



## CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY

Ontario Council Clubs act as local change agents through community service, by partnering with other community groups, or working on their own. Suggestions for community service projects are presented by engaged members who are willing to take the lead, approved by the Club's Executive, and if the project involves budgets and expenditures, authorized by the membership. In addition to working towards "the common good, locally", the Club's profile in the community will be raised and more involvement from members may be generated.

### Examples of types of partnerships

- Fundraising for local, national or international organizations
- Volunteering and providing support for other organizations, municipalities, schools, shelters for women/children, libraries, the Y, etc.
- Sponsoring, hosting, and supporting community events
- Coalitions with other like-minded organizations, women's advisory groups, or councils for a cause (e.g., environment, poverty, childcare, gender equality, literacy, health)

### Finding a partner

- Word of mouth from members & friend
- Library
- Program speaker
- Community information service
- Local community newspaper
- Approach from an organization

### Considerations before partnering

- Are the values of the organization compatible with CFUW Ontario Council?
- Is the partnership for a single event or is it a long-term commitment?
- Is there a financial commitment?
- Who in the Club manages and reviews the partnership?
- How are your members involved?
- Will the partnership be casual or formal?
- Is there a written contract or is it verbal?
- Are there Terms of Reference for coalitions?

- How is the partnership terminated?
- How do the representatives/volunteers report to the Club Executive?
- Will there be newsletter articles or reports to the members?

**Publicize the partnership and educate/update members through:**

- Articles in the newsletters and reports to the Club Executive
- Thank you notes to partners, ensuring that they remember and recognize the help
- Press releases and articles to the media as approved by the Club Executive
- Social media

**Considerations when Club launches its own project**

- What is the Club's commitment (financial, human resources, duration, involvement)?
- Who will create the Terms of Reference?
- How will the project be governed? Will there be regular reports to the Club Executive and what items are expected to be reported on? What decisions can the project representatives make and what decisions must the Club Executive make? Who will manage the risks of the project?
- How will the project be financed? Who will handle the money? What financial reports will be made to the Club Executive and how often?
- Are governments and government grants involved?
- Is there a legal commitment?
- How is the project terminated?
- How and when will the project be reported to the Club members?