

# 2023-2024 YEAR AT A GLANCE



cfuw fcfd

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# OUR VISION

Women and girls are educated and empowered to make transformative change in the world.

# OUR MISSION

Achieve educational and economic equality and social justice through continuous learning and empowerment.



# MEET THE TEAM

2023-2024 was a year of many changes - some of which included new staff at the national office. If you haven't had a chance to meet our staff, here is an introduction!



## **Jaime Beagan, Executive Director**

(she/her)

Jaime joined the National Team in February 2023. She completed her degree in Criminology, Justice, and Policy Studies at Ontario Tech and her Master's in International Security and Conflict from DCU (Dublin City University). She has been involved and working in the not-for-profit sector for over 15 years.



## **Elizabeth Malcolm, Membership Engagement Coordinator**

(she/her)

Elizabeth joined CFUW in December 2023. She has a varied background in communications and member-focused organizations as well as Canadian history and politics. She works to ensure members are being heard and advocated for.



## **Kenzie Zimmer, National Advocacy and Policy Specialist**

(she/her)

Kenzie joined CFUW in September 2023. She has a background in political research and public affairs, with a Master's in History of International Relations. Kenzie engages in advocacy at the national and international level to advance CFUW's mission.



# 6643

CFUW  
MEMBERS

# 94

CFUW CLUBS  
ACROSS CANADA

# 48

CLUBS EXPERIENCED AN INCREASE IN  
MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS, WITH 21 CLUBS  
SURPASSING A +10% INCREASE!

# 25

STUDENT  
MEMBERS

## MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

- CFUW Ajax/Pickering (+27%)
- CFUW Barrie and District (+10%)
- CFUW Canada E Club (+143%)
- CFUW Canada GWI Club (+33%)
- CFUW Charlottetown (+21%)
- CFUW Haliburton Highlands (+21%)
- CFUW Kelowna (+16%)
- CFUW Kingston (+10%)
- CFUW London (+10%)
- CFUW Moncton (+13%)
- CFUW Parksville/Qualicum (+34%)
- CFUW Perth and District (+16%)
- CFUW Peterborough (+14%)
- CFUW Prince Albert (+14%)
- CFUW Renfrew and District (+38%)
- CFUW Saanich Peninsula (+17%)
- CFUW St. John's (+10%)
- CFUW Stratford (+13%)
- CFUW Strathcona County (+13%)
- CFUW Sunshine Coast (+16%)
- UWC Montreal Inc. (+11%)



# CELEBRATING OUR LARGEST CLUBS

## CFUW OTTAWA

**465 MEMBERS**

**7%** of total CFUW  
membership

## UWC VANCOUVER

**335 MEMBERS**

**5%** of total CFUW  
membership

## CFUW OAKVILLE

**214 MEMBERS**

**3%** of total CFUW  
membership

# CFUW NATIONAL ALUMNAE

## CFUW NATIONAL ALUMNAE

The CFUW National Alumnae consists of members from coast to coast. Membership in the Alumnae includes past CFUW National leaders, from the Board of Directors, Regional Directors and Committee Chairs. The members act as ambassadors promoting CFUW and volunteering where opportunities present. The Alumnae members are connected through newsletters sent to them by the Chair. An annual meeting takes place at the CFUW AGM if in person, or virtually. The Alumnae members (74 currently) share their wealth of history, fountain of knowledge, and experiences to support clubs, RDs, councils and the board as needed.

For further information and/or to join please contact Chair of the Alumnae, Brenda Robertson at [brenda.r@sympatico.ca](mailto:brenda.r@sympatico.ca).



# COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

↑ **1.4K** TWITTER  
FOLLOWERS  
(7% INCREASE)

↑ **1.7K** FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS  
(6% INCREASE)

↑ **515** LINKEDIN  
FOLLOWERS  
(53% INCREASE)

↑ **432** INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS  
(18% INCREASE)

↑ **509** CFUW CLUBS &  
COMMITTEES ZOOM  
MEETINGS SCHEDULED

**59**

**CLUB ACTION  
NEWSLETTERS  
PUBLISHED**

**2.3K**

**SUBSCRIBERS  
(4% INCREASE)**



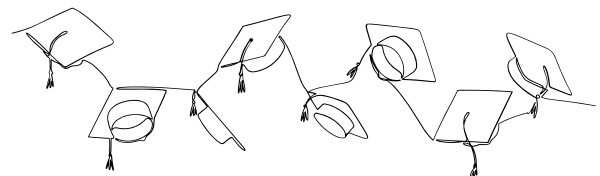
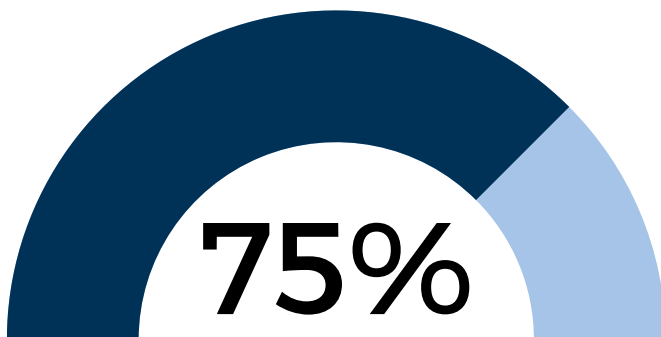
# SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS



**\$1,298,126**

IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS,  
FELLOWSHIPS  
AND AWARDS

**OVER 1.2 MILLION DONATED ACROSS THE COUNTRY  
TO SUPPORT EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES, AND  
INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS**



**OVER 75% OF MONEY RAISED  
GOES TOWARDS FURTHERING  
EDUCATION IN CFUW  
COMMUNITIES**

# ADVOCACY

## TOOLKITS & RESOURCES

- [Fall Advocacy Package](#)
- [16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Toolkit](#)
- Statements on [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#) and [International Women's Day](#)
- [Elder Action Day social media toolkit](#)
- “SDG of the Month” campaign, with a different SDG highlighted monthly on social media and in the Club Action newsletter to raise awareness ([Jan](#), [Feb](#), [Mar](#), [Apr](#), [May](#), [Jun](#))
- [Resource Hub](#) created with Advocacy Handbook documents and a library of past CFUW letters, statements, and research organized by issue area

## COMMUNICATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT

### Letters sent from CFUW National to the Prime Minister and other relevant Ministers, on:

- The [war and humanitarian crisis in Israel and Gaza](#), urging the government to use its influence to secure the safe return of hostages, an immediate ceasefire, and the active involvement of women stakeholders in all aspects of conflict resolution
- [Bill S-210](#), An Act to restrict young persons' online access to sexually explicit material
- [COP28](#) and the importance of taking ambitious climate action and a gender-sensitive approach to negotiations. We received a [signed reply](#) from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- The government's [national pharmacare plan](#)
- The [CSW68 Agreed Conclusions](#) and actions needed in response to them

### Template letters created for Clubs to send, on:

- [Immigration detention](#) (2023 Resolution)
- [A maternal death prevention strategy](#) (2023 Resolution)
- [Advancing sustainable development and gender equality through international trade](#) (2023 Resolution)
- Declaring [gender-based violence an epidemic](#) in local jurisdictions
- [Bill C-219](#), An Act to enact the Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights and to make related amendments to other Acts, published alongside a [Call to Action](#)
- The government's [national pharmacare plan](#)



# ADVOCACY

## CONSULTATIONS

- Written brief on Bill C-35, An Act respecting early learning and child care in Canada, for the Standing Senate Committee studying the Bill
- Written submission for pre-budget consultations in advance of the 2024 Federal Budget, and a statement in response to the 2024 Budget
- Participation in Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada's Rapid Response Group for the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). CFUW submitted four rounds of feedback and recommendations during the negotiation of the CSW68 Agreed Conclusions



## WORKING AND CONNECTING WITH ALLIES

### The National Advocacy and Policy Specialist attended:

- Women, Peace, and Security Network of Canada meetings, including meetings with Canada's WPS Ambassador
- Beijing+25 Network meetings
- Pre-CSW civil society meetings
- Virtual gathering of organizations and academics working on climate and gender justice
- NAWL (National Association of Women and the Law)'s Feminist Law Reform Workshop in Ottawa
- Feminist organization retreat in Gatineau
- CanWaCH Healthy World Conference in Montreal



## SUB-COMMITTEE AND STUDY GROUP WORK

- **Policy Book Sub-Committee:** Put forward four resolutions to improve the content of the Adopted Resolutions Book; updated the Advocacy Action Document; conducted research at the National Archives
- **Environment Sub-Committee:** Hosted a workshop on "Environmental Action for Everyday Life"; produced an Earth Day newsletter; initiated an international alliance with India's GWI NFA on plastic pollution; monitored COP28 and Global Plastics Treaty negotiations
- **Status of Women & Human Rights Sub-Committee:** Produced material for the December 1 newsletter on the 16 Days of Activism; initiated letter-writing campaign on declaring gender-based violence an epidemic
- **Long-Term Care Study Group:** Hosted an Elder Action Day webinar; Monitored progress on Aging with Dignity bilateral agreements; engaged with the National Seniors Council and the Minister of Seniors' office regarding long-term care standards; put forward two resolutions
- **Saving Canada's Public Health Care System Study Group:** Researched and produced info briefs on health standards of care and the difference between fee-for-service and privatization in health care



# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



**WOMEN RISING FROM POVERTY: STRATEGIES, TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS, EMPOWERING INITIATIVES**  
— A UNCSW68 NGO CSW/NY PARALLEL EVENT —



**MESERET HAILEYESUS**  
Executive Director, Canadian Center for Women's Empowerment  
— PRESENTING ON —  
"Economic justice: Navigating pathways to women's economic safety through inclusive policy"



**YVONNE JONES, MP**  
Minister of Parliament for Labrador (NL)  
— PRESENTING ON —  
"Women rising from poverty from a 'northern perspective'"



**HEIDI VETMAN**  
President, Canadian Teachers' Federation  
— PRESENTING ON —  
"Using development cooperation work to improve access, retention, and educational opportunities"

MARCH 12, 2024 • 10:30AM - 12:00PM ET • CCUN 10TH FLOOR



## UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 68

The IR Committee's preparations for CSW68 began in early fall, with the submission of CFUW's written statement on this year's theme: "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective." 17 delegates travelled to New York for CSW, where CFUW hosted a successful in-person parallel event "Women Rising From Poverty: Strategies, Transformative Educational Projects, Empowering Initiatives." Read the CSW68 Delegates' Report.

**CHALLENGE TO EMPOWERMENT: EXPERIENCES AND REPLICABLE STRATEGIES OF REFUGEE WOMEN**

Find out how the successful initiatives in their supportive communities propelled refugee women from poverty to employment and towards gender equity. Hear about strategies employed by supporters to help refugee women achieve success.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024  
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM ET

**VIRTUAL ON ZOOM**

PRESENTED BY CAMEUS, AN ALLIANCE OF CFUW-FCFUDU (CANADA), FEMU (MEXICO), & WG-USA



**Mary Miller**  
A successful advocate and volunteer with newcomers to Canada, she lives in Belleville, Canada.



**Raihanah Zaefi**  
An Afghan refugee from Afghanistan to Canada.



**Bibi Ndala**  
A research scientist at NYU, she migrated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the USA.



**Maria Corina Muskus Toro**  
A lawyer and university doctoral candidate, she migrated from Venezuela to the USA.



**Alma Anaya**  
A Commissioner at Cook County, Chicago, she migrated from Mexico to the USA.

## CAMEUS

CAMEUS is a North American regional affiliation of GWI members: CFUW, WG-USA and FEMU of Mexico. During CSW68, CAMEUS hosted a virtual parallel event, "Challenge to Empowerment: Experiences and Replicable Strategies of Refugee Women."



## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT (ISP) 2023/24

CFUW's 2022-2023 partner was the "She Belongs in School" project in partnership with *60 million girls*. Clubs and members of CFUW raised a total of **\$7,685.56** to fund a Mobile Learning Lab (MLL) to enable girls living in very remote rural areas to attend senior secondary school for the first time. Read the thank you letter from Wanda Bedard, the president of 60 Million Girls [HERE](#)



# WEBINARS & EVENTS

- May 30, 2024: Resolutions Proposers & Amenders Workshop
- May 1, 2024: “Supporting Older People to Age in Their Communities: Showcasing Saskatoon” webinar for Elder Action Day, by the Long-Term Care Study Group
- Mar 29, 2024: CAMEUS CSW68 virtual Parallel Event, “Challenge to Empowerment: Experiences and Replicable Strategies of Refugee Women”
- Mar 12, 2024: CSW68 Parallel Event, “Women Rising From Poverty: Strategies, Transformative Educational Projects, Empowering Initiatives”
- Mar 4, 2024: Resolutions Amendments Workshop
- Feb 28-Mar 7, 2024: “City Dreamers” Virtual film screening for International Women’s Day
- Feb 29, 2024: Leap Day Advocacy Gathering
- Feb 6, 2024: Think Tank on Housing
- Jan 18, 2024: “Women in Skilled Trades: Policies, Overcoming Obstacles” webinar
- Oct 26, 2023: “Environmental Action for Everyday Life” workshop by CFUW’s Environment and Climate Change Sub-Committee
- Oct 16, 2023: “Islam: Its Roots & Wings” workshop by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women
- Oct 12, 2023: Advocacy Toolbox Workshop
- Oct 4, 2023: “ MMWIG2S: Turn Knowledge into Action” with Judge Marion Buller, by the CFUW Indigenous Issues Sub-Committee
- Sept 28, 2023: Resolutions Workshop



# CFUW CLUBS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

So many clubs and so many actions! Here is a snapshot of what CFUW Clubs are up to across the country!



## CFUW SAINT JOHN

CFUW Saint John celebrated their 100th anniversary this year! - Congratulations!



## CFUW HALIFAX

CFUW Halifax raised \$700 for Coldest Night of the Year in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness.



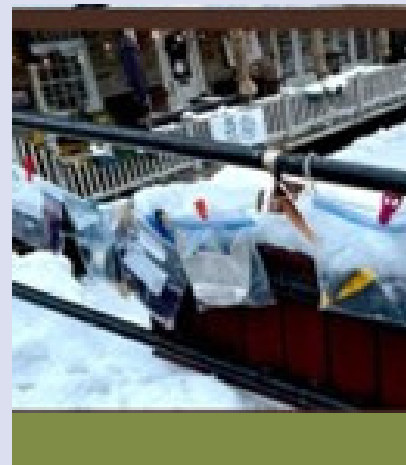
## CFUW SUNSHINE COAST

Helping Women in Transition with local Transition Program, Thyme Second Stage



## CFUW ORILLIA

CFUW Orillia organized a December 6th vigil, lighting sixteen candles - fourteen for the Ecole Polytechnic victims, one for all Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, and one for all other victims of Gender Based Violence.



## CFUW PERTH

"Smitten with Mittens provides mitts, hats, scarves and socks to community members in need. Members replenish as needed, and the campaign starts early December, running to the end of February.



## MLUWC

MLUWC held the 7th annual gift card collection for CARE Jeunesse and raised \$2235 in gift cards.



# CFUW CLUBS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES



## CFUW CALGARY

CFUW Calgary celebrated their 100th anniversary with a vintage fashion show and tea complete with Barbershop Quartet, traditional tea and scones, and a celebratory anniversary cake.



## CFUW YORKTON

CFUW Yorkton and CFUW Saskatchewan Council member Bilkies McKen was appointed Representative to the University of Regina as a member of the University of Regina Senate.



## CFUW FREDERICTON & MONCTON

These two CFUW Clubs have partnered with [NB Coalition for Pay Equity](#) a group that is advocating for the right to pay equity for women.



## CFUW MONTRÉAL SOUTH SHORE

CFUW Montréal South Shore awarded \$7000 to women continuing their education.



## UWC WINNIPEG

For IWD, UWC Winnipeg hosted a lunch program featuring Christina Maclsaac, [Director of Innovation, Fund for Innovation and Transformation, Manitoba Council for International Cooperation.](#)

# THANK YOU

Thank you CFUW members, Board of Directors, and all dedicated allies as we continue to work together, locally and nationally, to cultivate a welcoming environment for lifelong learning, fellowship, and fighting for a more just world.

Want to keep up to date with CFUW news? Be sure to read the club action newsletter! If you haven't subscribed already, sign up for regular updates.



## FOLLOW CFUW ON SOCIAL MEDIA



## CONTACT

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