National Study Groups:

Clubs across the country have study and interest groups but the idea of the National Study Group/s is to provide women across the country with opportunities to work together on topics of shared interest. The Study Group may be of particular interest to those members who do not have groups available to them within their clubs.

The Study Group first met in the spring of 2015. Meetings are held by teleconference but members may communicate between meetings, sharing ideas and resources. It was initially thought that the group would split into smaller subgroups and this has happened as members work on projects but the whole group tends to come together for the teleconferences and sharing of reports and updates.

Currently, there are five very active groups within the Study Group: Early Learning and Childcare, Sexual Assault on Campus, Women in Universities, Indigenous Issues and Women in Leadership.

Early Learning and Childcare has been a priority for CFUW since the 1970s. The Federal Government has announced funding for a National Childcare program but this is still in the roll out phase and the Study Group continues to monitor and advocate on this issue.

Sexual Assault on Campus and Women in University have taken on a life of their own with two major research projects underway. These are the first pieces of original research by CFUW in 25 years.

The current focus of the Indigenous Persons Issues group is providing opportunities for CFUW members to learn more about Canada’s Indigenous Persons. The group has shared resources (booklists, video links, reports, etc.) through the National Website and is currently sponsoring an Indigenous Peoples Film Series (with assistance from the National Film Board).

Women in Leadership – is a project from Guelph which focuses on political leadership and has all sorts of possibilities for sharing across the country

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Finally –we are going to try a new venture MOOCs – massive on-line open courses and thanks to CFUW Oakville for this suggestion. MOOCs are an opportunity to participate in university level courses free of charge. They will be set up like a book club so that members can take the course in their own time but then come together for discussion. We are looking at courses that complement our advocacy priorities.

Suggestions for additional Study Groups are always welcome and some ideas that have been suggested are:

Caring for Children and Adolescents (Youth at Risk), Environment, STEM

Discussion Questions for the Study Group Workshop:

1. What is a topic of particular interest to you or to your club?
2. What are some ideas for forming a group and with whom might you connect?
3. How could you keep the group sustainable?
4. What do you hope to get out of a study group?