

## CFUW Ontario Council and Your Club Executive

Members come from many different communities with diverse needs and concerns.

- ❖ **Ontario Council (OC) Clubs** are part of six regions: Ontario North, Ontario Huron, Ontario South, Ontario Central, Ontario East, Ontario West
- ❖ CFUW Ontario Council, which, with the other Councils in CFUW – British Columbia Council, Alberta Council, Saskatchewan Council, Manitoba Council, Quebec Council and Atlantic Regional Council - represent the over 6000 members in 96 clubs across Canada of the national organization.
- ❖ Regional Directors (RDs) are the clubs' link to the Ontario Council and in turn to CFUW National. Your RD is in the position to help you and to bring your concerns forward,
- ❖ CFUW Ontario Council Board of Directors consists of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Chair, 6 Regional Directors and 4 Standing Committee Chairs (Advocacy, Education, Status of Women and Human Rights, and Legislation).
- ❖ There are several appointed OC Board Committee and Policy Advisor positions available to individual club members through an Expression of Interest process. All appointments are approved by the CFUW Ontario Council Board.
- ❖ To contact any member of the Board of Directors, please email or visit the visit the OC website: [www.cfuwontcouncil.org](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.org) or email at [info@cfuwontcouncil.org](mailto:info@cfuwontcouncil.org).

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### Corporate Information:

- ❖ CFUW Ontario Council is incorporated under the Ontario Corporations Act and has CFUW Clubs in Ontario as its corporate members.
- ❖ CFUW National is a separate corporation from CFUW Ontario Council. Individual CFUW Clubs can be corporate members of both CFUW Ontario Council and CFUW National.

## **WHAT DOES \$6.25 BUY?**

### **Benefits of Membership in CFUW Ontario Council**

Membership within Ontario Council provides clubs with many benefits. Ontario clubs pay **\$6.25 (\$5.50 for membership + \$.75 for insurance) per individual member to Ontario Council** and receive the following:

#### **Insurance**

- ❖ Ontario Council provides General Liability Insurance for individual club members for club functions and Executive Officers and Directors Insurance for executives of clubs. (Individual clubs would have to cover each function separately as well as executive officers and directors insurance at a much higher cost). For information please connect with the President at [president.cfuwontario@gmail.com](mailto:president.cfuwontario@gmail.com).

#### **Government Action and Influence**

- ❖ CFUW Ontario Council speaks to the Government of Ontario on behalf of our members on issues that are of concern to ourselves and to other women.
- ❖ CFUW Ontario Council forms coalitions and partnerships with like-minded organizations in order to extend our advocacy and project efforts.
- ❖ Concerning advocacy – please see below.

#### **Networking and Life-Long Learning**

Club members are given opportunities to get together and network with other club members to discuss common concerns, issues and projects.

\*\*\*These gatherings can be arranged face to face or via video conferencing. \*\*\*\*

- ❖ **Speaker Series Meetings:**

Held in Toronto 3 times a year with travel subsidies available.

- ❖ **Fall Gatherings:**

Regional clubs come together to share ideas, successes and to learn from OC themed workshops.

- ❖ **Hub meetings:**

Members come together with their Regional Directors to discuss issues in person or by video conferencing.

- ❖ **Ontario Council Annual General Meeting:**

Held annually in May, a great opportunity to meet members from across Ontario. Small clubs (with less than 60 members) qualify for financial assistance for in-person attendance at an OC AGM.

## Raising Profile

### ❖ Club Guest Nights:

Invite OC clubs in your region to attend one of your meetings, or accept an invitation from another club, share in their fellowship and perhaps come home with new ideas for your own club.

### ❖ Host an event with another OC club(s), or a similarly minded organization:

For example, Author's Night, Earth Day Activity, Breaking Bread for Afghanistan Dinner, International Women's Day event.

### ❖ Advertise your event/fundraiser on our website, in our newsletter, our Facebook page, our Twitter account and Instagram. Send your club activity to [info@cfuwontcouncil.org](mailto:info@cfuwontcouncil.org) or [president.cfuwontario@gmail.com](mailto:president.cfuwontario@gmail.com).

## Financial Benefits and Support

❖ Ontario Council executive members are available to come and speak on a variety of topics at no cost to the club.

❖ Clubs with a membership of 60 or fewer regular and life members, who have a member attend an Ontario Annual General Meeting (AGM) will receive back their current year Ontario Council club fees. This is to give assistance to small clubs to send members to an Ontario AGM.

❖ Ontario Council offers grants and advances. The applications can be found at <https://cfuwontcouncil.org/clubs/resources/>

❖ A grant in the amount of \$300 may be offered to local clubs for a non-revenue generating special event or project (i.e. all candidates meeting, public forum, membership recruitment).

❖ A loan of \$300 is available for a revenue generating event or project to cover expenses incurred before revenue is received (i.e. fundraisers such as raffles, house tours).

❖ Club members attending the OC Speaker Series/ Workshops and Standing Committees' meetings in Toronto at more than 50 km distance receive a travel subsidy.

❖ Clubs hosting a Regional Fall Gathering are given a \$200 grant in recognition of their efforts. A \$300 loan is also available to cover expenses incurred before registration fees are received.

❖ The Host Club of an Ontario Council AGM is given \$250 in recognition of their efforts. A \$4,000 advance (loan) is also available to cover expenses incurred before registration fees are received.

❖ OC Standing Committee Chairs and their committees are available to help with individual Club advocacy efforts.

## CFUW Ontario Council Recognition Awards

- ❖ Annually Ontario Council gives Recognition Awards of up to \$300 to clubs to acknowledge their work.
- ❖ The **Carolyn Day Award for Environmental Action** was created in honour of Carolyn Day, a Past-President of Ontario Council, 1998-2000, who was the Environment Policy Advisor from 2000 until her death in 2018, having written more than 40 briefs and *letters* for Ontario Council. A cash award is paid to the winning club.
- ❖ You can find information about these at <https://cfuwontcouncil.org/clubs/recognition-awards/>

## COMMUNICATING WITH THE CLUBS AND THE WORLD

- ❖ For the clubs, **OC News** is prepared before and after each Speakers' Series/Workshops/Standing Committees' meeting, AGMs containing:
    - registration information for these meetings plus Regional Gatherings
    - the reports of these meetings
    - Club news and activities
    - advocacy action
    - articles of interest.
  - ❖ **Social Media:** Our four sites provide information about clubs in Ontario and their activities, as well as Ontario Council work and action, reflecting its policies.
    - Facebook – find us [@CFUWOntarioCouncil](#)
    - Twitter - [@CFUWOntCouncil](#)
    - Instagram – find us at [cfuwoncouncil](#) for CFUW Ontario Council
    - **Our website:** [www.cfuwontcouncil.org](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.org)
- Use the Ontario Council website for the following:
- ▶ Speaker Series/ Workshops – speakers, dates, registration information and reports
  - ▶ Information for club executives: financial policies, grants and advances which benefit clubs, club president resource materials
  - ▶ Ontario Council clubs contact information
  - ▶ Information about Ontario Council – Articles & Bylaws, Executive
  - ▶ Annual General Meeting and fall gatherings – location, theme, registration information
  - ▶ Advocacy alerts and updates
  - ▶ Information about letters and briefs that Ontario Council has sent to the government

- ▶ Policy and resolutions, including a link to CFUW National Policy Book
- ▶ *OC News*, the Ontario Council newsletter archived
- ▶ Sign up to receive *OC News* and other OC communications
- ▶ Contact information

The OC website is updated on an ongoing basis, with new and revised pages/information. Visit the OC website often for further information.

## YOUR CLUB EXECUTIVE AND ADVOCACY

Both President and members of your club’s executive will find themselves involved in advocacy done by the club. Ideally you will have an Issues Group who are prepared to do the actual work, but you need to know about, and be able to authorize, what’s happening.

The **top 5 provincial issues of concern remain:**

1. Health
  - a. Long term care; Public Health cuts; Home care
2. Climate Change
3. Poverty and Affordable Housing
4. Education and schools
  - a. Increased class size; Funding; Mental health support
5. Women’s Rights
  - a. Pay Equity; Poverty; Child Care

**Concerning advocacy you will receive from Ontario Council:**

- ❖ Information about the three Speaker Series meetings – notices and registration sent before the meeting, reports in the Ontario Council newsletter; also available on the web at [www.cfuwontcouncil.org](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.org).
- ❖ Emails asking for your help concerning some advocacy activity – perhaps a letter writing campaign, notice about government consultations, a petition campaign that a club has initiated...
  - Please respond if you can, or delegate it to your Issues Committee to work on the project.
- ❖ **OC News.** Please use the articles and Speaker Series reports for your own newsletters, simply copy and paste from the electronic version or the report on the website.
- ❖ Ontario Council Resolutions for club discussion
  - Please study these, prepare amendments to return to Ontario Council, and be prepared to discuss the resolution(s) at the next AGM.

**To help you with advocacy, there are**

- ❖ Speaker Series and workshops, and the Standing Committee chairs who are always available to help;
- ❖ Regional Directors who can direct you to others who could assist you;
- ❖ Template letters plus other information sent from Ontario Council on specific campaigns by the Council;
- ❖ The website [www.cfuwontcouncil.org](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.org), in particular **What are the Issues?** and the **Take Action pages** which have **links to the letter-writing campaign and the template letters**, as well as briefs prepared by Ontario Council;
- ❖ The two **Policy Books** – Ontario and National – links can be found at <https://cfuwontcouncil.org/advocacy/ontario-council-policy/>
- ❖ **Advocacy Tools** found in the website Advocacy dropdown include these downloadable resources:
  - CFUW Policy Book
  - CFUW OC Advocacy Guidelines (also found below)
  - Starting and Energizing an Issues Group
  - CFUW and the Community
  - Writing Powerful Letters
  - Letter Writing—The Lost Art
  - Meeting with Elected Officials
  - Connecting with Elected Officials
  - Launching a Club Advocacy Campaign

## CFUW ONTARIO COUNCIL GUIDELINES for ADVOCACY

**In order that our Clubs speak to governments with a coordinated voice, CFUW has established some guidelines for clubs to use when approaching politicians, either in person or in writing.**

**WHEN WRITING OR SPEAKING “ON BEHALF OF CFUW”** and asking for some action, this must be based on CFUW and Ontario Council public policy as found in the Ontario Council and CFUW “Policy Books”.

In the absence of policy:

- Letters may be written asking for information only – “Our club is studying ...”
- If a club wishes to react to a local situation when there is no policy, a vote shall be taken of its membership before committing the club to any course of action. Any action must be consistent with CFUW purposes and policy.

## **COMMUNICATING WITH PROVINCIAL OR FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Working with local MPs/MPPs on current issues creates urgency and adds to the impetus for change. Communications from constituents are discussed in caucuses.

- Local clubs communicate with their local elected officials and local MPs & MPPs, but not to the Premier, the Prime Minister or Cabinet Minister (unless he/she is the local MPP or MP).
- Clubs wishing to communicate with ministers (other than their own representative) must do so through Ontario Council for a provincial issue; or the National Office for a federal one.
- Clubs wishing to communicate with elected officials in a neighbouring district where there is no club must explain to the recipient why they are receiving the letter.

## **COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL**

In all situations, locally, provincially, nationally and internationally, the respective President, or her designate, is the official CFUW representative.

- Letters/emails must be sent out under the signature of the club President, or designated member of the executive, on official letterhead. The club President, or her designate, should have the support and authorization of her executive. Visits to councillors, MPPs and MPs must either include the President or be authorized by the Executive.
- If the President has a conflict of interest or is uncomfortable signing, she must excuse herself, discuss the matter with her Board, and if necessary, delegate someone else to sign.
- Clubs and Councils are requested to copy their Regional Directors on all letters/emails sent to elected representatives.

## **INDIVIDUAL CLUB MEMBERS**

The individual club member is encouraged to write to any politician on any issue about which she has a concern. She may use information from CFUW sources, but she may not write “on behalf of CFUW” or use CFUW letterhead or send an email from a CFUW email account.