

## The Communicator

Canadian Federation of University Women



## La Communicatrice

Fédération Canadienne des Femmes  
Diplômées des Universités

CFUW 2006-2008 Biennial Theme: Visible Voice • Voix Visible

### CFUW CLUBS CELEBRATE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



Daybook Committee: Stella Barnes, Paddy Carswell, Dorothy Sly, Mary Ellen Campbell, Carolyn Redl



MLUWC charter members (l to r) Katy van Walsum, Alberta Shearer and Dorothy Anderson.

**CFUW Parksville-Qualicum** recently launched its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Perpetual Daybook, a project of the Club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2006. Along with CFUW Regional Director, Vancouver Island, Susan Murphy, some forty guests met at the home of Past President, Dorothy Sly, to open the cover of this book for the first time. Incorporating an historical overview of the Club as well as the provincial and national organizations, the daybook tells the story of the Club's founding, its founding members and the women who served on its executive from 1981 to 2006. The full range of Club activities is recorded: newsletter, e-communication, publicity, bridge clubs, book clubs, Christmas parties, general meetings, the annual book sale, special projects, and much more. If CFUW P-Q did it, the daybook has it on record!

For more information or to order the daybook, contact Carolyn Redl ([carolyn.redl@shaw.ca](mailto:carolyn.redl@shaw.ca)).

### MLUWC Celebrates 50 Years!

Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club was formed in the western suburbs of Montreal in 1957—a time of rapid expansion and growth in this region. It was an appropriate time to launch the new club, since the community was being built at the same time. With 167 members, MLUWC received its charter from CFUW at the Triennial meeting in Montreal in August 1958. Six of those women are still members today!

To celebrate their 50 years, the Club's past presidents have planned a special anniversary celebration to be held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Beaconsfield Golf Club. The evening will include dinner, music, a sing-a-long, as well as many other

(CFUW Clubs. . . continued on Page 4)

### ADVOCACY ALERT

CFUW is concerned about the high levels of child poverty in Canada. Clubs are asked to find out what is happening locally and to take action to help. **At the policy level:** advocate for reducing poverty through higher minimum wages, better access to Employment Insurance, higher child benefits, affordable housing and job training programs. **At the practical level:** initiate school breakfast programs, set up food and clothing banks, donate books to needy children...

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE/MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

Ardith M. Toogood

### Ardith M. Toogood

Dear Members,

This message marks the mid-point of the CFUW year – a time to reflect on CFUW accomplishments to date and to plan activities we hope to complete by our Annual General Meeting (AGM) August 7-10, 2008.

The Montreal and area Clubs will host CFUW delegates from across the country for a stimulating AGM, August 7 – 10. Plan to attend! The conference booklet and forms will be posted on the CFUW website by March, with a feature that will make registration easy: complete on-line registration.

Nationally, CFUW is working on issues of health, the environment, women's prison conditions, poverty, taxation and women's economic disadvantage – particularly regarding pay equity, lack of pan-Canadian childcare and lack of fair access to benefits from Employment Insurance. Federal election readiness is high on the agenda of our work with the Ad Hoc Coalition on Women's Equality and Human Rights.

International issues have been in the forefront recently as CFUW advocated for a culture of peace in Afghanistan, nuclear disarmament, a UN High Level Agency for Women, peace in Darfur, and observation of Canada's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and to the doctrine of The Responsibility to Protect. CFUW signed the UNIFEM global petition urging an end to violence against women, signed a petition calling for national Departments of Peace worldwide, and sent a note of condolence to our IFUW sisters in Pakistan following the tragic loss of Benazir Bhutto.

In response to requests, an updated article that I originally wrote as a Regional Director, *Benefits of CFUW Membership* is printed in this newsletter for your use. It reminds us that membership in CFUW offers us an opportunity to make Canada and the world a better place.

*Ardith*

**Message de la présidente**  
**Ardith M. Toogood**

Chères membres,

Ce message marque le milieu de l'année de la FCFDU – l'occasion de réfléchir aux réalisations de la FCFDU jusqu'à présent, et de planifier les activités que nous espérons réaliser d'ici la tenue de notre Assemblée générale annuelle (AGA) Août 7-10, 2008.

Nos clubs de Montréal et de la région vont accueillir les déléguées de partout au pays à l'occasion d'une AGA stimulante, du 7 au 10 août. Prévoyez être des nôtres ! La brochure et les formulaires de la conférence seront affichés sur le site web de la FCFDU d'ici le mois de mars, et l'inscription sera plus facile que jamais : il sera possible de s'inscrire entièrement en ligne.

Au niveau national, la FCFDU travaille à des dossiers touchant à la santé, à l'environnement, aux conditions des femmes incarcérées, à la pauvreté, à la fiscalité et aux désavantages économiques des femmes – particulièrement en matière d'équité salariale, de la pénurie de garderies à l'échelle du pays, et des lacunes au niveau d'un accès équitable aux prestations de l'Assurance-emploi. La préparation en vue d'une élection fédérale figure au sommet de nos travaux avec la Coalition ad hoc sur l'égalité des femmes et les droits de la personne.

Les problèmes internationaux ont récemment dominé l'avant-plan, alors que la FCFDU a milité en faveur d'une culture de la paix en Afghanistan, du désarmement nucléaire, d'une agence de haut niveau de l'ONU pour les femmes, de la paix au Darfour, et du respect de l'engagement du Canada envers les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et de la doctrine de la Responsabilité de protéger. La FCFDU a également signé la pétition mondiale de l'UNIFEM en vue de mettre fin à la violence contre les femmes, signé une pétition pour l'établissement de ministères nationaux de la paix partout dans le monde, et fait parvenir une note de condoléances à nos sœurs de la FIFDU, au Pakistan, à la suite de la mort tragique de Benazir Bhutto.

À la suite de demandes en ce sens, un article mis à jour que j'avais tout d'abord rédigé à titre de directrice régionale, *Benefits of CFUW Membership*, est reproduit dans ce bulletin à votre intention. Cet article nous rappelle que l'appartenance à la FCFDU est pour nous l'occasion de faire du Canada et du monde des endroits où il fait bon vivre.

*Ardith*

# CFUW History and Heroines

*This is the seventh in a nine-part series tracing CFUW historical highlights decade by decade. CFUW History and Heroines is available at [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org).*

## The Eighties

During the eighties, Jeanne Sauvé was appointed first woman Governor-General of Canada, a coalition called Sisters of All Women in Canada (28 women MPs and senators) fought for equality of Native women, Alexa McDonough became first woman leader of a provincial political party, and Bertha Wilson became the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. The House of Commons erupted in laughter when MP Margaret Mitchell raised the issue of violence against women. That response galvanized the nation's attention to the issue.

One year after The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was signed, discrimination on the basis of pregnancy and family or marital status was banned. Judge Rosalie Abella, appointed to lead a one-woman Royal Commission on Equality in employment, coined the expression, "employment equity" to describe programs and practices necessary to achieve workplace equality for women and other disadvantaged groups. The National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) organized the first televised debate on women's issues by the three federal parties. Election voter turnout was 69.3 per cent. Audrey McLaughlin became the first Canadian woman to lead a national political party.

## 1979 - 1982: Eileen Clark, Twenty-first CFUW President

- CFUW advocates to all levels of government during public debates to ensure that equality for women is entrenched in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- CFUW supports the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), ratified by Canada on Dec. 10, 1981

- During this Triennium Clubs examine the social and ethical implications of rapid technological advances especially as they affect women
  - Seven new Clubs join the Federation
- 1982** – The theme of the twenty-second CFUW Triennial Meeting in Winnipeg is "Communication through Microelectronics".

## 1982 – 1985: Margaret Strongitharm, Twenty-second CFUW President

- Clubs sponsor conferences, workshops and seminars on a study and action program called "Women's Work and the Reality of Tomorrow"
- Resolutions focus on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, pornography, pension reform and peace and security as they affect and concern women
- Two "firsts": two out of three annual meetings are held in hotels instead of universities; the mechanism of an "Urgent Resolution" is introduced
- CFUW welcomes six new Clubs

**1985** - M. Strongitharm chairs Asia-Canada Women in Management conference at University of Victoria

**1985** – Twenty-third CFUW Triennial Meeting is held in Calgary

## 1985 – 1988: Linda Souter, Twenty-third CFUW President

- Study theme is "Women and the Economy – Influence through Knowledge"
- CFUW establishes a permanent Head Office in Ottawa
- CFUW moves from a triennial to a biennial system
- A Policy Book containing all adopted CFUW policies is prepared and sent to CFUW Clubs
- Work on a Procedures Handbook is undertaken

**1988** – Twenty-fourth CFUW Triennial Meeting is held in Ottawa

*(CFUW History and Heroines. . . continued on Page 5)*

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traditions from the early years. The past presidents are also sharing their memories in monthly newsletter submissions entitled "MLUWC Then & Now." From those articles it's clear that the issues that were important to them 50 years ago are still in the forefront today.

L'éducation a toujours été au coeur des intérêts du Club des femmes universitaires du Montréal-Lakeshore. Dès ses débuts, le Club s'est montré très actif dans ses prises de position en soumettant des recommandations et en exerçant des pressions lors des débats traitant des différentes réformes dans le domaine de l'éducation

MLUWC established a scholarship program to



Scholarship winner Rachel Trussard (Université de Montréal) with MLUWC President Pauline van Nieuwburg

encourage young women in the community to pursue their education. From the first scholarship of \$100 awarded in 1959 to a record \$13,000 in 2006, MLUWC has supported undergraduate, graduate, and mature students as well as those returning to upgrade or complete their high school studies. In 2003 the MLUWC Scholarship Fund became a registered charity. In 50 years they have awarded over \$125,000 in scholarships and bursaries making the scholarship program one of the Club's main initiatives and proudest achievements.

Le domaine de l'environnement a également suscité beaucoup d'attention des membres du Club. En 1970, notre première résolution proposée à la FCFDU portait sur la pollution de l'eau ; cette résolution a été adoptée et acheminée par la suite au Ministère de l'environnement. Encore aujourd'hui et cela plus que jamais, les femmes de notre Club demeurent vigilantes et actives à ce sujet et de l'environnement en général.

In August 2008, as they celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, MLUWC is proud to be one of the host clubs for CFUW's AGM in Montreal and prouder still that the Federation's next national president will be their own Patricia DuVal. Forward to the next 50 years.

**CFUW Nelson** held its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in September 2007 and it also launched its main fundraiser, the 2008 Kootenay Inspirations Calendar and Note cards, featuring a creation by a West Kootenay woman each month. The pictures can be cut out and turned into note cards. A local art supply store exhibited the artwork for a month and sold the calendars for us. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, they auctioned off the artwork from the calendar. The calendar will now be sold at the local art museum as well as by members at winter craft fairs and online through their website.

Members look forward to a 2008 Food for Inspiration Lecture Series beginning in January that will run one Thursday each month for four months, with donations going to their Selkirk College Bursary Fund.

**CFUW BIENNIAL FOCUS**  
Education - Equality - Environment

**CFUW Heroine of the 1980s: (continued)**  
**Linda Souter (1930 - )**



Born in Montreal, Linda Souter holds a BA from McGill University and a college course diploma from Boston's Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School. As well as contributing to community work in Sudbury with groups such as IODE, YMCA, the Multicultural Centre and the Disabled

Children's Treatment Centre, she has devoted many years of service to CFUW and IFUW.

After serving as CFUW Provincial Director, Ontario North, Linda became CFUW Vice President Ontario (1982-1985) and was elected CFUW President (1985-1988). She initiated the first joint national meeting of CFUW and AAUW (American Association of University Women), demonstrating an international interest that led to her election as Vice President of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). In 1995, Linda presented workshops at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Linda was elected President of IFUW for the 1998 – 2001 Triennium, the second Canadian to hold this influential international position. In 1998 she led the IFUW delegation to the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education, and in 2001 presided at the 27<sup>th</sup> IFUW Triennial Meeting in Ottawa.

Linda's many honours include the Avon Women of Inspiration Award (2001) and National Life Membership in CFUW (2002).

**International Women's Day**  
**March 8th**

**WaterCan** is the project for CFUW's Third Annual International Women's Day fund-raiser. Forward donations CFUW National Office making the cheque payable to the **CFUW and indicate IWD Project on the memo line.** CFUW welcomes ideas for International Women's Day **2009**. Send your ideas to Director of/Coordinator for International Relations Rose Beatty by May 15, 2008.

**CFUW Bits and Bytes**

**QUIZ**

What Canadian university was the first to accept women as students?

1. University of Toronto
2. University of British Columbia
3. Mount Allison University
4. McGill University

Answer to Quiz on Page 8.

\* \* \*

Club Information Sheets and Dues forms will be available on-line in March. You are urged to file your Club information electronically. Need help? Contact National Office at 613 234 8252

Honour your long-standing (25 or more years) members with a **CFUW certificate** available from National Office. Email [cfuwgen@rogers.com](mailto:cfuwgen@rogers.com) for details.

**CFUW On-Line Directory**—keep your contact information up to date. When club contacts change, you can update your information at [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org). Need help, contact [cfuwgen@rogers.com](mailto:cfuwgen@rogers.com)

**ADVOCACY IN ACTION**

CFUW Saint John supports local action against family violence and abuse. On November 5, 2007, the Coverdale Women's Centre of Saint John, NB launched its *Purple Ribbon Campaign* against family violence and abuse. A well-attended march and rally heard the following speakers address the issue: Coverdale Chair Marilyn Magee, Deputy Mayor Michelle Hooton and MLA Mary Shryer, Status of Women, all of whom addressed the fact that many women suffer violence in silence.

CFUW Saint John members who joined in the March and rally were Club President Ann Barrett, Vice President, Pat Murray, Colleen Maloney, Alison Hannah, Heather O'Toole, Kate Coffman, Faye Somers and Doris Chesley. Their support was much appreciated.

Placards carried the message *Freedom from violence is a right not a privilege.*

## CONGRATULATIONS/FELICITATIONS

### ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES DIPLÔMÉES DES UNIVERSITÉS DE QUÉBEC

**Don de 4 000 \$ à UNICEF Québec pour l'éducation des jeunes filles au Rwanda** By Suzanne Lemire



Sur la photo, de gauche à droite: Judith Sanschagrín et Suzanne Lemire, respectivement secrétaire et présidente de AFDU Québec, Élisabeth Dallaire, ambassadrice pour Unicef Canada et Martine Gagné, directrice régionale, Unicef Québec

**Cité Universitaire, le 18 septembre 2007-** Le 17 septembre dernier, l'Association des femmes diplômées des universités de Québec (AFDU Québec) remettait la somme de 4 000 \$ à UNICEF Québec pour l'éducation des jeunes filles au Rwanda. Pour la remise de ce don, UNICEF était représentée par mesdames Élisabeth Dallaire, ambassadrice nationale d'UNICEF Canada et Martine Gagné, coordonnatrice d'UNICEF pour la région de Québec. Ce don, qui s'inscrit dans le cadre du projet *Des écoles pour l'Afrique* un partenariat entre la Fondation Nelson Mandela et UNICEF contribuera à la

construction d'écoles au Rwanda, à la promotion des études secondaires chez les jeunes filles auprès des parents et des autorités concernées, à l'établissement d'installations sanitaires distinctes ainsi qu'à l'aménagement de sources d'eau potable. Ce don de 4 000 \$ est le fruit d'un voyage bénéfique à New-York effectué en juin 2007. Les membres de l'AFDU Québec sont très heureuses des résultats de cette deuxième initiative devenue maintenant un projet annuel.

Depuis sa fondation, AFDU Québec s'est donné comme mission d'encourager les études universitaires chez les femmes. L'an dernier, elle a décidé d'ajouter une corde à son arc en s'impliquant pour supporter financièrement l'éducation secondaire chez les filles au Rwanda, un pays en voie de développement où seulement 26.8 % des filles entreprennent des études secondaires après avoir terminé leur programme primaire. Une de ses membres, madame Marie Nyanziga, a récemment été nommée comme volontaire des Nations-Unies pour un projet visant à augmenter le nombre de femmes en sciences et technologie au Rwanda, ceci en collaboration avec l'Association des femmes diplômées du Rwanda.

## NOTABLES AMONG US

**DEADLINE EXTENDED TO MARCH 21**

Is a member of your Club an Order of Canada Honouree? A Person's Day Honouree? Or a recipient of the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award? Briefly tell us about your members who have received special provincial or national awards, honours and medals. Send your submission including member's name, Club she belongs to, Honour or Award received and the year it was received to [cfuw.stratplan@gmail.com](mailto:cfuw.stratplan@gmail.com) Submissions received by March 21 will be included in the May 2008 Communicator.

# BENEFITS OF CFUW MEMBERSHIP

Membership in CFUW provides the following benefits and opportunities internationally, nationally, provincially/regionally and locally.

## Internationally

- Voice on issues concerning women worldwide (CFUW is the largest of the 82 IFUW national federations and associations)
- Well-respected non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status at the UN
- Resolutions from member affiliates that become IFUW policy – used by CFUW
- *Bina Roy Partners in Development* and *Hegg Hoffet Fund* that assist women in developing nations
- International fellowships program
- Triennial Conference open to members from all affiliates
- Opportunities to present position papers at IFUW Triennial Meetings
- Leadership opportunities
- “Links of Friendship”
- Opportunities to connect with women in other countries
- Travel introductions to IFUW members around the world
- IFUW website and listservs
- Young Members website networking group

## Nationally

- Voice on issues concerning women across Canada
- NGO recognition with special consultative status at the UN (ECOSOC) with representation at Commission on the Status of Women
- Membership with the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO
- Links with other NGOs
- Fully self-funded status since its founding in 1919
- Grassroots involvement in policy making (resolutions)
- Well-researched CFUW policy and advocacy
- Briefs to Canadian Government based on CFUW policies
- CFUW Fellowships - among most prestigious national fellowships and awards programs in the country, available to women for post-graduate

study

- CFUW Charitable Trust that funds the CFUW Fellowships program
- An elected President, Board of Directors, and Regional Directors to provide leadership
- National Office staff in Ottawa with access to Government and other NGOs
- AGM (Annual General Meeting) open to all members
- Opportunities for cross-Canada friendship
- Five issues per year of national newsletter, *The Communicator*
- Many publications - e.g. *CFUW Women in Action*, Membership Manual, Presidents’ Manual, *The Nuts and Bolts of Influencing Public Policy*, brochures and posters, CFUW Annual Reports (one internal and one external)
- *CFUW Directory* - listing of CFUW Club officers, important dates and information
- CFUW website – with Public Domain and Members Only sections and links to other sites

## Provincially/Regionally

- Voice on issues concerning women provincially
- Resolutions on provincial issues
- Nationally-elected CFUW Vice Presidents and Regional Directors to provide links to the national body of CFUW
- CFUW Council Meetings
- Gatherings to provide information and leadership training

## Locally

- Voice on issues concerning women in local communities
- Opportunities for Club leadership, projects and fellowship
- Local advocacy
- Local programs
- Local interest and study groups

## CFUW Annual General Meeting

**Montreal August 7-10, 2008.** Conference Booklet and On-line registration at [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org) in March.

## Letter from International Federation of University Women (IFUW) Board

Our strategic planning meetings were held in Geneva on November 16-19, 2007. Following four days of intensive planning and preparation we reached consensus on a more focused program.

Our roots are in education with our branches supporting gender equality for women and girls. Our members are higher education graduates, who are able to sow seeds wisely. We believe we need to concentrate our efforts on achievable and visible results; so we are trimming our IFUW program tree to concentrate on fruit bearing and using our resources wisely in these times of change.

And there is plenty of change. Our basic purpose and membership services continue and we will continue to assert gender equality and peace. However, we have decided to focus our IFUW program for advocacy and action on the following statement below. We look forward to moving ahead with more refined planning for results, with input from NFAs and elected and appointed leaders as well as independent members.

The focus will be that **IFUW promotes lifelong learning for women and girls to be leaders and decision makers.**

We want the focus to change incrementally from the current program for action and have set targets for the change in program activities of IFUW over the next 3 years. This means 50% change to our focus in 2008, 60% in 2009 and 75% for 2010. It means that UN Representatives, Status of Women committee and other groups with program emphasis are charged with achieving this more focused approach. Their advocacy will increasingly work with the core focus. Activities and statements will promote the theme so as to achieve more visible results. After dialogue with the wider group present, the board has chosen four themes for our objectives towards 2010

- **The Girl Child**
  - **Literacy**
  - **Sustainable higher education**
- Empowerment of women for leadership and decision-making**

Our representatives at UNESCO with its relevant program in Higher Education, Education for Sustainable Development and its medium term priority on gender are on track and involvement here will be further explored. Our representation regarding Human Rights Education and CEDAW in Geneva will be adjusted towards our focus, with empowerment for women and girls and gender equality continuing. The main change in Geneva will be

increasing our relationship with the Human Rights Council.

Action is underway to meet with UNICEF representatives in New York during the Commission on the Status of Women in February 2008.

Of course, IFUW will continue to relate closely to the proposed changes in **“gender architecture” in the UN**. It is crucial that NFAs stay informed and strongly advocate to their governments on this matter. It seems to have slowed down.

Under this framework we have identified two matters that would help us achieve results.

- **Disaggregated age and sex data in all statistics from countries**
- **Direct links to key policy makers in the priority institutions of the UN**

We need your support to lobby your governments about the collection of disaggregated age and sex data. All of us have a role to play to achieve success in this essential tool for advocacy.

We have made a start. The implementation details will be the next stage. It is important to me that you are all kept informed as the process and planning moves into a more detailed stage. Implementation, reflection and monitoring for results are part of the next stage.

We need your comments and ideas now.

Louise Croot  
President IFUW  
December 2007

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Answer to Quiz on page 5:  
3) Mount Allison University

## COMMUNICATOR DATES

*The Communicator* is a publication of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW).  
Publication dates for 2006-2007 are:

- ~ September 1, 2007
- ~ November 1, 2007
- ~ January 15, 2008
- ~ March 1, 2008
- ~ May 1, 2008

*The Communicator* is posted at [www.cfuw.org](http://www.cfuw.org) in graphics and graphics-free formats. Additional printed copies of *The Communicator* are available on request from National Office.