Dear Members:

Now – wasn’t that a party….The 2015 AGM in Quebec City was spectacular in location and vocation! One could say both the City and the CFUW are steeped with history and buzzing with energy.

Thank you to all of you who attended this most impressive AGM.

From all of the feedback I have heard, people enjoyed it and are committed to sustaining the positive energy that comes from such an experience.

Some Follow-up

* Many of you have asked about presentations, powerpoints and information. It is our intention to have the powerpoints up on the CFUW website as soon as possible. Mine, since many of you have asked, will be up shortly.
* There is a newsletter being prepared that should be on its way this week.
* It is our intention to have Madame Colette Roy Laroche’s address to us translated so that if we missed any of her inspiring words, we will have a second chance to carefully consider them.
* Robin and I ‘penned’ a letter to the Prime Minister – with copies to leaders of all the parties - saying that CFUW stands in solidarity with the Aboriginal women of Canada and urge action on the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Report to stop this unacceptable violence (will be on the website).
* Based on the approval of the budget for the 100th Anniversary History Committee, a RFP has been drafted (on our website) and will be distributed to solicit writers for a history of CFUW as part of our 2019 celebrations.
* The “Talking Notes” for the IWD project 2016 will be posted on the website for you to share with your club. We are very pleased to partner with InterPares on this project.
* Please don’t forget there are exciting resources that you can order: CFUW banner; Scholarship banners; lots of lovely CFUW merchandize.

We will send out bulletins throughout the year on our Going Forward Strategy. They will cover:

The Resolutions Task Force

The Membership Task Force

The GWI Evaluation

The Resolutions Task Force

This Task Force was launched at this AGM. Eleanor Scarth, Chair of the Resolutions Committee and Teri Shaw, VP Advocacy asked participants to identify two issues:

* How does your Club engage in the Resolutions process – identify concerns and suggestions for improvement;
* How does your Club use the information once a resolution is passed - identify concerns and suggestions for improvement.

Participants were very engaged in these questions and many stayed beyond the time limit to outline their issues.

The feedback will be collated and you will receive an update in the fall.

The Membership Task Force

This Task Force was launched last AGM (2014). There was a report by the co-chairs – Karen Dunnett and Patricia Duval. They have developed materials and we expect a tool – ***Club in a Bag*** – to be distributed this fall.

There have already been reports of members using their elevator speeches on the way home. Karen had ‘prizes’ which we did not have time to distribute however prizes will be awarded based on a fine well-developed system (I believe the reference was to drawing out of a hat) and they will be sent on their way to some lucky Clubs.

IFUW/GWI Evaluation

IFUW[[1]](#footnote-2)/GWI is going through a change process.  As an original founder of IFUW/GWI and the largest National Federation Affiliate/Association (NFA) of the organization, it is our duty and responsibility to examine how these changes affect our membership.  IFUW's rebranding entails a name change, a change in voting procedures, a change in taxation status, and a change in the Triennial format. Many Clubs have asked questions about the IFUW/GWI change process and other questions that this process has engendered. Therefore, to serve our members responsibly, we need to be duly diligent in examining the implications of these changes for members and to insure that questions that have arisen are thoroughly answered. On behalf of our members, we have started a two-step process:

1. The Formal Evaluation  
Attendees at the 2015 AGM participated in a “Town Hall”.  This was announced to our membership in News and Updates in May.

The Town Hall process engaged members in prioritizing questions they would like answered about IFUW/GWI.  The three areas for consideration are:

Component #1

Understanding the CFUW relationship with and expectations associated with the GWI.

Component #2

Identifying the activities, outputs and results of the GWI

Component #3

Funds/Financial

2. An online discussion will take place over the course of the year with moderators Chitra Chopra, past resolution chair and VP Quebec (CFUW Montreal Inc.) and Brenda Wallace, past national president (CFUW Regina)

We understand that good change management includes open clear dialogue and communication to keep people informed.  To facilitate this open communication our process is designed to connect individual members and Clubs to the discussion.  We hope that you will take the time to carefully read the information that is on the CFUW website.  All the communication that has been sent out since the announcement of the IFUW rebranding is posted on the CFUW website.  If you have any questions please contact me, Doris Mae Oulton, National President with any questions or comments.

We are preparing three informational pieces (based on the questions identified at the Town Hall) and these will be distributed in the near future: The organizational/history of IFUW/GWI; the structure demonstrating the relationships of both IFUW/GWI and CFUW to the NFAs and international bodies; the financial details of our relationship with IFUW/GWI.

The Displays

The Board would like to thank the brave members who brought along displays to the AGM this year (we thought they were great – please start planning yours for next year):

* + 1. Trudy Baran, Saugeen on plain language
    2. Margaret McGovern – on behalf of the Early Learning and Child Care Group (Toronto)
    3. Susan Vecchiarelli, Kitchener/Waterloo (our wonderful hosts for 2014 AGM) activities
    4. Alison Hutchison, Nelson and district – a first time attendee and one of the small grant recipients
    5. Charlotte Rigby, Ottawa Club
    6. The Early Learning folks from Guelph

Thank you to our own members who presented workshops. Your contributions help to build capacity in the organization.

1. Sandy Thomson, RD Ontario Huron - Presidents workshop
2. Hally Siddon - Building a Voice for Women: One Club Charts a Route
3. Eleanor Scarth – Proposers and Amenders Workshop

And so… the real work of CFUW - the work of the CLUBS begins. Please know that you have a capable, dedicated, smart and willing Board who will support you in any way that they can. Know also that we have a brilliant, efficient, effective staff at the National Office who work VERY hard (have you ever seen a standing ovation for an ED at an AGM before) who will try to provide information, background material and advice whenever asked.

Many of you asked for the closing that was used. This is courtesy of an IFUW colleague, Shirley Randell, who has been a wonderful CFUW advocate who says “Here is an old Franciscan blessing (slightly adapted) that I love to share...

*May you be blessed with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.*

*May you be blessed with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.*

*May you be blessed with the gift of tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.*

*May you be blessed with enough foolishness to believe that you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God’s grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.”*

Again, thank you for attending. The Clubs are our strength; we will continue to be the voice for girls and women in Canada that we need to be - as long as the Clubs are strong.

Doris Mae Oulton

CFUW National President

1. Although IFUW has voted on a name change for the organization, the CFUW constitution refers to our membership as with IFUW – so you may see us use the name interchangeably [↑](#footnote-ref-2)