

Ottawa Council of Women September 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

From the President:

A big welcome to all our members to a new OCW year. We hope that you had a great summer, and are ready to join us in our efforts to continue the work of our Council. We are motivated by the National Council of Women **Theme for 2015/17: "Safety and Security of Persons"**. Thus our 2015 local focus of policy study, policy education and advocacy will be in the areas of

- safe and secure shelter, public housing of all types
- bodily and legal safety and security of the person (not present in cases of VAW, family violence: spousal abuse, abuse of children and youth and elder abuse)
- Safety and security of health care for all, but particularly for the elderly and otherwise vulnerable (health & home care, continuous care etc)
- Safe and secure nutrition for all
- Safety and security status of the Ottawa First Nations' population

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OCW September General Meeting
Please Join us - Bring a friend

On: Tuesday, September 15th, 2015
7:00 pm – Panel & Q&A
8:30pm – Business Meeting

At :
The Overbrook Community Centre,
Vanier, 33 Quill Street

Panel on

"Housing First".....What's next?

With
Ishbel Solveson, Director of Housing Registry,
Canadian Housing Resources

Peter Hume, Former President Association of
Municipalities of Ontario, Past Chair City of
Ottawa Planning Committee

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Sheila Perry, 1st VP, and her Committee are coordinating General Meeting programs pertinent to these issues. When looking at the local situation, the local social and economic determinants and possible other root causes in these focus areas, we shall no doubt come upon programs and measures that work well. But we also know, that there are situations that are next to unbearable for the individuals and families affected. I hope that you, our members, will come out and participate in exploring with us conditions in our own City and consider new policy solutions, or help support, policies, institutions and people that have found demonstrable ways to remedy apparent inequalities and injustices.

As a local Council, we are concentrating on local social justice issues, in particular on living conditions for women and families, but that does not mean that we are parochial in our thinking. We are part of the Provincial (PCWO) and National Council of Women (NCWC) where we can plug into the larger political and policy context and decision making whenever the need arises. We can and do respond with advocacy on established policy and, following due process, by proposing resolutions on all political levels. Please note the PCWO and the NCWO Calendars in this issue with the respective deadlines to submit resolutions. In a separate memo Jeannette Logan, our Advocacy Chair, provides our adjusted OCW deadlines and invites your input.

We are now in the middle of a federal election campaign and the politicians have their armies of strategists and spin masters ready to interest the media and the voters for their party's points of view and promised policies. We do believe in the constitutional democratic processes and contrary to common cynicism, that being a politician can be a noble calling. And elections are a most basic process of our democracy. In this bulletin. our Status of Women Convenor, Monica Cullum, is looking ahead, through a somewhat historic lens, on what considerations women could give to this election. Look also for Monica's election issues in the October OCW bulletin. By then we hope to be able to share also National Council's top concerns for this election campaign. Let us know what your concerns are.

Edeltraud Neal, the_neals@sympatico.ca



On Election Frenzy

By Monica Cullum OCW Convenor
Status of Women

For weeks we knew - sometimes it feels like months - that an election is on the way. And finally the writ was dropped. By the time we all return to our meetings, discussion and debates in the Fall we can only assume the frenzy will, if anything, increase. So why don't we also start now to consider what matters to us and which party will be more likely to address our issues. As women we must forget or ignore how tiresome the rhetoric is and remember how others before us fought to achieve suffrage.

Following the almost universal enfranchisement of women in 1921 and changes to property requirements the electorate rose from 25 percent in 1911 to more than 50 percent. While there are some

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Condolences

We were very saddened to learn of the death of one of



our own, **Leonida "Lee" Hudson** (nee Wabiszczewicz) Lee passed away on Friday, July 17, 2015 at the Ottawa Civic Hospital where she graduated from nursing 50 years ago in June (1965) Born in Poland in the midst of WWII, Lee came to Canada at the age of six. She

was a nurse, small business owner, and an active long time member of the Ottawa Council of Women and until her death a board member as VP Mass Media & Culture of the Provincial Council of Women Ontario. Lee was also a volunteer with many other organizations. Lee died of cancer. Our deepest sympathy is extended to all of Lee's family, in particular to her daughter Natasha and grandchildren Zosia and Elyse Hughes.

We also want to express our deepest condolences to Jackie Maurais and to all her family on the recent death of her **mother Mary Anne Maurais, née Duguay**, at the age of 97. Mrs. Maurais was one of the first French immersion teachers in Ontario and dedicated much professional effort to making this language programme the success it has become today.

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regional variations - Newfoundland and Labrador have consistently been lower and the Atlantic provinces higher than other provinces. - in the 39 general elections between 1867 and 2006 voter turnout averaged 71 percent of registered voters. Through all of this the rate of turnout between women and men has tended not to differ.

Several studies have argued however that women are more likely to vote Liberal or NDP while men tend to vote Conservative. According to one poll 46% of men said they would vote Conservative while only 28% of women would do so. No significant difference was found for other parties. In yet another poll support was much more evenly distributed when age was a factor – women over 50 were the single biggest group cohort of Conservative supporters. Male support did not show such a strong age bias.

In addition, in an environment where women make up over 50 percent of the population women are still under-represented as candidates. The 2011 election saw 452 running as candidates out of a total of 1587. In the 2008 election the Liberal party had the distinction of running the highest number of women at 36.8% yet nowhere near 50 % of candidates. There are numerous opinions on why this is so but the fact remains that women's voices are weak in the echelons of power.

So where does this bring us as an election approaches? First it reminds us that we must exercise our right to vote. Encouraging others to join us and supporting women who put their name on the ballot requires our sincere attention. Secondly we owe it to ourselves to know the issues and to identify and ensure that those issues that impact women's lives are front and centre. Many of those issues come up time and time again because they have not been dealt with adequately by governments over the years.

It's time we followed the example of those who advocated for women's suffrage to a successful conclusion and that we ensured that the government we elect will allow women and girls the rights this effort promised. Now is the time to keep your eye on the goal, to listen carefully to the election rhetoric and know precisely how you will mark your ballot come October. Women's equality deserves nothing less.



PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF ONTARIO CALENDAR 2015-2016

2015

September 1	Resolutions Convener send memo to members
October – 3rd 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

2016

January 15	Resolutions are sent to membership
February – 3rd week	Registration forms and Agenda for Annual Meeting are sent out
March 31	Deadline for submitting amendments to resolutions, and updates
April 8	Deadline for sending in registration forms for AGM
April 22-24	Annual General Meeting in Toronto

Two new Vice-Presidents from Ottawa Council on NCWC Executive

By Jeannette Logan

Sheila Pepper and Jeannette Logan from Ottawa were elected as Vice-Presidents of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) at its 122th Annual General Meeting on May 23, 2015 in Montreal. Both have been members of local, provincial and/or national councils for many years. As members of St. Andrew's Church, Sheila and Jeannette are following in the footsteps of Lady Ishbel Aberdeen who having attended the International Council of Women meeting in 1888 returned to Canada and set up the NCWC in 1893. The Governor-General of Canada Lord Aberdeen and Lady Ishbel attended St. Andrew's during their residence in Ottawa. Lady Aberdeen also founded the Ottawa Council of Women in 1894.

There are six national vice-presidents who have different areas of responsibility. One was elected 1st vice-president: Kelly-Ann Stevenson of Winnipeg, Justice; the others: Patricia Leeson of Prince Albert, Admin; Sandra Cohen-Rose of Montreal, PR; Barbara Hall of Vancouver, Economic Affairs; Jeannette Logan of Aylmer, Québec, Environment; and Sheila Pepper of Ottawa, Social Development. We will serve a minimum of 2 years,

and a maximum of 4 years. NCWC executive is preparing top national issues for the election campaign: our Environment committee has chosen energy and water policy and strategy as urgently requiring action



Ottawa attendees at the NCWC AGM in Montreal. Newly elected NCWC Vice-Presidents Sheila Pepper and Jeannette Logan with Ottawa Council President, Edeltraud Neal and Denise Mattock, immediate Past-President NCWC. Marianne Wilkinson also attended as Parliamentarian.

National Council of Women Canada (NCWC) 2016/17 Calendar

2015

- Fall 2015 - Annual Brief to the Government of Canada
- Oct 7 - Notification of proposed resolutions to be submitted to Resolutions Chair Mary Potter
- Oct 24-25 - Board of Directors Meeting – Ottawa
- Nov 16 - **Deadline to submit Proposed Resolutions and Policy Updates**
to Resolutions Convenor Mary Potter

2016

- Jan 10 - Proposed Resolutions circulated to membership for review
- Jan 30 - Membership renewal invoices sent out
- Feb 28 - Notice of Motion from Constitution Convenor Virginia Schweitzer
- Feb 28 - AGM REGISTRATION PACKAGES OUT
- March 31 - Deadline for Proposed Amendments to Resolutions to be received
by Resolutions Convenor
- March 31 - Deadline for Emerging Issues Resolutions to be received by Resolutions Convenor
- May/June - Annual General Meeting/Conference in Ottawa

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