

## MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN – LE CONSEIL DES FEMMES DE MONTRÉAL

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Bulletin Editor and  
Layout: S. Gyles

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October was a very busy month as MCW worked on several resolutions submitting eventually submitting them to the membership. One specifically dealing with "funding for day centres and shelters for the homeless" was sent to the Mayor of the City of Montreal.

A group of 50 participants spent a lovely and informative afternoon at Maison Forget and listened to a talk given by Mr. Bruce Bolton. Mr. Bolton was simply engaging as he explained about the history of the home and its furnishings and a little bit about the former owners. And the house itself, quite remarkable and quite the history.

Also this month, it became legal to buy Cannabis in Canada. More locally, the City of Montreal honoured the late Daisy Peterson, a piano teacher who taught hundreds of students, for many years including renowned pianist, Dr. Oliver Jones. A mural was painted on the side of an apartment building in Little Burgundy, It was credited by artist Kevin Ledo who also created the Leonard Cohen mural in the Plateau. Mayor Benoit Dorais of the Southwest borough was present for the inauguration.

November will mark one year since Valerie Plante became the first female Mayoress of Montreal. This December 6 marks 29 years of the École Polytechnique massacre, where in 1989 14 young women were murdered. A total of 28 people were shot before their killer turned the gun on himself. You will notice that our guest speaker for February, Black History Month will be the Honourable Marlene Jennings. *Shirley Gyles - President*

**SPECIAL MCW HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon on December 6, 2018 at the cost of \$10.00 per person, payable at the door. The address is: 2700 Rufus Rockhead, Montreal. Please advise S. Gyles if you plan to attend at: [450-672-7081](tel:450-672-7081) or e-mail: [sagyles@sympatico.ca](mailto:sagyles@sympatico.ca).

## HONOURABLE MARLENE JENNINGS

## Speaker February – Black History Month – February 7, 2019

Our guest speaker for February 2019 will be the former Liberal MP and Parliamentary Secretary the Honourable Marlene Jennings. Mrs. Jennings represented the City of Montreal's Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine riding in the House of Commons from 1997 to 2011. At the time of her election in 1997, Marlene was the first Black woman from Quebec to be elected to the Canadian Parliament.

During her 14-year tenure as Member of Parliament, Marlene served as Parliamentary Secretary to a number of ministers, including the Minister for International Cooperation, the Solicitor General of Canada, and the Prime Minister with special emphasis on Canada-U.S. relations. During that time, she also served as deputy House Leader

Marlene's involvement in politics was always fueled by an insatiable desire to help, and she saw politics as one of the most efficient ways to bring about the meaningful change she wanted to see in her community. That sense of involvement had manifested itself in other ways, notably in the form of her advocacy on employment equity for women, aboriginal peoples, and ethnic and racial minorities and the volunteer work she has done in many community associations.

Marlene is a recipient of the Jackie Robinson Award for Professionals, awarded by the Montreal Association of Black Business Persons and Professionals.



Hon. Marlene Jennings

## WE HAVE WORK TO DO

The #MeToo movement impacts all of us. Whether we are survivors of sexually inappropriate behaviour or lucky enough to have escaped that fate, society has decreed that the time has come for victims to be heard and for those responsible to be accountable for their actions. Hopefully, this will be a solid first step towards making life between men and women more equitable, given that one in three females will still experience sexual harassment, and worse, in her lifetime.

To that end, MCW will once again participate in the annual forum held at Concordia University on November 22nd. The overall aim of this event is to educate and make people aware of the red flags that lead to bullying and domestic violence while also providing a venue for victims and survivors to tell their stories and connect as a community; by providing awareness, education and some of the necessary resources one needs to move forward. Our ultimate goal as an organization is to send resolutions based on current needs and discussions to our National chapter and then on to Ottawa.

This year, MCW is celebrating its 125th anniversary. We are extremely proud of the work we have done over the years to help women, supporting them as their roles in society have expanded and changed. Our participation on November 22nd is but one small step towards the goal of providing women with a venue, where they can not only speak freely, but also share their own ideas with like-minded people.

We invite everyone to come by the Engineering Building lobby on November 22nd between 10:00 and 2:00 p.m. and we encourage those who would like to participate pro-actively, to join MCW and become members who can take part in the important societal changes coming our way. For more information, go to: [mcw-cfm.org](http://mcw-cfm.org) or our Facebook page at Montreal Council of Women. – *Ingrid Berzins*

## REGISTER "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" / Your

Once again we invite you to come and share your information on the work you offer in human rights, peace movements, social justice as well as work against violence in this 16-day campaign... on **Thursday November 22nd, 2018** at the atrium of Concordia University on St. Catherine and Guy Streets from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. <https://swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/index-en.html>



Status of Women Canada is inviting:

- women's organizations whose primary objective is to advance gender equality for women in Canada; and,
- Indigenous organizations who are legally constituted non-for-profit organizations and whose work has a significant focus on advancing gender equality for Indigenous women in Canada; to submit proposals for projects under the Capacity-building Fund call for proposals.

Under this Call for Proposals, eligible organizations will receive funding to increase organizational and sector capacity, allowing women's organizations to participate in activities such as skills development and community engagement. This funding will be exclusively awarded to projects that aim to increase organizational capacity and will help these organizations contribute to reducing gender inequality in Canada, and promoting a fairer and more productive society.

The deadline for applications under this call for proposals is 11:59 a.m. (Pacific Time), on **December 11, 2018**.

Before you get started, carefully read the Call for Proposals [Applicant Guide](#).

For more information, please visit our [website](#). You may also find it useful to contact your Regional Office of Status of Women Canada to discuss your proposal with a project officer before submission: [infoquebec@swc-cfc.gc.ca](mailto:infoquebec@swc-cfc.gc.ca)

The dates for the information sessions in English can be found below.

By teleconference (across Quebec) or in person:  
Including Indigenous organizations:

<b>Information Session</b>	1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. <b>October 25, 2018</b>
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By teleconference:  
Including Indigenous organizations:

<b>Questions / Answer Session</b>	1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. <b>November 13, 2018</b>
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To register for these sessions, please contact the Quebec Regional Office as soon as possible at [infoquebec@swc-cfc.gc.ca](mailto:infoquebec@swc-cfc.gc.ca) or by telephone at 1-888-645-4141 (toll-free) or 514-283-3150.

## 125 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING

As MCW celebrates 125 years of existence, we take a look back.

The National Council of Women of Canada is a self-funded non-governmental organization founded in October 1893 by Lady Aberdeen. Incorporated in 1914 by an Act of Parliament, NCWC was given national historic significance status on April 30th, 2001 by the Government of Canada for their role in Canadian women's history.

Representation in all provinces is made possible through local organizations and serves as a coordinating voice for women through these local councils. Initiated shortly after the establishment of NCWC, these councils have been addressing community needs, particularly for women and children; over time. This has contributed to the development of non-profit organizations and forms of government funding. Past and present issues concerning the history of women's rights and their self-determination have been fought for over 125 years by both NCWC and MCW.

Lady Aberdeen was convinced of the continuing necessity for social reform. She wrote in her diary, "We are to include all societies and institutions." She declared, "We represent different creeds, different churches, different races different views and schools of thought." Her investigation showed that in Toronto, a city of 181,215 residents, there were 800 destitute applicants in need of aid. She made similar visits to Montreal and Quebec City and realized that organized philanthropy was essential to the well-being of society.

In 1911 during the typhoid epidemics in the cities of Kingston, Ottawa, Quebec City and Montreal, health care was desperately needed in those communities. NCWC resolutions called for public health measures such as safe water supply, pasteurized milk, and medical inspection in schools. Due to contaminated water supplies, the overpopulation of the working-class neighborhoods, the absence of plumbing and an inadequate system of aqueducts and sewers in Montreal, prompted the construction of public baths. Due to the concern for public health and hygiene, the MCW was instrumental in convincing the City of Montreal to provide these public baths for the populace.

MCW was responsible for the establishment of a Medical Relief Fund to assist those unable to afford their prescription drugs. The Council's campaign on behalf of the mentally ill in 1918, led to the formation of the Canadian National Committee on Mental Hygiene, predecessor of the Canadian Mental Health Association. MCW also fought for the establishment of a home to welcome female immigrants, held campaigns in order to appoint women to school boards and to Montreal City Council.

Local councils also lobbied for medical inspection programs in schools, for safe water supplies and for the sanitary disposal

of sewage. Subsequently, several women's organizations were formed to address the problems of that era and still remain relevant today. The McGill Women's Alumnae Association was founded by the first women graduates of McGill, the class of 1888. Initially banding together, for mutual support, these eight women made valuable and lasting contributions to the University and the community at large, that remain relevant today.

Since its early beginnings in 1879, the Montreal Diet dispensary has worked steadily with the less fortunate of Montreal, to help find solutions to the nutritional problems created by poverty. The Zonta Club of Montreal, chartered in 1928, aims to advance and improve the legal, political, economic and professional status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Because of the special needs of different cultures in their respective communities, various organizations were established in the early 1900's. The Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society was established in 1922, in response to the growing needs in the Greek community in Montreal. Prior to its establishment, young ladies, known as "mail order brides" arrived in Montreal from Greece, to marry Greek men. At that time, it was improper for these young women to live with a man prior to marriage. Many of the young girls refused to marry a man perhaps 20-30 years their senior or for other reasons; hence they had no place to go. The HLBS provided food and shelter to them. They also provided funds for medical assistance and to pay for funeral expenses for destitute people of the community. Today the HLBS continues to be a vibrant association in the Greek community.

The Committee for Relief to Polish Children was founded in 1953 and at that time, following the second world war, there was a great need, to help widows and their children. Women volunteers also came to the forefront of helping newly arrived refugees. Similarly, today, with the influx of immigrants from various countries faced with assimilation and acculturation issues, community groups continue to play a very important role in assisting these people; community organizations as well as government agencies are assisting newly arrived immigrants.

### BACK TO 1929

Canadian women born before 1929 were considered by law to be "non-persons." Five governments stated that women were ineligible to be appointed to the Senate because they were not "persons." In fact, British Common Law stated they were "persons in the matter of pains and penalties, but not in the matter of rights and privileges."

Alberta 1927, five women petitioners, the group led by Judge Emily Murphy, included, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Nellie McClung, Louise Crummy McKinney and Irene Parlby appealed to the Canadian Government to have women legally considered persons so that women could be appointed to the Senate. When the Canadian court rejected their fifth appeal in 1928, the "Famous Five" as they became to be

known, persuaded Prime Minister MacKenzie to ask the Canadian Supreme Court to clarify the word "persons" under the British North America Act of 1867.

The Government of Canada appealed to the judicial Committee of the British Privy Council. There, the "Famous Five" won their case and on October 18, 1929, Canadian women were legally declared "persons" and eligible for appointment to the Senate.

**WOMENS RIGHTS**

Lady Aberdeen was very concerned about women's rights in marriage. Women did not have the right to own their own property, keep their wages/ money. if they inherited money or other it automatically belonged to the husband. A commenter wrote that the "origin of marriage thousands years ago was to create a legal contract by which a man could acquire a female slave."

The general focus today continues on the complex needs of society including the environment, education, social issues such as violence against women, child pornography acceptance of Transgender individuals.

The 125th Anniversary of MCW reflects the evolution of the populace and community over time. In the first half of the twentieth century great credit is given to the National Council of Women of Canada and the Local councils for their remarkable achievement in basic issues of health and wellbeing. Today, the general focus continues on the more complex needs of society.

We continue to see case in all corners of the globe where women die at the hands of a violent partner or are physically, sexually and mentally abused. – B. Destounis

**COME JOIN US**  
**SPECIAL LUNCHEON**  
**HOLIDAY\* PARTY**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018,**  
**NOON**  
**\$10.00, WINE INCLUDED WITH MEAL**

*\*Members of different faiths to speak about their various traditions and celebrations*

**RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST**  
**Tel. 450-672-7081 or email:**  
**[mcwinformation@gmail.com](mailto:mcwinformation@gmail.com)**

*We are asking that you please bring a non-perishable item to be donated for charity.*

**INSIDE MAISON FORGET**





## Intervening with LGBT Seniors

GAY AND GREY MONTRÉAL in conjunction with Services CDB à domicile and Prévention CDN/NDG, will be organizing a free panel discussion on FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 12 at the Cote St Luc Aquatic Centre (5794 Avenue Parkhaven, Côte Saint-Luc, QC H4W 0A4).

Intervening with LGBT seniors requires a comprehensive understanding of this community. Gay and Grey Montreal presents a panel discussion with Julien Rougerie chargé de projet Pour que vieillir soit gai Fondation Émergence, Bill Ryan MEd/ MSW - Researcher from McGill University and Bonnie Brayton- National Director from DisAbled Womens Network (DAWN / RAFH Canada). The panel will present their expertise in this area, helping the participants to enhance their interventions with the senior LGBT community.

Presentations in English / Questions English, en français. Registration is free and open until November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/intervening-with-lgbt-seniors-solutions-for-effective-practice-tickets-51421231287>

**For more information, contact Miranda at 514-690-2034**



## PORTRAIT OF A CLIENT

Overcoming Life's Hardships

Stephanie was born a twin to a single mother in Hanover, Jamaica in 1948. Unable to look after both girls, Stephanie's mother permanently entrusted her care to her aunt and uncle. Stephanie grew up struggling with school, and instead focused her time on household work and tending to farm animals.

At the age of twenty-one, she came to Montreal to live with another uncle. To contribute to the household, Stephanie found work as a housekeeper. She married in 1976 and had two children. The family lived in an apartment in NDG where she and her husband struggled to cover all their expenses, including rent. They were asked to leave the premises several times by the landlord.

Her husband eventually abandoned the family and the children remained with Stephanie until Youth Protection placed them in foster care. Both children eventually asked not to see their mother anymore as it caused them too much emotional stress so Stephanie stopped seeing them altogether as she realized her visits exacerbated their sadness. Her ordeals did not end there; in time, a bailiff came to the door and forced Stephanie to leave.

To learn more about Stephanie visit: Chez Doris Courier [https://www.chezdoris.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Bulletin\\_ChezDoris\\_EN\\_Automne2018\\_LR.pdf](https://www.chezdoris.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Bulletin_ChezDoris_EN_Automne2018_LR.pdf) - **(Source – Chez Doris Courier -Newsletter)**

## Sharron Gallagher

invites you to see her work at:

### **L'Art en Fête**

Nov 17-18, 2018 in South West Montreal,

**L'Art En Fête** is a cultural fund-raising activity, that in collaboration with la Maison des jeunes, will help young people in difficulty by offering them various extracurricular activities. Mr. Michel Beaudry, is animator and honorary president of this cultural event with over 50 Quebec artists.

Where: St Jean-de-Matha Church,  
6831 rue d'Aragon,  
Montreal. H4E 4K2,  
[Lionel Groulx Metro, bus 108]

When: Saturday, November 17, 1200 to 1800;  
Sunday, November 18, 1100 to 1600.

[sharronmg@gmail.com](mailto:sharronmg@gmail.com) Please visit my website: [sharronmgallagher.net](http://sharronmgallagher.net)

## The English Montreal School Board Choral

(founded as the PSBGM Children's Chorus in 1980 by Georgie Crawford) presents: its annual Holiday Concert Saturday, December 8 at 7 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral 635 Saint-Catherine St W, Montreal, QC H3A 2B8 (McGill metro).

Traditional and contemporary music to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah and winter under the direction of Patricia Abbott and Marie-Eve Arseneau, with pianist Anne-Marie Denoncourt. No tickets required. Freewill offering.

Net proceeds will be donated to the Salvation Army for its Christmas campaign.

## The Women's Art Society of Montreal presents:

**November 13, 2018:** Author **Archie Fineberg** shares his striking photographed images of Montreal's wall-art which have generated a book and an exhibition. "Graffiti and Street Art 101"

**November 20, 2018: Grace Powell**, art historian and docent, explores a renowned kinetic artist. "Alexander Calder: Revolutionary Sculptor"

From 1:30 to 2:30pm at the Unitarian Church of Montreal, 5035 de Maisonneuve West. Nonmembers \$10. New members welcome – men also. [www.womensartsociety.com](http://www.womensartsociety.com)

**ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON**



**Date: Saturday, November 17, 2018**

**Time: 11:30 am – 3:00 pm**

**ZONTA CLUB OF MONTREAL**  
invites you to join us to celebrate our  
**90th Anniversary at the**  
**ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Julia Gersovitz O.C.**  
Architect, Director

*Topic: "A Career in Architecture"*



Awards will be presented to the winners of Zonta scholarships and bursaries, and they will share their projects and plans with us. We will also recognize a women's shelter in our community with a donation. All proceeds from the luncheon will go to the Zonta Club of Montreal's scholarship and bursary fund.

**Location: Bistro méditerranéen Table 09**

formerly Restaurant Le Chambertin  
9 Place Frontenac, Pointe Claire H9R 4Z7  
(with your pass, take buses 200 and 202) [www.table09.com](http://www.table09.com)

**Tickets:** \$60.00 — meal, glass of wine, door prizes

**Parking:** FREE parking

**Cash Bar:** 11:30 am — 12:00 pm

**RSVP:** Reservations of tickets a must by **Tuesday, November 13, 2018**  
by [Online Registration](#)

**Email:** [zcmcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:zcmcommunications@gmail.com)

**For Info:** Dr. Dolly Dastoor 450-656-2036 or Renate Sutherland 514-695-1970

*Enjoy a delicious meal with a complementary glass of wine  
in friendly and pleasant surroundings*

Zonta Club of Montreal  
[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)  
[Montreal@ZontaDistrict2.org](mailto:Montreal@ZontaDistrict2.org)



**MCW MEMBERSHIP  
DRIVE**

**- GET INVOLVED! -**

**For a chance to win 2  
Tickets to the 2019 Woman  
of the Year Luncheon!**

**Every member can participate.  
SEIZE THE CHALLENGE!**

*The Montreal Council of Women  
Membership Committee has set a  
goal of increasing our Federate  
membership by 30% and our  
individual members by 10% for the  
fiscal year 2018 – 2019.*

*A membership drive has been  
organized in order to achieve the  
goal. This goal cannot be attained  
without your participation in  
identifying potential members and  
inviting them to join the Montreal  
Council of Women.*

*For each Federate organization that  
joins by your recommendation, you  
will have three chances in the draw  
to win two tickets to the Woman of  
the Year luncheon.*

*For each individual member who  
joins, you will have one chance.*

*Should you identify a Federate and/  
or an individual who is showing  
interest but you need individual  
assistance to "clinch the deal",  
please do not hesitate to contact  
Joan Macklin, our Membership  
Secretary at 514-516-9023.*

*To our Federate members, we ask  
that you advise your members as  
they are all eligible to win!  
Contest begins now and closes  
March 31, 2019.*

**GOOD LUCK!**  
<http://montrealcouncilwomen.org>

**WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2019**

**Announcing MCW Woman  
of the Year 2019, well  
known writer and journalist**

**Ms. Chantal Hebert**

**The place, date and time  
has not yet been finalized.  
Stay tuned.**

**MCW PROGRAMS  
2018 – 2019**

**February 7, 2019 –**  
Hon. Marlene Jennings  
Black History Month

**March 7, 2019 –**  
Anthony Housefather

**April 4, 2019 –** Maylissa  
Human Trafficking

**May 16, 2019 - TBA**



## THE TEAPOT 50+ CENTRE WIN A TRIP OF A LIFE TIME RAFFLE

The Teapot 50+ Centre is holding a fundraiser to help support the cost of operating our bus. Our bus used to support individual who reduced mobility. Last year, the bus was able to support 28 individuals and provided 628 shopping services. Moreover, our bus is used for our monthly trips, which helps reduce the social isolation of our seniors. 79 individuals participated on trips.

We encourage you to support this fundraising event by purchasing raffle tickets for you, your friends and family. Tickets are \$10.00 each, three for \$25.00. and may be purchased directly from The Teapot by calling 514-637-5627 or via MCW and The Teapot member Joan Macklin. The drawing will take place on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. during The Teapot's Annual Family Picnic.

Prizes include:

- Grand Prize – Air Transat flight valued at \$2,000.00
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$500.00 in cash
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Weekend at the Mock's Hill Inn valued at \$500.00
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize - \$80.00 in restaurant gift certificates

Thank you for supporting The Teapot 50+ Centre and helping us provide transportation

## WHAT IS IT?

The UWC *Les Olympes de la Parole* is an academic competition open to high school students that raises awareness about gender inequalities and their impacts on the empowerment of girls and women.

For this second North American edition, the 2018-2019 competition draws from the themes of the Sixty Third Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

## PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



KANAWHAKEE HIGH SCHOOL

## REFLECTING ON...

Feminization of poverty and its impact on the empowerment of women and on the development of girls in Canada.



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© UNICEF /Haque



© UNICEF /Haque

## COMPETITION THEME

According to UN sources, the number of people living in multidimensional poverty has reached 1.6 billion while feminization of poverty remains an impediment to the empowerment of girls and women.

"2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. To commemorate this event, teams participating in the Olympes de la Parole will analyze the impact of poverty on the empowerment of women and the development of girls in Canada..."

## KEY DATES\*

- November 2018-March 2019: Schools work on their projects.
- March 2019: Evaluation.
- May 2019: Awards Ceremony.

\*Exact dates to be determined after consulting with all schools

## OUR PARTNERS



surrey house communications



Festival Stella Musica



UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF MONTREAL presents

LES OLYMPES DE LA PAROLE

EMPOWERED GIRLS' VOICES

2<sup>nd</sup> NORTH AMERICAN EDITION

## SCHOLARSHIPS

1st Prize: \$2 000

2nd Prize: \$1 500

3rd Prize: \$1 000

All participants will be honoured with a certificate attesting the community hours involved in this competition.

For more information, visit our website at: [www.uwcm.com](http://www.uwcm.com)

## NOTICE TO ALL MCW FEDERATE MEMBERS

It appears that some members of your organizations may be unaware that they are members of MCW/CFM by virtue of their membership in your organization.

Please do encourage your members to attend our meetings as this will provide an opportunity to learn what other organizations are doing, share your organization's priorities and to make contacts. Thank you for continuing to share the MCW monthly Bulletins with your membership and also please inform us of your activities so that we can help promote your initiatives.