Tool-Kit
- The University Women's Club of Montreal has created an excellent resource available to all CFUW Clubs,

called Beginning the Conversation: 15 Case Studies on Financial Literacy <http://uwcm.com/financial-literacy/>. The case studies contained within this guide focus on real life financial issues experienced by older women, such as loss of employment, coping with divorce, and recognizing financial abuse, among several others. It also includes a facilitator's guide to help you explore these topics with your members and find personalized solutions.

- Get Smarter About Money – Ontario Securities Commission www.getsmarteraboutmoney.ca
- Canadian Centre for Financial Literacy <http://prospercanada.org/Our-Work/Centre-for-Financial-Literacy.aspx>
- Practical Money Skills: Financial Literacy for Everyone www.practicalmoneyskills.ca

Girls

Girls in Canada continue to experience a number of barriers to their full empowerment and well-being, including violence, bullying, mental and physical health concerns, racial discrimination, hypersexualization, and poverty. International Day of the Girls, on October 11th is a particularly good time for a program day on one of the following topics:

- How girls and young women are impacted by dating violence, sexual violence, bullying and cyberbullying
- Hypersexualization of children, especially girls
- Experiences of girls from diverse communities (e.g. indigenous, or racialized girls, girls with disabilities)
- Girls' physical and mental health (e.g. eating disorders, self-harm)
- Education, including Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) for girls and young women

Possible Speakers:

- Organizations serving and working with youth in your community (e.g. Boys and Girls Clubs, Girl Guides)
- Girls Action Foundation has a national network. You could contact them for suggested speakers in your area: <http://girlsactionfoundation.ca>
- The eGirls Project: <https://egirlsproject.ca>
- Canadian Women's Foundation, Girl's Fund www.canadianwomen.org/girls-fund-resources
- Local academics and researchers working in gender studies, sociology and others.
- School Board Trustees

Suggested Documentaries and Videos:

- It's a Girls World (about the impact of bullying among girls) www.nfb.ca/film/its_a_girls_world
- Sexy Inc, Our Children under Influence https://www.nfb.ca/film/sexy_inc/
- Sext Up Kids www.cbc.ca/doczone/episodes/sext-up-kids

Health

Two issues are of importance – our own health, as well as our families and the public policy that supports us.

Over the years, CFUW members have sought to address a wide range of health-related issues including: access to

public health care, essential drugs, sexual and reproductive health services, technologies and education, as well as mental health services and programs.

Did you know that heart attacks is the leading cause of death for Canadian women?

Possible Speakers:

- Academics in the health field, with a particular emphasis on women's and girls' health
- Speakers from the Heart and Stroke Foundation www.heartandstroke.com
- Your Canadian Mental Health Association: www.cmha.ca/get-involved/find-your-cmha/
- Representatives from local Community Health and Resources Centres: www.cachc.ca/chc-directory/
- Local nurses and social workers, such as Canadian Association of Social Workers or Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions
- The Canadian Health Coalition, or one of its provincial association <http://healthcoalition.ca>

Resources:

Women's College Hospital, *What is the Health Gap and why should I care?* www.thehealthgap.ca/

Canadian Women's Health Network: www.cwhn.ca

(While the Network and its provincial counterparts were shut down in 2014, their websites remain useful resources)

Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada

Your members may be interested to learn more about the realities and experiences of First Nations, Metis and Inuit (collectively referred now as Indigenous) women and girls in Canada. Indigenous women and girls experience higher rates of violence, trafficking, poverty, and incarceration than non-Aboriginal women and the general population, but they are also strong leaders in their communities with extraordinary strength and resilience. Quality education on First Nations reserves and the high rates of aboriginal children in care are also important issues to inform members about.

Possible speakers:

- Organizations serving First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples (or women in particular) in your community
- Representatives from Local Friendship Centres, find one near you: <http://nafc.ca/en/>
- A representative from a local Elizabeth Fry Society, find one near you here: www.caefs.ca/feature/local-societies
- Indigenous academics, and non-aboriginal academics working in Canadian Studies, Aboriginal Studies, Gender Studies with a focus on Aboriginal women.
- If you live near a First Nations reserve, you could invite a member of the band council and/or chief
- Depending on where you live, representatives of the Metis Nation/Federations, and/or the member associations of the Native Women's Association of Canada www.nwac.ca/
- The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society: <https://fncaringsociety.com/main>

Resources:

- Aboriginal Study and Resources: CFUW Member Resources under Advocacy, Tools & Resources www.cfuwadmin.org/AdvocacyResolutions/ToolsResources.aspx
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission www.trc.ca

- Finding Dawn, an NFB film about missing and murdered Aboriginal women https://www.nfb.ca/film/finding_dawn
- Stolen Sisters: <http://www.stolensisters.com/page2.html>
- Hi-Ho Mistahey! (about First Nations' Education): https://www.nfb.ca/film/hi-ho_mistahey_en
- We Were Children (about Residential school survivors): https://www.nfb.ca/film/we_were_children/

International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is an opportune time to highlight progress towards women's equality in Canada and world-wide, and to raise awareness about ongoing challenges. It's also an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women.

Event Ideas:

Organize an awards ceremony to celebrate local women's achievements. In Ottawa for example, CFUW National is involved in the "Femmy Awards", which recognize women in the National Capital Region for their contributions to women's equality. Some Clubs also organize Women of the Year awards that coincide with IWD.

- Organize a fundraising event for the annual International Women's Day fundraising project.
- Organize a documentary film screening and/or a panel discussion on the topic of women's equality.

Suggested Documentaries:

- Status Quo? The Unfinished Business of Feminism in Canada https://www.nfb.ca/film/status_quo_the_unfinished_business_of_feminism/
- The Motherload: www.cbc.ca/doczone/episodes/motherload

Leadership in your Club and in Canada

Women have come a long way towards equality in Canada, but continue to be unrepresented in decision making and leadership positions in both the public and private sectors. Your Club could consider dedicating one of your program nights to this important and timely topic. Some ideas include:

- Women in politics (e.g. invite local female politicians (MP, MPP/MLA/MNA, Municipal Councillors), Equal Voice www.equalvoice.ca and female pundits would make excellent speakers)
- Women's leadership in the community, and/or private sectors (e.g. women on corporate and public boards)
- Invite local women leaders or women's leadership organizations to speak to your group, such as a chapter of the Women in Leadership foundation. <http://womeninleadership.ca/>
- Host a workshop for members on leadership development (e.g. skills training).

Suggested Documentaries and Videos:

- 25%, a documentary: <http://25percent.ca/>
- Miss Representation (available on Netflix): <http://therepresentationproject.org/film/miss-representation/>

Post-Secondary Education

You could invite student leaders (i.e. students associations or unions) or faculty association representatives to speak to your Club about the current issues within the post-secondary system, and how students, particularly young women, are affected. They could also address the issue of “rape culture” and sexual assault on campuses, as well as the continued under-representation of women in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematic (STEM) fields at the undergraduate, graduate and faculty levels.

They may also be able to speak to you about how young, educated, people are faring in the workforce.

Our organization started in the early 1900’s to support and encourage young women getting an education. It is now time to support the young to use that education.

Possible Speakers:

- Student Leaders (e.g. executives of the Students’ Association/Union at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels) – You can find a listing of student associations here under Member Student Unions: <http://cfs-fee.ca/about/member-students-unions/>
- Academics in sociology, gender studies and STEM
- Women’s/Womyn’s Centres on your local campus

Suggested Documentaries and Videos:

- Default, the Student Loan Documentary: www.defaultmovie.com/default-airing-on-over-142-pbs-stations/
- Generation Jobless, CBC Doc Zone: www.cbc.ca/doczone/episodes/generation-jobless
- The Hunting Ground (about sexual assault on campuses): www.thehuntinggroundfilm.com/

Poverty, Housing and Homelessness

Canada does not have an official definition of poverty, but based on several measures of low income, in 2013 according to Statistics Canada, more than 6 million Canadians were considered poor, with 3 million considered precariously housed.

Poverty, homelessness and lack of affordable housing is very real in Canada.

Possible Speakers:

- Anti-poverty groups in your local area, such as Canada Without Poverty, ACORN, Campaign 2000
- Community Health and Resource Centres, find one near you here: www.cachc.ca
- Local Social Planning Councils
- Local YWCA/YMCA, find one near you: <http://ywcacanada.ca/en/associations>
- Other local women’s shelters and transition houses
- Academics in sociology, social work, gender studies, and public policy and administration.

Suggested Documentaries and Videos:

- Poor No More: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ1ypJ2erpw

Violence against Women and Girls

With CFUW continuing the National Initiative on Violence against Women and Girls, your Club could consider dedicating one or more meetings to examining the different aspects of this issue, such as how violence affects Aboriginal women, women with disabilities, young women, older women, and immigrant women and girls. December 6th, the National Day of Remembrance and Action to End Violence against Women, and the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Violence starting on November 25th are opportune times to organize events, speakers and/or film screenings for members and the public.

Possible Speakers:

- Women's shelters and transition houses
- Sexual assault support centres
- Local YWCA/YMCA
- Local violence prevention coordinating committees
- Local academics in women/gender and legal studies, criminology, and/or sociology
- Canadian Council of Muslim Women: <http://ccmw.com/what-we-do/projects/violence-against-women-health-%20and-justice-for-canadian-muslim-women>
- Local police and/or social workers
- If you're in a larger urban area your community may be home to a provincial shelter or sexual assault association

Event Ideas:

- Organize a fundraising or commemorative event for the École Polytechnique massacre, marked on December 6th. For instance, some Clubs raise funds for the CFUW 1989 École Polytechnique Commemorative Awards. Many groups also organize vigils on this day to honour the 14 women killed on December 6th, and to raise awareness about violence against women and girls in Canada.
- Organize a documentary film screening and/or a panel discussion.

Suggested Documentaries and Films:

- The Hunting Ground www.thehuntinggroundfilm.com
- A Better Man <http://abettermanfilm.com>
- After the Montreal Massacre www.nfb.ca/film/after_the_montreal_massacre
- Finding Dawn, an NFB film about missing and murdered Aboriginal women www.nfb.ca/film/finding_dawn
- Violence against Women – It's a Men's Issue (Ted Talk by Jackson Katz) www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue?language=en
- A Safe Distance www.nfb.ca/film/safe_distance

For more suggestions visit:

CFUW Member Resources www.cfuwadmin.org See National Initiatives under Member Tools & Resources or Advocacy & Resolutions. Member log-in available from your club or from the National Office cfuwgen@rogers.com

Women in Non-Traditional Occupations

Women remain a minority among professionals employed in the sciences, mathematics, engineering, trades and technology. This is not only an important employment equity issue; the current shortage of workers in the skilled trades for example, further emphasizes the need to bring more women into these traditionally male dominated occupations. However, barriers remain to women's full and equal participation in these fields including gender stereotypes, lack of mentors, harassment and more.

Possible Speakers:

- Representatives from your local university/college working in science, technology, engineering and/or trades
- Representatives from local unions that represent women in these sectors
- Women working in these sectors
- Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST)
- Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Sciences, Trade and Technology (CCWESTT)

Suggested Documentaries and Videos:

- A Chemical Imbalance
<http://chemicalimbalance.co.uk/project/watch-the-film/>
- Standing in Her Shoes Part 1 and Part 2
www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu-H0_wjMek&feature=youtu.be
www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRmk-mEjIU
- She ++
www.sheplusplus.org/advocacy



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