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Feb 20, 2018

To Ontario Club Presidents, Issues Committee Chairs and members:

Hello everyone!

A mid-year check in concerning advocacy. I do hope that your year is going well.

February is a very busy month with Resolutions from both Ontario Council (Please note: **amendments are due April 1st**) and from National.

Plans are being made for all sorts of activities from the election to International Women's Day to Equal Pay Day to our own March Speaker Series and Workshops.

Check out the information about our [March 24th meeting](#) – three wonderful speakers including the Chief Electoral Officer.

A number of Ontario Council women are very fortunate to be joining the CFUW delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. This year's topic is support for rural women. Teri Shaw is one of the panellists for the CFUW session - Challenges and Opportunities of Rural Women – and the session is hosted by Cheryl Hayles (another Ontario Council member). Teri will incorporate the work done with Ontario North at their Regional Fall Gathering as part of her presentation. Nothing like hitting the world stage!

Do keep up with us via online and on social media:

Our website: <http://cfuwontcouncil.org/>

On Facebook: @CFUWOntarioCouncil Do like us.

On Twitter: our name is CFUWOntarioCouncil, find us at CFUWOntCouncil and tweet to us @CFUWOntCouncil

ONTARIO COUNCIL ADVOCACY NEWS

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ELECTIONS! ELECTIONS! ELECTIONS!

PC Leadership campaign

For those of you who are members and wish to vote, do ensure that your membership information is up-to-date. Voting information will be mailed to you prior to the voting dates of March 2-8, 2018. The results will be announced on March 10, 2018.

Elections Ontario

For information about elections, please check the Elections Ontario website at <https://www.elections.on.ca/en.html>.

The March afternoon workshop speaker for the Ontario Council Legislation Committee will be **Greg Essensa**, the Chief Electoral Officer, who will be talking about the electoral process, plus changes to election financing.

All-Candidates meetings

Is your clubs thinking of doing a Candidates meeting? A guide for [organizing candidates meetings](#) can be found online.

Election Questions

Also available from the Ontario Council Advocacy team is a collection of possible [election questions](#) that you might find valuable, both to use yourselves, or to use as a base to create your own.

Voting

Essential. Please encourage families and friends to vote – for the candidate who stands for the principles and issues you believe in.

CFUW Southport will again run their **Grandma Asked Me to Vote** campaign. We'll have more information at the March 24th Ontario Council program.

Municipal Elections Campaign Schools:

CFUW Guelph, with other partners in the community, is sponsoring a campaign school – the Guelph-Wellington Women's Campaign School – February 24, 2018. The aim of this is to assist those planning to run in municipal politics.

If your club is thinking of doing the same, Guelph has created a wonderful resource page - [Women and Politics](#) - in the Advocacy section of their website. Also scroll down to **Useful websites**. Check out CFUW Guelph's Teresa McKeeman's Blog post on the [Guelph-Wellington Campaign School's](#) website, **Why a Campaign School for Women Only**.

SPEAKER SERIES & STANDING COMMITTEES WORKSHOPS

Continuing on this year's theme of ELECTIONS, the **March 24th Speaker Series, sponsored by the Education Committee**, will be **Election Readiness, a focus on election issues**. The topic will be ***Making Sense of Politics in a "Fake News" Era: Thinking Critically about the Ontario Election*** with **Maija Saari**, Associate



Dean, Film, Television and Journalism at Sheridan College. Maija has over 20 years of combined experience in journalism practice and education. Maija is currently studying the challenge of curriculum renewal and professional identity in the face of rapidly changing media technology.



Education and Status of Women and Human Rights Joint Committees Workshop

Ann Rauhala is Associate Chair, Ryerson School of Journalism. Ann spent 16 years at *The Globe and Mail*, where she worked as a copy editor, assignment editor, beat reporter, foreign editor and featured columnist. From 1994 to 1997 she was a television reporter, making documentaries, mostly on health and social policy, for CBC television's *The National Magazine*. She has also written editorials, business stories, book reviews, magazine articles and radio commentaries. She was a senior editor of *Counter Spin*, on CBC Newsworld and she worked as an editor at *The Toronto Star*.

Legislation Committee Workshop:

Speaker: Greg Essensa, Chief Electoral Officer, Elections Ontario

Topic: Election Readiness: Understanding the Electoral Process in Ontario: laws, policy, and threats.

This will include a discussion of current laws and policy in Ontario that ensure the process is impartial, transparent, legal etc., including an overview of the new Elections Finances Act and social media ramifications.

Registration for the [Ontario Council Speaker Series](#) can be found online

ONTARIO COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Housing for all through sustainable and mixed urban development in Ontario

Submitted by Sheila Lacroix, and the Legislation Standing Committee, Jan. 15, 2018

RESOLVED that the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW OC) urge the Government of Ontario and

municipal governments to cooperate through laws, bylaws and policies to guarantee that plans for redevelopment and new development for housing ensure that mixed income housing, including social housing, be included in urban communities.

RESOLVED that the Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW OC) urge the Government of Ontario and municipal governments, in cooperation with First Nations, to ensure that as urban areas expand beyond current boundaries, urban growth is sustainable, protecting parks, crown land, First Nation communities, river basins and wetlands, farm lands and designated green space, such as Ontario's Greenbelt.

The aim of this resolution is to ensure that mixed income housing, including social housing, **be included as urban communities are developed or redeveloped** - sent to the clubs on **January 15th**.

PLEASE NOTE: Amendments are due to Ontario Council **April 1st**.

The package is not available on the website as our website is totally public. If you did not receive the package please send email to resolutions@cfuwontcouncil.org .

ONTARIO COUNCIL RECOGNITION AWARDS

What has changed? The name: Ontario Council Recognition Awards and the criteria. The awards program will now recognize a wide range of categories encompassing education, lifelong learning, fundraising, scholarships, fellowship successes, advocacy, and community involvement.

It can be an initiative that occurred, or will occur, during 2017-2018 that is an ongoing project for which the club has not been previously recognized by Ontario Council, **or** significantly builds on a previous initiative, **or** is a new initiative.

The deadline is **April 15th** and the [application form](#) along with additional information, can be found on the Ontario Council website under Clubs.

We hope your club will consider applying!

CFUW ADVOCACY SURVEY

Issues Chairs and Presidents should have received the CFUW National Advocacy Survey. Please complete (one per club). You will be providing very valuable information to both National and Ontario Council two ways:

- When we go to governments, they always want to know what our membership thinks. This will give us an idea of your concerns.

- We don't want to be creating resources for you that you don't want, when there might be others that we can do for you instead.

If you haven't received it, please connect with Cheryl Ambrose, VP Advocacy cheryl.d.ambrose@gmail.com . Deadline is **March 2nd** – and a great big **THANK YOU!**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD) Thursday, March 8th

That wonderful day to celebrate that started with a march for rights by garment workers in 1908.

Clubs are celebrating with many actions and activities <http://cfuwontcouncil.org/events/> and CFUW National is asking that you send them your actions. There is an IWD award from National.

EQUAL PAY DAY Tuesday April 10, 2018

Equal Pay Day is the day in the current year that women have earned the same amount as men did the previous year.

CFUW started many years ago to encourage young women to get a post-secondary education. Now it's incumbent upon us to help women use that education.

CFUW Ontario Council created a [Backgrounder](#) that will give you some basic information about this topic.

From the Ontario Equal Pay Coalition, of which CFUW Ontario Council is a member

“We will be at Queen's Park and we are just finalizing our creative actions now.

We are once again encouraging all women across the province to take action - no action is too small or too big.

Educate, Organize, Mobilize calls to MPPs. The important work to close the gender pay gap.

The key demands are for the Ontario government to

- (i) Introduce Pay Transparency now. Pay Transparency is a key tool to close the gender pay gap;
- (ii) Create a meaningful child care program (the Government has kept re-introducing the same 100,000 spaces and
- (iii) Fully fund the community agencies that have not closed their pay equity gap (child care centres, women's shelters, Association of Community living). Women work in these agencies. Their work is caring work. These women take care of our children, our disabled family members, our sick, our abused and our dying. These agencies are funded entirely by the provincial government. The government

can close the gender pay gap.”

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

A number of us from Ontario will be attending the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women being held from **March 12-23rd**.

As in previous years, CFUW, led by Cheryl Hayles, VP International Relations, will be hosting a panel discussion, this time on the “Challenges and Opportunities of Rural Women”. Panellists include Teri Shaw (CFUW), Paulette Senior (Canadian Women’s Foundation), Maya Roy (YWCA) and Dr. Bhavana Joshipura (Alliance India Women Conference), moderated by Cheryl Hayles.

The CFUW presentation will be based on the Rural Women survey done by National and the Ontario North Regional Gathering workshop done in the fall.

SUBMISSIONS TO THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

Please find the links to the reports when you click on Advocacy. A listing of Briefs, Submissions, Backgrounders will be found on the right hand side.

2018 Pre-budget Brief

Ontario Council presented its [Pre-Budget Brief](#) to the Minister of Finance covering topics: gender-based analysis, women’s economic empowerment, domestic violence, gender wage gap, sexual harassment, education, housing and homelessness, and poverty.