



NATIONAL OFFICE INITIATIVES

Supporting the Strategic Plan 2013-2014

June 22, 2014

THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER. • LA PUISSANCE AU FÉMININ: ENSEMBLE POUR RÉUSSIR.

Membership

Supplies sent to Clubs	10,857
Responded to Members' Inquiries	847
CFUW News & Updates prepared	64

Advocacy & Profile

Letters sent to MPs	100
Meetings/events with MPs and Government Officials	10
Submissions to Parliamentary Committees, federal and International organizations	8
Toolkits and Template Letters prepared for Clubs	12
Week in Reviews prepared	21
Press Releases and Media Coverage	15
Advocacy Activities with Partners (rallies, vigils, events, campaigns, etc.)	25

Fellowships

Applications processed	10,857
Responded to fellowships inquiries	847

Membership

- In National Office's investigations into virtual groups, consultations were undertaken with Women Graduates- USA, Business and Professional Women (BPW) Canada and the Chair of the Department of Women's and Gender at the University of Victoria Studies.



**University
of Victoria**

- Several webinar services were tested. A survey was sent out to 200 Fellowships applicants and young women to inquire about their interests for possible webinars.
- New affinity programs with ExpediaCruiseShipCentres Ancaster Dundas and five Faculty Clubs were established.
- National Office continued the work began last fiscal year on the RD Survey to compile data and graphs.
- Complied and published the annual directory and began work on developing websites for two Clubs.



Profile

- We reached out to other organizations to get the CFUW name known and investigate ways to work together: met with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF); the Canadian Council of Muslim Women and Action Canada for Population and Development.
- Exchanged publicity opportunities with the Association of University of Universities and Colleges of Canada,
- Welcomed advertising on its website from several universities such as McMaster University, Ontario Institute of Technology, Cambrian College, University of Guelph, University of Ottawa, Wilfrid Laurier University, Thompson Rivers University, Queen's University and the University of Saskatchewan.
- Reimaging and modernization of the organization took the form of creating a CFUW scarf and preparing an environmental scan.



Advocacy on the National Front

- Advocacy initiatives took place on a number of different fronts: government relations, national and international advocacy.
- Letters and submissions were prepared on a variety of topics which included: the Gender Identity Bill C- 289; Fair Elections Act; Bill C-13 meant to address cyberbullying and criminalize the non-consensual distribution of intimate images ; Housing and Homelessness; the Long Form Census; Dietary Sodium; poverty- urging the Government of Canada to work with provincial and territorial governments to develop and implement a basic income program based on our 2013 policy; the Federal Budget and prostitution.
- Meetings with government officials included attending consultations with the Continuing Committee of Officials on Human Rights to discuss which recommendations Canada should accept and implement from its 2nd Universal Periodic Review at the United Nations; meeting with the Policy Advisor from the Office of the Minister for Status of Women to discuss improving women's representation on corporate boards; attending the Women's Forum des Femmes hosted by Status of Women Official Opposition Critic, Niki Ashton; meeting with Guy Lauzon, M.P., National Caucus Chair of the Conservative Party to discuss countering the hypersexualization of children; attending the Women for Nature launch on Parliament Hill, hosted by Senators Janis Johnson and Nancy Green Raine

Advocacy on the National Front

- Met with Joy Smith, MP to discuss support for the Nordic model, and how to promote the model with Conservative Ministers and MPs and meeting with Dr. Kirsty Duncan to discuss multiple issues relate to women's equality and the matter of petitions.
- Press releases were prepared on such topics as: CFUW Celebrates Achievements and Pushes for Ongoing Progress in Education on the International Day of the Girl Child; World Mental Health Day with a focus on older women; International Literacy Day; the 2014 Federal Budget, International Adult Learner's week
- Content was created for the Advocacy Blog on the following topics: Take Action During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence; Bill C-13 Ignores Gender-Based Violence as a Root Cause of Cyberbullying; A Gender Neutral Gift Guide For Children; Give the Gift of Equality and Social Justice This Holiday Season; The 2013 Highs and Lows for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Canada; The Supreme Court Ruling on Prostitution Laws, the 26th anniversary of the R v. Morgentaler case

National Initiative on Violence Against Women and Girls

- Work on the National Initiative included : letters to the Ministers of Status of Women Canada and Health Canada calling on the Government of Canada to implement the recommendations of the World Health Organization's Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence, a submission to the 2014 Pre-Budget Consultation of the Standing Committee on Finance highlighting the need to create a national action plan to address violence against women and girls, create a universal national early learning and child care program, and invest in women's job security and employment equity; attendance at the Loretta Saunders vigil on Parliament Hill calling for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls and a 2-day working meeting held by the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters (CNWS) to develop a blueprint for a National Action Plan on Violence against Women.

Working with Partner Organizations

- In October, 2013, CFUW joined in commemorating missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls by participating in Sisters in Spirit Vigils across the country
- Attended meeting with the Women's Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution and allies to discuss strategy to advance the "Nordic model" in Canada.
- Co-hosted with the Canadian Association of University Teachers, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives an event that brought together women's organizations in Canada to select common priorities leading up to the 2015 federal election.
- On the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, CFUW participated in a cross-Canada event called "Chew on This" to raise awareness about food insecurity and poverty in Canada ;
- Working with Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses, YWCA Canada, Native Women's Association of Canada, DisAbled Women's Network Canada, and others, participated in the development of a blueprint for a National Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Girls;

Working with Partner Organizations

- Participated in meetings for the Rethink Childcare Campaign.
- As convener of the working group on collaboration, communication, mobilization and inclusion (formed after the Roundtable on the Future of the Women's Movement in 2012), CFUW has been central in helping to develop a new initiative to connect women's group and women's rights activists and academics across the country entitled "Feminist Voices Canada".
- We worked with Inter Pares, Amnesty International, Oxfam Canada and others to organize the annual International Women's Day event at the Library and Archives Canada and attended the conference, eGirls, eCitizens: Putting Theory, Policy and Education into Dialogue with the Voices of Girls and Young Women at the University of Ottawa.

International Advocacy

- CFUW prepared a joint oral statement with National Council of Women Canada (NCWC) and the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW);
- Organized a meeting with a Status of Women Canada official to discuss the 58th session of UNCSW
- Sent a joint letter with Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD), Oxfam and others to Prime Minister Stephen Harper following the conclusion of UNCSW.
- In a letter to UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, called on the leadership of the negotiating process to ensure Syrian women are represented and able to meaningfully engage in the negotiations of the Geneva II peace talks on Syria.
- Prepared a letter urging the Government of Canada to implement the recommendations outlined in the International Crisis Group's report "Women and Conflict in Afghanistan" to protect and sustain the gains achieved by and for Afghan women following Canada's withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014.



Fellowships and Awards

- The scholarships data base was developed for Clubs to register their scholarships, donations to the Charitable Trust and IWD projects.
- A list of financial aid offices in Canadian universities and selected ones internationally was compiled.
- For the first time, an e-newsletter was prepared and sent to University Financial Aid offices in Canada and internationally.
- Processed 389 fellowships and award applications
- In support of the application process, the website and brochures were updated, French materials created; applications were prepared and sent to the Fellowships Committee; their meetings were organized and publicity materials on the winning candidates were prepared
- In a new role of providing support to the Charitable Trust, letters were prepared to request sponsorship of the Charitable Breakfast; their first annual report was prepared and input was provided on setting up new Fellowship awards.



Sustainability

- In an effort to reduce operating costs, Internet costs were reduced by \$480 for the year.
 - Banking fees were reduced from \$80/ to \$4.95/month for a savings of \$900.
 - A slight increase in rent from our tenant, UN Women was secured.
 - By selling ads on our website, we have realized revenues of \$7,000
 - Staff continued in its duties to support the activities of the Board and Committees by preparing draft documents on a CFUW Environmental Scan, the Privacy Policy, a branding discussion paper, a proposal for a Leadership Foundation;
 - Working with the Finance Committee to develop the 2014-2015 budget; preparing financial forecasts to year end;
 - Liaising with the Local Arrangement Committees on both the 2014 and 2015 AGMs.
 - Work on the websites was ongoing; the French website was completed; a server was installed to improve internet security and improve capacity
- 

Cost of Individual Membership
Dues paid to National Office:

\$70 per annum – the cost of
your fee paid to CFUW National

Cost per
month :
\$5.83

Cost per
week:
\$1.46

Cost per
day:
20¢