

News from National October 2022

President's Message

- *Patricia Leson*

Welcome to the autumn edition of 'News from National'! This has always been one of my favourite times of the year; as an educator, it was a time of new beginnings and excitement for the students and teachers alike. Now that I have retired, autumn still stirs the feelings for renewed productivity and motivation, but I am also able to truly embrace the autumn as a time of beauty, reflection, and joy.

Unfortunately, it is not so for those in our Maritime provinces who are dealing with the devastation wrought by hurricane Fiona. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to those who have lost so much and yet face the fallout so bravely and confidently. As one woman said, "We lost everything we owned, but we still have each other." May their strength, hope, and camaraderie carry them through these difficult times. Our advocacy for the mitigation of climate change is essential or these weather anomalies will become even more intense and occur with greater frequency.

September 21st was the International Day of Peace with the theme of "Ending Racism, Building Peace". We joined with the ICW, the UN, and other international organizations in advocating for the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. In the words of UN Secretary General António Guterres, "*True peace requires standing up for the human rights of all the world's people. Let us stand up for human rights for all in the name of peace for all.*"

Each year, September 30th marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. It is also known as 'Orange Shirt Day', and we were all encouraged to wear orange to promote the concept of 'Every Child Matters'. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom, and self-esteem experienced by indigenous children over generations. There were many very poignant public commemorations of this tragic and painful history and its ongoing impacts; I trust you were able to attend your local events and show your personal support for this long and winding journey to true reconciliation.

Your Board and Convenors have continued to work diligently to bring the attention of the government ministries to our latest policies that were adopted at the May AGM. This newsletter contains articles from many of them in which they outline their activities and focus on the areas where we need continued advocacy.

Our updated website is in its final stages! We are just waiting for information from a few councils, and we should be ready to go!

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven...A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance..” These past few months have certainly shown the veracity of the verse. We have mourned the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth. We have shared the grief and sorrow of Council members who have experienced death and/or illness within their family circles. Yet there has been joy, too, as we also have celebrated the birthdays of centenarians, the pioneers of our Councils. On September 23rd, Stella Shulhan from LCW Vancouver turned 104, and on the same day, Ruth Brown from LCW Ottawa turned 100! Stella recently completed knitting 52 bonnets for their Council fundraiser, and Ruth is a computer whiz who enjoys an active social life. Monica Cullum recently interviewed Ruth, and that interview is in this newsletter. And we are now in our 130th year of existence as an organization – definitely, this is a time to dance!!

I trust you will enjoy this newsletter; if you have any comments or questions, please be in touch with me or the authors of the articles and join me in enjoying the magic of the change in the seasons!



Midterm Meeting

**Saturday, November 26, 2022
Via Zoom**

**9:00 British Columbia
11:00 Saskatchewan/Manitoba
12:00 Ontario/Quebec
1:00 Maritimes**

**Order of Business
Reports**

Resolutions and Updates

EF Speaker: Heather Frenyes, Conventus

**Topic: Rights Responsibilities Respect: The New 3Rs of Education
“We are all Treaty people”**



Resolution Dates for Midterm Meeting

- ***Marianne Wilkinson, Resolutions Convenor***

At the May 2022 AGM, the decision was made to have a mid-year meeting; the date chosen for the meeting is Saturday, November 26th. The primary reason for this meeting is to provide an opportunity to deal with issues more quickly by providing an earlier time for the approval of resolutions.

This notice is a call for you to research and prepare resolutions on issues that need to be dealt with as quickly as possible. To have time to send them out to members and affiliates for review and submission of amendments, all submissions must be done electronically. A tight timeline has been set as follows:

1. Submission to the Resolutions Chair, Marianne Wilkinson, at marianne@rogers.com to arrive by October 15, 2022.
2. Resolutions Committee review of resolutions to check on existing policy, completeness etc. within 5 days.
3. Sent to members and affiliates on or before October 20, 2022, for their review and preparation of amendments.
4. Members and affiliates to send any amendments to marianne@rogers.com on or before November 16th, 2022.
5. Resolutions Committee review of amendments and preparation of a recommended final version for each resolution by November 22nd, 2022.
6. Resolutions added to the agenda for the November 26th meeting will be sent on November 22nd to those registered for the mid-year meeting.

At the mid-term meeting, the resolutions will be dealt with and sent back to the Resolutions Committee for incorporation of all changes and final editing. It will be then sent to the President for distribution to members and affiliates, the preparation of a plan of action, and submission to the appropriate government(s).

Questions should be sent to Marianne Wilkinson, Resolutions Chair, at marianne@rogers.com or call 613 724-0202 (cell)



Congratulations, Daniela Chivu!

The NCWC is pleased to announce that on Friday, September 30th, Daniela Chivu, our Justice Convenor and liaison with the United Nations, was overwhelmingly reelected to serve another two years on the Core Group of the North America/Europe Caucus!

The Caucus itself is an informal, loosely moderated space for organizations to discuss and reflect upon regional advocacy and their regions most relevant and pressing issues. These activists press for equality for women and girls, and they work diligently with the UN to ensure this becomes a reality.

The Core group consists of two members from Canada, two members from the United States, and three members from European ECOSOC accredited organizations. Their work is fundamental to the efficient functioning of the Caucus, particularly in preparation for the CSW meetings at the United Nations.

Congratulations, Daniela; we are confident that you will continue to represent Canada with the same integrity, courage, and passion you have displayed in your last term!



Welcome to our New Federates!!

We are delighted to showcase the four new Nationally Organized Societies that have joined the NCWC as Federates.

Women in Cyberspace Society

“We are dedicated to bringing talented women together to celebrate and foster their passion and drive for cybersecurity. We unite local communities of aspiring and thriving women cybersecurity professionals to collaborate, share their knowledge, network, and mentor. We create opportunities through professional development programs, conferences, and career fairs. Our Mission is to help build a strong gender-diverse cybersecurity workforce by facilitating recruitment, retention, and advancement for women in the field.”

For more information, please contact Lisa Kearney, President:

lisa@womencybersecuritysociety.org

Courage for Freedom/Maple Leaf Project

“Courage for Freedom provides direct supports, and trauma informed care for minor aged victim/survivors of human trafficking and their families. Our work outcomes translate into vital training certification, awareness engagement and calls to action. We are a registered charity with a track record as leading experts in network engagement and provision of front-line support, trauma informed horses that heal programs, warm transition case management, safety, and informed mentoring to victim/survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. We do this through community work and

collective advocacy to bring awareness and eradicate the buying and selling of girls and boys, children.”

For more information, please contact Kelly Franklin, founder:
kelly@courageforfreedom.org

International Longevity Centre Canada

Human rights do not have a best before date.

“The International Longevity Centre Canada is a human rights-based organization dedicated to older persons. We are part of the 16 country International Longevity Centre Global Alliance. Our work focuses on ageism in Canada and internationally to help societies address longevity and population ageing in positive and productive ways, typically using a life course approach, highlighting older people’s productivity and contributions to family and society as a whole. We have worked with the NCWC at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women where we collaborated to ensure older women were included in resolutions and discussions. We hope to continue to collaborate with the NCWC to uphold women’s rights throughout the life course.”

For more information, please contact Margaret Gillis, President International Longevity Centre Canada, and Co-President International Longevity Centre Global Alliance
gillismaggie@gmail.com

Women’s Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church

Following the death of Druse Bryan, our long time representative from the Women’s Missionary Society, they decided to discontinue their membership with the NCWC. Since then, Shirley Miller volunteered to be the representative of the Society. It is, indeed, a pleasure to welcome Shirley as she continues the work begun by Druse.

They state, “Our mission, in a world of many nations, peoples, denominations and faiths, is to learn from one another and work together for the healing of the nations.” We are proud they have chosen to partner with us in working to achieve this admirable goal.

For more information, please contact Shirley Miller via email
Millershirl41@gmail.com



Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology: A Widening Gender Gap in the Digital Era?

- Co-written by:

- Poh Tan, President

- Melanie Ratnam, Director of Policy and Advocacy

- Saina Beitari, Director of Finance

It is estimated that 80 percent of jobs in the next decade will require some knowledge of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). As STEM jobs are associated with higher pay, achieving gender equity in the STEM sector presents a promising opportunity to positively impact the economic recovery of women. With the existing gender gap however, women in STEM are already struggling to catch up.

The [Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology](#) (SCWIST) fears that if underlying issues are not addressed quickly enough, Canada will continue to experience a widening gender-gap, which could exacerbate existing inequities as we usher in the fourth industrial revolution. Efforts to remove gender inequities in the STEM field will pave the path towards solving complex problems of the future and better economic recovery.

Since 1981, SCWIST has been dedicated to removing barriers for women in STEM. SCWIST's mission is to inspire, empower, and advance more women in the Canadian STEM landscape. In the past 40 years, SCWIST has delivered a diverse range of high impact programs to support girls and women in the STEM Career path through [mentorships](#), workshops, networking events, job boards, and [advocacy work](#) with the Government of Canada.

To advance its mission, SCWIST has been actively engaged to create an environment where women and girls are able to pursue their interests, education, and careers in STEM - without barriers. SCWIST uses the terms women and girls with a broad meaning that includes people who identify themselves as women, girls, trans, genderqueer, non-binary, two-spirit, and gender questioning.

SCWIST encourages girls to explore careers in STEM through a variety of youth engagement programs. Through STEM Explore workshops, SCWIST has positively impacted more than 1500 youth in the past year and provided hands-on STEM activities delivered by STEM role models in events such as Science Literacy Week supported by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). SCWIST has also developed a variety of impactful Canada-wide mentoring programs which receive positive feedback with increased engagements of girls in the STEM path.

SCWIST's advocacy work is continuously strengthened by its ability to listen and amplify the voices of its members. From contributing [key recommendations](#) to the Canadian Government's House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women (SWC) to providing insights on [how to bridge the pay gap](#), SCWIST continues to advocate for policies that affect women in STEM during their career-stage. In the STEM Forward for Economic Prosperity Project, SCWIST advocates for pay equity, flexible work, parental leave, and inclusion in the workplace.

“Companies looking to establish pay equity need to consider forming a pay equity committee to develop and adopt a pay equity plan”

We are looking for volunteers who would like to contribute to our advocacy efforts to advance pay equity for the upcoming year. Please email director-policyandimpact@scwist.ca if you are interested. Come join our community of volunteers dedicated to moving the dial forward for the next 40 years!



ENVIRONMENT REPORT

- ***Mary Potter, 1st Vice President***

I have submitted an emerging issue resolution on Environmental Racism for the November special meeting. Environmental Racism is defined as the disproportionate proximity and greater exposure of racialized communities to polluting industries and environmentally hazardous activities as well as unequal access to environmental benefits. There are many examples of environmental racism in Canada:

- Grassy Narrows First Nation is still fighting for justice after Dryden Chemicals Ltd. dumped mercury in the English-Wabigoon River system over 60 years ago destroying their ecosystem, health, and way of life.
- Nova Scotia's Africville that was home to hundreds of descendants of African slaves became the dumping site for Halifax. In the 1960s, it was declared a slum, bulldozed, and its residents dispersed.
- Chemical Valley near Sarnia, Ontario, accounts for about 40% of Canada's petrochemical industry and emits tens of millions of kilograms of air pollutants each year. Aamjiwnaang First Nation live next to these industrial facilities and are concerned about health risks posed by pollution and their ability to hunt, fish or plant food.
- Lack of access to clean drinking water in First Nations communities is an ongoing problem.

- Elliot Lake, Ontario, was once a uranium mining boomtown. Nearby Serpent River First Nation still experiences environmental, health, social, cultural, and economic impacts from uranium mining, milling, and tailing dispersal. Serpent River watershed still holds several million tons of radioactive uranium tailings.

Besides environmental activities affecting racism, there are also sociopolitical factors such as public hearings held in remote locations and at inconvenient times and use of English-only material when communicating and conducting hearings for a non-English-speaking public. There is a lack of representation of Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities in environmental groups and on decision-making boards, commissions, and regulatory bodies.

Lack of environmental benefits include lower walkability, lower streetscape greenness and worse traffic-related air pollution in higher poverty areas.

Environmental racism has a serious impact on human health with increased rates of asthma, reproductive effects, learning disabilities, cancer, heart conditions, increased risk of stroke and mental health impacts.

Canada needs to recognize that everyone in this country, regardless of who they are or where they live, has the right to a healthy environment.



Report of AGM 2022

Novotel Hotel, Ottawa May 27 - 29

- ***Barbara Hall, Administration***

As the Administration Convenor, my involvement with the AGM begins months before as the board continues planning until the minute details are finalized.

Then the registrations, confirming the delegates voting status, and arranging for the registration committee and the scrutineers to have their lists for the opening day.

This sounds like a lot BUT there are templates for all this for us to follow.

Then the day arrived, and it was so exciting to SEE everyone in person after our 2 years of flickering virtual calls!

Our Convention/AGM was scheduled just after Ottawa endured the terrible storm that knocked over many beautiful old trees and caused numerous power outages. We were fortunate the hotel and area in downtown were spared.

However, we could not access the storage locker where we have our “box” of convention voting paddles, timers, and stationary supplies. But as resourceful council members, we resorted to using coloured construction paper, and the votes were counted.

The business sections of the meetings went well, and as part of the convention program, the National Council of Women of Canada Development Organization presented a grant to the Ukrainian Women’s Congress in the amount of \$1000. Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay, President of the Ukrainian Women’s Association of Canada, graciously accepted the donation on their behalf and gave a passionate speech focussing on the humanitarian needs of women and families caused by the war.

We also enjoyed a presentation by Samuella Stiles, Operations Manager of Shelter Movers who gave a presentation of their work. In 2021, they received a donation from the DO in the amount of \$2000.00. They may be contacted at www.sheltermovers.com.

The National Council of Women of Canada Education Fund (EF) program presented “Human Trafficking and Children: No Safe Space; Raising Awareness and Hope” with speaker Penny Rankin, NCWC Child and Youth Convenor.

But it was not all serious business as we had a beautiful banquet and live auction of some of the “bring and buy” articles from various councils. These funds help offset the convention expenses.

We did manage to get into the storage locker on Saturday and brought several items from our Celebrating Women inventory such as cards, and small and medium prints. You will soon receive notice about our upcoming auction and sale of these items, and they do make lovely guest speaker gifts.

The Resolutions were well conducted with good input from delegates during discussion sessions and amendments. The final results have been circulated, so your council will have copies. I want to thank all those who assisted me in my administrative duties by being registrars, scrutineers, ‘bring and buy’ setup and sales, and the inventory counters; it certainly lightened my load.

I encourage everyone to experience the NCWC Convention firsthand and look forward to seeing you at the Park Town Hotel in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, June 2 – 4 for the 2023 AGM!



The Importance of the United Nations Commission on Status Women-CSW and Active Engagement

- ***Daniela Chivu, Justice Convenor and Liaison to the United Nations***

Since its inception in June 2010, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women has become our safe space for global advocacy. Every year in March for two weeks, women NGOs and National Governments/member states at large come together to further the rights of women and girls. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In this context, the NCWC has been an active participant on behalf of all our members while also advocating for the rights of all women and girls globally during the open sessions and negotiations process. At home, we closely follow the implementation of the agreed upon resolutions during the sessions on the commitments made by our government, from the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls to Older Women, to Rural Women, to Women with Disabilities, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, Racism and Discrimination, Human Rights, Abortion, Economic Justice, the Environment, and Women Peace and Security with a particular focus on the women and girls in the areas affected by conflicts.

We engage with our government by giving expert advice and input from a place of expertise, knowledge, and experience. Equally, we hold our government to account when the commitments made, either at home or at the international level, are not fulfilled. As such, our voices, our advocacy, and our meaningful engagement at the national and international levels are focused through CSW. Therefore, CSW is of the utmost importance; it is the place where governments can roll back our rights or choose to promote gender equality in all walks of life.

The next session will be the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and it will take place from 6 to 17 March 2023. Every year, representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are invited to contribute to the session. We also focus on two themes each year - the Priority theme and the Review theme. This year, the Priority theme is "Innovation and technological change and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls"; the Review theme focus is "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls", which were included in the agreed upon conclusions of the sixty-second session.

This upcoming session, NCWC has decided to bring CSW home to all of us, thus ensuring that all have the opportunity to be actively engaged. Many women and girls in

Canada are not yet familiar with what this UN Commission is and what it can do for us. What does it mean to us? What are the efforts and actions of our government to ensure our meaningful participation in the implementation of the agreed resolutions? How do provincial, territorial, and municipal governments participate in the implantation of the CSW agreed conclusions?

Bringing CSW home for all of us is intended to bring our governments to the table. It is an invitation for them all to work with us. Bringing CSW home will be a global effort to celebrate International Women's Day, giving us the opportunity to engage with our governments in the context of CSW, while allowing Canadians to learn more about the importance and significance of CSW. As this is a work in progress and an historic first, not only for the NCWC, but also for other women NGOs who collaborate with us, details will be shared with you as soon as they are finalized.

Onward and upward!



Economic and Employment Impacts of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) **– Karen Monnon Dempsey, NCWC VP Economics and Employment**

Incidents of domestic violence are more prevalent among those with a household income of less than \$20,000. (Juristat article - Intimate partner violence in Canada, 2018: An overview. Statistics Canada. April 26, 2021.) The World Health Organization also states that risk factors include lower levels of education. (World Health Organization. Violence against women. March 9, 2021.) In addition to gender, other individual and socioeconomic characteristics are also involved. IPV is notably higher among Indigenous women, LGBTQ2 women and men, and women with disabilities. Age is also seen as a major risk factor with 29% of young women between 15 and 24 experiencing IPV, more than double that of women between 25 and 44 and six times higher than women over 65. Physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuses suffered as a child have also been shown to be high-risk factors for IPV victimization. (Intimate partner violence in Canada, 2018)

“Poverty exacerbates the abuse because it increases or prolongs the women’s exposure to it as it reduces their capacity to leave.” (Child Poverty Action Group. Domestic Abuse is an Economic Issue – for its Victims and for Society. December 6, 2019. London, England.)

Economic or financial abuse is often a component of IPV for women who work outside the home as well as for those who don't. Those who are financially dependent on their abuser obviously find it very difficult to leave an abusive relationship. If they have children, it's even more difficult, particularly if they don't have friends/relatives to provide emotional and financial assistance. Abusive partners habitually isolate their victims from outside supports. Who can the abused turn to for help? Where do they go? How can they look after themselves and their children and sometimes pets? It can seem just too daunting. Therefore, unfortunately, some women who are already emotionally or psychologically fragile may find it just too difficult to leave.

“Examples of financial abuse include forcing a partner to miss, leave or be late to work; harassing a partner at work; controlling how money is spent; withholding money or basic living resources; giving a partner an “allowance”; stealing money, credit, property, or identity from a partner; and/or forcing a partner to file fraudulent legal financial documents or overspend on credit cards.” (NNEDV, National Network to End Domestic Violence. Financial Abuse Fact Sheet. Washington, DC.)

“Economic violence concerns the attempt to create a victim’s economic dependence on the perpetrator, including by preventing him or her from entering or remaining in employment or by withholding the victim’s earnings. This can be a facet of domestic violence. Specific examples include destroying work tools or clothes; physically restraining victims from leaving their homes; beating or depriving them of sleep to the extent that they cannot go to work; and forcing victims to unexpectedly leave their place of work.” (International Labour Organization. Domestic violence and its impact on the world of work. 2019. Geneva, Switzerland.)

After a woman has left an abusive relationship, she often then faces a whole other set of challenges. Some costs as noted in ‘*United Nations: The Economic Costs of Violence Against Women: An Evaluation of the Literature*’ are or can be lost time off work, legal fees, custody disputes/arrangements, relocation, medical fees/counselling, prescriptions/medications, bad debts of spouse, repairing damage to home or possessions, replacing destroyed articles, temporary accommodations, unlisted phone numbers, etc. They further state that intangible costs can be pain and suffering of the victim and children, death of the victim or perpetrator including suicides, second generation effects on children, and fear of violence.

When women find a place to live, usually a shelter at first, then 2nd stage or transitional housing, and finally permanent housing, and believe themselves to be safe, they can turn their attention to finding a job. How to find a job and become employable after being out of the workforce is the next task for survivors, who need counselling and supports in place. They need to redevelop their confidence which has been eroded by abuse; do a resume, learn how to apply for jobs, how to interview; and put together a

suitable work wardrobe. To say that none of these things is easy is an understatement, but many shelters and non-profits assist with the above and governments also provide job search and other assistance. At this point the main thing is that women realize how far they have come and that they are on a new and better path for them and their children.

IN THE NEWS:

- Canadian Femicide Observatory preliminary numbers for **the first six months of 2022 indicate that 88 women/girls were killed, mostly by men.**
- The Government of Canada stated that they are investing up to \$3.5 million over four years in research projects focused on gender-based violence.
- Members of the Global Partnership for Action on Gender-Based Online Abuse and Harassment committed to jointly addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence.
- The Government marked the first anniversary of the release of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People National Action Plan. The Government and contributing partners have released progress reports.
- The Canadian Women's Foundation (CWF) stated: On June 28th, 2022, a jury on the inquest into Carol Culleton's, Anastasia Kuzyk's and Nathalie Warmerdam's deaths made a number of recommendations, **including that Ontario declare intimate partner violence an epidemic**, and with the help of a grant from CWF, EVA Renfrew County was able to work with legal experts and hold community consultations to make sure the voices of people in the county were included in the inquest.

SOURCES: (In addition to those cited in the text)

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- Government of Canada. Breaking the Links between poverty and violence against women: a resource guide – The Reality of Poverty and Violence. Modified July 26, 2012.
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- World Bank: Let’s Talk Development. Financial freedom: A step towards life without domestic violence. December 1, 2021.



Social Development Report

- ***Beryl Matthewson, VP Social Development, Health, Children and Youth***

Health

It has been an interesting summer with life threatening heat and fires in BC, floods on the Prairies and now hurricanes devastating the Eastern Provinces. All symptoms of climate changes threatening Canada. Many medical experts are anticipating another wave of Covid-19 to influence the fall influenza season while health care systems face staffing shortages. Local hospitals have needed to limit Emergency and OR opening times. There is a shortage of family doctors and nurses as many are being enticed to areas with higher pay and lower housing costs. Virtual care is proposed as an answer to some of the problems, and with attention to privacy issues, there are several commercial companies that offer this service. Virtual Medicare could triage those who really need care into a hospital by referral, but these services will need to be paid for. The fight to keep Canada free of private business in the system is actively being discussed. We need to pay separately for eye care, dental care, physiotherapy, laboratories, medical imaging, and pharmacies, and now Ontario is trying to legalize the transfer of patients from the hospital setting into long term care facilities. We need to change the way we receive acute care in a rapid cost-effective way without overwhelming hospital staff so that they are happy to remain in the field. There must be adequate pay for the number of patients seen and time required as complex patients require more time, and good Home Care is less expensive than any institution.

Travel has rebounded, line ups to renew passports, and catch airplanes are the norm. Most Canadians have been vaccinated, but deaths are still occurring daily, and the use of masks and individual testing persists in some communities. There have been over six million deaths reported across the world due to the COVID-19 virus but also over 20 million people saved by the vaccine. There is, however, not a lot known about the long-term effects of this disease, which can damage the heart and cause strokes. Post-vaccine myocarditis, seen rarely in young men, is not nearly as common as post-infection cardiac damage. Data reported in the Journal of American Medical Association suggests that the COVID-19 vaccination actually protects against heart attacks in both men and women, but fake news is the greatest threat. The world has experienced a severe respiratory infection approximately every 10 years, and there are also reported recurrences of other diseases such as polio and monkey pox in younger populations. 'Health' is a good determinant of social wellness, and it is time to plan for the future and combat societal inequality.

May we live in interesting times, but what have we learned? How do we protect the most vulnerable? Indicators of a successful outcome are marked by job satisfaction and working conditions, low staff turnover, generous pay rates, limited hours worked, sick days allowed, and community involvement. Parity achieved in the 90s has been gradually eroded by Government cutbacks, and this needs to be reversed with a publicly financed model like that seen in Nordic countries. The most successful countries in the world protect their most vulnerable.

Children and Youth

As I am new to this Portfolio, I am uncertain if all Canadian Provinces have active Advocates for Children and Families. British Columbia has a Coalition of interested organizations that highlight local problems and petition government ministries to take action. Every year they produce a Poverty Index Report Card on families in crisis and, with this an Election Year, a Tool Kit of questions to ask candidates that address issues of importance. In the past we have worked hard to support youth transitioning out of Foster Care and those harmed by a system with shortages in the Facilities responsible for Youth in Custody. We supported the Introduction of Bills that affect children working in dangerous areas and the repeal of section 43 of Bill C-273 that relates to discipline and violation of Children's Rights and Safety.

There are several programs that support Early Childhood Care and Learning, others that support immigrants, workers and educators, address barriers, burnout and offer a network of assistance to families. Specific advocacy in areas such as Pornography and Trafficking of Children is undertaken by Coalition members such as the University Women's clubs that are also members of their local Council of Women.

Penny Rankin, our Convenor for Children and Youth will provide a more comprehensive report in the next newsletter.



Housing, Homelessness, Transportation, and Seniors

- ***Sheila Pepper, VP Social Development, Housing, and Seniors***

We've all heard about the 4-A's: Affordable, Accessible, Acceptable, and Available, but there is so much more we need to consider, such as:

- the condition and maintenance of older buildings (detached, row housing, apartments, condos, and various co-housing alternatives).
- the ownership of many buildings along with their care and concern for their tenants, the timely repairs needed and completed, etc..
- there is such an urgent, increased country wide demand for any type of housing these days/ recent months and years, that many are choosing smaller, poorly maintained accommodation, just to have somewhere to live.
- Our homeless populations in many areas of Canada need more supportive accommodation, too.
- Many more are moving to our urban centres, where a wider variety of services are available, and there are family and/or cultural connections.

Most immigrants can, and want, to work, but many federal and provincial/territorial restrictions must be overcome. Our health, transportation, and social services must also accommodate many more newcomers. As we have heard over the last 2+ years, many more families are moving to other newer homes, and more migrants and immigrants are adding to this pressure. We, in Canada, must make room for all who are trying to come to our country, as a safe and accepting location. So many other countries have much less room for more housing of newcomers, and therefore must restrict more immigrants.

There are many communities in Canada that have been able to increase their social housing inventory in recent years to meet this increased demand, but we seem to be always in a catch-up situation. I'll detail some specific Provincial and Territorial housing and homelessness situations in my next report.

Senior populations country-wide are increasing every year, thanks to our great health care and caring services! Our star senior this month is our beloved Past NCWC President and LCW Ottawa President, Ruth Brown, who has just begun her 2nd hundred years!!

Seniors must be wary of strangers' approaches, either in person, at our homes, on the internet and telephone, while travelling, etc., as more innovative predators are able to contact us.

Dolly Dastoor, our Seniors' Convenor is currently out of the country, and she will be elaborating more on this in the next newsletter.



Local Council of Women Montreal
- **Linda Serpone, President**

On August 25th, the MCW opened the 2022-2023th season with a Welcome Back Social Event **"Discovering the Beauty of Newfoundland"**. It was hosted by MCW VP Communications, Sarah Ford, whose family hails from that most easterly of Canadian provinces. Sarah regaled us with stories of life on "the Rock" and explored the history, beauty, and culture of Newfoundland. MCW on-line monthly socials have been a great success since their inception at the onset of the pandemic and will continue for the foreseeable future.

Teaching Empathy

On September 8th MCW hosted an advocacy and awareness event "Teaching Empathy: A tool to reduce polarization and create a pathway to inclusiveness". MCW's concern with Hate Crimes and Hate Speech and in finding effective solutions to prevent harms and embrace diversity has been an ongoing theme. This year we looked at issues in childhood education. Participating expert research data exposed shocking statistics of harm suffered by teachers and students in Quebec. Statistics showed that more than 50% of students had experienced discrimination and more than 50% of teachers suffered depression. Unfortunately, the Department of Education is slow to acknowledge the issue and even slower to endorse scientifically tested programs that would address these issues. MCW endorses and seeks to promote the work carried out by several groups to spur the government to action.

The MCW Marvelous Mavens - TERRY FOX RUN 2022

A first this year, team "MCW Marvelous Mavins" led by Captain Linda Serpone participated in the Town of Mount Royal Terry Fox Run 2022. Generous donors helped the Marvelous Mavins exceed their fundraising goal and raise awareness of the need to support cancer research. The event honoured the memory of the many council members and family lost to this terrible disease. Team members l-r: Brenda Panunto, Trudie Mason, Penny Rankin, Linda Serpone



MCW and Women's Economic Inequality

The MCW is honoured to have leading Canadian researchers and activists expose the current challenges in achieving economic parity for women with our virtual panel on October 6, 2022, at 5 p.m. The event is free, and all are welcome to attend. Registration is required.

<https://montrealcouncilofwomen.ca/en/events/our-events/thursday-october-6-2022>

MCW and the Afghan Women's Centre Montreal

MCW's Linda Serpone and Penny Rankin met with the Afghan Women's Centre of Montreal to discuss projects and find ways to support new initiatives to help immigrant women and their families adapt to life in Canada and support women and girls in Afghanistan living under Taliban rule. A **November 10, 5pm zoom event** is being organized to present The Voices of Afghan Women and open a dialogue leading to action. Picture-Linda and Penny with AWCM founder Makai Aref (in pale blue) and Executive Director Victoria Jahesh (in red).



Note: Videos of most MCW past events are available on the MCW website a few days after the event.



Not to be Missed! Six Amazing Plays on Age and Agism

- **Linda Serpone, President LCW Montreal**



The World Premier Screening of **Still Got Something to Say 6 Plays on Age** will be held on October 14 @ 7:30 in Montreal at the Dawson College Dome Theatre. Details here <http://www.theatreouestend.ca/events.html>

Good news! For those who are unable to make it to the theatre, the shows will also be posted on **Theatre Ouest End Facebook page** for another two weeks from October 15 to October 28! All performances are free, donations appreciated.

Commissioned by Theatre Ouest End, six well known Canadian playwrights, including two Governor General's Award winners, present an

original treatment of issues surrounding age and agism in short play lengths varying from 10-20 minutes. The plays were performed on stage and videotaped so that they could be shared digitally. Performances are noteworthy and in some cases award worthy. Hot topic issues covered in the plays include - the intergenerational divide (boomer versus Gen Z), political differences, declining health, late-in-life romance, bullying and disrespect of the elderly, and elder invisibility. I had the good fortune to view the plays on Facebook when they streamed for two weeks last May.

I was mesmerized from the start, captivated by the outstanding monologue in the first play - an 'Irish Queen' in a home for the aged (photo- Clare Coulter in Queen Maeve).

An event not to be missed! Perhaps make it an intergeneration event and invite your children and friends to a viewing party!



Local Council of Women Vancouver
- ***President Chitra Khare***

I have had the privilege to serve as the president of the Vancouver Council of Women since April 2022. In the capacity of president, I have been chairing the Executive Board and General meetings of the Vancouver Council of Women.

The days are getting shorter, and the weather is cooling down. Luckily, we still are having sunny and beautiful days.

The passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II marks a moment in history. This moment may have various meanings for different people. Queen Elizabeth was laid to rest on Sept 19, 2022, remembered for a life of unstinting service.

At our AGM on April 4, 2022, our guest speaker was Dr. Inge Schamborzki. Inge was retained as the Executive Director of the Victorian Order of Nurses, British Columbia, in January 2002 and has continued in this role since the Society changed its name to the Health and Home Care Society (Care BC) in April 2006. Inge discussed and provided insight on the topic of respite for caregivers.

At our May 2022 VCW General meeting, we had a wonderful guest speaker, Joanna Li of the BC Association of Community Response Networks. Joanna Li talked about BC Association of Community Response Networks (BC CRN) and community response networks (CRNs) in Vancouver, what a coordinated community response to adult abuse and neglect is, and what you can do to raise awareness about elder abuse and neglect.

I attended the NCWC 129th Annual General Meeting and Conference in Ottawa from May 27th to 29th, 2022. It was a great learning experience for me. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the delegates and the NCWC Board members.

June 6, 2022, at our VCW general meeting we had wonderful Speakers: Jen Graham and Valerie Hutton, PLEA Community Services Society of BC. PLEA provides services which span child welfare, addictions, health, justice, and community living systems. PLEA has been operating in BC for more than 40 years.

The VCW website committee is working very hard. The website is coming along very well and hopefully will be up and running in October 2022. We are all very excited!

Our VCW Corresponding convenor, Bev Wong is doing excellent work, and I am proud to say that we have three more new members.

The VCW had the first in-person general meeting on September 12th, and I was very happy to see that we had a good number of members in attendance.

Our guest speaker was Dr. David Kuhl, MD, PhD, Co-Founder and Mohammad H. Mohseni Chair in Men's Health, Integrity, and Well-being at Vancouver General Hospital. Dr. Kuhl gave us a very engaging and informative talk on enhancing the well-being of men and communities.

Our long-time member Stella Shulhan, who turned 104 years young on September 23rd, knitted 52 bonnets to support our Bring and Buy. I am so proud to say that we sold a lot of them at our first in-person VCW General meeting.

Across BC, municipal elections will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2022. Within Metro Vancouver, 12 mayors of 17 of the region's largest municipal governments have been confirmed as incumbents.

At our October 3 Vancouver Council of Women General Meeting, we will have an election panel made up of some women candidates running for Mayor, City Council, School Board, and Parks Board.

At our November 7, 2022, VCW general meeting our guest speaker will be Joy Dockrey, who is a Cree elder, military veteran, and trauma counsellor.

Terri Thompson will be our guest speaker at our December General meeting; she is from the Salvation Army's Kate Booth House.

Enjoy the fall colours and stay safe!



Provincial Council of Women of British Columbia

- *Rani Gupta, President*

The weather in Vancouver is very pleasant right now. We are still having warm sunny days, and green leaves along with brown and green patches of grass. I am in my second year of being president of PCWBC. Due to COVID, I had the opportunity to attend many local and international Zoom and webinar meetings that were very interesting and informative. These meetings were organized by Georgetown University for Women, UNCSW, and local groups of women activists in our community. I was introduced to many active, intelligent, and dedicated women from all over the globe who shared my interests and goals. I heard the stories of pain and deprivation of women's rights in Afghanistan and other parts of the world. One of the seminars featured the pre-war appeal by Ukraine's female vice-president to all international bodies, urging them to stop Russian aggression. The local speakers focused on issues such as gender inequality, education, housing, help to youth, female genital mutilation, housing, seniors' problems, and indigenous people's issues.

For the future, the PCWBC board is trying to work on our new resolution and follow up on the matter after it is passed by the board. We are also trying to help New Westminster Council remain intact and functional.

One of my heart's desires is to set up a Council of Women in the northern interior of BC. For 48 years, I lived, volunteered, and held positions there on the boards for many varied groups. There are many programs happening in the big centers, but the women in the interior areas are deprived of them. Due to COVID, some of the women I approached were very hesitant to start a new group as many of them were finding it difficult to even honour their previous commitments. However, it looks like I may have the chance opportunity to bring this to fruition. Several women in Kelowna appeared interested, so that will be a good starting point. I will really appreciate your point of view on this topic and full guidance.

I am also inviting the President of my University Women's Club of Vancouver to officially become a federate of the PCWBC. We have many members on the PCWBC Board from CFUW Vancouver.

I am looking forward to working together with each of you on our common objectives and goals. Have a great fall and winter season!



Environment Report

- **Gracia Janes, Environment Convenor**

This year, environment has ranked high on the News world-wide, and emails from our expanded NCWC Environment Committee have featured alarming headlines such as:

- “Long term Statistics Canada show plastics are poisoning life on earth.
- Research shows cities across the country are losing green space.
- Changing climate and mining in the north threaten Indigenous Rights and Food Insecurity in First Nations while governments stand by.
- Federal government delays climate action by funding new nuclear development that is opposed by Indigenous, civil society, and public interest groups”

For my part as NCWC Environment Convenor, I have been following closely the significant risks nuclear power poses to public and worker health and safety, the potential loosening of Health Canada regulation of Genetically Engineered plants and foods, Great Lakes threats, and the opening of the Ring of Fire in the James Bay Lowlands to mining, with the resultant loss of peat lands, carbon sinks, and threats to Indigenous people’s quality of life and natural resources.

NCWC actions on these matters and others this year included:

- a sign-on to an NGO submission to Canada’s Draft Great Lakes Strategy asking that synthetic chemicals such as cosmetics and cleaning products be recognized as chemicals of mutual concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.
- attendance at a Government Budget Release session where there was no mention of the current funding of small modular nuclear reactors.
- a sign-on, along with seventy other groups, to the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) letter to the Federal Treasury Board calling for a moratorium on new nuclear reactors to be in the newly elected Cabinet member’s mandate letters.
- a sign-on to the Saskatchewan Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Co-operative to the Premiers of Saskatchewan, Ontario, Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Ontario asking them not to work with nuclear power companies to bring nuclear reactors to these provinces.
- attendance at the advocacy group Nuclear Waste Watch and Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) series of preparatory meetings on Canada’s radioactive policy review. ** NCWC’s initial letter to NRCAN highlighted *“our opposition to government support and promotion of nuclear as a key clean and green way to meet Canada’s climate carbon reduction targets, rather than solar, wind, geothermal, and energy conservation and efficiencies; the funding of hundreds of millions of dollars to Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) for a contracted private-sector consortium to construct a mega nuclear waste dump on lands close to the Ottawa River and subject to earthquakes and tornados; Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) facilitation of small modular nuclear reactors*

(SMRs) proposals for use in hundreds of remote rural communities across Canada; Federal and New Brunswick government funding of a “start-up” company to build an experimental modular reactor and facility to extract deadly plutonium from used nuclear fuel on the north shore of the Bay of Fundy; and the government’s exemption of SMRS from Environmental Impact Assessments.”

- a letter to Bureau of Microbial Hazards, Food Directorate Health Canada, strongly supporting the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) scientifically backed opposition to the newly proposed changes to the “Novel Food” regulations.
- a sign-on to the City of Ottawa’s request to the Minister of Environment that he authorize a “Regional Environmental Assessment (EA)” of the impacts of nuclear activities at Chalk River on the Ottawa Valley. The Minister refused to do so.
- attendance at the Rural Action on the Environment meeting on the ‘Dangers of Uranium and Nuclear Energy in New Brunswick and Beyond: Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, Serpent River, Elliot Lake, and Blind River, Ontario along with Noranda, Quebec.
- a presentation to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on behalf of the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario regarding the proposed above ground nuclear waste dump at Chalk River site, which is situated in an earthquake and tornado-prone area on un-ceded First Nation territory.
- a sign-on with seventy-seven other civic groups to the Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick.
- a letter to big Canadian Banks to cease investments in small modular nuclear reactors.
- a sign-on with 118 well recognized groups, including the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs, Chiefs of Ontario, and independent scientists to a letter opposing the Federal government’s funding of small modular nuclear reactors, which will not be clean or green and which will delay climate action of new nuclear development.
- most recently, on August 31st, and September 7th, 14th, and 26th I attended public forums and a special water ceremony in Niagara-on-the-Lake organized by the Great Lakes Ecoregion Network. This was regarding Lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, and Ontario preparing for, and having input into a celebration marking the 50th year of the USA/Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in Niagara Falls Canada.

As you can see, our air, water, and land across Canada is being attacked on multiple fronts, and the NCWC is using its many years of well researched policies to make the case for environmental protection, justice, and meaningful lasting improvements in the public interest in the years ahead!



Celebrating a Century of Living: Ruth Brown, a true-blue member of Council
- *Monica Cullum, Justice Convenor, and a friend of Ruth*

As I sit here in Ruth Brown's comfortable living room in the condo she shared with her husband Ken almost until his death in 2016, I think of the many times we sat around her dining room table discussing NCWC resolutions, sometimes even developing new ones for consideration.

Ruth was National President from 1992 to 1995, and she has remained committed to Council. Computer savvy and interested in current affairs, she was a resource for relative newbies like me as we deal with issues of the day and reflect on past policy and history. I am here as Ruth approaches her 100th birthday to talk about how she has lived as poet Mary Oliver says, her "one wild and precious life".

Me: So, Ruth, please tell me where this long journey started.

Ruth: Would you believe it all began in Sunkist, Saskatchewan? Try to find that on a map now! I was born there because my father thought he might become a clergyman and was relieving the local Presbyterian minister. As summer ended, we came back to Ontario. My dad decided he would become a teacher and eventually we ended up in Sarnia, where dad became Superintendent of Schools. After high school, I went off to Victoria College at the University of Toronto to follow what I thought was my destiny – gain a BA in Modern Languages and maybe become a writer. When I graduated, I returned to Sarnia, planning in the Fall to take the opportunity offered by a scholarship at Harvard.

Me: But Ruth, I know you worked as a social worker.

Ruth: What happened that summer changed my plan. By chance, I got a summer job at the Sarnia Children's Aid Society assigned to the Dependents Board of Trustee clients – a program designed to assist the families of veterans. With no car, I bicycled around Sarnia. Before the summer was over, I notified Harvard I would not accept their scholarship and applied to the University of Toronto School of Social Work, which had just started to offer post graduate degrees. They didn't accept me because my undergraduate degree in Modern Languages did not include any of the prerequisite courses. I knew someone at the Ministry of Social Services who decided to advocate for me with the university. I was accepted, and two years later I had my social work degree.

Me: It's said, "we make our own futures by our actions", so what happened next?

Ruth: Well at Victoria College I became engaged to a tall, handsome fellow student who was at Oxford studying on a Rhodes Scholarship. He persuaded me to come to England. So off I sailed, and Ken met me at the docks in Liverpool looking as if he was starving on British rations. This was 1947, and London was still suffering from the wartime bombings. But I found a flat and a job with Dr. Bernardo's Homes in Herefordshire, a county just north of London. I still had no car, so I got to foster homes

by bus, train, and often walked the last few miles. Ken would come down on Sundays, and we explored London together. In July 1948, we married in Oxford. Ken joined the Department of External Affairs and was immediately posted to UN meetings in Geneva and Paris. I had to complete my contract with Dr. Bernardo, but eventually I joined him in Paris. That was followed by three-year stints in Ottawa between postings in Cuba, Switzerland, Washington, Cuba again, and Sweden where Ken was Ambassador.

Me: So, when did you get to use all you had learned and experienced?

Ruth: Well, each time we returned to Ottawa I worked parttime for the CAS and in Washington, I volunteered with a social service agency attached to a school in southwest Washington. In Sweden, which was the poster child for political and social action, I completed a Diploma in Social Welfare at the University of Stockholm and learned a lot more about the Swedish system.

Me: With all this travelling, what attracted you to Council?

Ruth: In the early 1970s, I was the Volunteer Coordinator at the Ottawa CAS, when one day the Director came looking for someone to go to a meeting of Council. At the time CAS was a member. I had no commitments for the lunch hour, so I said I would go. His final statement was, "tell them we have to stop the physical punishment of children". Well, when I got there, I was hooked. With others, I finally developed a resolution on this topic. It was not immediately adopted. But we were persistent and presented it at the next AGM, where it passed. The UN adopted the Rights of the Child in 1990 and in 2004, and the Supreme Court of Canada considered whether Section 43 applied to all sections of the Act on Corporal Punishment of Children. We also appeared before a Commons Committee on a woman's right to her own body that proved very compelling and satisfying in its outcome. Advocacy does make a difference!

Me: I know you spent a lot of time at the family cottage this summer.

Ruth: My mother's family had a cottage at Christie Lake near Perth. As a child, we spent each summer there. It was a two-day trip by car from Sarnia, so we stopped to visit an aunt in Toronto overnight. So many memories are tied to these lazy summer days! Ken and I finally bought the cottage next door, and it has become the place where we gather as a family – I have four children – two sons and a daughter, and now grandchildren and great-grandchildren, so it is the place I want to be.

Me: Now that you are back home in Ottawa, what keeps you busy?

Ruth: I have book club friends and lunch weekly with women who also were Foreign Service wives – there used to be eight of us, but now there are only four. Two are 100 and two are 91. And of course, I have two sons in Ottawa so there is always something going on.

Me: What advice do you have for seniors?

Ruth: I'm not sure that I am qualified to give advice, but I think being active helps. Stay interested. Recognize your limitations. My family now thinks I should have more help – I do have a cleaning person and a niece who is available for shopping. Today my son

was here to reach high places and do odd jobs – remember I am only 5 feet tall and use a walker. (Ruth laughs at this image). Being stubborn old me, I resist any more help, but I think I'm beginning to take this seriously.

Me: What are your plans for the rest of your life beyond celebrations planned for this significant milestone?

Ruth: To enjoy my great-grandchildren. They are the joy of my life.

Ruth speaks of her life as if she had just returned from a great adventure and wanted to share the experience with me.

Kierkegaard tells us that life can only be lived forward but can only be viewed backwards. My visit with Ruth was a wonderful reflection on her wild and precious life. I am so blessed to have shared this time with her.



Congratulations Ruth and thank you for your years of service and advocacy!



**News from the National Council of Women of Canada Development Organization
Organisation de développement du conseil national des femmes du Canada**
- ***Carol Schweitzer, NCWCDO Past Chair***

The Ukrainian Women's Congress Regional Network was the only project submitted this year and Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay from the Ukrainian Women's Association in Canada spoke to us at the 2022 NCWCDO Annual Meeting about this organization and its work. It is a community of thirty-seven women leaders in almost all the regions of Ukraine, who are working with the NGO UWC as volunteers concerning the real situation with gender equality in regional and local communities. NCWCDO supports the activities that are planned to help women cope and improve their life situation. It

is extremely important to have legitimate trained personnel in charge of the trainings as there are spurious individuals and groups that purport to be legitimate but are not. Having the project coming from the UWC ensures that NCWCDO is supporting a good venture.

NCWCDO had supported Shelter Movers last year and we were pleased to have Samuelle Stiles, operations manager present to us in May at our 2022 AGM about this organization. It is a volunteer-powered charitable organization that provides moving and storage services at no cost to women and children experiencing abuse. The arrangements to move and store survivors' belongings securely is made by Shelter Movers in collaboration with local businesses and community services. About 20 women fleeing from abusive situations were assisted by the \$2,000 that NCWCDO supplied.

To encourage donations from LCWs and PCWs, a fund-raising "tea-party activity" was distributed to participants at the AGM along with grant application forms. Members and friends are urged to donate money to NCWCDO to provide assistance for specific projects, in designated communities, for the advancement of literacy and basic education and for skills training for women and girls. The educational and social welfare programs supported by NCWCDO are located in developing countries as well as Canada. The criteria for eligibility is included in the NCWCDO grant application form which can also be found on the NCWC website under Charitable Organizations. It is also always available through the NCWCDO email address ncwcdo@gmail.com.

Tax receipts are given for donations over \$10 and donors of \$50 or more are recognized in the NCWCDO Annual Report. Donations to NCWCDO are always welcome at any time throughout the year and donations received between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, will go toward the projects that Members submit for consideration.

I am pleased to announce that Lori Isinger from Saskatoon has taken over as NCWCDO Chair. We look forward to your continued financial support and attendance at meetings.



News from the Education Fund

- ***Karen Monnon Dempsey, Treasurer***

We are now in our fourth and final year of the Common Program: "Listening to, Learning from, and Acting on the Recommendations and Themes of the Report of the Commission on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls." Qajaq Robinson

was our first guest to address this, speaking on the Report of the Commission with an emphasis on “the way forward.” Qajaq Robinson was an excellent speaker and certainly qualified being one of the Commissioners. Other speakers to this Common Program included Pamela Palmater and Senator David Arnot.

We are pleased to announce that at the NCWC Midterm Virtual Meeting on November 26, 2022, our guest speaker will be Heather Fenyes, the Board Chair of Concentus. Her topic will be “Rights Responsibilities Respect: The New 3Rs of Education”.

At the 2022 NCWC AGM in Ottawa, the Education Fund recognized all our donors in the previous year. We again thank all of you for making it possible to bring you excellent programming. If you wish to be a donor, please mail your cheque to: NCWC Education Fund, c/o Treasurer K. Dempsey, 307- 5570 Heatherwood Court, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5N7. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations!

You can also donate to us through CanadaHelps.org, a Canada-wide organization, which helps the public connect with charities and deposits donations directly into our bank account. Just google CanadaHelps.org and follow the easy directions



Facebook Update

- *Karen Monnon Dempsey, NCWC Facebook Administrator*

Read about issues that concern the women, children, and communities of this country at www.facebook.com/thencwc. Following NCWC’s Facebook page on a daily basis is arguably the best way for board members and convenors to:

- Keep up with the latest and most relevant news on issues related to their portfolios as well as others.
- Find issues on which the NCWC should have policy so that appropriate resolutions can be drafted to bring before the membership.

Currently, ***our newsfeed is ‘plugged into’ over 700 sources***. It has taken a long time to curate the best possible list of sources which includes local, national, and international media; our councils and federates; sister councils all over the world; like-minded organizations; and many others. Our newsfeed is checked at least twice a day so we can bring you the *latest news* on issues under NCWC’s purview. We also promote our federates’ various endeavours as well as our own events, etc. For any local or provincial councils who have a Facebook presence, the key to gaining followers is to **post on a regular/daily basis**. This gives your council a higher profile as more people learn about you, what your council is doing, and can attract new members.

If you are a local council, your city's issues are the obvious place to start. For a provincial council, issues such as the environment, transportation, education, and healthcare which impact your province are vital. And by supporting your federates' endeavours on your page, you are giving them more value for their membership and helping them attract more attention and potential members.

As of August 1st, the NCWC Facebook page **currently has over 2900 'likes' and 'followers'**; 80% of likes are women, 20% are men. Women aged 35-44 are usually our highest demographic, followed by the 45-54 group, and then the over 65s. This past month over 72% of our readers were from Canada, 5% from the USA, and the rest from the UK, France, Asia, and Africa. Within Canada, in descending order, readers were from Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Prince Albert, Vancouver, Halifax, Saskatoon, Calgary, and London.

I would encourage you to read our Standing Rules and the parameters involved before setting up a Facebook page for your council. It is also important to have two administrators, with one being your local or provincial president. If you have any questions about how to set up a page, how to access our Facebook page, or anything pertaining to this, please email me at kdempsey624@gmail.com.



Closing Reflections...

- ***Patricia Leson, President***

We are approaching the Thanksgiving weekend, and what better time to express my sincere and deep appreciation to the many members who have supported me personally and professionally over the past years of my tenure as President of the NCWC. I am continually impressed by the solidarity, the loyalty to our mandate, and the dedication to our advocacy as we work together toward ensuring equality is a hallmark of our societal structure.

Our to-do list is still long, but we will continue to make remarkable progress because each of you has the motivation, the internal drive, and the positive attitude necessary for us to function as a productive team. Your generosity of time, leadership, and the sharing of your talents makes all the difference.

Working with so many like-minded women has warmed my heart, and I wish you the love of family, the gift of friends, and joy this Thanksgiving weekend!

