



Canadian Federation of University Women – Ottawa

Capital Carillon

October General Meeting

DATE: Monday, October 3, 2011
TIME: 7:30 pm
PLACE: St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church
 2400 Alta Vista Drive
SPEAKER: Rosemary Thompson,
 Director of
 Communications and
 Public Relations,
 National Arts Centre
TOPIC: Art and Politics: Life After
 Parliament Hill



Rosemary Thompson spent 20 years as a broadcast journalist on both CBC and CTV before joining the NAC staff. A

graduate of Carleton's journalism school, she has covered international stories including 9/11, worked extensively on the Hill and was a frequent guest host on both CTV's Question Period and Mike Duffy Live. She is excited to tell the many beautiful stories from the stages of the NAC.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WILMA CLAPHAM

Welcome to 2011-2012 Ottawa Club Year!

Registration Night, planned by vice-president Operations Joan Bell, vice-president Membership Nancy DeVillers, Hospitality Convenor Nancy Vrooman, Membership Administration, Webmaster Glenda Levesque and Study and Interest Group convenor Jean Chapman, was outstanding. Both new and returning members were welcomed and assured the Club would provide intellectual stimulation, challenging issue discussions, fun and friendship. Orchids to you all!

Kudos also to Glenda Levesque and Mary Houston-Lambert, Brochure and Annual Report convenor and Mary Butterill, vice-president Communications who handle publicity for all Club activities including Registration Night.

The October 3rd General Meeting will be special with veteran political correspondent Rosemary Thompson, now Director of Communications for the National Arts Centre speaking on Art and Politics: Life After Parliament Hill. Please arrive before the 7:30 start time at St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church, 2400 Alta Vista Drive. Thanks to Jill Moll, Program Convenor and her committee for finding this outstanding speaker and for the rest of the year's program.

The Club is very proud of two member-initiated projects— the H.I.P.P.Y community project initiated by Nancy Simmons-Wright, Janet Hagey and Carol Hinde that begins this year and the CFUW focus group that grew from Ottawa UWHAW Study and Interest group chaired by Joan Bell and Hally Siddons. The latter received an Advocacy Award from Ontario Council and an Award of Recognition from CFUW.

A second national Award of Recognition went to our Club for our membership video created by webmaster Glenda Levesque. Check

(see **Meeting** on next page)

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it out on the website under "About Us". You might see yourself in the pictures!

This year we will be stressing our historic affiliation with three community organizations, including the Ottawa Council of Women with whom we host International Women's Day and the Elizabeth Fry Society, founded by CFUW-Ottawa and the subject of November meeting. We hope to reconnect with Heritage Ottawa and are looking for volunteers to represent us. Please call me if you can help.

I hope you will enjoy your year with CFUW-Ottawa. Your enthusiasm helps us to publicize this dynamic organization in the community.

Entertainment Books for Sale

Salwa Hafez and Glenys Pike are selling entertainment books to raise money for the CFUW-Ottawa Scholarship Trust Fund. The books contain discounts for restaurants, travel, entertainment, sports, retail, services and hotels. And sell for \$35 each, as last year. Call Salwa or Glenys or stop by the table at the October or November meeting.

Capital Carillon is published monthly from September to May

Please send all material for the next issue to Mary Butterill at marpathb@storm.ca

Next issue: **November 2011**
Deadline: **October 15, 2011**

<http://cfuw-ottawa.org/>

CFUW Ottawa Holiday Party 2011

Sat. Dec. 3, 2011 noon-3:00 PM

Clark Hall, RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Dr. Ottawa

Great opportunity to celebrate the beginning of the season with friends and family at an elegant hot and cold buffet

RAFFLES DOOR PRIZES BAKE TABLE

Buy your tickets early; only 150 available

Ticket prices remain at \$35 and can be bought online using the Club's Website

or at the Oct. and Nov. General Meetings

or call

Alice Bolt, Joan McKee, Nancy Vrooman, Linda Kelly or Eva Stumes



CURIOUS ABOUT CANADIANA?

Could you pass the Canadian Citizenship test? Do you have a Canadian antique you would like to know something about? Would you like to know more about the involvement of Canadian women in the development of Communication satellites or the history of the public library system in Ottawa? Have you ever wondered how Christmas was celebrated in Canada 150 years ago? Are you interested in the challenges faced by a portrait painter to capture just the right image of a famous Canadian? Are you intrigued by the symbolism embedded in the jewellery worn by Victorian Canadian women?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then the Canadian Group is for you! Generally, we meet at 1:00 p.m., the third Monday of the month, starting in October and ending in May. We cover diverse topics related to Canadian culture and society. Often, we have a speaker. Sometimes we

take on an interactive project. We always have interesting discussions stimulated by a hot cup of tea and camaraderie. Make this afternoon one of the highlights of each month. You won't be disappointed.

This year we will be answering, among others, the questions above. So, if you want answers, please come and join us. For further information, contact me at 613-526-9901 or at della.stanley@msvu.ca.

Della Stanley
Convenor, Canadiana Group

LITTLE BIT of HELP NEEDED

Please call Alice Bolt if you are available to sell used books at general meetings. All proceeds go to the Scholarship Trust Fund.

Garden Party enchants, informs and raises funds for Dr. Samar

An elegant Garden Party capped the productive inaugural year of CFUW-Ottawa's *University Women Helping Afghan Women* Study and Interest group. Called "Voices from Afghanistan" the reception at the home of Hugh and Hally Siddons featured overviews from the Hon Flora Macdonald; from Chris Alexander, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defense; Senator Mobina Jaffer, Chair Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights; Hedvig Alexander, founder of Jali Afghan Designs; and Sina Naebkhil, a young Afghan-Canadian.

Although their messages were varied, reflecting the complexity and diversity of Afghanistan, all agreed on a number of points, including the vital importance of educating girls and women; the need to involve young people, both in Afghanistan and in Canada; the need to respect Afghan autonomy; and the important of continuing our advocacy efforts even af-



photo: Ulle Baum

"Voices from Afghanistan" a June garden reception held at the home of Hugh and Hally Siddons in aid of women's post-secondary education in Kabul.

ter Canada's combat role ends.

Other special guests at the party included General Walter Natynczyk, Chief of the Defense Staff, Leslie Natynczyk, Nipa Banerjee, a former senior aid official in Afghanistan who is a frequent visitor to the country, Eileen Olexiuk, former deputy head

of mission in Afghanistan, Kanata North Councillor Marianne Wilkinson and the inimitable Lucy van Oldenbarneveld, host, CBC News Ottawa and mediator of the panel discussion.

Because all the superb food, wine, auction items and kitchen witchery



photo: Ulle Baum

At the garden reception from left to right Sina Naebkhil, a young Afghan-Canadian, Hedvig Alexander, founder of Jali Afghan Designs and Senator Mobine Jaffer, Chair, Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights.

(Easy Gourmet) were donated, all funds raised go to support the work of Dr. Sima Samar and her post-secondary education programs for women at the Gawharshad Institute in Kabul.

The creative advocacy arm of UWHAW has already met to map out next year's program which will include working locally and also with the new national Focus Group to bring to the attention of policy makers our primary concerns once the Canadian military leave.

Under the co-convenorship of Hally Siddons and Joan Bell, this group focuses on information, education and advocacy for the rights of Afghan women and girls.

The 2011 CFUW Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM in St. John's was a great introduction to Newfoundland hospitality. The theme was **Wind in our Sails – Women at the Helm**, and the women at the conference helm did a fantastic job. Their "Women on Tap" group, who provided the pre-dinner entertainment at the Newfoundland Soiree (pronounced Soireeee), danced into our hearts, launching new ideas about what study and interest groups can do.

Policy decisions at the AGM

Work will continue on the revision of the CFUW Constitution and Bylaws. A motion to accept the draft submitted by the review committee was narrowly defeated as members voted to continue the process, charging the review committee to report at next year's AGM, and include a review of the Standing Rules.

Two national policy resolutions were proposed and approved:

1. Reducing Idling of all Motorized Vehicles
2. Criminalization of Non-State Actor Torture

The final texts are on the CFUW website at www.cfuw.org and in the CFUW Policy Book at http://www.cfuw.org/policybookonline_29.html.

CFUW-Ottawa reviewed both resolutions and voted on them at our "Resolutions" meeting last April. If you compare the texts, you will see several changes from the versions that we voted on. This is because CFUW procedures provide an opportunity for members to comment and propose amendments to draft resolutions right up to the time that they are presented

for national approval at the AGM. After we (and other CFUW clubs) review a draft resolution, the proposing club has an opportunity to respond to our suggestions and may amend their resolution accordingly. As a result, the "final" version submitted for the AGM vote can differ considerably (and be much improved) from the draft that we reviewed. This is why we vote every April to give our president (who is our voting delegate at the AGM) the authority to vote "as she chooses and according to her conscience, in accordance with the decisions of this meeting."

At the AGM, a "Proposers and Amenders" session is held where proposers and reviewers can discuss the proposed resolutions, revisions and amendments. These are important because proposers can provide valuable explanations and clarifications before resolutions are presented to the plenary session for the vote.

1. Reducing Idling of all Motorized Vehicles. We had approved this reso-

lution with minor amendments at our April Resolutions meeting, and I was pleased to see that proposers had made use of our suggestions for strengthening the Resolution.

2. Criminalization of Non-State Actor Torture. This Resolution has two Resolved clauses: the first addresses Canada's Criminal code, and the second links Canada's actions to United Nations human rights instruments. At our CFUW-Ottawa April meeting last April our members approved the first clause, but recommended deleting the second. However, at the AGM "Proposers and Amenders" session, the proposers and their supporters convinced us of the importance of Canada's explicit support for UN conventions governing torture and gender-sensitive human rights.

We expect to receive follow-up action plans for advocacy and action from CFUW's national office within the next month. They will include specimen letters, handout materials and information kits. There's lots of opportunity to participate in advocacy, and you'd be welcome to join us!



Some of the 14 Ottawa members who enjoyed the St. John's AGM



From the CFUW-Ottawa Environmental Toxins and Health Study Group

About Dry Cleaning

When your clothes are dry cleaned they are agitated with a solvent (usually perchloroethylene, commonly called “perc”) in a machine similar to a home washing machine. After drying and pressing they are often bagged in polyethylene. The polyethylene keeps them dust-free, but it also prevents the perc from evaporating, so that when the clothes are taken out of the bag in your home they can release perc into your home environment.

Perc, which has been widely used since the 1960s, is classified as toxic to the environment by Environment Canada. In humans, perc is a suspected carcinogen and occupational exposure is associated with reproductive effects. High levels of perc can cause nausea, membrane irritation, dizziness, and confusion. In Canada, dry cleaners are regularly inspected, and must use only approved, efficient machines that reduce perc emissions and do not vent directly to the outside. The newest machines have built-in perc vapour recovery and recycling functions; this is important because many small dry-cleaning firms are in residential neighbourhoods.

WHAT WE CAN DO:

- ☐ Choose a dry cleaner that is a Certified Environmental Cleaner (there are several in Ottawa, including Hill Modern Dry Cleaners and Hillary’s Cleaners.) Ask about “Wet Cleaning” (also known as “green cleaning” or “aquacleaning”), which is based on the controlled application of soap and water. The result is identical to the perc process – except that the residues won’t harm you or future generations!
- ☐ Choose fabrics that can be washed, and do not require dry cleaning solvents.
- ☐ Stop using polyethylene bags for your freshly cleaned clothes, and purchase a re-usable cloth “Envirobag” that your dry cleaner can supply.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

- ☐ “Reducing Health Impacts of Perchloroethylene from Dry Cleaning in Toronto” at http://www.toronto.ca/health/hphe/pdf/boh_perchloroethylene_technical_2007.pdf
- ☐ “The Green Guide to Style: Laundry” at www.obviously.ca
- ☐ “How Dry Cleaning Works” at <http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/home/dry-cleaning.htm>

CFUW Ontario Council Annual General Meeting May 13-14, 2011, hosted by CFUW – Oakville

The theme of this year’s AGM was “Taking off the Blinders: The Four Pillars of Poverty.” The afternoon workshops focused on The Four Pillars: Affordable Housing, Food Security, Income Security, and Mental Health. In view of the upcoming Ontario provincial government elections, the theme is a timely one, and the speakers were excellent. Their presentations, have all been posted online at <http://cfuwpovertyinontario.wordpress.com/>

Keynote speaker Dr. Joey Edwardh spoke about “Inequality and Poverty in our Time – a Legacy for the Future”. She eloquently described the huge costs associated with poverty – emotional, developmental, social, and financial. In Canada, we currently spend 5.5% of our GDP on sup-

port system, yet structural poverty is growing. The associated social and human inequalities continue to affect women and young people disproportionately. We simply cannot allow this situation to continue; if we do not deal with these issues now, we face a dystopian future.

Other highlights included the discussion and adoption of the resolution “Mental Health Strategy for Ontario.” This means that CFUW Ontario Council now has a policy basis for input into imminent changes in Ontario’s organization and management of mental illness and addictions. The text of the resolution is at www.cfuwontcouncil.ca. It incorporates many of the suggestions made by our CFUW-Ottawa members who reviewed the draft resolution (Sue Wilson,

Judy Jessop, Olga Lee, and Daphne McCree).

Another highlight was the Advocacy Awards, chosen to honour clubs who have quietly worked on advocacy projects over the years. CFUW-Ottawa received an award for “its continuing work to raise awareness about women and Afghanistan – the 2010 National CFUW AGM, its Afghan Study Group, its lunchtime speaker’s series, and social events”. Congratulations to the members of our new group “University Women Helping Afghan Women,” for their outstanding contribution.

The Conference was superbly organized, and CFUW Oakville deserves our thanks for a thoughtful program and their warm hospitality. It was a very worthwhile day, and I would certainly encourage you to consider attending next year’s AGM in Etobicoke.

Charlotte Rigby

CFUW-Ottawa's Community Project – Helping HIPPY Ottawa

In our last Carillon update to you in May, we told you of our plans to hold a meeting in June for those CFUW-Ottawa members who indicated a desire to volunteer with HIPPY Ottawa. (Just to refresh your memories, HIPPY stands for Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters.)

We had a great turnout to our June 21st meeting, which was held at the Vanier Community Service Centre. Kathleen Saso, the HIPPY Ottawa Co-ordinator, gave a presentation to our CFUW-Ottawa members about the program, its needs and its challenges and potential roles for our CFUW-Ottawa members.

At this point, duties for volunteers are in three main areas:

- helping out at the **two-hour monthly sessions** (alternating Friday evenings and Saturday mornings for the September to June school year) for the HIPPY families (greeting HIPPY families at the door and giving them their name tags, helping with the food for the pot-luck dinner (putting out food, clean-up, etc.), helping with the children in the daycare room (there are always day care workers with the children, so contact with the children would be more in the 'play' sense or reading to them), escorting families to the nearby bus stops in the dark winter months, suggesting topics for speakers (and suggesting speakers) at the monthly training session (usually this is a 30-45 minute talk on topics of interest to the HIPPY parents), general interaction with the parents. (N.B., while this last type of support may not seem important, it is **extremely** important to these parents who may be very iso-

lated in terms of culture and/or economics and would like to practise their English and French language skills or just talk to an adult.). We would hope that each CFUW volunteer would sign up for a **minimum of three sessions** per school year. We feel this is the minimum commitment to allow volunteers to establish a relationship with and to gain the confidence of the HIPPY families.

- helping out for the special "**graduation**" exercise on June 9, 2012 for the children who have graduated from the HIPPY program and will enter the school system.
- providing **administrative assistance** in the HIPPY office in the Vanier Community Service Centre.

We are now in a very strong position to start off the first full school year supporting this very worthwhile initiative and are in the process of finalizing the 2011-12 schedule with our CFUW-Ottawa volunteers.

If you are interested in learning more about this important CFUW-Ottawa community project, or would like to volunteer, please contact:

Nancy Simmons-Wright, Carol Hinde or Janet Hagey, Leaders of CFUW-Ottawa's Community Project to support HIPPY Ottawa

WORLD LEADERS DIRECTED NOT TO TRADE WOMEN'S RIGHTS FOR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY IN AFGHAN TALKS

Although this quote is from the Washington Post, it eloquently expresses one of the main messages Dr. Sima Samar brought to the Ottawa CFUW AGM last summer. It was a message that resonated across CFUW membership. When the Ottawa Study and Interest Group, University Women Helping Afghan Women, organized a meeting for interested members at the August St. John's AGM 23 CFUW members representing seven provinces attended and under the guidance of Susan Russell, Co-ordinator for International Relations, a national focus group was formed to advocate on this

issue and link interested members across the country.

Susan addressed the group noting that CFUW had policy on peace building and human rights that would allow the Club to advocate on the Hill. She said that it was important that a network be formed in each province that would make our voice heard by the federal government and that provincial leaders also be addressed. The Afghan national focus group, a pilot project for CFUW, will publish more information in national publications as it evolves.

At the meeting Marianne

Haselgrave, Chair of IFUW explained that if Afghanistan had a university women affiliate, the rights of these women could be advocated for by delegates to the UN. This possibility will be explored.

In discussions, many members noted the profound effect Dr. Samar's workshop and address at the Ottawa AGM had had and how they had spread her words to CFUW colleagues and friends. Several had read Dr. Jaffer's Senate report on the necessity of training and Afghan women's needs once NATO troops are withdrawn and many expressed concern about the security issues facing women once NATO troops leave. Others will refer the information, in particular Dr. Jaffer's report, to their advocacy groups. Several members had sent funds to Dr. Samar following the Ottawa AGM.

Directories 2011—check CFUW-Ottawa.org

Good News!!!! The CFUW-Ottawa Membership Directory for 2011-2012 will be mailed to all members in November, a decision of the Board of Directors for this year only.

The information for the Directory will be taken directly from the CFUW-Ottawa website membership database so please renew your membership promptly. Records for members that have not been renewed by October 15 will be archived and will no longer appear in the online or paper directory. These records can be retrieved later when the member renews.

We also request that you check carefully that the information on the website for your profile is correct. To view your profile, go to CFUW-Ottawa.org to the yellow box in the upper right-hand corner and log in. If

you do not have a password, press "Forgot Password". Once you have logged in, the information in that yellow box will change. Instead of "Log In" it will have a link to "View Profile". Click the "View Profile" link and then check and edit your information. Please note the "Member Since" date shown is the date when everyone was loaded into the online database. If you wish that date to be changed, you may contact Glenda Levesque at membership@cfuw-ottawa.org and she will make the adjustment. Also, you **will not** be able to adjust the information on Group participation on your profile. Please sign up for groups by contacting the group convenor. Adjustments to the online information on group members will be done at a later date by the Study and Interest Group Convenor.

CFUW Ontario East Fall Gathering

Saturday Oct. 22, 2011
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Cost: \$40

Cornwall Collegiate,
437 Sydney St.
Cornwall, ON

Contact: Betty Eadie
613 932-2570 or
e-mail: ceadiel@cogesco.ca

Theme:
"We are Women,
Hear Us Roar"

Wind in Your Sails: Women at the Helm

The sea is always the metaphor in Newfoundland, the bounty and the peril. And that was the theme of the AGM conference in St. John's this August attended by 14 CFUW-Ottawa members.

Women from this island province have always been strong at the hearth; now with a woman premier and many in positions of authority, they are strong at the helm.

We met three strong women on the AGM panel. Jocelyne Greene, founding member of the Premier's Social Policy Council who has advocated for the homeless to have shelter and then jobs through the Hungry Heart Café that serves St. John's from break-

fast to tea. Lana Payne, current President of the Provincial Federation of Labour maintains that women have been too submissive in the movement and that there must be space for them at negotiating tables. Dr. Noreen Golfman, Dean of Graduate Studies at Memorial University is also the founding director of St. John's International Women's five-day Film Festival which focuses on films written, directed and produced by women and takes them on the road, "Films on the Go".

Also in attendance was IFUW President Marianne Haselgrave who spoke of our role at the UN where she speaks for women's health. She noted

how important it is to speak the careful language of the UN in order to be heard and how Canada's decision to hobble its contribution to maternal care had far reaching consequences among NGOs.

The entertainment, a Newfoundland Soiree and at the banquet, a breathtaking singer from the Spirit of Newfoundland were great fun. Many members took the opportunity to tour and treasure the island culture. Attending an AGM truly enhances the CFUW experience. Next year's AGM is in Victoria June 21 – 24, 2012, an opportunity to visit the other side of the country.

The Day That Everyone Came to Book Club!



Back Row (L-R): Marjorie Hurley, Charlotte Rigby, Sandra Bassett, Marjorie Melick, Pat Boyce
Middle Row (L-R): Hope Ross-Papezik, Jean Chapman, Bobbie Loten
Front Row (L-R): Jenny Sheppard, Fran Squire, Marthe Kresic.
Venue: Home of Hope Paprezik-Ross

photo: Nancy DeVilliers

A record 22 members attended the Literature Study Group V meeting on 11012011 to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Ann Barrows, discussion led by Mary Houston-Lambert.



In Memoriam

Michaela Beauregard (nee Moloney) 1931-2011

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of former Club member Michaela Beauregard who died in late June. Born in Australia, raised on a farm in Saskatchewan, married in England, Michaela had a fulfilling and adventurous life, raising six children in four countries with her husband of 58 years Jean Pierre. An active volunteer, she worked for the Montreal Symphony orchestra and the National Capital Tennis Association. She was an avid gardener, traveller, sailor, skier, tennis and bridge player.

Jean Donalda Binks

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Jean Binks, a former long-term, proud member of CFUW-Ottawa, who died peacefully on May 4, 2011 at the Bridgepoint Rehabilitation Centre in Toronto. Her age was always a safely guarded secret. Daughter of W.H. Holman, Q.C. and Martha Georgina Stewart of Outlook, Saskatchewan, Jean graduated from the University of Saskatchewan, with an English major. Beloved wife of the Hon. Kenneth C. Binks, Q.C., and dedicated to her children, she also was a talented artist and a successful Rhodes Real Estate Agent. Jean loved the Arts, was passionate about furthering the education and independence of women and enjoyed living life to the full.

Dianne Hartling (nee Harris)

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of former Club member Dianne Hartling, who died August 28, 2011 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Loving daughter of Anne and the late George Harris, Dianne was a financial administrator in the departments of Foreign Affairs, Transport and Public Works. A graduate of Carleton and Queen's Universities, she was on the executive of the local breast cancer association, a quilter, a Toastmaster, a lifelong student of archeology and antiquity and a born traveller.

Barbara Ellen Ruth Jackson (nee Easton) (1941-2011)

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of former Club member Barbara Jackson, who died suddenly on July 30, 2011 at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Daughter of the late Elsie and Norman Easton, loving wife of Keith Jackson, devoted mother and grandmother, Barbara was a graduate of the Montreal General Hospital School of Nursing. She was an active member of CFUW-Ottawa, an avid bridge and mahjong player. She travelled extensively and loved spending time at her cottage in the Muskoka.

New Members' Tea



New Members' Tea will be held on **Sunday, November 6 from 2 to 4 pm** at the home of Nancy DeVillers. All CFUW women who are new to the club, or who are returning after an absence, are encouraged to attend. Board members will be there to greet you and explain the roles they play in keeping CFUW-Ottawa one of the most vibrant clubs in Canada.

Invitations to the Tea and directions to Nancy's home will be arriving soon. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet other new members and the CFUW-Ottawa Board, to learn how best to get involved in the Study and Interest Groups of your choosing (We offer over 50 such groups!) and to connect with members who live in your area. We look forward to meeting each of you!

CFUW-Ottawa's Proposed New Resolution

Accessibility for People with Disabilities: a Barrier-free Environment for All

Members of our Legislation Issues Committee have been developing a new policy resolution, and will present it for your approval in principle at our October 3 General Meeting.

The Resolution:

TITLE: Accessibility for People with Disabilities: a Barrier-free Environment for all.

RESOLVED, that the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments to meet Canada's commitments as a signatory of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Physically Disabled (UNCRPD) by: i) establishing and meeting national standards for public accessibility; and ii) adopting regulations to ensure that all persons with disabilities can participate in society to the fullest possible extent.

The Process:

The draft resolution requires approval in principle by our members at the October 3 General Meeting before our club can submit it to CFUW's National Resolutions Committee. It will then be sent to all CFUW clubs in Canada for review and debate, and the final, amended draft will be presented for approval at the 2012 CFUW AGM. If approved, it will be added to the CFUW Policy Book.

The Issue:

Canadian government programs recognize 10 types of disabilities: hearing, seeing, mobility, agility, communication, memory, learning, developmental, psychological, and pain. Recent figures show that 14.3% of all Canadians (including 56.3% of those aged 75 or older) live with a disability;

53 % are women. Poverty is an important issue; some 75% of women with disabilities are unemployed, and 8% live on less than \$10,000 per year.

People with disabilities need extra supports to participate in society. Accessibility programs that include broad-spectrum solutions, such as good facility design, assistive devices for web and internet access, and assisted learning opportunities, benefit everyone, and there are some excellent programs and services available. But there are obvious and serious inadequacies, including an uneven distribution of resources and a systemic lack of co-ordination among service providers. Too often people with disabilities have difficulty finding services, including specialized health care, accessible housing, and employment opportunities.

Canadians need improved accessibility programs and services: to support people with disabilities and their families and enable them to participate in society, and to ensure that their rights to fair and equitable treatment are respected. The status quo is no longer acceptable.

This resolution will create a policy basis so that CFUW can advocate for improved accessibility for people with disabilities, in a barrier-free environment. Plan to attend the CFUW-Ottawa General Meeting on October 3 to participate in the discussion, and support the resolution.

For more information:

- Charlotte Rigby at crigby@videotron.ca
- Lynne Bond at linda.bond@hrgworldwide.com
- The 2010 Federal Disability Report at www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/disability_issues;