

Ottawa Council of Women October 2015 Bulletin

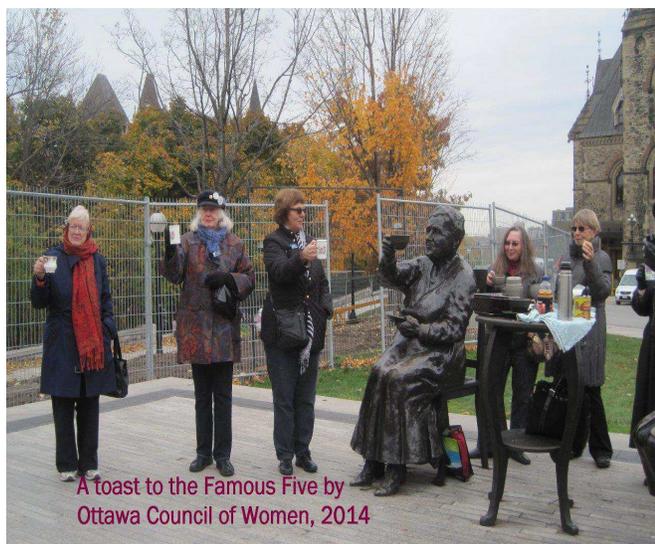
*Women working together to
Improve the lives of women,
their families and
communities*



*2015 /17 Theme:
Safety and Security
of Persons*

Welcome , 2015/16 Ottawa Council of Women Federate Members :

- * Acorn
- * Anglican Church Women, Ottawa Diocese
- * Beta –Sigma Phi, Ottawa
- * Carefor Health Community Service
- * Canadian Federation of University Women of Kanata
- * Canadian Federation of University Women of Ottawa
- * Dominion-Chalmers United Church Women
- * Home Economics Association of Ottawa
- * Ontario Association of Social Workers- Eastern Branch
- * Ottawa City Union, Order of King's Daughters & Sons
- * Polish Canadian Women's Federation Ottawa #8
- * Ottawa Presbyterial United Church Women
- * Quota Club of Ottawa
- * Retire- at - Home
- * Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Ottawa
- * Rideau Park United Church Women
- * Ukrainian Women's Association – Ottawa
- * Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
- * Zonta Club of Ottawa



Confirmed: You are cordially invited to join us
Ottawa Council of Women
Persons Day Tea with the Famous Five
October 16, 2015 – 11:30 am
On Parliament Hill/ near Senate Bldg.
at the Famous Five Monument
Bring your own fancy teacup.

OCW October General Meeting
Date: Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015
Time: 7 to 8 p.m. Panel
8 to 9 p.m. Business Meeting
Where: Overbrook Community Centre, 33
Quill Street/Corner of Queen Mary
Street

"Family Violence - seeking solutions"

Panel Members & their topics:

- **LeeAnn Burns, Executive Director, Harmony House:** "Local support services"
- **Lise Martin, Executive Director, Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses:**

"National Survey/ End violence"

- **Nancy Worsfold, CEO, Crime Prevention Ottawa :** "Focus on Prevention"
- **John Maxwell, Inspector, Ottawa Police**

Services: "Enforcement issues

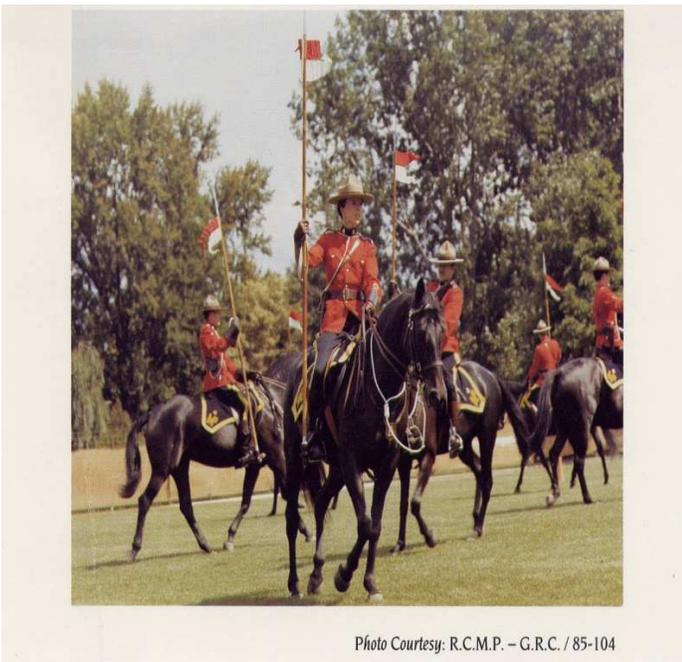
Q&A- recommendations on Prevention

From the President:

October is always an important month for the women and organizations of our our local Council. It is the month in which we celebrate Persons Day, October 18th, 1929, the day Canadians Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney and Henrietta Muir Edwards finally received the the highest court of appeal decision from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council of Great Britain stating that "The exclusion of women from all public offices is a relic of days more barbarous than ours. And to those who would ask why the word "person" should include females, the obvious answer is, why should it not?" Women could now be appointed to the Senate, and take part in public and political life to some degree. We know of course that participation on an equal basis with men had to be fought for by our mothers and grandmothers, by us and

whether they want to concede this or not, equality will have to be won anew by our daughters and granddaughter. The effort is not only about women's equality, it is also about dignity, safety and security as part of social, economic and legal justice for all. A tall order. During the current election campaign that is framed as being all about change, we take stock and note what is possible and what has really changed for women and their families. In this bulletin issue, Monica Cullum points out some of the areas affecting women that still need to be addressed.

In 1993, in its Centennial Year, the Ottawa Council of Women, published a calendar illustrating some milestone changes in several areas of Council's advocacy. The 1993 calendar pages for June and September in this bulletin relate to women working in public life. We can see now, however, that these milestones were really just a start, we cannot rest on our laurels. But for this week, let's be content and celebrate what has been achieved by Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney and Henrietta Muir Edwards and their many advocacy successors. Do join us on October 16th at the monument of the "Famous Five" to lift a cup of tea in their honour. We invite you and the members of your organization to come out also to our General Meeting on October 20th to be informed by an important panel from Ottawa frontline agencies and to consider solutions to family violence in our City with them. Edeltraud Neal, the_neals@sympatico.ca



1973 NCWC Resolution Toronto
Urging that Enlistment in the RCMP
be open to Women

Resolved:

That the National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada to establish the principle that enlistment in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police be open to female applicants on the same basis as male applicants

Comment: The first woman graduated from the RCMP Academy Regina, Saskatchewan in March 1975

Above text and the photo, courtesy of the RCMP, is from the September page of the 1993 Centennial Calendar published by the Ottawa Council of Women

“Housing First...and then what?”

Reported by Sheila Perry, VP and Program Chair, OCW

Housing for all was the central theme for our September 15, 2015 General Meeting. Local OCW members were fortunate to hear presentations from Catherine Fortin-Lefavre, Director of Public Affairs, Canadian Housing and Renewal Association(CHRA) and Peter Hume, Chief Strategist, HP Urban and former Chair, Planning Committee, City of Ottawa.

According to CHRA research, Canada is on the cusp of an affordable housing crisis. Federal investments in social housing are set to expire, through what are called “operating agreements” that are dropping from \$1.6 billion in 2015 to \$0 in 2040. Rental households most in need are female led lone parent families – 45.4%, Seniors living alone – 36.1%, Aboriginal households -34.7% and recent newcomers to Canada – 37.6%.

Federal re-investment in affordable housing is urgently needed for new social housing, renewal, repairs, maintenance and supporting people with rent subsidies to stay housed. 12.5% of Canadian families are in core housing need. Spending 30% or more of before tax income on housing makes it difficult to afford healthy food, clothing, transportation and medication.

CHRA’s report “Housing for All” indicates over 300,000 households risking economic eviction or homelessness. Across Canada, social housing is the cheapest form of decent housing available and without it, many would not be housed. In Ottawa, an estimated number of households currently on social housing wait lists number 10,900. Toronto estimates number 90,900.

Peter Hume indicated that the current system rests on those least able to make substantial change. Local municipalities are the delivery agents trying to meet the local needs. Ideally, Provincial and Federal funding must be sustainable and supporting the local needs. Legislative changes are required to challenge the current situation, to increase the current units and to renew the existing stock. We need to look for opportunities in areas where assets are at end of useful life. Look for opportunities to leverage value. Private sector involvement is necessary for successful implementation of mixed use communities and shared spaces.

[Continued on p.4](#)



MACLAREN, J. A. Mary

Peacefully in Ottawa on Tuesday, September 22, 2015. J.A. Mary MacLaren (nee Morrison), beloved wife of the late Alexander S. MacLaren. Loving mother of the late Ann E. MacLaren, Louise Saint (Stuart), Les MacLaren (Leigh) and Sandy MacLaren (Anda). Cherished grandmother of Robin MacLaren (Jeremy), Katherine Reiber (Jorge), Janet Saint (Gregg), Alec Saint, Mac MacLaren and Marleigh MacLaren. Mary was a loyal member of OCW for over 30 years. She was made a Life Member in 1993. Mary was Treasurer for OCW in the early 1980's, as well as Archivist for many years. “Mary was always interested in the stories of individuals involved in the past work of Council and knew a lot about our history of Council. She was committed to the importance of archives as the record of our past, and worked hard to make them as complete as possible. (Her co-chair, Ruth Bell was also committed and knowledgeable, so OCW was indeed fortunate.

Ruth Brown, Past National president writes about Mary’s involvement in NCWC: “For the National Council of Women, she was the Archivist for about ten years, starting in 1994, responsible for putting together the relevant Council documents for deposit in the National Archives. I worked closely with her on two other NCWC projects and much enjoyed our association 1) a 1993 exhibition at the National Archives to celebrate the National Council's hundredth birthday.

Mary and I had a great time going through Council boxes in the Archives for pictures and information, and put together a small publication for the Exhibition, entitled “The Splendid Vision”; (Ruth Bell produced a selected reading list which was also part of the exhibition). Dr Naomi Griffiths asked if she might use the same title for her history of the Council, which came out the same year, and of course we agreed. 2) Mary and I worked as co-editors of the NCWC Year Book for at least six years starting in 1999. She had a very sharp eye for anything she considered ungrammatical, badly worded, or less than clear, and was quite relentless in her pursuit of perfection.

Our sincere condolences are extended to Mary’s family and friends.

Recommendations for Action:

1. Support and encourage a revitalized housing stock, by building new and different housing forms
2. Support Housing for All: #housing4all housing 4 all.ca @CHRA_ACHRU
3. Make affordable housing a top election issue in 2015. Request commitment for re-investment in affordable housing from all federal candidates.
4. Request support for a National Housing Strategy with federal funding that recognizes the right to adequate housing.

2015/2016 Ottawa Council of Women General Meetings

Tuesday, Sept 15, 2015, from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm at Overbrook Community Centre - Theme: Housing
Tuesday Oct 20, 2015, from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm at Overbrook Community Centre - Theme: Family Violence, VAW
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at Rideau Park United Church Theme: Ottawa First Nations' Safety and Security Status
tbd Dec tbd at Zora Jackson, 849 Maple Crest -- Theme: Christmas Party
Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at Rideau Park United Church -- Theme: Home Care,incl. palliative
Tuesday, Feb.16, 2016 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at Rideau Park United Church -- Theme: Food Security & Safety
Saturday, March 19,2016 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at Overbrook Community Centre -- Theme: Resolutions Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 2016 from..... tbd at.... tbd --Theme: AGM

Election Considerations- Part 2

Monica Cullum, OCW Status of Women Convenor

We are now in the last days of the longest campaign for a one day election since 1872 – 78 days. So let's take stock of where women stand.

There is no doubt that Canada has fallen behind in so many areas that impact women's lives. In 1994 Canada held the highest ranking on the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) and was considered to have the best gender equality measures in the world. By 2015 we have dropped to 23rd place. (Winnipeg Free Press – 04/09/15). Canada's failure requires a concerted effort to find solutions for the decline in respect it once held in the international community.

Our task is to ensure that the next government takes its responsibilities seriously and works to address issues important to women. Many of those issues come up time and time again because they have not been dealt with adequately by governments over the years.

While not exclusively a woman's issue **affordable, accessible child care** is one such issue. Too many years have passed and too many false starts have been made to address this. The time has come to ensure that Canadian children will be cared for in environments that stimulate their growth based on accepted standards for early learning and in places their parents can afford where safety and security are primary. Currently the cost of child care is prohibitive on all counts and the tax based program is inadequate to meet the need. A national strategy is needed.

An issue that constantly recurs is the problem of **child poverty**. According to the Conference Board of Canada our country scores a "C" grade ranking 15 out of 17 peer countries. More than one in seven Canadian children live in poverty. Between the late 1990s and the mid 2000s the rate increased from 12.8 to 15.1 percent. First Nations children suffer from the most blatant inequality in all areas deemed important to a

child's health and development. This is unthinkable in a country that finds money for war and yet fails its own children.

In 2015, there is still reasonable evidence of **income inequality**, that women earn less than their male colleagues. It's generally accepted that women make 69 cents for every dollar men make. That's a 13 percent penalty just for being female according to Warren Thomas president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU). (Ottawa Life March/April 2015). Using the Labour Force Survey Richard Shillington of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives reports that in the public sector women make about 10% less than their male colleagues and in the private sector this rises to 13.5 % less. Shillington points out that data in the now defunct Long Form Census might have provided greater detail and more reliability. (March 2015. Not all is based on women holding low paying jobs. For every dollar earned by a university educated male a woman makes only 82 cents. One columnist went so far as to suggest that slashing men's pay would go a long way to shift the status quo (Globe and Mail May 4/15) . For families, paying women less than men is a real problem. Income inequality is seen as being tied to poor health making income equality an economic imperative. A report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2012 said that governments should close the gap to boost gross domestic product. Where, we might ask, where does Canada stand? (For more on Equal pay see *Globe and Mail Business section Saturday Oct 10th, 2015*)



The WWII recruitment poster from the Canadian War Museum above and the text of the 1944 Resolution on Equal Pay make up the June page in the 1993 Centennial Calendar, published by the Ottawa Council of Women

**1944 NCWC Resolution Port Arthur
Urging Equal Pay for Equal Work**

Resolved: -Now therefore the National Council of Women of Canada recommends that all women be given equal opportunity with men in all types of employment where their qualifications are equal, and that women receive EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Comment:

At the beginning of World War II women earned two-thirds of wages paid to men. At the end of the war this had increased to three-quarters. The principle of equal pay for work of the same or similar value first appeared in the Canadian Labour Code in 1970; The Human Rights Act, proclaimed in 1978, provided for equal pay for work of equal value.

Recognition of **women as leaders** whether it is in industry, in education and the sciences, on boards of directors or in parliament - even on Canadian bank notes – calls for decisive, even aggressive action. The time has certainly come when Canadian women take their place in the halls of power. The old saw that repeats itself over and over excusing the lack of women mostly on women themselves or the impossibility of finding suitable candidates-, must be put to rest. Women's contribution to our country in so many fields deserves more. One will have to wait to see how many women be elected and which party they represent.

It seems we never stop talking about **violence against women and girls**. – It happens everywhere – in the bedroom, in the classroom, in the workplace , in the street, on the playing field and in political settings. We have all heard of the reports from women in the military, at universities, in sports, in the media and in political parties. Harassment, sexual or otherwise is not new. The level of violence experienced by women has

changed little in the past two decades. That it is happening in 2015 with such frequency is the surprise. It's obvious that Canada needs a coordinated, coherent, well-resourced plan that will address the issue nationally.

To some the **ban on the niqab** smacks of women's inequality! This legislation applies only to women. Does a ban address in any logical or meaningful way the safety and security of Canadians? While the wearing of the niqab is rejected by the majority of Muslim women, do those who decide to wear the face covering deserve respect? Liberal democracies are separated from dictatorships by their openness, encouragement of dissent and recognition of individuals as equals (Amor Aziz – Globe and Mail March 16/15). This includes the freedom of women to wear whatever they chose. Some may argue that women who chose to wear the niqab are influenced by a patriarchal system. Women are influenced in what they wear by many cultural mores as well as by the clothing and make-up industry and to no less extent by the media and celebrity hype. As women, should we be concerned that this ban affects only women and is inherently misogynistic? If we truly believe that these Muslim sisters are oppressed and coerced what does it say about us if we too are ready and willing to coerce and press them further?

Another question. What would **Canada's foreign policy** look like if more women were involved? For example do we actually believe that hearing bombing day and night or being subjected to drone attacks is really helpful to women? Our work must be embedded in human rights' promoting safety of the human family and building an inclusive society. Have we forgotten Canada's support of United Nations resolution 1325 -Women, Peace and Security? Canadian women deserve more.



**PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF ONTARIO (PCWO)
Semi –Annual Meeting and Brief Presentation at Queen’s Park, Toronto
November 17th and 18th, 2015**

Interested individual members and federate members of the Ottawa Council of Women are invited to attend the Semi-Annual Meeting in Toronto at Queen’s Park . It is an opportunity to attend Question Period in the Ontario Legislature and take part in the discussion of PCWO with Ontario Government Minister as well as with Opposition critics about PCWO policy concerns, which were submitted in a brief beforehand. There are PCWO Board and Local Council Presidents Strategic Planning Meetings.



on Tuesday, November 17th, 2015
Queen’s Park, Room 228, Legislative Building
Registration at 8:30 am
Question Period in the morning
Lunch in the Cafeteria
MPP visits in the afternoon
Register by November 10th
for more info: the_neals@sympatico.ca

The meeting with the politicians takes place

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF ONTARIO CALENDAR 2015

October – 3 rd week	President Takes Briefs to Queen’s Park
October – 2 nd week	Agenda for Semi-Annual Meeting, flyer and registration form for Semi-Annual Meeting in Toronto is sent to membership
November 16-18	Board Meeting, Semi-Annual Meeting & Strategic Planning Meeting in Toronto
November 30	Deadline for submitting resolutions
January 15	Resolutions are sent to membership

This OCW Bulletin will appear monthly. Members' short contributions welcome. Please e-mail to the_neals@sympatico.ca or mail your contribution by the 20th of each month to Edeltraud Neal, 1786 McMaster Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K1H6R8