

## REVIEW OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA'S WORK 2018-2022

### 2018

Sandra Cohen-Rose served as President for her second year in 2018-19. Newsletters have increased from two to four yearly with an increased circulation including to many government officials. Our Facebook likes have increased from 700 to slightly over 1000.

At the UNCSW63 meetings the importance of Life Skills Education for boys and girls from an early age as the first step to gender equality, leading to less sexual assault, violence, and the opportunity for women to assume their rightful place in the workplace was expounded upon. This was in line with the NCWC Common Program *Eliminating Poverty Through Life Skills Education and Women's Empowerment*.

The 2018 AGM was held in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario in June where resolutions were voted on and sent to the Government in the fall.

Letters included:

- to Senator Jim Munson on Correctional Systems Study
- request to Mr. De Leon to support the prohibition of asbestos and asbestos products regulations
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- to the Minister of Public Safety on the 2018 Summit on Guns and Gangs
- to the Minister of Public Safety on the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking
- to the Prime Minister on a Basic Income Guarantee
- to the Prime Minister on bringing ISIS Perpetrators in Canada to justice
- to the Minister of Public Safety on Bill C-83 – Changes to Administrative and Disciplinary Segregation (Solitary Confinement)
- to the government on Reducing Violent Crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault Weapons
- to the government on Gun violence Consultations
- to the Minister of Heritage and Multiculturalism on the use of P4W – the former prison for women in Kingston
- to the government on Access to Mifegymiso

### 2019

NCWC UN Convenor Daniel Chivu, the President, and delegation attended UN CSW63 in New York. Sheila Pepper, VP Social Development, was appointed ICW Advisor - Child and Family. Our Common Program for the next two years would be "Listening to, Learning From, and Acting On the Recommendations and Themes of the Report of the Commission on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls" with our federates encouraged to hold related programs.

With a federal election coming in Canada in October, the Board compiled a questionnaire for all political party leaders with three parties replying. After the election, the Board sent mandate letters to cabinet ministers urging them to include work based on our policies.

The 2019 AGM was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Patricia Leson was elected as the new president.

Letters included the following:

- advocating for improved access to abortion services and the availability of Misegymiso
- decommissioning of a nuclear reactor in Saskatoon
- follow-up on petitions aimed at limiting or ending women's reproductive rights that have been presented in the House of Commons
- exploring a partnership with the Canadian Council of Young Feminists
- to the Minister of Public Safety on gun violence and violence against women
- to Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission requesting comment on the Radiation Protection Regulation
- to Canadian Government supporting access to abortion services
- to Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission applying to amend the license for the burial of the Slowpoke-2 reactor on University of Saskatchewan campus
- to the Canadian Government asking that the Tech Frontier open pit mine in Alberta not go ahead

- to Canadian Government for “Basic Income Guarantee”
- to all Senators re a National Maternity Assistance Program
- to Senators supporting Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns on Bill Respecting Public Health Voting Bill-C71
- to Minister of Border Security/Crime Reduction on Engagement Summary report – Reducing Violent Crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault-style Firearms
- to Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, on Unjust Employment Insurance Regulation
- to Minister Public Safety re Administrative Segregation (Solitary Confinement)
- to the Prime Minister re Nuclear Disarmament Treaties
- to the Prime Minister and Ministers, letter re UN Human Rights on Indian Act English
- to Minister Public Safety advocating changes to solitary confinement
- from Hon Jean-Yves Duclos re Ontario’s decision to end their Basic Income Pilot

## 2020

As well as the Board, other members of NCWC contributed to advancing our work. Daniela Chivu led the delegation to CSW64 and along with Trish Masniuk were ambassadors for NCWC within the caucus for Europe and North America. NCWC took part in a gathering of 40 national feminist organizations to build on the major wins since 2015 for the women’s rights movement in Canada. We also took part in a meeting hosted by the Canadian Labour Congress for NGOs sending delegates to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women meeting in March.

The pandemic has brought into focus the economic inequity under which many of our citizens exist. NCWC has long advocated for a basic income guarantee to ensure everyone has an income sufficient to meet their basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of their work status. There have been many requests from students and teachers for assistance with their assignments on the specific impacts faced by women during the pandemic.

NCWC signed onto the Hill Times full-page advertisement addressed to the Federal Government regarding our concerns about the handling of Canada’s radioactive waste by a private-sector consortium. We also signed onto another Hill Times full-page ad asking the federal Environment Minister to ensure that there is broad public involvement in the development of a long-term nuclear waste management plan.

A Water and Energy Use Survey was forwarded to the membership. It was used in advising all levels of government on the actions needed to protect Canadian freshwater resources and the environment to help meet Canada’s carbon reduction goal.

A Pre-Budget Consultation Brief was prepared to present to the Federal Government Standing Committee on Finance re their mandate on measures the federal government could take to restart the Canadian economy as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In line with our Common Program theme at NCWC’s virtual October AGM, the NCWC Education Fund speaker was Qajaq Robinson who spoke on the Report of the Commission on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls.

We joined with the Canadian Federation of University Women to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and developed a video and article.

Because of COVID-19 we held a virtual AGM in October with resolutions voted on and then sent the government.

Letters included the following:

- on the impact of precarious employment
- to the RCMP Commissioner on the toxic culture in the RCMP
- to the National Police Federation on semi-automatic assault rifles
- to the Minister of Finance on a National Child Care Program
- on our concerns about our Government’s support of private sector proposals for small modular nuclear reactors
- on “Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act”

- on ending gender-based violence
- on Food Security/Insecurity
- on conditions imposed by solitary confinement
- on gun-control measures identified in Bill-C71, “An Act to Amend Firearms Regulations”
- on accessible, affordable child care
- to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on the scope of environmental assessment of Global First Power's proposed Micro-Modular reactor at Chalk River
- on gun control measures
- on National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- on “Canada Needs a Radioactive Waste Policy and Canadians Must Be Consulted”
- on “Why Canada Needs a Basic Income Guarantee”
- on our concern that the RCMP was not going to comply with Clare's Law which supports access to and sharing of information on a partner's history of domestic violence
- to improve child-care for Canadian families.

## 2021

President, Patricia Leson submitted a report to ICW on Canada's Response to COVID-19. It included the implications Canadian society faced in dealing with restrictions to help contain the virus, government responses in the areas of economics, seniors and justice, and a report on the impact of the pandemic on the environment.

At the UN CSW65, NCWC helped host an event focused on violence against women. We made a submission to the Government Ethics Committee on the need for the Canadian government to adopt comprehensive laws to protect children and youth from exposure to pornography online. A pre-budget brief was prepared addressing the disproportionate impact on women. In addition, we hired a commercial company to redo our website which will be done in 2022. It was decided to continue the same Common Program for a further two years.

Letters included:

- to Hon. Bob Rae, Canadian Ambassador to UN on the impact of COVID-19 on the work of UN women and CSW
- to Hon. Min. Bill Blair on Bill C-21 - amendments to existing laws on firearms
- to the editor of the Globe and Mail on the power gap
- to the Government of Canada on Correctional Services Canada Risk Assessment Tools for Women
- report to ICW on Canada's response to COVID-19
- to Hon. Louise Arbour – congratulations on her appointment to lead the Military Sexual Misconduct Report
- to the Government stating that NCWC is in solidarity to honour the memory of 215 children's remains at the Kamloops Indian Residential School
- to Grand Chief RoseAnne Archibald congratulating her on her election as the first female National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations
- to Most Honorable Mary Simon congratulating her on her appointment as the 30<sup>th</sup> Governor General of Canada
- to the Government on the emergency shutdown of Bruce nuclear reactors and the need to examine Pickering nuclear reactors
- to ICW - report on The Climate Crisis is a Child's Rights Crisis
- to the government commending them on pausing Health Canada's plans to raise the Maximum Residue Levels for some Canadian food crops
- report to ICW on Canada's Efforts on Clean Air
- to Globe and Mail about Canada's involvement in War Torn Ethiopia with gold mines
- to Hon. Louise Arbour asking about progress on the report into misconduct in the military
- to the government about ministerial mandate letters
- to the government stating that Canadian mining companies be required to follow the same social and environmental standards in international operations as those expected in Canada
- to the government on its Climate Change plans
- to the Minister of Health with concerns that many genetically engineered seeds, foods and crops may not be part of the regulatory system

- to the Minister of Public Safety urging the government to reintroduce Bill C-21, An Act to Combat Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence
- to the government about Protecting Children from Harms Encountered in the Digital World

## **2022**

The NCWC endorsed a plan by the website company for the revision of our website.

In February we hosted a virtual meeting along with the NCWCEF where we had Senator David M. Arnot speak to us on Reconciliation, Respect and Rights.

Our President reached out to the President of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada to support the Ukrainian members

Our VP Economics, Karen Dempsey, attended a Stakeholders' Virtual Technical Briefing for Budget 2022.

Penny Rankin, Convenor for Children and Youth, wrote a report for ICW to underscore the importance for a concerted effort to ensure that children and youth are protected from harms on the internet. She also wrote a submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Daniela Chivu helped members of CSW66 fully integrate Indigenous women and girls into Operational Paragraphs.

We are planning on having an in-person AGM this year at the end of May.

Letters included:

- to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs in support of Bill S-210, An Act to restrict young persons' online access to sexually explicit material
- to the government urging them to uphold, endorse and strengthen the enforcement of the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act.
- to the government with concerns with the enactment of parts of the Canadian Criminal Code involving criminal harassment of victims (stalking)
- to the government about Canada Needs a Basic Income Guarantee

## **In Memoriam**

Mary Joyce – 2018 – all executive positions with Toronto and Area Council and Secretary of Provincial Council of Ontario

Kateryna Ceniuch – 2018 – Toronto & Area Council

Rev. Lily Francis – 2018 – Toronto & Area Council

Betty Noble – 2018 - Toronto & Area Council and Board Member of Ontario Council

Marie Dukowski – 2019- Vancouver Council

Helen Armstrong – 2019 – Vancouver Council

Audrey Lay – 2019 – numerous roles on Winnipeg Council

Lenore Saunders – 2019 - President of Winnipeg and Manitoba Councils

Diane Hoskins – 2020 - member of Ottawa Council

Luba Podolsky – 2020 - Convenor of Seniors Issues, Provincial Council of Ontario

Ruth Robinson- 2021 - member of Saskatoon Council, Provincial Council of Saskatchewan and NCWCEF

Treasurer

Druse Bryan – 2021 -Representative to NCWC from the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church

Joyce Ireland – 2021 – NCWC Convenor Child and Family Issues, NCWC Representative on Campaign 2000

Mary Anne McWaters – 2021 – Vancouver Council