**CFUW and ADVOCACY**

Advocacy has been part of CFUW since the beginning, being involved with the community, provincial and national issues.

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For most Clubs, the national involvement is with the **annual resolution process**. You will be voting on these during the Business meeting of the Annual General Meeting. Once accepted, the adopted resolutions become our policy, our direction for advocacy.

The annual process starts again with the **November 15th deadline for Intents** for the next AGM. You will receive the **newly proposed resolutions in mid-February**, with the **amendment date April 15, 2017.**

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In the fall, you will receive the **Fall Advocacy Package** that includes template letters, and suggested activities for the adopted resolutions from this AGM.

With the package are **the CFUW Briefs** – they are developed based on this bank of adopted resolutions.

Please send these letters and Briefs to your MPs. It’s a great start to express our annual concerns.

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On the website, printed version available at the AGM, and in the News and Updates, you will find **Event, Issue, and Program Ideas for Clubs**, a list of excellent ideas for program and events. While most clubs programs may be set by now, this will give you ideas for special programs and for next year.

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During the club year, you will get both **requests and suggestions for action** from the Provincial Councils and the National Board and Office. Many times this includes template letters to send. Talk about it with your Issues Committee or Board, and if you can, get involved. We do appreciate it. Just follow the **CFUW Advocacy Guidelines**, please, found on [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org)

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The 2017-18 National Initiatives are **Preventing and Responding to Violence against Women and Girls**, **Early Childhood Education, and Issues affecting Indigenous Communities.** Information that you can use, as well as a list of club projects can be found in the website under Member Tools and Resources 🡪 Advocacy.

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Does your Club have an **Issues Committee**? If not, and if they are losing interest, on our website, you can find **Starting and Energizing an Issues Committee** that might help.

One of the things that we suggest is something called **Kitchen Table Talks**, simply bringing ideas to the table and talking about it, sometimes actions and enthusiasm follows.

We also suggest having a member of that Committee either on the Board or invited to the meetings, so that there is no confusion about advocacy action, especially if you do have a very active groups.

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If you can, try Incorporating advocacy into the Club business meeting with **Advocacy Minutes**, or write about topics in the newsletter. The national office provides the **Press Agency** that has articles that might be useful to you. You also suggest to the Issues Committee to create a Did You Know … column.

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If your Club does want to **take action**, there are many resources concerning advocacy action on the [www.cfuwadmin.org](http://www.cfuwadmin.org) website. Right now you will find everything under Member Tools and Resources/ Advocacy.

In doing action, remember please. Follow the **Advocacy Guidelines** found on Tools for Advocates webpage. Check for available policy in the **CFUW** **Policy Book** found online. If you’re confused, connect with your Regional Director or the national office at [cfuwadvocacy@rogers.com](mailto:cfuwadvocacy@rogers.com)

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More information can be found on the website, and in the following publications:

**The Communicator** – information about Clubs and CFUW

**CFUW Week in Review** - This publication provides a review of CFUW’s recent advocacy activities and also contains a compilation of news articles from Canada and around the world on matters related to gender, peace, education, equality, the environment and other issues covered by CFUW policies.

**CFUW News and Updates** – the administrative publication giving information about upcoming activities, deadlines, programs, projects, etc.

**The Press Agency** – articles for Club’s newsletters

**The Policy Book Online** <http://www.cfuw.org/en-ca/advocacy/policybook.aspx> the bank of all adopted resolutions since 1964 that is used to direct advocacy action for CFUW.