

Canadian Federation of University Women



Annual Report

May 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020

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Message from CFUW National President and Executive Director

The Power of Women Working Together

This annual report for 2019-2020 highlights CFUW's accomplishments over the past year which includes the Federation's 100th Anniversary activities at the Annual General Meeting and Conference in Winnipeg where a plaque acknowledging CFUW was unveiled by Parks Canada. The past year has indeed been a celebration: our Clubs honoured women from each Club who had the longest period of CFUW membership while at the national level 100 Notable Women were saluted; the history of CFUW by Dr. Dianne Dodd was published; the 100th Anniversary Scholarships Project was successfully completed raising more than \$215,000 additional funds for women scholars; the Membership Campaign was launched; the Dr. A Vibert Douglas Fellowship was bestowed on a student studying gender equality and CFUW clubs held festivities across the country.

With the spread of the pandemic, activities and fundraising at the club level have changed now that group meetings are not possible. Notwithstanding this dilemma, CFUW members have risen to the challenge and have found different ways to communicate and have redesigned meetings in an electronic format and important work in their communities and their fundraising initiatives are being rescheduled to fall 2020. Their efforts, courage and determination underline the real power of women working together.



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CFUW is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with close to 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 works with an impressive number of partner organizations nationally and worldwide.

CFUW's Mission Statement

CFUW will continue to enhance its role as a national, bilingual, self-funded, 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.

100th Anniversary Club Celebrations

In honour of CFUW's 100th Anniversary, many Clubs undertook initiatives to help celebrate the centenary. We asked Clubs to document the creative ways they chose to celebrate and you will find some highlights listed below. To read a full account of the Club activities, please see our Communicator of [October 2019](#) and [May 2020](#).

CFUW Ajax – Pickering

CFUW Ajax-Pickering held a special fundraiser in honour of CFUW's 100th Anniversary called Fascinating High Tea. Club volunteers dressed up in costumes from the early days of CFUW and served a high tea to paying guests.

CFUW Brantford

In recognition of the hundredth anniversary of the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Brantford Club undertook two initiatives: the establishment of a special centenary scholarship award, and the planting of a garden featuring the CFUW logo in Brantford's Memorial Garden.



CFUW Calgary

The recipient of the one-time CFUW 100th Anniversary Award for a female Indigenous graduate student was Angie Tucker. This tribute included a financial award of \$2000 provided by CFUW Calgary, CFUW Calgary North and CFUW Alberta Council in recognition of their 100th Anniversary.



L to R: Dr. Madeline Kalbach, Diana Tierney, Angie Tucker. Photo by Susan Wessels

CFUW Calgary North

CFUW Calgary North raised \$1,000 as part of the 100th Anniversary Scholarship Project. The club also donated \$1,000 to the Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society as part of the 100th Anniversary Special Local Project Award.

CFUW Charlottetown

CFUW Charlottetown held an open house in May 2019 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of CFUW and the 64th anniversary of the Club, and at the same time to raise awareness about CFUW and its resurgence in the community.

Special guests included the Lieutenant-Governor of PEI Antoinette Perry, CFUW President Grace Hollett, CFUW Atlantic VP Janet Willwerth, CFUW Moncton President Karen Dunnett, the Chancellor of the University of Prince Edward Island Catherine Callbeck, and newly elected PEI MLAs Trish Altass and Karla Bernard.

CFUW Fredericton

CFUW Fredericton is shown hosting the Atlantic Regional Council . The Club awarded a \$1,000 Centennial Scholarship to a student, Gabrielle Gionet, at the New Brunswick College of Crafts and Design in 2019 to commemorate CFUW National's Centennial.



CFUW Guelph

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of CFUW, CFUW Guelph created three special awards for students in financial need to provide support for up to three years of full-time study in an accredited post-secondary programme. Thanks to the generosity of CFUW Guelph members and the matching funds from the Federal Government, a total of \$19,500 in awards was granted.

CFUW Halifax

On Wednesday, September 25th, 2019 CFUW Halifax celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the organization with a birthday party. At the party, two members who had been recognized as Notable Women: Margie James and Janet Willwerth were acknowledged.



CFUW Haliburton Highlands

The Abbey Retreat Centre was full of laughter

on June 6 as the Club celebrated the 100th anniversary of CFUW and the 15th year anniversary of the Club. To mark the 100th anniversary, a scholarship of \$1,000 was created which was presented by Jane Adams on behalf of the scholarship committee.

CFUW Hamilton

To mark the 100th anniversary of CFUW, CFUW Hamilton awarded a special one-time scholarship, the CFUW 100th Anniversary Scholarship of \$2500, to a Children's Aid Society Crown Ward and donated \$2500.00 to the CFUW Charitable Trust. The Action and Advocacy Committee pledged to undertake 100 advocacy actions in the Anniversary year.

CFUW Kanata

Members of CFUW/Kanata created historical 100th Anniversary Info-boards for display in each of five local branches of the Ottawa Public Library. The importance of scholarships for women was revealed through the Club's photo display of recent recipients of the annual Scholarship Awards and the one- time special 100th Anniversary Awards for Indigenous Women. There were 14 \$1000 awards distributed in 2019.

CFUW Kincardine

This year to honour the 100th anniversary, the Kincardine CFUW awarded \$1,000 bursaries to two female graduates of the Kincardine District Secondary School who are continuing to post- secondary education.

CFUW Leaside – East York

CFUW Leaside-East York sent CFUW \$1000 towards the CFUW Anniversary Scholarship Fund.

CFUW Orillia

With the centennial celebrations of CFUW in mind, CFUW Orillia decided to document the history of the Club in book format. Completion of the history will be in time to celebrate our club's 65th anniversary in 2020.

CFUW Milton

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of CFUW, the Milton club wanted to make a significant statement to their community by honouring the women who have given their time and talent to make this a better society in which to live and raise a family. To do this, CFUW Milton & District partnered with the Fine Arts Society of Milton (FASM). Together, they created a sculpture installation marking the accomplishments of 100 women in their community over the past 100 years.



CFUW Mississauga

CFUW Mississauga has had a long-standing relationship with the University of Toronto, Mississauga and two representatives from the Awards Office assisted the Club in contacting previous recipients of a CFUW Mississauga award. The tradition of supporting the University continues as profits from the dinner were donated to an award at UTM Mississauga for a student of history.



Grace Hollett and Kathryn Wilkinson

CFUW Moncton

Education has been a strong focus of the Club since the beginning, and in 2019, the Club endowed its first “CFUW Moncton Award” at Mount Allison University. Giving \$25,000, along with 50% matching funds from government, produced an endowment of \$37,500 which will provide an annual award of \$1,500 for a woman in 3rd or 4th year of studies. The Club ended 2019 with another \$25,000 endowment (with matching 50% fund) at the Université de Moncton.

CFUW Nanaimo

The Club announced their 100th Anniversary award of \$2000 for a student in Ocean Sciences and presented a CFUW Certificate of Recognition to the Foundation for its outstanding leadership in student education.

CFUW North Bay

CFUW North Bay celebrated the 100th Anniversary of CFUW with a number of events from January to December 2019. One of the events featured CFUW North Bay hosting the raising of the 100th Anniversary Flag on April 10. The flag was designed by Mary Ann Jones, a member, and incorporated the 100th Anniversary logo. The proclamation declaring April 10 as CFUW North Bay Day was read by City Councillor Johanne Brousseau.



Susan Murphy and William Litchfield

CFUW North Delta/Surrey

The Club presented an additional bursary of \$2019 to Kwantlen Polytechnic University this year to celebrate the centennial of CFUW.

CFUW North Toronto

Twenty-four members of CFUW North Toronto were transported back in time to 1919 and beyond by attending the premier of the movie Downton Abbey together. In addition, the Club provided an anniversary scholarship of \$1,000 to a mature female student attending Woodsworth College in Toronto.



CFUW Northumberland

CFUW Northumberland undertook many initiatives in honour of the CFUW 100th Anniversary, 1919-2019. This included establishing a one-time bursary of \$1000 to be awarded to an Indigenous woman pursuing graduate studies in their county.

CFUW North Vancouver

An event that engaged the public was the Club's entry into the North Vancouver Canada Day Parade. Six club members walked in the parade, two in 1919 attire and the rest in more modern dress.

CFUW Orangeville and District

CFUW Orangeville and District commemorated CFUW's 100th anniversary with several events over 15 months meant to celebrate the achievements of CFUW. One of these was Persons Day. Approximately 90 people heard all the women candidates in the Orangeville municipal election speak in a coffee house type panel about their personal experience as a female candidate.

CFUW Oshawa and District

CFUW Oshawa & District, hosted a Fashion Show Fundraiser in April, 2019 in Bowmanville Ontario. All of the proceeds of the event went to the CFUW Oshawa & District 100th Anniversary Award, in celebration of CFUW's 100 years in Canada.



Club Members wearing the designs of Josef Ribkoff

CFUW Ottawa

CFUW Ottawa celebrated the 100th Anniversary of CFUW in a variety of ways. The most important was the introduction of a new award: *The CFUW National 100th Anniversary Scholarship* for a First-Nations, Inuit or Metis student at Carleton University valued at \$2000 per year.

Owen Sound and Area

As part of celebrating 100 years as an organization in Canada, CFUW identified 100 women across Canada as Notable Women. Judith Thomson of the Owen Sound and Area CFUW was a recipient and travelled to Winnipeg in August to receive it at the AGM of CFUW National.



Judith Thomson and Lori Ker

CFUW Parksville/Qualicum

Preparations for the centennial celebrations started in spring of 2018 with a workshop to raise money for the CFUW Parksville/Qualicum Scholarship and Bursary Trust Centennial Scholarship. The memoir writing workshop raised \$3000 which then added to the \$2000 from the trust and provided a scholarship of \$5000 which was awarded in June 2019.

CFUW Peterborough

We might be a small club but we wanted to cheer 100 years of CFUW with a \$1000 scholarship and a PARTY. Our club presents a yearly bursary to a deserving single mom attending Fleming; we also have two yearly bursaries for a Trent U Student, and one award to a graduating senior girl from each of the six high schools.

CFUW Prince Albert

Jerri Frantik, a Prince Albert University student was awarded the CFUW Prince Albert Centennial Scholarship. Jerri is wrapping up her master's degree in Indigenous Social Work at First Nation's University. While the national organization is marking its 100th anniversary, the club in P.A. is 88 years old.



CFUW Renfrew

In honour of the 100th anniversary, the Club hosted a Tea in September in support of their local library. Each April the Renfrew Club holds a giant used book sale to raise money for local scholarships. To commemorate 100 years of CFUW, the Club gave an extra \$5000 scholarship in addition to their regular donations.

CFUW Richmond

To celebrate 100th anniversary, CFUW Richmond donated approximately \$6,000 to Kwantlen Polytechnic University. This added to the Club's current endowment fund and allowed them to provide a second \$1000 scholarship to a female student at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU.)



CFUW Saanich Peninsula

For the CFUW 100th anniversary, the Club contributed \$5000 to the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Healthcare Foundation's professional development fund.

CFUW Sherbrooke & District

In recognition of CFUW's 100th Anniversary, CFUW Sherbrooke & District created the CFUW 100th Anniversary Indigenous Scholarship for an Indigenous (status, non-status, Métis or Inuit) student enrolled in the Education program at Bishop's University. The award is valued at \$1,000 and is renewable up to 3 years.

CFUW Southport

CFUW Southport began its celebrations with a trip to the Women's Institute Monument, high on a hill overlooking Georgian Bay where the group "poured tea" and re-enacted the famous teas held by the suffragettes to disguise their political gatherings and planning.

CFUW St. John's

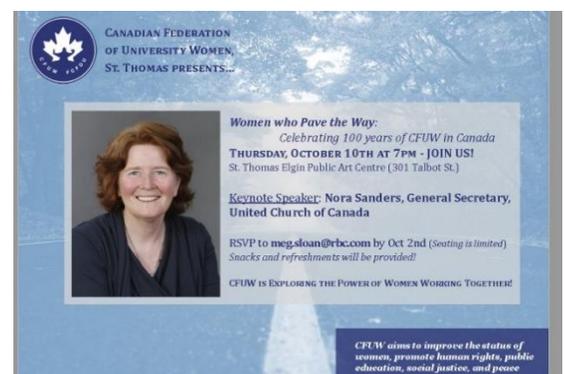
St. John's celebrated two anniversaries - the CFUW 100th in 2019 and the 75th of the Club in 2020. Highlights included our national presence: awarding of the \$7500 Grace Hiscock Hollett Scholarship and receiving the CFUW 100th Anniversary Creative Arts Award for the Club's nomination of PerSIStence Theatre's play "The Haunting of Margaret Duley".

CFUW St. Thomas

CFUW St. Thomas held its 100th anniversary celebration at the St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Gallery. The open meeting began with a power point presentation of the history of the club, designed and presented by vice-president Amy Sloan.

CFUW Stratford

The Club was thrilled to celebrate its 65th anniversary as a local club in Stratford as well as the 100th anniversary of the CFUW national organization. They organized a



programme of guest speakers that highlighted the impact Canadian women have had over the past 100 years.

CFUW Vernon

The members of CFUW Vernon are very proud of their club and its achievements. Receiving its charter in 1965, the Club has been a positive force for the betterment of women in its community and increased recognition of human rights for all. In 2015 the Club celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. In 2019, CFUW Vernon was able to award two \$1000 scholarships to Women in Trades in celebration of CFUW's centennial.

CFUW Victoria

As part of celebrating its 100 years, CFUW identified 100 women across Canada to be named as Notable Women. Five members from CFUW Victoria were named as Notable Women - Pat Martin Bates, Jill Leslie, Myrtle Siebert, Audrey Thomas, and Marjie Welchframe. CFUW also introduced the Sage Award as part of the 100th Anniversary celebration.



L to R: Myrtle Siebert, Audrey Thomas, Jill Leslie, Kay Porter, Marjie Welechframe, Pat Martin Bates.

CFUW West Vancouver

CFUW West Vancouver held a number of events to celebrate the 100th anniversary, including the CFUW 100th National Anniversary Education Award. The Club worked with Capilano University to make an External Award in the Faculty of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). With \$5000 previously fundraised, the Club made two \$2,500 awards.



Anna Zaitzeff, Liane McKenna, Glenys Galloway and Deborah Spicer

CFUW Wolfville

CFUW Wolfville was certainly ready to celebrate CFUW's 100th Anniversary having just celebrated Wolfville's 80th which culminated with hosting the 30th Anniversary of the Atlantic Regional Council on the theme of Inclusiveness. By all working together, the Club successfully held its 52nd Annual Book Sale which enabled it to give its annual \$2000 award to an Acadia student in the Women and Gender Studies program, and more!

Education Lifelong Learning and Leadership

While CFUW's efforts in the education area focus primarily on the post-secondary level, it works on initiatives that address education for women and girls at all levels.

Ensuring that girls know that beauty and strength come from within will help build a more equal and inclusive world was the message from children's book author Margot L. Denomme at the event organized by CFUW Aurora/Newmarket.



“By all of us working together to create confident and empowered girls, this effort will go a long way to create an equal world, which will ultimately lead to an enabled world,” said Denomme at the International Women’s Day event hosted by CFUW Aurora/Newmarket.

In 2019 to celebrate CFUW’s 100th Anniversary, Clubs committed to giving close to 60 additional local awards while the national Fellowships Program awarded nine additional fellowships to post-graduate students. As Lynn Franklin, Chair of the CFUW 100th Anniversary Scholarship Project stated: “it is my hope that at least one of these award winners will discover or create something that will change the world as we know it. “

CFUW Parksville/Qualicum raised \$3,000 for its Scholarship and Bursary Trust Centennial Scholarship by offering a memoir writing workshop.

CFUW Oakville granted \$22,500 in scholarships for Oakville women graduating from publicly funded institutions who intend to pursue post-secondary studies.

Over the past year, the CFUW Education Committee established a number of study groups focusing on various topics such as: Indigenous Peoples, Early Childhood Care and Education, Homelessness and Housing, Poverty, Violence Against Women and Girls, and Environment & Climate Change.

A number of webinars were offered to CFUW members during the year under review on such topics as; gun control; how to connect in the age of COVID-19, social media, and legal aspects of non-profit organizations. When the in-person AGM and conference was replaced by a virtual AGM (business meeting), the president asked committees

presenting workshops to redesign them as webinars. The Membership Committee has presented Get 'em and Keep 'em on May 26th, and the Indigenous Committee presented on June 1st. Both had attendances much larger that could have been accommodated at the AGM.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS: OVER \$1.4 MILLION RAISED IN 2019-2020

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

In 2019-20, CFUW Clubs and the CFUW Charitable Trust awarded **\$1,417,083** for education. CFUW has been helping women pursue post-secondary studies for more than 100 years since its inception in 1919. Profiles of the winners from the 2020 CFUW Fellowships and Awards can be found online at: <https://cfuwcharitabletrust.ca/awards/2020-2021-award-winners/>

CFUW SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES 2019-2020			
CFUW REGIONS	# OF CLUBS	AMOUNT	TOTAL
<i>BRITISH COLUMBIA</i>	21		\$319,060
<i>BC West</i>	11	\$175,612	
<i>BC Interior</i>	4	\$32,950	
<i>BC Vancouver Island</i>	6	\$110,498	
<i>PRAIRIES</i>	10		\$124,821
<i>Alberta</i>	5	\$62,796	
<i>Saskatchewan</i>	3	\$35,600	
<i>Manitoba</i>	2	\$26,425	
<i>ONTARIO</i>	49		\$623,287
<i>QUEBEC</i>	6		\$98,900
<i>ATLANTIC</i>	10		\$147,015
<i>New Brunswick</i>	3	\$59,900	
<i>Nova Scotia</i>	5	\$33,840	
<i>Prince Edward Island</i>	1	\$12,275	
<i>Newfoundland and Labrador</i>	1	\$41,000	
	96 Clubs		\$1,313,083
CFUW National Fellowships and Awards funded by the CFUW Charitable Trust			\$104,000
NATIONWIDE TOTAL:			\$1,417,083

Clubs in the Community and Internationally

CFUW's strength resides in the strong involvement of its Clubs in their communities and the passion they have in building a more equitable world for women and girls. CFUW Clubs recognise that real social change happens when organizations engage with partners and we are grateful to the many organizations and groups with whom we work. Not only do CFUW Clubs work in the community, they raise funds for various organizations and causes such as women's shelters, poverty organizations, libraries, foodbanks and many other charities. They also fundraise to send money outside of their communities to international causes such as schools in Africa and programs working to overcome violence against women.

CFUW CLUBS' OUTREACH DONATIONS 2019-2020	
<i>Community Outreach Donations</i>	\$141,546
<i>International Outreach Donations</i>	\$14,783
NATIONWIDE TOTAL:	\$156,329

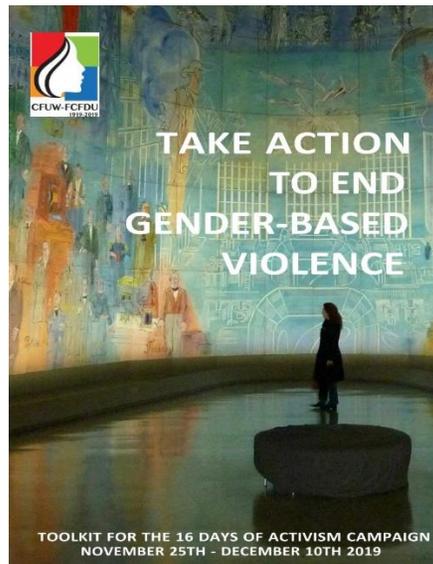
Our Advocacy Work

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) has worked to promote social justice, advance women's rights and foster equal access to education for more than 100 years. Our members have supported our tireless efforts to realize a gender-equal world by addressing important issues including early learning and childcare, pay equity, gender-based violence and Indigenous peoples rights.

Over the course of 2019-2020, CFUW met with senior level government officials and communicated that significant policy changes must occur to improve the lives of women and girls. For example, significant action is still needed to secure high-quality early learning and childcare for Canadian families. A recent call from the federal government, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, assured us that childcare is very much on government's agenda and we will be following up.

At the national level, CFUW delivered webinars and published fact sheets, backgrounders, toolkits, press releases and advocacy letters to persuade politicians to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace. We saw direct action from the Government of Canada in response to our advocacy work on gun control. In May 2020, the federal government announced an assault-style firearm ban which will help prevent future instances of gender-based violence.

CFUW clubs are currently facing unique challenges due to COVID-19. CFUW members have been reaching out online to support one another. Many of our members have reaffirmed their commitment to CFUW advocacy initiatives. We are grateful that so many of you have found comfort and hope in continuing projects to advance gender equality during the pandemic.



CFUW annually publishes an in-depth toolkit on actions to address gender-based violence

Among the initiatives undertaken by CFUW at the national level:

- Published talking points and backgrounders for the federal election on the eight topics of importance identified by CFUW members.
- Prepared an information sheet on how to use a gender lens.
- Submitted a press release on gender-based violence and COVID-19.
- Prepared advocacy letters on childcare and the COVID-19 crisis and supported other childcare organizations.
- Published a press release of the anniversary of the École Polytechnique Massacre
- Prepared a toolkit on gender-based violence to coincide with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign.
- Organized a Gun Control in Canada webinar on February 24th for CFUW members in collaboration with the Coalition for Gun Control.
- Coordinated a letter writing campaign to encourage the federal government to ban assault style firearms and implement a buyback program for firearms.
- Collected and sent resources to CFUW members on gender equality and the COVID-19 crisis in our newsletters and on social media.
- Submitted a press release to Snapd Media on CFUW's celebrations for International Women's Day.
- Prepared materials on writing land acknowledgements for CFUW Clubs and held a webinar on Indigenous Peoples rights.
- Met with Karen Jensen, Canada's first-ever federal Pay Equity Commissioner to discuss how the federal government will be enforcing the new Pay Equity legislation, and the work her department will be undertaking.
- Published a press release on gun control in response to federal ban of assault style firearms.



*Beijing+25 Anniversary Logo***International**

- Published an International Relations Newsletter for clubs in January.
- Fundraised for Inter Pares and Humanas as part of CFUW's annual International Women's Day campaign.
- Surveyed the international activities of CFUW Club Presidents and Regional Council Presidents.
- Participated in meetings with other national women's organizations as a member of the Beijing +25 working group.
- Collected articles regarding global advocacy and COVID-19 crisis and shared them with CFUW members and former UNCSW delegates.
- Brainstormed strategies to address global gender equality in the Beijing+25 Feminist Action Plan Thematic Working Groups.
- Attended the UNCSW Virtual Consultation Day.
- Networked with other international organizations including Plan International Canada and the Women Peace and Security Network.
- Shared CFUW research materials with GWI to be disseminated to other national affiliates.
- Organized a CFUW social media campaign sharing information on Beijing +25



CFUW participated in a meeting with 40+ advocates in Ottawa discussing a national childcare strategy

Partnership and Network Participation

CFUW has strengthened our organization's partnerships with many gender rights organizations and networks including Child Care Now, the Canadian Women's Foundation, the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Nobel

Women's Institute, YWCA, the Canadian Labour Congress and the Women Peace and Security Network. Recently CFUW has collaborated with the Coalition for Gun Control and Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns to advocate for increased gun control in Canada.

Over the year, CFUW National:

- Attended a feminist strategizing meeting with national women's organizations hosted by Oxfam Canada in January.
- Participated in meetings with other NGOs to help organize the International Women's Day event in Ottawa.
- Attended the Beijing +25 NGO Coalition Working Group meeting at the Canadian Labour Congress.
- Attended the Gender Equality Forum hosted by the Canadian Women's Foundation.
- Networked at a reception hosted by Senator Marilou McPhedran, the Nobel Women's Institute, COADY and Women Peace and Security Network.
- Attended a conference hosted by Equal Voice on Women in the Legislature.
- Supported work done by the Women, Peace and Security Network.
- Participated in a meeting with 40+ advocates in Ottawa discussing a national childcare strategy organized by Child Care Now in December
- Attended a Child Care Network call to discuss supporting childcare centers during the COVID-19 Crisis.
- COVID-19 Child Care advocacy campaigning with Child Care Now and other childcare advocates.
- Participated in NGO CSW/NY Working Group Beijing +25 - Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan thematic groups.
- Partnered with the Coalition for Gun Control on a webinar for CFUW members.
- Supported Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns by sending out gun control campaign letters to CFUW members.

CFUW National Initiatives

Violence against Women and Girls

Gender-based violence is a persistent and pervasive issue in Canada, affecting approximately half of all women over the course of their lives. The mental, physical, social, and financial impacts of violence are devastating and cannot be ignored. CFUW

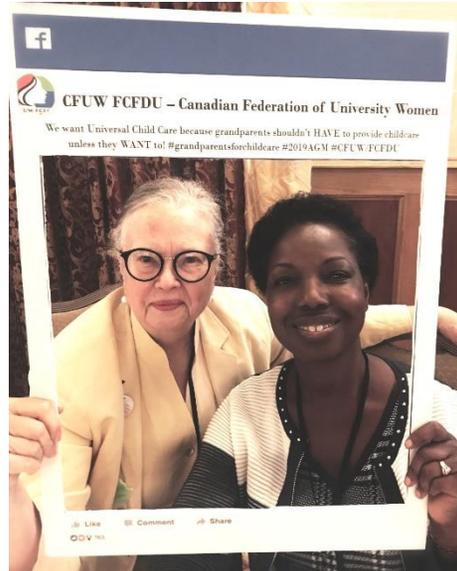
Clubs across Canada have shown a dedicated commitment to raising awareness on violence against women and girls in Canada. CFUW has conducted surveys of universities and colleges in Canada to evaluate the status of female faculty and students at those institutions. In 2020, CFUW published a [Sexual Violence and Harassment Policies in Post-Secondary Institutions in Canada Final Report](#). The report asserts that universities must continue to improve their sexual violence and harassment policies to ensure a safe post-secondary campus environment. CFUW advocates for post-secondary Institutions to update their policies to support survivors of sexual violence and harassment.

CFUW clubs organize events each year to commemorate the École Polytechnique Massacre and 16 Days campaign to end gender-based violence. CFUW National created a [16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign toolkit](#) that details actions to help end violence against women and girls. CFUW stands against anti-feminism and gender-based violence by supporting survivors, challenging negative or inaccurate stereotypes and spreading awareness.

Early Learning and Child Care

Childcare has long been an issue of concern for CFUW. Since 1972, we have been advocating for further investment, structure and support for a national child care system. CFUW strongly believes that education is a public responsibility and a social investment that must start in the earliest years of children's lives.

During the last election, early learning and childcare was on the agenda of all the major parties. Prime Minister Trudeau and the Liberal Party promised to develop a National Early Learning and Child Care Framework to deliver affordable, high-quality and flexible childcare for Canadians. Now, post-election, CFUW has been putting pressure on the government to support early learning and childcare through advocacy letter writing campaigns and strategizing with other national childcare advocates. CFUW works closely with organizations including Child Care Now to advocate for the childcare sector. CFUW and our partners urge the Canadian Government to implement a sound policy framework, substantial financial commitments to licensed childcare, and strong leadership on the issue.



Doris Mae Oulton, former CFUW President and Joy Hurst, VP International taking part in the Grandparents for Child Care Social Media Campaign

CFUW launched the Grandparents for Childcare campaign in honour of our 100th Anniversary. Grandparents for Childcare advocates for publicly funded childcare that is high quality, accessible, affordable and inclusive across Canada. This campaign brings together grandparents who are invested in the well-being of our children and our grandchildren. At CFUW's AGM in Winnipeg many of our members participated in a social media campaign for Grandparents for Childcare. We shared the photos on CFUW's social media and raised awareness of the need for increased funding for early learning and childcare.

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

CFUW recognizes past and ongoing forms of colonialism experienced by First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. We aim, through research, learning projects, calls to action, events and partnerships, to support Indigenous Peoples' rights. This year CFUW established the Indigenous Peoples Committee to show our commitment to learning more about the issues facing Indigenous Peoples and how we can offer support. The Committee hosted a workshop for CFUW members in June 2020 to help them learn more about CFUW's advocacy on Indigenous Peoples rights. CFUW developed materials to help clubs develop their own land acknowledgements to honour the land and its connection with Indigenous peoples.

Regional/Provincial

The BC Council organized a workshop on Women in STEM and reached out to young women entering their studies. The BC Council updated their website and Facebook page with advocacy links, letters, bulletins news links. Members lobbied the provincial government on issues such as childcare and poverty reduction. The Council promoted the use of the eight fact sheets released by the CFUW National Advocacy Committee for Club use prior to the federal election last fall.

CFUW Prairies organized a joint panel discussion with CFUW Edmonton regarding the National AGM and CFUW's centenary celebration. CFUW Prairies also organized meetings to discuss strategies to end gender-based violence. They helped organize an event in Lethbridge, Alberta with guest speaker Lisa Lambert entitled Not All Women: Who is Still Missing from Politics. The event was livestreamed out to all Prairie Clubs in addition to St John's and Halifax.

Clubs in the Atlantic Region held fundraising events including well-attended book sales in Fredericton, Moncton, Wolfville and St. John's. The Atlantic Regional Council continued to work in their community and studied the upcoming national resolutions. Nova Scotia organized an event on the Status of Women to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the massacre at École Polytechnique.

The Québec Council hosted speaker series and participated in activities sponsored by Femmes, Politique et Démocratie and Partenaires pour la Parité. The Québec Council took action on issues including: Indigenous education, financial literacy, young adults aging out of care, homeless women, poverty, violence against women and refugees; UWC Montreal Lakeshore was successful in having their petition for youth aging out of care placed on the National Assembly website. All clubs allocated bursaries to both CEGEP and University students.

Ontario Council organized events on the theme "Women Helping Women" and delivered an exciting Speakers' Series. The Council coordinated letter writing campaigns on advocacy issues such as early learning and childcare, climate change, education, gendered-based violence and poverty reduction.

Local

CFUW St. John's partnered with The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Intimate Partner Violence Unit to support victims of domestic violence amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes connecting those who face gender-based violence with vital forms of technology, installing replacement locks for those in need and sheltering pets.



CFUW Nelson & District Advocating for the Better Ballot Campaign

CFUW Nelson & District joined with other CFUW clubs across the country to promote the Better Ballot Campaign which fights against personal attacks on politicians based on gender, race, appearance, religion or status.



CFUW Southport's Vigil marked the 30th anniversary of the École Polytechnique Massacre

CFUW Southport organized a vigil to mark the 30 years since the targeted murder of 14 women at École Polytechnique in Montreal. Biographies of the École Polytechnique Massacre victims were read aloud to remember their stories. The event brought the Saugeen Shores community together and participants wore white ribbons to stand against gender-based violence.



University Women Helping Afghan Women members with invited guests for the Dinner for Hope Fundraiser

University Women Helping Afghan Women organized a Dinner for Hope fundraising event with speaker H.E. Roya Rahmani, the first woman ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States.



Phillipa Syme (pictured right) Chair of CFUW Perth Environment Committee, and Shelley Ball (pictured left)

CFUW Perth showed leadership by taking action for climate justice in their city. CFUW Club members Phillipa Syme and Shelley Ball testified at their city council meeting on the importance of retaining the anti-idling by-law in their city. Following the testimonies, the council voted to keep the anti-idling by-law for the time being and unanimously passed a motion requesting staff to develop an educational campaign on the harmful impacts of idling a vehicle.

CFUW Clubs and International Women's Day

CFUW clubs came together to hold events to honour this year's International Women's Day theme #EachforEqual. CFUW recognizes that collectively, we all play a role in supporting one another to advance gender equality. CFUW clubs held events including panel discussions, conferences, rallies, film screenings, plays and more.



CFUW North Bay's Join Me on the Bridge Event

CFUW North Bay partnered with other community organizations for the Join Me on the Bridge Event. Participants formed a bridge of peace calling for an end to war and the violence and investment in women's development. This event was inspired by a movement that began in 2010 by women from Rwanda and the Congo who had endured the trauma of war.

CFUW Victoria hosted a successful speaker's event on Women and Girls Making a Difference for the Environment. CFUW Victoria gave attendees helpful tips on how to take action to address climate change.



CFUW Georgetown IWD March

CFUW Georgetown hosted an IWD march at a busy mall in the city. Club members organized an advocacy table on the day of the march at the mall to promote women's rights and CFUW.

CFUW Milton and District organized their annual International Women's Day March. This year's focus was on increasing community impact and visibility of the march. Club members also collected donations of feminine hygiene products that were given to a local Food Bank.



Panelists at CFUW Vernon's IWD Seminar

CFUW Vernon held an International Women's Day seminar at Okanagan College. They discussed several interesting topics such as gender wage gap and women in powerful positions. Issues convener Barbara Van Sickle said IWD is a "a call to action to accelerate women's parity of access to rights and opportunities with men within societies everywhere."



CFUW Parksville Qualicum members at their clubs IWD Vintage Fashion show and Celebration

CFUW Parksville Qualicum organized an International Women's Day Celebration which included a presentation by Dr. Louise Mandell, QC, Vancouver Island University Chancellor, and renowned expert in Aboriginal Law and Treaty Rights. Dr. Mandell focused her talk on 'Helping one another come home: Broadening women's rights, identifying and overcoming challenges through the lens of her own experience'.

International Advocacy

CFUW engages in different advocacy campaigns to encourage the Canadian Government to fully meet their human rights obligations under various United Nations Conventions and agreements. Some of the key conventions and agreements CFUW monitors include the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

This year the CFUW International Relations Committee published an [International Relations Newsletter](#) in January to share different projects being undertaken by the national office and CFUW clubs. The newsletter included tips on how to get involved with CFUW's international advocacy.

GWI

CFUW recently launched the CFUW-GWI Club which just marked its one-year anniversary in May 2020. The purpose of the club is to; support the advancement of the status of women, human rights and the common good locally, nationally and internationally; promote education of women and girls; work with partners and associations to attain the above; and as CFUW members, to support Graduate Women International (GWI). During club meetings there have been presentation on GWI activities including the GWI Teachers for Rural Futures project that is training teachers in Uganda.

The CFUW-Canada-GWI has been partnering with the Mexican Federation in addition to GWI. CFUW-Canada-GWI club members also participated in the Mexican Federation Symposium from November 28-30 2019, on empowering girls and women in Mexico City. In January 2020 CFUW-GWI hosted a virtual meet'n'greet with our sister NFA's in North America.



CFUW members networking WG-USA and FEMU

Partnership and Collaboration with other NGO's

CFUW celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action this year. Canadian national women's organizations, including CFUW came together to reflect on how to use Beijing +25 as a tool to pressure the Canadian government to take action on gender equality issues. The network of women's organizations released a review of Canada's progress on gender equality titled "[Unfinished Business A Parallel Report on Canada's Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.](#)" The report examines Canada's achievements and failures over the last 25 years in areas ranging from Indigenous women and girls rights to women's economic standing.

This parallel report was submitted to the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in advance of the Beijing +25 Regional Review Meeting held in October 2019. Beijing+25 is an opportunity to strengthen the gender rights movement and ensure the equality of all women and girls.

Local Club International Relations Advocacy



CFUW Etobicoke members Mary Hilborn (right) and Karen Henderson (left) showcase the illuminating power of the Little Sun solars

In November, CFUW-Etobicoke launched the Little Sun Centennial Project in partnership with the International Organization for Migration. This was a fundraising project in celebration of CFUW's 100th anniversary. The project raised over \$7000 which resulted in approximately 700 sun lamps to be distributed to women and girls living in Ethiopian migrant camps. CFUW Etobicoke was inspired by CFUW Perth and District's previous fundraising for the Little Sun Project.



St. John's Club fundraised for feminine hygiene products donated to girls in Northeastern Nigeria

St. John's Club created a fundraising project to help girls in Northeastern Nigeria victimized and denied education by *Boko Haram* Islamic militants. St. John's Club oversaw scholarship awards, book donations and donations of feminine hygiene products. Over the last couple years St. John's Club awarded a total of \$6000 (CAD) to fund scholarships for 10 girls studying at Government Girls Science and Technology College Dapchi in Yobe State, Nigeria. These girls were among the 104 female students rescued from *Boko Haram* militants' captivity in March 2018. The scholarships have enabled the girls to return to school to continue with their education.

International Women's Day Project

Each year CFUW National encourages our almost 100 Clubs to fundraise for a common project related to gender rights in the lead up to International Women's Day. The projects are chosen from applications sent in by international and national organizations that support women's rights.

CFUW's International Women's Day 2020 Fundraising Project is "Promoting Justice for Women in Colombia," a project supported by [Inter Pares](#) and implemented by their Colombian counterpart [Humanas](#). CFUW is excited to partner with Inter Pares for a second year. Inter Pares is an organization that has worked for over 40 years with organizations from around the world to build peace and promote social justice.



Photo from a Humanas' workshop to end gender-based violence in Colombia

Last year CFUW raised over \$3,000 for Inter Pares and Humanas! Humanas has held workshops in Antioquia and Quibdo on sexual and gender-based violence and gathered information to present to Colombia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. CFUW fundraising has made a difference in ending gender-based violence in Colombia.

Membership and Sustainability

In the year under review, the Membership Committee capitalized on the excitement of CFUW's 100-year Anniversary to launch a special membership drive. The Committee created a Toolkit to share successes and address challenges and generated a travelling exhibit for clubs to celebrate their achievements and profile their work in their communities. The Committee held conference calls with small clubs across the country to identify key opportunities to energize work locally and discover ways in which CFUW National could provide further support.

CFUW staff rose to the challenge of the pandemic by providing Clubs with training and access to teleconferences and zoom meetings. The National President held a series of virtual meetings with Clubs to discuss how they were dealing with the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Given that the in-person annual general meeting had to be cancelled, Board committees offered webinars to the Clubs on membership matters, Indigenous peoples' issues and international advocacy. The regional VPs carried on their important work in providing support to their Clubs and being the conduit along with the Regional Directors between National and the Clubs.

During the year, National staff responded to 2,423 inquiries from CFUW members and sent out 1,994 club supply items and certificates and prepared 92 newsletters.

In November 2018, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) approached Graduate Women International (GWI) to request that discussions be entered into with the following objectives:

1. To negotiate specific areas of collaboration and partnership between CFUW and GWI including the contribution of each organization.
2. To identify and address areas of the CFUW - GWI partnership that cause concern to one or both parties.
3. To re-negotiate a GWI dues formula and payment terms that is sustainable within the context of the current CFUW environment.

Discussions and negotiations took place between the two negotiation teams from each organization. An agreement was arrived at on July 16, 2019. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CFUW and GWI indicates the willingness of both parties to collaborate and strengthen cooperation. Over the course of discussions, GWI and CFUW were able to agree on an in-kind portion of the GWI dues, and identify a number of areas of collaboration and cooperation that could enhance their relationship and also contribute to the advancement of women's and girls' rights in GWI's NFA.

In April 2020, at the initiative of the MOU Implementation Committee, CFUW engaged Dr. Rebecca Bromwich to meet with a Mediation Working Group of 12 CFUW members to generate options for resolving an impasse regarding CFUW membership in GWI and to find a way forward. Her mediation memorandum will be forthcoming later in the year.



*Notable Women Receiving Awards at the 2019
AGM in Winnipeg*

CFUW Clubs Across Canada as of April 30, 2020

BC WEST

Abbotsford
Coquitlam
New Westminster
North Delta/Surrey
North Vancouver
Richmond
South Delta
Sunshine Coast
Vancouver
West Vancouver
White Rock/Surrey

BC INTERIOR

Kelowna
Nelson & District
Prince George
Vernon

BC VANCOUVER ISLAND

Cowichan Valley
Nanaimo
Parksville-Qualicum
Saanich Peninsula
Salt Spring Island
Victoria

ALBERTA

Calgary
Calgary North
Edmonton
Lethbridge
Strathcona County

SASKATCHEWAN

Prince Albert
Saskatoon
Yorkton

MANITOBA

Portage la Prairie
Winnipeg

ONTARIO NORTH

Haliburton Highlands
Muskoka
North Bay
Orillia
Sudbury
Thunder Bay

ONTARIO SOUTH

Brantford
Burlington
Georgetown
Grimsby
Hamilton
Milton & District
Mississauga
Oakville
St. Catharines
Welland & District

ONTARIO WEST

Cambridge
Guelph
Kitchener-Waterloo
London
Sarnia/Lambton
St. Thomas
Stratford
Windsor

ONTARIO

CENTRAL
Ajax-Pickering
Aurora-Newmarket
Barrie & District
Etobicoke
Leaside-East York
Markham-Unionville
North Toronto
North York
Northumberland
Oshawa & District
Scarborough
Toronto

ONTARIO EAST

Belleville & District
Cornwall & District
Kanata
Kingston
Nepean
Ottawa
Perth & District
Peterborough
Renfrew & District

ONTARIO HURON

Kincardine
Orangeville & District
Owen Sound & Area
Southport

QUEBEC

AFDU Québec
AFDU Montérégie
Montreal Inc.
Montreal Lakeshore
Montreal South Shore
Sherbrooke & District

NEW BRUNSWICK

Fredericton
Moncton
Saint John

NOVA SCOTIA

Cape Breton
Dartmouth
Halifax
Pictou County
Wolfville

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Charlottetown

NEWFOUNDLAND

St. John's

CFUW Canada GWI Club

Our CFUW Affinity Partners



VIA Rail Canada