

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with a profound sense of privilege that I write my last President's report. The year 2013 was a signal year for the Montreal Council of Women as it celebrated its 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and I was proud to serve as its President. The MCW congratulates the new Premier, Philippe Couillard, and the Quebec Liberal Party for their majority win and hopes that they will continue to promote the rights of all Quebecers, especially women. The Liberal party's motto of "Ensemble on s'occupe des vraies affaires" is one that MCW can also adopt as we continue to support women and their families in Montreal.

In the month of April, I was made to feel most welcome by Yocheved Sonenberg, the president of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International's Quebec chapter and one of the federate members of MCW. The evening's program consisted of the presentation of a most interesting Israeli film, "James' Journey to Jerusalem" by Ra'anah Alexandrowicz, on the plight of migrant workers in Israel.

On behalf of the MCW, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to our VP of Governmental Affairs, the Honourable Eleni Bakopanos who as a former Member of Parliament, contributed to a book co-authored by Alison Loat and Michael MacMillan entitled, "Tragedy in the Commons – Former Members of Parliament Speak out about Canada's Failing Democracy." It draws on approximately eighty exit interviews with former Members of Parliament from across the political spectrum and their observations about the practice of politics in Canada. The official launch of the book is to take place in Ottawa on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

As well, MCW wishes to congratulate Me Pearl Eliadis on the recent publication of her book, "Speaking Out on Human Rights – Debating Canada's Human Rights System". Please note that the Annual General Meeting of the NCWC will take place in Ottawa from June 6-8, 2014. The theme will be "Shining a Light on Mental Health and Stigma". The keynote speaker at the Education Fund lunch on Saturday will be Heather Stuart, Bell Canada Chair of Mental Health and Stigma at Queen's University. As always, a delegation representing MCW will be attending the conference.

I invite you to join us at MCW's AGM on May 15<sup>th</sup>, when we will feature a most interesting program with Mrs. Barbara Kay, a columnist with the National Post newspaper who will speak on the book which she co-authored with Aruna Papp entitled: "Unworthy Creature – a Punjabi Daughter's Memoir of Honour, Shame and Love."

Preceding our program, we will be presenting our new slate of officers. At that time, I will be passing the President's baton to Chitra Chopra, our Executive VP. I look forward to our collaboration so that MCW continues to grow and advance towards the celebration of its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Lastly, I wish to thank Bonnie Destounis, Interim President of MCW, and Chitra Chopra, Executive VP of MCW who most graciously kept the flame of our organization during my recent leave of absence. - *Vivianne M. Silver, President*

**MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN AGM, Thursday, May 15, 2014 – 1:00 pm (lunch – noon)**

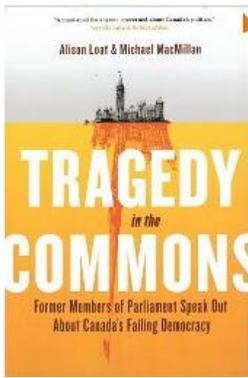
**UPCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

Come join us on Thursday, May 15, 2014 for MCW's Annual General Meeting at Les Jardins du Canal, 2700 Rufus Rockhead (opposite the Atwater Market, metro Lionel Groulx, bus 108).

A light lunch (\$10 per person) will be served at 12:00 noon and our program will begin at 1:00 pm. Please contact our hostess Convenor, Ms. Frances Gregory email: [frances.gregory@videotron.ca](mailto:frances.gregory@videotron.ca) or Tel. (514) 935-1674 should you be attending our luncheon.

**GUEST SPEAKER MCW AGM - MAY 15**

On May 15, MCW is honoured to have **Ms. Barbara Kay**, as the guest speaker. Ms. Kay is a writer and **National Post** columnist, who along with **Ms. Aruna Papp**, has co-written a book that tells of untold stories of oppression, injustices and acts of violence against women. Aruna recounts personal experiences in this riveting memoir entitled, "*Unworthy Creature: A Punjabi Daughter's Memoir of Honour, Shame and Love.*"



## “Tragedy in the Commons”

Tragedy in the Commons is an innovative journalistic endeavour and a ground-breaking study of politics, written by **Alison Loat** and **Michael MacMillan**, founders of the non-partisan think tank **Samara**. The authors draw on an amazing eighty exit interviews with former Members of Parliament, from across the

Political spectrum to unearth startling observations about the practice of politics in Canada.

Though Canada is at the top of international rankings of democracies, Canadians themselves increasingly don't see politics as a way to solve society's problems. In the news, they see grandstanding in the House of Commons and MPs pursuing agendas that don't always make sense to the people who elected them. However elected officials make critical choices about how this wildly diverse country functions today and how it will thrive in the future. They direct billions of dollars in public funding and craft the laws that have allowed Canada to lead the way internationally. Even with so much at stake, citizens—voters—are turning away. How did one of the world's most functional democracies go so very wrong?

In *Tragedy in the Commons*, MPs describe arriving at their political careers almost by accident; few say they aspired to be in politics before it “happened” to them. In addition, almost without fail, each MP describes the tremendous influence of their political party: from the manipulation of the nomination process to enforced voting in the House and in committees, the unseen hand of the party dominates every aspect of the MP's existence. Loat and MacMillan probe such queries as: Just what do we want Members of Parliament to be doing? To whom are they accountable? And should parties be trusted with the enormous power they wield with such little oversight or citizen involvement?

With unprecedented access to the perspective and experience of Canada's public leaders, *Tragedy in the Commons* concludes by offering solutions for improving the way politics works in Canada, and how all Canadians can reinvigorate a democracy that has lost its way, its purpose and the support of the public it is meant to serve.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Alison Loat is a regular commentator on Canadian politics, a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a former consultant with McKinsey & Company. For her work as a co-founder of Canada 25, she was recognized as a young leader by Maclean's and the Public Policy Forum. She was also selected as one of the top 100 women in Canada by the Women's Executive

Network, and has received both the Gold and Diamond Jubilee Medals for her service to Canada. Loat is also an associate fellow and instructor at the School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto.

Michael MacMillan is the CEO of the Canadian-based company Blue Ant Media. He was previously the executive chairman and CEO of Alliance Atlantis Communications. MacMillan co-founded the original Atlantis Films in 1978, which won an Oscar in 1984 for its short film *Boys and Girls*. A recipient of the Gold and Diamond Jubilee Medals for service to Canada, he is also a co-owner of Closson Chase, a vineyard and winery in Prince Edward County, Ontario.

Alison Loat and Michael MacMillan co-founded the think tank Samara in 2009. Visit [www.samaracanada.com](http://www.samaracanada.com) to learn more.

### WHAT CANADIANS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE BOOK

"This important book draws on the personal experiences of former Members of Parliament to illustrate the growing central control of party leadership—in all major parties—and how this has distorted the democratic process. Offering useful suggestions to address the resulting alienation of voters from the political process, *Tragedy in the Commons* is mandatory reading for all MPs and Canadians." Michael Wilson, former Minister of Finance and Canadian Ambassador to the United States.

"Canadians' participation in and respect for democracy are fundamental to maintaining a society of which we can be proud. Through the reflections of Members of Parliament, who have devoted themselves to public life, Loat and MacMillan give us insight into how far we have to travel, and how urgent is the cause." Amanda Lang, co-host of The Lang and O'Leary Exchange and author of *The Power of Why* "In every tragedy there is hope. Members of Parliament go to Ottawa hoping and promising to make a difference; but as these riveting revelations show, high priorities get lost too easily in the widening chasm between constituents, party leaders and good conscience. Is it any wonder Canadians feel disengaged from their hard-won democracy? Loat and MacMillan hope that pulling back the curtain will re-engage Canadians enough to keep our House of Commons from becoming a 'House of Cards.'" Isabel Bassett, former Member of Provincial Parliament

"Tragedy in the Commons is a thoughtful analysis of what is broken in our democracy and a must-read for anyone concerned about Canada's politics. It's also a cogent and urgent reminder that the struggle to make our Parliament and our politics work falls not only to politicians, but to us all." Terry Fallis, author of *The Best Laid Plans*.

– Eleni Bakopanos – VP Governmental Affairs

\* Hon. Eleni Bakopanos also contributed to this book as a former Member of Parliament.

## REPORT ON CRIME STATS

With the recent introduction of the 'Victims Bill of Rights' and our own experiences as citizens of this province, we cannot but reflect on the nature of crime in its diverse forms, degrees, implications and reflections. There isn't one of us, not one, whose life and prospects has not been adversely affected by the commission of a criminal act.

In my Webster's Dictionary, crime is defined as a 'serious violation of the law', which does not make sense to me when I think of Nelson Mandela, his birth rights and his birth country. When acts of hatred and prejudice are protected by law, how do we define and report criminal incidents, what do we teach our children, how do we conduct our lives or develop and support peaceful strategies for our own prosperity and the betterment of the world?

In Canada, there are two ways to report crime; these two complementary systems take into account both the volume and severity of criminal acts as reported by the police. In our society, almost all levels of governmental agencies routinely provide multiple and varied resources towards policing, court processing, correctional measures, and victim support services to us as citizens, or so we hope.

Naturally, there are regional differences in characteristics that animate our police force. Their priorities, policies, and procedures have a determined effect on what we report and how we interact with them. We know that unreported crime is unresolved crime, yet:

- 36% of us did not think it important enough to report a Crime, so, why bother the police?
- 19% of us thought that the police could not do anything anyway, so, why bother the police?
- 15% of us found different ways of dealing with criminals, so, why bother the police?

Our police brotherhood, however, has not been sitting idle, far from it. Criminal activities hit a thirty year low in 2012. In total, 2 million incidents were reported, 36,000 fewer than were reported in 2011 mostly due to a decrease in non-violent crimes such as:

Mischief - 10,256\*, Break-ins - 5,538\*, Car theft - 4,521\*, Disturbing the peace - 5,185\*, Possession of stolen property - 4,301\*. The most frequent violent crimes also decreased in 2012, Common assault - 3,103\*, Robbery - 2,110\*

*\*Number of incidents fewer than in 2011*

Canada experienced its lowest rate of homicide in more than forty years. In total, there were 543 homicides in 2012. 'Crime Severity Index' or CSI which relates to the severity of sentences handed down from the courts was also low across the country.

It is good to remind ourselves that social and economic factors do have an effect on the volume of criminal acts and

and behaviours. In particular, '... age demographics, neighbourhood characteristics, emergence of new technologies, and our attitude towards crime and risky behavior...' can affect an increase or a decrease in crime rates.

Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver are three of the largest metropolitan cities of Canada, home to 35% of the total population of our country and site of 25% of the total country wide reported crimes. In January of 2010 legislations that dealt with identity theft and fraud were put into law. In total 12,738 incidents were reported in 2012 which indicated a 5% increase from the previous year. Our home province, Quebec, reported 70 prosecutable incidents in 100,000 of population. Terrorism related incidents were also higher in Quebec because of some 62 hoax terrorist incidents reported that same year.

Education and public awareness remain our most effective tools leading to better and more effective legislation and laws so that we may better protect our children and youth who, I am grieved to say, are yet at great risk and in terrible danger. For the second year in a row, sexual assaults against children rose by 3% in 2012. The 4,000 incidents reported included four categories such as; sexual intercourse, initiation to sexual touching, sexual exploitation, and luring a child via a computer.

Drug related incidents are also on the rise. Drug impaired driving is 2% of impaired driving incidents and possession of methamphetamine (crystal meth) is highest in Quebec followed by British Columbia. What a mess!

Youth crimes totaled 125,000 in 2012 which according to the police records '... represented a rate of 5,224 accused per 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17 years old...' , some 18% of whom were accused and prosecuted for theft under \$5,000 CAD mostly due to shoplifting.

Mischief and Assault (level 1) had the next highest rates amongst the accused youth at 11.5% and 11.2% prosecution respectively. Possession of Cannabis followed by Breaking and Entering completed their report cards at 9.8% and 5.6% of juvenile court sentences.

While these numbers are factually recorded as 'Police Reported Crime Statistics in Canada', their horrific and devastating impact on home and family life can only be imagined. We have such grand hopes and dreams for ourselves and our children. We work so hard towards their realization. We require laws to protect, not to punish our peaceful endeavors. Laws that give us time to raise our young in safety and security, to give them the moral ascendancy they need as peacemakers of the world however fashionable divisive attitudes and war mongering may become. Should they ever ask, "What is the real cost of Crime, beyond police and courts and sentencing" how will we answer, what will we say?

*-Nadia Baraghi, Convener  
Health, Child and Family*

## The McGill Women's Alumnae Association (MWAA)

### AGM and Networking Brunch

Saturday, May 24, 2014  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Omni Hotel, 1050 Sherbrooke St. W.

RSVP/Pre-Register: April 7 to May 16  
Admission: \$40

Contact Event Registrar

Tel. 514-398-1248

Email: [montreal.registrar@mcgill.ca](mailto:montreal.registrar@mcgill.ca)



The MWAA invites you to its 125th Annual General Meeting where the new slate of executive officers for 2014-2015 will be presented, followed by guest speaker Céline Galipeau, who will discuss her distinguished career in journalism. Finally, you will have an opportunity to engage in some professional and personal networking, while enjoying a delicious hot and cold brunch buffet. Don't forget your business cards!

### MCW HOSTESS GROUP REQUEST

We are looking for MCW Federate member groups who would be interested in providing a luncheon at one of our general meetings during coming year, starting in September. If your group could help the MCW by providing a lunch for one of our meetings, please contact Frances Gregory, Hostess Group Convener Telephone 514- 935-1674. Thank you.

### THANK YOU

A very big thank you to the Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club for providing a very excellent lunch for the meeting held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014.

Gilda Martinello, President of the Club made an interesting presentation on the activities of the Club which was much appreciated.

## The Blue Metropolis Literary Festival

Montreal: From April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Book Launch: "Before and After -When Writing Aid to Survive." ("A book of writing and photography by marginalized Anglophone women from six women's centres reflecting their experiences and their efforts to regain and build self-confidence".)

Launch will take place on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 p.m., at the Hotel 10 (Room: Le Jardin), 10 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal.

Sponsored by Heritage Canada, it is a free event.

## Women Aware AGM

Thursday, Jun 5, 2014 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

St. James the Apostle Church

Centennial Room

1439 St Catherine St. W, (Guy - Concordia Metro)  
Montreal, QC

The meeting will be an excellent opportunity to review our services, our programs and also take a look at an exceptional year ahead.

At 2:00 pm we invite you to a special presentation with guest speaker

## AGM Auxiliary Douglas Institute

The Annual General Meeting of the Auxiliary of the Douglas Institute will take place on Thursday, May 22, at 10.30 a.m. in the Douglas Hall, 6875 Blvd. LaSalle, Montreal. In addition to the meeting, Psycho Educator and guest speaker Mr. Luc Gagnon has also assembled an art exhibit at the entrance to the hall. A light luncheon will be served. Please advise Mary Campbell, by May 8th at 514 761-6131 or e-mail: [cammar@douglas.mcgill.ca](mailto:cammar@douglas.mcgill.ca) to reserve a seat for the luncheon.

**ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

1101 Stanley Street

Boutique Open:

From 11 am - 2 pm every Thursday

Ladies and men's clothing, household articles

Books, etc. everything at wonderful prices.

You will be surprised at what you might find.

We raise funds to help our communities

Come and support our efforts. Thank you.

Sylvia White, President

**Zonta Club of Montreal**

cordially invites you to a

**WORKSHOP ON FUNDRAISING**

SPECIAL GUEST

**Ms Diane Gibb**Professional Fundraising Coach  
Fundraising Strategies for Success

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

West Island of Montreal Chamber of Commerce  
1000 boul. St. Jean (corner Labrosse), Suite 602  
Pointe Claire, QC H9R 5P1 (Free Parking)

Tickets: \$20.00 (cheque or cash at door)

Light refreshments and door prize  
Only 20 seats - Please reserve ASAP  
Online Reservation is necessary to guarantee  
your seat.All proceeds to benefit local Zonta projects and  
scholarships.Jeanie Trubiano: 514-696-1175, [info@trubianophoto.com](mailto:info@trubianophoto.com)Yvonne Quintyn: 514-683-4213, [yquintyn@bell.net](mailto:yquintyn@bell.net)**The Coloured Women's Club**

Present their annual

**Spring Hat Rose Tea**Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

3:00 Pm - 6:00Pm

Cote des Neiges Community Center  
6767 Cote des Neiges Rd, Montreal

Special Guest performer:

**Mr. Bryan Highbloom**

Spring Hat Competition

Prizes to be awarded for:

Most original, best design, most colourful,  
cultural expression, Sunday's best and  
people's choice.**\*\*Gentlemen are also most welcome.**In addition to our Spring Hat Competition,  
everyone is welcome to participate in our  
Karaoke competition.

Great fun to be had and prizes to be won!!!

**Tickets \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.**

Information and Tickets:

Tel. 450-672-7081, 514-488-3284,  
514-696-7944Email: [sagyles@sympatico.ca](mailto:sagyles@sympatico.ca)**\*\*All our proceeds go towards CWC scholarship fund.****Article and Announcement Submissions**The next issue of **The Bulletin** will be in  
September 2014. Please submit your  
articles, announcements and photos by the  
15<sup>th</sup> day of August via email to:  
[bulletin@montrealcouncilwomen.org](mailto:bulletin@montrealcouncilwomen.org)