



***Advocacy
Awards
Accolades
2020 - 2021***



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With everything that is swirling around us, the challenges of actually staying home, the fear for families, friends and those indispensable front line people who are making our lives happen by not staying home, our CFUW groups have become our 'go-to' place, for many of us even our safe spot.

To all of you with your energy and enthusiasm that covers these pages – and there is more that hasn't been captured and noted – for your work and determination, this Special Edition is to thank you and asks, please keep it up!

Women, especially young women, our daughters, have suffered. Those who have had to give up work to look after children; those who lost work; those who are so tired, wishing they could give up work. When this ends, when we can travel again, when we can be with our families, please let us not forget this time. Let us not forget our parents in long term care homes or realize that's our next step. Let us care for care! Let us recognize that care is fundamental to life.

Let us now celebrate our year 2020-2021 – for everything that has happened, for everything that you've done.

CLUB ACTION

One of Ontario Council's first actions was to bring together our four Ontario clubs – **Markham/Unionville, Ottawa, Oakville** and **Stratford** – who saw their resolutions on standards for medically necessary care, on payday loans and on long term care adopted at the National AGM in 2020. This led to a letter sent to the government concerning [payday loans](#) and to the current [Long Term Care Campaign](#).

Long Term Care

In a 2019 survey of Ontario clubs, long term care was the priority issue. At that point it was the lack of beds that was the major concern. As COVID hit, that changed – rapidly! **CFUW Stratford** and **Oakville** both sent emergency resolutions to the National AGM, and then came home to work, and to encourage others to do the same.

One of the major achievements was the [Long Term Care Survey](#) created by **CFUW Stratford** with the assistance of **CFUW Windsor, Kitchener-Waterloo, Oakville** and **Regional Director Elana Freeman**. There were 1272 respondents covering 195 towns and cities in Ontario. This had been preceded by a [backgrounder from CFUW Windsor](#), and followed by a [press release](#) and [letters to government ministers and critics](#).



Many other clubs have been busy with long-term care. Both **Belleville** and **North Toronto's** year-long campaigns involved learning, membership in the National Study Group, letter-writing to politicians, partnerships and media. North Toronto's member Karen Henderson, founder of the Long Term Care Planning Network, was speaker at the October Speaker Series. **CFUW Thunder Bay** is working towards a meeting with their MP, Health Minister Patti Hadju.

Many clubs have followed up with letters, meetings, speakers and social media campaigns – **Brantford, Haliburton Highlands, Hamilton, Kanata, Kitchener-Waterloo, Nepean, North York, Milton, Oakville, Owen Sound, St. Thomas, Windsor**.

Care & Support

To say that this year has been different is an understatement but the clubs have come through in a number of different ways to support their members and to support the community.

One of the first things that clubs had to do was learn how to handle Zoom. A number of clubs have had Zoom lessons, and this has led to other forms of tech help for club members.

We have learned of some fun forms of support for members. **CFUW Peterborough** started a weekly Coffee Club and other online groups, a phone tree, and had a Christmas singalong complete with their secret Ms. Claus and CFUW elves. **CFUW Belleville** had hand-made cookies

hand delivered at Christmas. **CFUW Cornwall and District's** Presidents started their year by calling all the members.

Many clubs, including **Cornwall** and **Oakville**, restarted their phone trees – remember those – to check on members, especially those living alone.

Care & Support to the Community

Not only did clubs support their members but also the community through fundraising – **CFUW Etobicoke** for the Women's Habitat, **CFUW Burlington** for Halton Women's Place, **CFUW Hamilton** for Inasmuch House, **CFUW Leaside-East York** for Breaking Bread with Afghanistan, **CFUW Southport** for shelters in Grey-Bruce, **CFUW Brantford** for Nova Vita, **CFUW Peterborough** for Community Care, **CFUW North Toronto** for Sistering, **UWC Toronto** for the funding of 8 beds at Sistering and support to Romero House, **UWC North York** for North York Harvest Food Bank.



This support to the community both here and elsewhere was shown in strong campaigns initiated by clubs.

CFUW Ottawa's [Walk To Kabul](#)

This was an awareness and advocacy project started by Ottawa's University Women Helping Afghan Women to support Afghan Women at the peace table, 'walking' between Ottawa and Kabul with travelogues for participants. It also involved the media and social media, advocacy 'postcards' to politicians, and connections with the two embassies, including a thank letter from the Afghan Embassy. Nineteen clubs across Canada (12 in Ontario) and over 620 participants were involved across Canada and GWI-The Netherlands. 104,872 km walked as of April 24, 2021!!



Clubs involved: **Nepean, Haliburton Highlands, Muskoka, North Bay, Sudbury, Georgetown, Oakville, Leaside-East York, St. Catharines.**

CFUW Burlington highlighted this with 30 members who walked, skied, and cycled.

16 Days of Activism

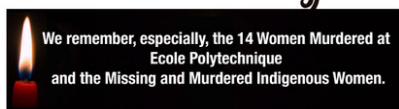
Clubs were very involved in the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

CFUW Southport's Virtual December 6 Vigil "Bringing Abuse Out of the Shadows"

Realizing that domestic assault and abuse had increased exponentially thanks to COVID, yet local stats confirmed that calls to police had decreased, they chose "Bringing Abuse Out of the Shadows" as a focus for the 16 Days. A poster designed by a member, personal radio talks, articles with statistics, and a very personal video told the story. The virtual event was held on December 6 including a version of [Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah](#) including front-line workers in the choir. As Ontario Huron RD, Lori Ker, said it was "very moving". With the help of local community partners who assisted with the fundraising, donations increased many times over – 750%!

Dec. 6, 2020. National Day of Remembrance
and
Action on Violence Against Women

**STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**



Your Actions Matter!

Please support the 3 Women's Shelters
in Bruce & Grey Counties .

Donate at CFUW Southport.

Sponsored by Canadian Federation of University Women Southport

Here members of the Team deliver to Cheryl George the Manager of the Kabaeshiwim Family Respite.

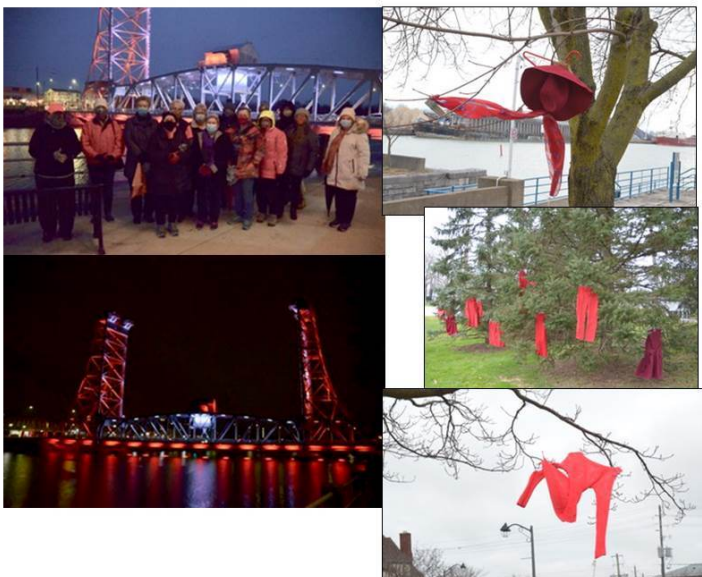


CFUW Welland and District

The campaign included the lighting of the bridge in orange in downtown Welland, with the permission of the Native Friendship Centre hanging red dresses in parks in Welland and Port Colborne to support missing and murdered Indigenous women. Including a talk about human trafficking with Kayla Mayer, YWCA Niagara Region



CFUW Orillia 'coloured the world orange'



CFUW Milton had a very successful [social media campaign](#) for the 16 Days of Action in December. Then followed with [another](#) for International Women's Day and worked on Long Term Care.

International Women's Day 2021

CFUW Aurora Newmarket with speaker is Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux the first Indigenous Chair for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada for Lakehead University. Also together Soroptimists International of York Region sponsored LUNAFEST Virtual Film Festival with 7 films celebrating the achievements of forward thinking women.

CFUW Barrie & District with the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Simcoe County, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women with a video that looks at what has been accomplished in the last 50 years and also looks forward to the work still to be done.

CFUW Cambridge at the 9th Annual International Women's Day Breakfast celebrating the Cambridge Poppy Project, which is a community art project of remembrance honouring our veterans.

CFUW Georgetown asked their members to wear purple to their general meeting in March to be photographed with the #ChooseToChallenge pose in honour of IWD.

CFUW Guelph celebrated International Women's Day, in conjunction with other community organizations, with a presentation and discussion of leadership, mentorship and an equal future highlighting the results of Community Engaged Scholarship Institute's project that interviewed women leaders in Guelph and Wellington about the barriers and opportunities they have experienced on their journey to positions in various leadership roles.

CFUW Milton also did photos to raise awareness about International Women's Day by collecting 100 selfies of women striking the #ChooseToChallenge pose. And created the poster.



CFUW North Toronto and **CFUW Leaside-East York** held a virtual rally, *Rising Above the Pandemic: Fighting For a Just Future for All*, to celebrate International Women's Day 2021.

CFUW Orillia again played its International Women's Day *Guess Who Game*. Originally created in March 2020, a game was about about 20 notable Canadian women, using cards. It has now evolved virtually, added 10 more influential women, and was celebrated IWD 2021, becoming an annual event.

UWC Toronto celebrated with Canadian author Betsy McGregor who wrote *Women on the Ballot: Pathways to Political Power* speaking about some of the 95 trailblazing women that are in her book about the running for political office.

Care & Support to the Community through Scholarships

Scholarships are fundamental to the work of CFUW. This year was a challenge for clubs to succeed, yet many did through some innovation.

CFUW Aurora-Newmarket *Books and Bottles.*

Selling books online to its members, then the public, and collecting empties from them. Over two thousand books were collected and input into a database for users to sort for their favourite title, author or genre which was updated daily. The club was able to fully fund 4 scholarships over the past two years.



Virtual Fundraising. Clubs have gone online with hopes of replicating their normal success.

CFUW Orillia is Opening Doors to Learning by a virtual tour, Homes for Scholarships, including five homes you can visit from your own home.

CFUW Perth After losing their house tour, they chose a very COVID style of fundraising by having a Staycation Raffle, a virtual alternative. This involved gifts and gift certificates for friends and members to stay in Perth from businesses in Perth, contacts that they had built up over the years.

CFUW St. Catharines is doing a virtual garden tour of seven gardens over a two week period.

CFUW Sudbury Virtual 'Celebrate Women'. While this was 25th anniversary of book launch scholarship fundraiser, it was the first virtual one. With the concerns over the bankruptcy of Laurentian University, and not knowing where their endowed funds were, this was an important year. Yet thanks to Zoom, this year allowed them to have Canadian/British author Mary Lawson, author of *A Town Called Solace* from her home in England.

For many of the smaller clubs, fundraising for scholarships is their major work, clubs like **CFUW Sarnia-Lambton**, **CFUW Northumberland**, **CFUW St. Thomas** have continued with their programme even in this difficult fundraising time.

Care & Support through Advocacy

Advocacy can also be considered care and support to the community, to the earth and the environment.

Environment

CFUW Ajax-Pickering has been concerned about wetlands in Pickering which were threatened by destruction for a large distribution centre. Working with other clubs, it had urged action to draw public attention to this environmental destruction. Amazon decided not to build. Did CFUW's action make the difference? One never knows, but it certainly helped.

CFUW Georgetown tackled, among other environmental issues, Highway #413 thanks to member, Jane Fogal, a Halton Regional Councillor and partner, Halton Environment Network. Jane developed background on the issue and drafted content for letters to decision-makers. A study group was formed, public forum held, letters sent to all levels of government. The Government of Canada has now stepped in.



CFUW Nepean has proposed a National resolution on single use plastics. Subsequently created an Environmental Action Committee whose focus is currently plastics sharing information through the newsletter article, *The Green Grapevine*.

CFUW Oakville has the study group, *Environmental Actions Matter*, that works on personal actions related to the environment doing campaigns within the club through the newsletter with monthly updates, and within the community. It also has VOCAL, a source of over 60 environmental news sources available on its website.

CFUW Owen Sound is similar to Oakville with its focus on informing and inspiring. The Earth Day event had local speakers (2 from 2 different CFUW Clubs in our region) speaking to various environmental initiatives, including Owen Sound's Climate Action Plan.

CFUW Stratford is very involved with environmental issues, having been the instigator of the inter-city transportation campaign, as well as concerned about single-use water bottles. One of its current environmental projects is [Cutting Down on Food Waste](#).



Some other exciting club action

CFUW Burlington meets with their MP and MPP annually, this year on Zoom. The meeting focused on Long Term Care, the “she” recession and child care.

CFUW Kincardine was concerned about the lack of mental resources for children. The group did research, held consultations with officials and community. After the service provider learned of the situation they actually made changes that led to more access points for families. Success!

CFUW Muskoka's focus was poverty reduction. A 10-step continuing process which started with research and consultation with Bridges Out of Poverty led to affordable housing. In further study this also led to PROMPT, a local political action group of people living in poverty, who are advocating for a universal income and they joined their campaign to advise our politicians at the federal and provincial level to support a universal basic income.

CFUW Nepean has an active advocacy group which not only did a letter writing campaign on gun control and long term care, they sponsored a public meeting with Dr. Wendy Cukier on more effective gun control.

CFUW Orangeville Virtual Women's Campaign School

Through a grant to the Town of Orangeville (funded by WAGE Canada in partnership with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities), the club held a [pop-up virtual Campaign School](#) facilitated by Equal Voice. Two participants were sponsored to Equal Voice's Campaign School.

CFUW Renfrew received correspondence from the Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources, regarding their letter of concern over the Near- Surface Disposal Facility at Chalk River Laboratories.

CFUW Scarborough focused on human trafficking this year that exploits the most vulnerable women into the sex trade and Indigenous women.

CFUW St. Catharines have studied and proposed Ontario Council's 2021 resolution on human trafficking - *Human Trafficking Awareness, Prevention and Detection*. If adopted at the AGM, advocacy tools will be prepared for the clubs to use this fall.

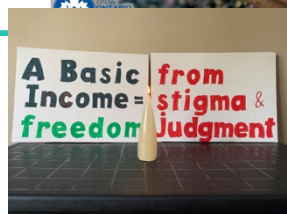
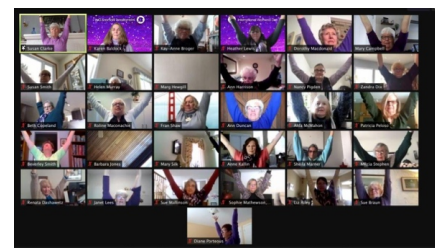
CFUW Toronto Caucus continues to work on Early Learning and Child Care, and now will challenge the province to support the federal government's child care plan.

CFUW Toronto Housing Group is continuing to work on homelessness as a critical issue in women's lives.

CFUW Windsor held an All Candidates Meeting for the local municipal byelection, moderated by CFUW Windsor, and had been so well publicized, including by the local CBC, that all 12 candidates attended.



ON North clubs have started a letter-writing campaign concerning Laurentian University and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.



Celebrations

CFUW Guelph is celebrating its 75th anniversary. As its project, the club chose to do a display celebrating local women, involving the Guelph Museums and many others in the Guelph region and club. The display, [Her Story: Women Trailblazers of Guelph-Wellington County](#), that started as a display in the museum became a virtual exhibition based on research with the Community Engaged Scholarship Institute and the College of Arts at the University of Guelph. Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory agreed to host the virtual exhibition. This celebrates women and women-led organizations instrumental in the life of Guelph.



CFUW North Bay is celebrating its 80th anniversary, focusing on reaching out into the community and highlighting the contributions CFUW North Bay has made to the Community over the past 80 years, with the hopes of having a display at the North Bay Museum highlighting the eight decades of work which includes the Children's Museum, assisting with the Nipissing University among other activities. The January launch of the 80th year even featured fireworks!

[North Bay Museum](#)

In honour of [#internationalwomensday](#) the North Bay Museum and Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) North Bay are excited to announce that North Bay's CFUW is celebrating their 80th Anniversary in 2021. One of the highlights of their year long celebrations will be a display at the North Bay Museum in October. CFUW's display will highlight their involvement in local historical events over the past 80 years.

One of the most impactful CFUW community events have focused on raising money for their numerous scholarships which are given annually to aspiring female students pursuing post secondary education at Canadore College, Nipissing University and graduating from one of local secondary schools. Over the past 80 years, CFUW has organized and run local fundraising events such as used book sales, historical house tours and hosting several Toronto Welsh Choir presentations.

Club Support

This year has highlighted “women supporting women”. This is also true of the clubs – true for both needing support and receiving it.

The Regional Directors, **Anne Corden ON East, Judith Pownall ON Central, Joyce See ON South, Elana Freeman ON West, Roline Maconachie ON North and Lori Ker ON Huron**, have reached out to clubs, having many Zoom meetings to assist the clubs as they move through this ‘interesting’ time.

In turn, many of the clubs have online support and tutoring for their own members. **CFUW Kingston** ran a special online workshop for ON East presidents and delegates on the topic of online auctions for fundraising.

CFUW Muskoka has been able to continue with its Speaker Series in partnership with Lakehead University

Ontario North Initiated a Program Sharing format that has been very successful and has allowed everyone in our clubs an opportunity to attend programs hosted by other clubs.

Ontario South has clubs partnering within the local Halton region to provide joint extra value ZOOM programming to members and friends.

UWC Toronto hosted a series of speakers on Zoom open to all Ontario Council members.



And with thank you to the club who is doing fulfilling one of the major supports to clubs and to the Council - hosting the AGM 2021 – virtually!!

To the members of **CFUW Orillia** and especially the AGM 2021 LAC,
thank you from Ontario Council.



United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Women from 12 Ontario clubs joined others CFUW friends from across the country and 27,000 other participants in this year's 65th Commission on the Status of Women.

Clubs represented were **Aurora/Newmarket, Burlington, Guelph, Kanata, Kincardine, Markham/Unionville, Mississauga, Orangeville and District, North Bay, Oakville, Perth & District and Stratford.**

CFUW London's The Gender Equality Coalition of Ontario, similar to CFUW National, presented a parallel event at UNCSW, *Gender Justice at the Local Level*.



ONTARIO COUNCIL RECOGNITION AWARDS 2021

For those of you who didn't have time to apply for the Recognition Award, we say thank you for the work that you have done

For those of you who did apply, we say Cheers!! And thank you! The projects have proved how vital and enthusiastic our clubs are, even in the quiet time of turmoil.

Information about the projects can be found on the Ontario Council website on the [Club Recognition Awards](#) page.

ONTARIO COUNCIL RECOGNITION AWARDS	
CLUB	PROJECT
CFUW Aurora-Newmarket	Books and Bottles. Month-long book sale and bottle drive using social media to raise money for scholarships during COVID.
CFUW Guelph	Her Story: Women Trailblazers of Guelph-Wellington County. CFUW Guelph's 75 th anniversary project celebrating local women, involving the Guelph Museums and many others in the Guelph region and Club.
CFUW Kincardine	Improving the Mental Health of Children in Grey Bruce Counties. Research and consultations with officials and community that led to changes being made by the responsible body for better access to mental health services for local children.
CFUW Muskoka	Poverty Reduction Awareness. A 10-step continuing process with research and consultation to better understand the issue of poverty and affordable housing within the Muskoka District.
CFUW North Bay	80th Anniversary Celebration. Community outreach to focus on the contributions that CFUW North Bay has made to the community including a display at the Museum and scholarship.
CFUW Orillia	International Women's Day 'Guess Who' Game first hosted in 2020, shared to CFUW, expanded for 2021 (complete with party) and will now become an annual event.
CFUW Ottawa	Walk to Kabul. an awareness and advocacy project to support Afghan Women at the peace table, 'walking' between Ottawa and Kabul, involving the media and social media, advocacy postcards and connections with the two embassies, 16 clubs across Canada (12 in Ontario) and over 500 participants.
CFUW Peterborough	Connecting with Others and the Christmas Charity. Support to members through weekly Coffee Club and other groups, phone tree, Christmas singalong; support to community through Community Care fundraiser.
CFUW Southport	Virtual December 6 Vigil "Bringing Abuse Out of the Shadows" which grew the campaign through both media and social media, a video, contacts with authorities, and a fund raising campaign (750% increase).
CFUW Stratford	Long Term Care Ontario Survey. Addressed awareness of chronic issues in elder care. Over 1270 signatures collected throughout Ontario.
CFUW Sudbury	Virtual 'Celebrate Women'. 25th anniversary of book launch scholarship fundraiser, with YWCA and LEAF Sudbury, with Canadian/British author Mary Lawson <i>A Town Called Solace</i> .
CFUW Welland & District	16 Days of Activism. Larger campaign including the lighting of the Welland Canal Bridge, display of Red Dresses, public meeting about human trafficking involving public invitations, announcements, daily social media posts.

CFUW Windsor	Ward 7 Election All Candidates Meeting. Moderated the virtual meeting, involving all 12 candidates, media attention.
HONOURABLE MENTIONS	
CFUW Etobicoke	7th Annual Stop the Violence Breakfast. Thanks to the virtual program, this event involved more people from more locations, raising more money for the local women's shelter.
CFUW Perth	Staycation Raffle. A virtual alternative to their house tour involving gifts and gift certificates to stay in Perth.

CFUW &
the Royal Commission
on the Status of
Women



**CFUW ONTARIO CLUBS
CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES**

Congratulations!!

ONTARIO CENTRAL

- CFUW NORTHUMBERLAND 30 YEARS
- UWC NORTH YORK 70 YEARS

ONTARIO EAST

- CFUW NEPEAN 30 YEARS

ONTARIO HURON

- CFUW KINCARDINE 30 YEARS
- CFUW OWEN SOUND & AREA 30 YEARS

ONTARIO NORTH

- CFUW NORTH BAY 80 YEARS

ONTARIO SOUTH

- CFUW GEORGETOWN 50 YEARS
- CFUW GRIMSBY 30 YEARS
- CFUW ST. CATHARINES 100 YEARS
- CFUW WELLAND AND DISTRICT 80 YEARS

ONTARIO WEST

- CFUW SARNIA/LAMBTON 85 YEARS
- CFUW ST. THOMAS 70 YEARS
- CFUW WINDSOR 75 YEARS

ONTARIO COUNCIL ACTION

Speaker Series

October 3, 2020

[Elder Care – Protect the Vulnerable](#)

Our first session, Elder Care – Protect the Vulnerable by Sandra Shaw, Chair, Status of Women & Human Rights, was a timely exposition of the challenges faced in Long Term Care (Karen Henderson), Community Care (Michele Harding) and Legislative Issues in Elder Care (Dan Levitt) which served not only to inform Members but also acted as an impetus for action in some Clubs.

Karen is the founder and CEO of the Long Term Care Planning Network, a national resource centre for aging and long term care education and planning. Michèle Harding spoke about issues in community care and home care. Michèle is the Chair of the Board of Directors for Care Watch Ontario. Dan Levitt spoke about legislative issues in elder care, specifically pertaining to ageism.

November 21st, 2020

[Women in the COVID Economy](#)

Our November 21st Speakers Series, led by Lisa Long, Chair, Legislation, featured three dynamic and respected speakers: Lorna Marsden, CM OOnt, Paulette Senior, CEO Canadian Women's Foundation, and Carolyn Ferns of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care. The focus was on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected women, specifically the status of women, violence/abuse against women, and child care.

Lorna Marsden, a passionate feminist, also a Member of the Order of Canada, a Member of the Order of Ontario, sociologist, academic, former politician, former President and Vice-Chancellor of both Wilfred Laurier University and York University, and a former senator, spoke about the general impact of COVID-19, economic and otherwise, on Canadian women.

Paulette Senior, having been CEO of YWCA for 10 years is now CEO and President of the Canadian Women's Foundation, focused on the impact of COVID on gender equity and gender-based violence.

Carolyn Ferns of the Ontario Coalition of Better Child Care, spoke about how the pandemic has impacted women through a child care lens. Carolyn worked for over ten years at the Childcare Resource and Research Unit, where she co-authored the Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada series.

February 27th, 2021

[Mental Health - From Prevention to Wellness](#)

Our February 27th Speakers Series, led by Wendy Taylor, Education Chair, featured three speakers: Jennifer Pereira-Ashawasegai, an Anishinabek citizen from Henvey Inlet First Nation in Ontario, Kendra Fisher, a women's ice hockey goaltender, and Lori Spadorcia, Chief Strategy Officer at CAMH. The topic was mental health, moving from prevention to wellness.

Each discussed their challenges and how they are hoping to move the Mental Issue forward, either by speaking publicly or working within the system to make it more accessible.

The Standing Committees

New Pages on the Ontario Council Website for Education, Legislation and the Status of Women & Human Rights!

The Advocacy section of the Ontario Council website was enhanced with the addition of new pages dedicated to the activities of the Standing Committees for [Education](#), [Legislation](#) and [Status of Women and Human Rights](#).

Sandra Shaw, Chair, Status of Women and Human Rights Committee, has produced a plethora of resources on a number of issues regarding women's rights. Her page on the website, listed under Advocacy.

Submissions to Government:

Letters:

October 1, 2020

A letter was sent to the Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Government and Consumer Services, requesting more information on the Government's plan to educate the public about the practices of [payday loan companies](#).

November 5, 2020

A letter was sent to the Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General, thanking the Ministry for reinvesting \$2.5 million in cash and proceeds seized from criminals to help fight [human trafficking](#) across the province.

November 24, 2020

Ontario Council sent a letter to the Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care, urging the government to reinstate [unannounced annual inspections](#) of all Long Term Care facilities in Ontario.

April 12, 2021

Ontario Council sent a letter to the Honourable Stephen Lecce regarding the Ministry of Education's [proposed amendments to the Education Act](#), in particular the changes pertaining to online learning

May 2, 2021

Ontario Council sent a [letter](#) to numerous MPPs and Ministers to highlight the concerns expressed by the Spring 2021 survey, [Long Term Care in Ontario](#), as well as sharing the report with them.

Briefs:

November 16, 2020

CFUW Ontario Council submitted [comments](#) to the Consultation Document Regarding Proposed Regulatory Amendments under the Child Care and Early Learning Years Act, 2014. Concerns were expressed concerning the proposed changes in age groupings and qualification requirements for staff.

[Response](#) from the Ministry of Education, March 1, 2021

November 30, 2020

Ontario Council sent [comments](#) to MPP Amarjot Sandhu, Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. The letter, prepared by the CFUW OC Environment Policy Advisor, Dr. Shelley Ball (CFUW Perth) expressed deep concern regarding the Government's proposed changes to both the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994* in the omnibus budget bill, Bill 229, Schedule 6 and Schedule 8 respectively.

January 15, 2021

Comments were sent to the Ministry of Education concerning the [2021-2022 Education Funding Guide](#) with specific reference to assisting children when they return to school post-COVID, online learning and census data.

Feb. 10, 2021

[Pre-Budget Submission](#) submitted to the Ministry of Finance concerning the 2021 Budget focused on the Caring Economy: the two current crises of child care and long-term care.

Campaigns:

As a follow-up to the pre-budget submission, two template letters dealing with child care and long-term care were created, to assist OC clubs with their own advocacy letter-writing campaigns.

Meetings:

October 2020 & March 2021

Margaret McGovern, Ontario Council's Policy Advisor on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) attended meetings held by the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care concerning the current child care situation, one of which was their annual meeting.

Nov. 16, 2020

The Annual Meeting of People for Education was attended by Wendy Taylor, Education Chair.

Dec. 1, 2020

A meeting was held with Associate Minister J. Dunlop, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, to discuss how Ontario Council can continue to support the government in fighting **human trafficking**—a crime involving predominantly young women and youth, with the average age of 13 being trafficked.

January 22, 2021

OC President Sandy Thomson represented CFUW Ontario Council at the Ontario Health Coalition press conference regarding **Long Term Care**. "With decades of little oversight in our long term care facilities, we are now faced with a severe crisis, heightened by the pandemic. Further to A Better Place to Live, a Better Place to Work: Ontario's Long-Term Care Staffing Plan, which is welcomed, we need current information on timelines regarding recruitment, training, staffing, and regulation requirements."

April 23, 2021

Margaret McGovern attended the meeting of Child Care Now concerning the Federal Budget.



With thanks to the people who make all of this happen.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEES

Sandy Thomson	President	Ingrid Spoxton	Chair, Communications
Judy Gay	Chair, Advocacy (2020-2021)	Margaret McGovern	Policy Advisor, Child Care
Sandra Shaw	Chair, Status of Women & Human Rights	Shelley Ball	Policy Advisor, Environ.
Lisa Long	Chair, Legislation	Sheila Lacroix	Policy Advisor, Housing
Wendy Taylor	Chair, Education	Myrtle Greve	Policy Advisor, Poverty
Helen Penfold	Member, Advocacy	Roma Mehta	Member, Education
Marina Huissoon	Member, Advocacy	Susan Weston	Member, Education
Valerie Sterling	Member, Education	Isobel Boyle	Member, Resolution
Janette Johnston	Member, Education		

ONTARIO COUNCIL BOARD OFFICERS

President	Sandra Thomson
Treasurer	Teresa Habs
Secretary	Teri Shaw
Communications	Ingrid Spoxton

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

ON Central	Judith Pownall
ON East	Anne Cordon
ON South	Joyce See
ON Huron	Lori Ker
ON North	Roline Maconachie
ON West	Elana Freeman



Ontario Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit organization with 49 clubs across the province, which is affiliated with CFUW, a national non-partisan organization with over 100 clubs in all provinces of Canada, which has NGO consultative status with the United Nations.

Our mandate is to promote education and life-long learning, to encourage the participation of members in their communities and to enhance the status of women and girls.

Our main concerns include high quality public education, universal health care, a clean safe environment, the economic security of women as well as the prevention of violence against women.

CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL

www.cfuwontcouncil.org | info@cfuwontcouncil | Twitter @CFUWOntCouncil | www.facebook.com/CFUWOntarioCouncil | Instagram @cfuwoncouncil