

## **News from National**

**November 2021**

### **President's Report**

**- Patricia Leson**

It is with great pleasure that I present the latest edition of 'News from National' that includes midterm reports from your Vice Presidents and Convenors along with pertinent information from our Federates and charitable organizations. You will note each of them, through their work, has demonstrated a renewed commitment to the NCWC vision of improving the conditions of life for women, families, and communities. Thank you, Karen Dempsey and Carol Hiscock, for lending your editing skills!

Your Board continues to meet on a regular basis to conduct the business at hand, review policies relevant to our advocacy, and plan actions moving forward while continuing to provide due diligence and oversight in all our affairs. This became particularly important this year as we were deemed legally liable for the posting of a copyright picture on our website, which resulted in us paying a hefty penalty of just under \$1000. We are most grateful to Randi Arnot and her legal firm for piloting us through this unfortunate situation in a most professional manner. Please check your own Facebook pages and websites to ensure all your photos are copyright free. None of us wish to go through something like this again!

I sincerely appreciate and value that so many of you have shared your comments and concerns regarding our current website along with your suggestions for improvements. Please be assured your Board is committed to either updating the current site or perhaps going for a total rebuild that would modernize it and make our policies more readily available. It will be a costly endeavour, but we know the importance of having a website that is user friendly for our members and the public, whether it is being accessed via laptops, iPads, or mobile phones. Our website is now in the care of YasTech, a professional company with locations in Saskatoon, Regina, Edmonton, and Calgary. In October, they noticed an unusual set of circumstances where our site was being used to send improper messages via WordPress. This was promptly shut down; they continue to monitor it for safety and security.

One of your Board's major decisions these past months was whether we should plan to have an in-person AGM. The fourth wave of COVID has hit some parts of Canada with more severity than others, and Public Health projections include the probability of a fifth wave. However, we are an optimistic group, and we have just finalized the plans for the NCWC 129<sup>th</sup> AGM at the Novotel Ottawa for the last weekend of May. This venue was originally chosen for our 2020 gathering, and the hotel has been most gracious in allowing us the latitude to delay for the past two years without invoking the standard cancellation clause.

We've learned a lot these last two years living with COVID. We learned that even the best laid plans may need to be revised, rewritten, or even written right off. We learned there were many things badly broken or missing in our social systems, and we have increased our advocacy to

ensure they were identified and rectified. We learned of the deaths of many people, and we shared the sorrow of their family and friends. But we also learned that we can, and must, continue to work together through these tough times. We learned to remain strong, resilient, and determined because we know there will be brighter tomorrows.

As the year draws to a close, I wish to thank each of you for the many kindnesses, patience, and support you have shown to me personally and to your Board. Please check out the last page for “Parting Thoughts”, a poignant reflection on the past year. I wish you a holiday season filled with hope, joy, peace and the love of family and friends.

**NEWS FROM NATIONAL NEWS FROM NATIONAL NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

**Our Council members Honoured Canada’s Inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation!  
You will find more pictures throughout the newsletter!**



**President Patricia Leson**



**1<sup>st</sup> VP Mary Potter**



**Barbara Hall**



**Mary Scott**



**Bev Wong**



**Randi Gage**



**Karen Dempsey**

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THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA  
LE CONSEIL NATIONAL DES FEMMES DU CANADA

## **NCWC AGM 2022!**

It is with pleasure the NCWC Board announces we will be hosting our 129<sup>th</sup> AGM at the Novotel, 33 Nicholas Street, Ottawa, from Friday, May 27 to Sunday, May 29, 2022. It was our first choice due to its central location and proximity to numerous amenities:

*“Novotel Ottawa is a trendy full-service 4-star hotel set in the heart of downtown Ottawa. Located just steps to the Byward Market and the Rideau Canal, a short walk to the Parliament and across the street from the Rideau Shopping Centre- the leading shopping destination in the city which holds one of the few Nordstrom stores in Canada. The Novotel Ottawa is perfectly situated across from the Shaw Centre (Ottawa Convention Centre) and a short walk to the University of Ottawa.”*

### **Hotel Booking Information**

The block of rooms is now open and ready for booking! Attendees can contact the Novotel directly at 1-855-677-3033 and either ask for the National Council of Women of Canada or quote booking code #1003203.

The cost for a superior room with two double beds is \$200, and an Executive room with one King bed is priced at \$220. Ontario also charges HST in the amount of 13%.

### **Registration**

Delegate registration will open in early April, and the fees are set at \$450 for the entire session. This fee includes:

- All sessions,
- A continental breakfast each day,
- Lunch each day (Yes, this is a change from past years!),
- Morning and afternoon refreshment breaks, and
- The banquet on Saturday evening.

If you can attend only a portion of the AGM, the daily rate is \$175, which will include your continental breakfast and lunch.

### **Banquet**

It would be a pleasure to welcome your guests to the banquet, as well. The cost of additional tickets is \$75.

### **Questions/Comments?**

It will be wonderful to meet in person; Zoom has certainly allowed us to keep connected, but nothing beats the ‘real’ thing! If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at [presncwc@gmail.com](mailto:presncwc@gmail.com). I am looking forward to seeing all of you again!

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## **Environment**

### **- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Mary Potter**

Climate Change is very much in the news as I write this report with COP26 just wrapping up in Glasgow, Scotland. Phasing out coal power and ending subsidies for fossil fuels are running into roadblocks let alone eliminating coal and phasing out fossil fuels.

We received a letter from Elizabeth Newman of the ICW about a report from UNICEF called “The Climate Crisis is a Child’s Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children’s Climate Risk” which found that nearly every child on earth is exposed to at least one climate and environmental hazard, such as flooding, heat waves, water scarcity, drought, cyclones, and air pollution. Nearly half the world’s children live in one of 33 countries classified as “extremely high-risk”. These children face a deadly combination of exposure to multiple climate and environmental hazards.

The risks of Canadian children are mild compared to many other areas of the world but there is increasing probability of floods, heat waves, drought, forest fires and air pollution because of climate change. The federal government has several climate change funding programs but has so far fallen short on its commitments to reduce carbon in the atmosphere. There are also several organizations that have produced educational programs for children on climate change but not many schools are using them.

The United Nations marked the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies in September. As many as nine out of ten people in the world breathe polluted air leading to 7 million premature deaths each year. In Canada air pollution is linked to an estimated 15,300 premature deaths each year. The sources of air pollution include forest fires, the use of fossil fuels in transportation and power generation, and the production of oil and gas.

Even though governments need to take the lead in addressing climate change there are some things that the average person can do to help control it: electric cars are becoming more common and hopefully they will be less expensive in the near future; we can eat less meat, particularly beef so that less methane is put into the atmosphere; we can limit the amount we drive our gas-powered cars by walking when we are able or combining several errands into one trip; we can make our homes more energy-efficient.

We must hold the provincial and federal governments’ feet to the fire to make sure that we don’t have a climate catastrophe in our near future.

## **Environment**

### **- Convenor Gracia Janes**

The key and foreboding focus of NCWC’s Environment Committee work this year is, of course, global warming and its current and future drastic world-wide impacts, which permeate the news, personal conversations, internet messages, and learned opinion articles. Most dramatically, this environmental crisis has stirred our youth to take the lead with urgent calls for immediate action at school rallies, public demonstrations, and attendance at UN COP meetings, where just recently they reflected their great disappointment with the world leaders for weakening the final COP 26 agreement - once again!

The lack of immediate and strong government action to date, and probability of weakness going forward, will be reflected in our NCWC's actions on environmental concerns for many years to come as we intensify our efforts to pressure governments at all levels to make stark and dramatic protective changes to environmental policies, legislation, and programs. And it will be more important than ever to act cooperatively with other environmental and social justice groups to urge federal and provincial governments to improve their dismal track record.

A key area of concern for the NCWC is the Federal government's support, financing, and promotion of small modular nuclear reactors as some kind of clean, green, miracle climate change solution, when these are not going to be operational for several years, are costly, and whose operations are extremely dangerous with wastes that will last many thousands of years.

The NCWC's most recent actions on nuclear issues have been:

- A sign-on, along with 70 other national groups, to Canadian Environmental Law's Letter to the Federal Treasury Board, which called for a moratorium on new nuclear reactors to be in the newly elected Cabinet members mandate letters.
- A sign-on to the Saskatchewan Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Co-operative letter to the Premiers of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Ontario, asking them not to work with nuclear power companies to bring modular nuclear reactors to these provinces.
- Attendance at Nuclear Waste Watch /Natural Resources Canada series of preparatory and Ministerial meetings regarding Canada's radioactive waste policy review.
- Participation in New Brunswick's environment group forum on planned building of modular nuclear reactor on the shores of the Bay of Fundy.
- Attendance at Government Budget Release, where there was no mention of the current funding of small modular nuclear reactors.

Going forward, the climate change crisis also highlights the urgent need for governments and relevant agencies to use the precautionary principle to protect water resources such as the Great Lakes, farmlands, and natural areas. And, of very recent concern, is the crucial need to protect Canada's carbon-storing northern forests and peat bogs from massive industrial operations.

This is a big challenge, and I look forward to working with an enlarged Environment Committee which includes our long-standing group members Elizabeth Fleming (Manitoba), Maria Neal (Ottawa), Jeanette Logan (Ontario), Sue Corcoran (Ontario), Florence Irwin (BC), along with NCWC President Patricia Leson, NCWC 1<sup>st</sup> VP Environment Mary Potter, and Local and Provincial Councils of Women Presidents and/or committee representatives from Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.

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## **Basic Income Guarantee Update**

**- VP Karen Monnon Dempsey**

In late October, Los Angeles City Council approved the largest basic income guarantee pilot program in the USA. This \$40 million investment will benefit 3,000 Angelenos. It will give

\$1,000/monthly for 12 months, with no strings, to families who are living in poverty. LA Councilman Price stated, "It's my hope that following the conclusion of this pilot program that it'll be replicated at the state and federal level."

Also in late October, Chicago City Council approved a BIG pilot program which will give \$500/month for one year to 5,000 low-income families. Those who will randomly be chosen to take part must earn less than \$35,000/year. Council has allotted \$32 million from their 2022 budget.

If you see a trend here, it is real. Many other Democratic mayors, approximately 50 so far, have joined a coalition called Mayors for a Guaranteed Income. They have all pledged to implement a BIG pilot in their cities.

- Saint Paul is giving 150 low-income families \$500 for 18 months.
- Oakland will be giving \$500/month to 600 low-income families for 18 months.
- 800 residents in Compton, California, are receiving \$300-600/month over two years.
- 18 families in Richmond, Virginia, will be receiving \$500/month.
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The Alaska Permanent Fund has been distributing cash to residents since 1982. The fund is a sovereign wealth fund, which pays dividends to every resident who has lived there for at least one year, with a few exceptions. This is essentially a BIG which has been ongoing for almost 40 years. A University of Alaska 2016 study found that poverty was reduced by 20 per cent.

In early November, forty-six Senators, led by Senator Kim Pate - a long-time proponent for a basic income - wrote an open letter to the Federal Government, asking them to work with Prince Edward Island to implement a basic income guarantee.

The Senators' letter to the Federal Government states:

*"PEI is the perfect place to launch GLBI. Collaboration between the federal and PEI governments would allow PEI to demonstrate how GLBI could both address poverty and promote the resilience of local economies. GLBI would deliver significant benefits to Islanders at a relatively low cost to the federal government. Moreover, it would enhance*

*PEI's serious commitment to such anti-poverty measures as the province's poverty elimination strategy as well as programs like the Secure Income Program Pilot and proposed Targeted Basic Income Guarantee."*

*"COVID-19 has emphasized the importance of robust income support. Many benefitted from vital federal support, yet many were still left to struggle during the pandemic. One in four Islanders was forced to rely on foodbanks to put food on their tables."*

The undeniable benefits of such programs were evidenced by the unfortunately cancelled Ontario pilot program and the 1970s Mincome project which was jointly funded by the Manitoba government and the federal government under PM Pierre Trudeau. Wouldn't it be great if another PM Trudeau picked up the torch?

## Justice

- **VP Daniela Chivu**  
**Europe/North America Regional Caucus CSW (EU/NA), UN-CSW, EU/NA Regional Caucus, Global Affairs, Women Peace and Security, Immigration and Citizenship**

All laws and wrongdoings are corrected by justice; this is what the newly adopted Bill-C15 is. The NCWC has fully supported the passing of Bill-C15 adopted by the House of Commons. The Bill aligns Canada's laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, to be fully recognized and implemented in accordance with the General Assembly res 61/295, urging the Senate to ensure the passing of Bill-C15 without any further delays, in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation and has received Royal assent on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

As a core group member of the EU/NA caucus NCWC worked with the membership on the planning of the upcoming CSW66 session, co-chairing the working on the CSW Methods of Work with the UK Alliance of Women Organizations. This year the working methods of the Commission will be reviewed and-renegotiated. Based on CSW65 results, the NCWC remained focused on the constant shrinking space of Civil Society. Therefore, we have called for new sustainable and equitable working methods to be considered-open virtual space for a more cost effective, inclusive, and transparent CSW as it will increase participation during the session and ensure our space in the formal and informal negotiations process. This initiative has received the support of the caucus, therefore the official CSW66 statement in behalf the caucus has been issued by NCWC and presented to Un women. A proposal to this effect has been sent to our permanent representative to the UN, the Honourable Bob Rae, along with the official statement and proposal that a CSW Canadian Task Force be established to ensure space for civil society voices within the government official delegation.

On Sept. 29, 2021, for the first time, the NCWC was officially invited by UN Women to be consulted on the Commission's consideration of its working methods. Building on past practice, the informal virtual workshop will assess lessons learned and identify areas for further enhancement.

Since the withdrawal of the American military in Afghanistan and the self-imposed Taliban regime, the NCWC has worked with the Ministries of Global Affairs, Canada, Immigration, Citizenship and Refuges and colleagues from other NGOs abroad and in Canada, to help Afghan women, rights advocates, and children, either to return to Canada to be reunited with their family or hoping to make Canada their home. Although, Canada is the only country in the world to have committed to resettle 40,000 Afghan nationals, women's rights activists, girls, and ethnic minorities are still waiting to find ways to stay alive in Afghanistan while hoping to get out. NCWC has prepared a plan for action which is still in the works, in cooperation with Montreal Institute for Human Rights and Genocide studies, to be presented as a possible solution to help women and girls, children and vulnerable Afghan populations. In this light, the NCWC was invited to partake by the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) to attend the virtual Working Group "A Reflection on Afghanistan: How to Try to Prevent Violent Extremism and Human Rights Violations in the Region".

## UN CSW66: DELEGATE SELECTION

The sixty-sixth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women will take place from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2022.

### Themes

**Priority theme:** Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies, and programmes.

**Review theme:** Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (<https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2017/L.5>) agreed conclusions.

Furthermore, this year Working Methods of the Commission will be reviewed as it is every five years. Within this context, the space for civil society participation in the works of the Commission remains a concern, particularly within the context of the ongoing pandemic. While the preparations of the CSW have begun under the understanding that it will be held online, there may also be a possibility to have a hybrid format. NGOs located in New York may be allowed to participate in person. However, it is yet to be determined.

Regardless of the uncertainties presented above, NCWC is taking proactive measures by encouraging all our members to start selecting their delegates for CSW. This will enable all of us to better organize and prepare for the session such as doing preparatory work and answering questions, explaining the processes and the working methods of the Commission, in addition to any other clarifications as they arise. It would be appreciated if we could receive your selected delegates by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

For all inquiries related to CSW66, please contact Daniela Chivu, Email: [europa75@gmail.com](mailto:europa75@gmail.com)

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## JUSTICE

### - Convenor Monica Cullum

#### On-going Issues Being Monitored:

- Sexual Assault Forensic Kits (Rape Kits) available in hospitals and clinics
  - Condom Stealthing as an issue of abuse
  - Clare's Law – giving the person who feels at risk of domestic violence a way to get information about their partner from police
  - Judges' education on sexual violence sentencing
  - Parole violations that have caused death particularly those of sex workers
  - Administrative Segregation (solitary confinement) within the Canadian Corrections system has not yet reached United Nations standards or dealt adequately with this
  - Racism, gender equality, harassment in the RCMP
- Some of these issues may require new or up-dated NCWC policy.



### Gun violence

Bill C-21, an extensive Bill to address both domestic violence and limit possession of firearms died on the order table because of the election call. It, however, became an issue between the Liberals and Conservatives during the campaign. It is anticipated the Liberal government will reintroduce it

Another issue related to domestic violence has been the impact of the pandemic on the increase of reported cases.

### The Opioid Crisis – the other Pandemic

While this is a public health issue of major proportions with British Columbia reporting 1,500 deaths in the first six month of this year and Canada experiencing nearly 23,000 deaths between January 2016 and March 2021, it is also a justice concern related to whether legislation is directed toward decriminalization or legalization. In any case it has become a serious concern in small towns and cities across the country as illicit drugs transcend society and impact everyone concerned.

### Letters drafted/sent to Government on Justice Issues under President Patricia Leson's Signature

- Minister Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly - re Canadian mining companies active in Ethiopia
- Letter to the Editor – Globe and Mail on above issue
- Minister Public Safety Bill Blair – re assault weapons
- Minister Public Safety Bill Blair - re administrative segregation (solitary confinement) in CSC
- Minister Public Safety Bill Blair – re CSC assessment tools – a gender issue
- National Police Federation (RCMP Union) re failure to support automatic weapon legislation

### Other Legislation related to Justice that died on the Order Table due to the Election

- Bill C-22 - an Act to amend the Criminal Code and Controlled Drugs and Substances
- Bill C-36 - an Act to amend the Criminal Code and related amendments to another Act (hate propaganda, hate crimes, and hate speech)
- Bill C-6 - an Act to prohibit certain activities related to conversion therapy to change a person's identity

As Justice Convenor I will continue to monitor issues on which NCWC has policy and follow issues that may require new or up-dated Policy. Advocacy plays a significant role within NCWC and must be maintained.

## **VP Social Development/Seniors**

### **- VP Sheila Pepper**

The United Nations' 31st International Day of Elder Persons was October 1 and November 22nd was National Housing Day! We may celebrate the advances to date, but there is much more to do to meet the needs of low-income seniors in Canada. There are many advocacy groups in Canada focusing on seniors' needs. Some are 'National Dialogues on Aging,' Action for Reform of Residential Care (ARRC), and Specialized/ Integrated Gerontological Services.

Since the recent Federal Election, new Ministers relevant to this portfolio are:

- Ahmed Hussen: Minister for Housing (and Diversity and Inclusion), supported by Canadian Heritage, Women and Gender Equality Canada, and Infrastructure Canada.
- Kamal Khara: Minister of Seniors
- Sean Fraser: Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
- Patty Hajdu: Minister of Indigenous Services
- Marco Mendicino: Minister of Public Safety

Our recent Ministerial letters included references to housing, seniors, and Indigenous populations. Several other portfolios are most relevant also, but these are the primary ones for my report. Previous Social Development/Seniors reports in recent years, have focused primarily on housing and homelessness, financial support and pensions, safety, transportation, indigenous and veterans' issues, immigration, and refugees. I've asked Local and Provincial Council representatives to suggest other relevant aspects and other information. Home ownership options, home sharing, and other co-housing alternatives exist, and there is shelter aid for elderly renters to prevent homelessness.

The National Housing Debate in September helped to highlight the desperate need for a National Seniors' Strategy. These include working with developers for many types of new 'senior-friendly' homes including 'pre-fab' and mobile homes of several kinds. We've heard about Toronto's new seniors' housing and several provinces are recently promising more affordable and accessible, etc., housing, in particular: Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C.

Supporting seniors in their homes longer, with subsidies for both housing renovations and home care:

- Tax credits for low-income independent seniors for home adaptations, and property tax deferrals.
- Carers' tax credits and help for respite care.
- Safety in and out of our homes, including protection from predatory telephone and internet connections.
- More funding for financial elder abuse.
- Higher standards for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes, more oversight, inspections and penalties applied for non-compliance.

Transportation:

- Seniors' discount for public transportation, and a Seniors' Transportation Strategy.

## **Seniors Report**

- **Convenor Beryl Matthewson**

In BC the Office of the Senior's Advocate was created in 2014 and mandated to address issues of those 65 and older in areas of health Care, housing, transportation, income, and personal care. Their role is to monitor services, identify issues affecting well-being, collaborating with those who deliver services, promote awareness of resources available and make independent recommendations to the Government. Canadian seniors were greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The restrictions creating a need to collaborate with community agencies and ensure seniors received groceries, medication, meals and social interaction. The "Safe Seniors Strong Communities Program" was established and will continue indefinitely. During the past year engagement was provided through zoom calls, virtual town halls and podcasts. Governments at all levels galvanized in their focus on issues related to seniors and promised changes in long-term care with financial support. Housing is a crucial issue for many seniors due to unaffordable rents or maintenance problems and organizations that can assist in these areas are needed. Public transportation systems must adapt to the challenges of an aging population. Low-income seniors were hit hard by the financial impact of the pandemic with higher costs and worries resulting in increased anxiety and mental health problems. Self-neglect has become a growing concern.

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## **Social Development, Health, Children and Youth**

- **VP Carol Hiscock**

As a new Vice President on the Board of NCWC, charged with Children and Youth and Health portfolios, first let me say I am in awe of the work taken on by our President, Patricia Leson, who leads the way!

And then let me acknowledge the impact COVID has had on our ways of work right across the country - limited common ground is being discussed, the casual networking and getting to know each other activities are very changed as we manage life through zoom calls, and most of all - the sense of being part of something bigger than each of us that encourages change for the good of us all is not quite there.

The efforts being undertaken by Penny Rankin, Convenor of Children and Youth, are relentless in the area of educating us all regarding the important issues of protecting children from on line harm through pornography and the calling for a Commissioner for Canada's Children - areas a number of persistent women have championed for over a decade.

Ongoing education on a particular subject and increasing our efforts publicly to see change are essential tools to use in our advocacy work.

Another approach is that being taken by Arlene Draffin Jones, the Health Convenor, who is planning to hold virtual discussions in the new year with Councils and Federates across the country to find the common ground in health care, beginning with issues and gaps seen as most relevant to the most women - and attempt to encourage support and engagement in a more focussed manner. This work is not yet as organized as that described above, but with the collective attitude of “the time is now”, we will be able to spark not only interest but increasing involvement in the care and services available for women.

Progress can be measured in so many ways - above all will be achieving positive change for women, children and families and communities. Please - come along with us - re-engage in ways that advance our issues! We all have credible voices, which should be heard - sooner, rather than later!

## **Children and Youth**

### **- Convenor Penny Rankin**

*“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way it treats its children.”  
Nelson Mandela*

The National Council, in all its years of service and commitment to our guiding principles, has never shied away from identifying issues of concern and advocating on behalf of Canadians and particularly those affecting children and youth. Indeed, multiple policies directed to the wellbeing and protection of children have been adopted including an emerging resolution in 2001 calling for a Commissioner for Canada’s Children.

Policy [2001:02EM](#) underscored our belief that, in the absence of an independent non-partisan Commissioner, children’s best interests are systematically being overlooked or under-prioritized. One has only to review statistics on child poverty levels, access to health care, data on the opioid crisis, youth homelessness, food security, or access to safe internet service among other issues, to recognize the painfully slow progress being made to address the many challenges faced by Canadian children. Statistics outline facts but are themselves cold - we would do well to remember that behind each number is a living and breathing child or youth.

It is worth noting that the NCWC is not alone in zeroing in on these concerns: we share a deepening sense of urgency with [UNICEF Canada](#) who in 2019 reconfirmed their belief in the need of a Federal Children Commissioner by referencing the steady decline in Canada’s global ranking as it relates to overall child and youth well-being. (Canada’s currently ranks 25<sup>th</sup> of the 41 richest nations in the world.) Parallel to this is recommendation 12.9 of the [Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s Call for Justice](#) which specifies the need for a commissioner who would strengthen the framework of accountability for the rights of Indigenous children in Canada.

A critical analysis of our own structure earlier this year led to the decision to establish a convenorship dedicated to children and youth; and I am honoured to have been appointed to this role, which mirrors the very structural change we and the UN Committee on the Rights of

the Child, in their review of Canada's compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child have encouraged the Federal Government to adopt.

Coherent approaches to legislation and Federal policy development along with the need to ensure that children's voices are being heard are central components of our NCWC policy on this issue- as too is ensuring Canada meets our obligations, particularly as they relate to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

**Announcement:** The NCWC will be hosting, along with the Montreal Council, a Zoom Forum Event scheduled for Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> - the 30<sup>th</sup> marking the anniversary of Canada signing on to the CRC. The program is still being developed but we look forward to a report presented by Canadian **UNICEF Director Afshan Khan**- currently serving in Europe and **Senator Rosemary Moodie** who last year, tabled Bill S-210- An Act to establish the Office of

the Commissioner for Children and Youth in Canada. The program will continue with a presentation given by **Marilyn Evans, Executive Director of Parents Aware** who will provide practical information on how to engage directly with children and youth to protect them from online harms- an issue that relates directly to an update in the CRC that now includes the rights of the child in the digital world, and which is directly related to the resolution the NCWC is presenting to the International Council of Women next spring.

Please stay tuned for more information on this zoom forum event in the coming days.

**Note from Patricia:** Here is a link to an interview with protesters (including Penny!) outside Pornhub in Montreal on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox?compose=fwmvGMDHSjwsbfNSjNDzcCHNNJWrtxfkmPzBPhNnfrFVGtrDqvHBXxVRRMxWwTkHDSHFmDMCCbCGTWDVdGRxZbdFdNbrkZvNNPSHzDTvGbXvKmkmwQgb&projector=1>

### Orange Shirt Day in Montreal!



**LCW Montreal: Sarah Ford, Linda Serpone, Joan Macklin, Penny Rankin**

## **Culture and Heritage**

- **Convenor Randi Gage, Misconduct in the Canadian Forces Project Observer**

Over this coming winter I am planning a review of all policies, directives, and statements related to culture and heritage that are on the books of all our Local/Provincial Councils. Suggestions and concerns from the general membership are most welcome.

This review will allow for a unified development of NCWC policies regarding culture and heritage for our President Patricia Leson to use for government responses and speaking engagements. At this time we do not have any current policies on the national books. Please provide this requested information by December 21, 2021, to the following email address: [ProjectErelong@gmail.com](mailto:ProjectErelong@gmail.com). Thank you for your assistance with this project.

### **Little Hands**

The Residential Schools Forgotten Story  
*Randi Gage – Convenor Culture and Heritage*

As I write this there have been 1,412 graves identified adjacent to residential schools from British Columbia to Manitoba. Officially, according to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there are 3,213 documented deaths in residential schools across Canada; of those known deaths, 2,040 had names and were memorialized by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Each day brings another statement of graves being found at yet another of the 130 Canadian residential schools, 142 if you count the federally run schools.

I find myself in turmoil as my cultural world and my heritage world have exploded into a clash of worlds! Raised, working, and living in a faith culture, one wants to believe the world is good, and seeing my Aboriginal heritage portrayed as bad is difficult. To see those little hands reaching up from the long-forgotten graves is ripping my heart out, even though I have always known they existed. Hearing the survivors finally tell their stories is, in a way, comforting that maybe, finally, truth will stop the generations of self-abuse within my heritage.

I do have my doubts.

As a person of faith, have I purposefully turned my face away from those little hands? I do not think I have. As a knowledge keeper, have I hidden knowledge I have that might have pointed to those little hands? I hope not. Then why are these discoveries hurting me so deeply? Why, when trying to discuss this with my Priest, do I become so angry at his denial and refusal to admit that records do not exist? Why do I even try to communicate my knowledge to deaf ears? I do not know, maybe I'm just an old fool who believes God is Good and His earthly representatives are doing His good will.

But I think I am wrong.

When I think of the grave sites found in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, I see a garden of little hands, like flowers reaching towards the sky. Waving in the breeze of truth and bending in the winds of denial. They are all beautiful specks of colours, as each of those lost children would have grown to be, and yes, there is a thistle or two for our ever-present tricksters.

Currently there have been found unmarked and undocumented grave sites at: 215 Kamloops Indian Residential School, BC with only 51 confirmed deaths on its official record + 160 Kuper Island Industrial School, BC + 751 Cowessess First Nation, Marieval Indian Residential School, SK + 35 Muscowequan Indian Residential School, Lestock, SK + 38 Regina Indian Residential School, Regina, SK + 161 Fort Providence Indian Residential School (Providence Mission Indian Residential School) Fort Providence, NWT + 39 Dunbow Industrial School (also known as St. Joseph's Industrial School (73 deaths known of the 430 students over 38 years of operation )High River, AB + 74 Battleford Industrial School, Battleford, SK + 182 St. Eugene's Mission School, BC + 104 Brandon, MB + the 221 officially documented deaths from all of the Manitoba Residential Schools. As each day passes more plus signs will be added including, for me, 227 from my home community in Michigan.

Many say, "wait, hold back your discomfort, alarm and pain! Most died of diseases or the flu or falls or TB", as if the death of these innocents could be swept away, or the pain eased despite never knowing whether prayers were said, or a loved one's tears had moistened the soil where they now lie. One must also remember that some children were also sent home to die when they were found to be seriously ill. How many others at the home community died from these illnesses, which would never have entered their community, had but a child not come home? These answers we will never know.

And again, why would anyone think that not a single prayer was offered for the fallen soul? After all these were "Church" run schools, were they not? From all I have ever known, churches of that time always had a graveyard for those that called the area home, did they not? Oh, and yes, there was the "paupers' field" for those who had not become active members of the church; still they were given a proper burial, were they not? So here again, I find myself confused by the constant yelling about finding graves next to a residential school ran by a church. I wonder, too, how the proud family histories and the active members of the historic North-West Mounted Police (*today the Royal Canadian Mounted Police*) or the Dominion Police feel about their part in this history. To me, their silence at this time speaks volumes; again, I must wonder if these families even know their part of this history.

To all of this I say: Yes, there is a sad and sordid history opening before today's eyes. Yes, many died of diseases, having been taken away from a place where those unknown illnesses and deadly things did not live. Had those small hands been left with Their People, they would not be small flowers in these shameful gardens across Canada today.

## Resolutions

- **Convenor Jane Cowell**

### **Re: NCWC Resolutions 2022 Date Changes**

At the request of the President and some Councils, the dates for receiving resolutions for the 2022 AGM have been **extended**.

*The following rules must be adhered to:*

- **Resolutions and Updates** shall be submitted to the Convenor of the Resolutions Committee by **December 15, 2021**.
- Resolutions shall be national in scope with no similar policy already on the books.
- Resolutions shall address a new or emerging issue on which NCWC lacks policy.
- Whereas Clauses (no more than 5) must clearly define the problem and set out the facts; background material must support all the Whereas Clauses and be from recent credible Canadian sources; each clause is a single idea (no periods or semi-colons).
- The first Resolved Clause is always a statement of proposed NCWC policy.
- The Resolved Clauses are worded so that they can stand on their own.
- The Resolution title clearly defines the content of the resolution.
- Resolutions shall have at least three references not including newspaper articles.
- Resolutions are to be written in the traditional format.
- Proposed resolutions which have completed the above process shall be circulated by **January 28, 2022**, to the membership. If your council wishes to submit any amendments, they **MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 31, 2022**.

**NOTE:** Please check the current NCWC policy before writing your resolution to see if it is needed. If there is existing policy that covers your concern, you can ask that a letter be written. Policy is listed by year, topic and alphabetically on the NCWC website: [www.ncwcanada.com](http://www.ncwcanada.com)

### **UPDATES**

If there is policy but some change has taken place since the original writing, an Update can be written. Updates shall not change the original intent of the previous policy. Updates should be discussed with the appropriate NCWC Convenor before being submitted.

*Updates must be received by **December 15, 2021** - the same date as Resolutions.*

### **EMERGING ISSUES**

An Emerging Issue is one that deals with an issue which has gained importance since the deadline for submission of Resolutions and/or which requires action prior to the following year's AGM. The deadline for submission is **March 31, 2022, (the same date as amendments)**. After that date, only Resolutions which relate to concerns arising after that date shall be brought to the AGM.

If you have any questions about Resolutions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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## **NCWC Development Organization**

### **- Carol Schweitzer, Past Chairperson**

NCWC members and friends donate money to aid with specific projects in designated communities for the advancement of literacy and basic education and for skills training for women and girls. These educational and social welfare programs supported by NCWCDO are in Third World countries as well as Canada.

In 2021, the NCWCDO donated \$2,000 to Shelter Movers Ottawa-Montreal Region. This charitable organization provides moving and storage services at no cost to women and children experiencing abuse. Logistical, security and financial barriers often prevent women fleeing violence. Shelter Movers makes all the arrangements to move and store survivors' belongings securely, on the clients' terms, and empower survivors as they transition to a life free of violence.

A move costs approximately \$200. Costs include truck rentals, insurance, and packing materials. Teams of volunteers do the packing, moving, and storing for the move. This service is 100% free for the clients who are prioritized by referral agencies based on their immediate safety and needs. The Ottawa Region reported that this year there were over 170 moves involving more than 100 food and supplies deliveries, with the help of more than 360 volunteers!

Donations that are received and deposited by March 31, 2022, will be used to provide financial assistance to eligible projects that are submitted to the NCWCDO by April 15, 2022. The NCWCDO grant application form can be found on the NCWC website under Charitable

Organizations / NCWC Development Organization. The 2022 form is also available by emailing the NCWCDO at [ncwcdo@gmail.com](mailto:ncwcdo@gmail.com).

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chair of NCWCDO for the past few years. Going forward Lori Isinger, NCWCDO's new Chairperson, and I are looking forward to seeing everyone in Ottawa in the spring of 2022. Until then, best wishes for a joyful holiday season and a bright, safe, and healthy 2022.

Donations can be made at any time, payable to NCWCDO and sent to:  
NCWCDO Treasurer, P.O. Box 67099 RPO Westboro, Ottawa, ON, K2A 4E4  
Or online by credit card via [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org).

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## **NCWC Education Fund Celebrates 20 Years**

### **- President Gracia Janes**

The NCWC Education Fund was set up as a charitable foundation in 2001 to work with the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) through research and public education regarding the environmental, social, mental, physical and health needs of women, families, and societies. We are very proud and pleased to be celebrating 20 years of work in 2021!

Over the past twenty years, the NCWC Education Fund has worked with NCWC on joint Common Programs, exploring an amazing variety of important topics and tapped into a wealth of internal and external expertise. Some of our notable past programs have been:

- Young Women and Violence Prevention
- Canada's Water
- The Water/Energy Connection
- Women and Mental Health

Our latest joint Common Program with NCWC which has been ongoing since 2019 is "Listening to, learning from, acting on the recommendations of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Commission". We were pleased to have Mi'kmaw lawyer, professor, author, and social justice activist Dr. Pamela Palmater speak to this at the Education Fund virtual luncheon during NCWC's AGM in 2021.

Every year our members generously donate towards the work of the Joint Program through the NCWC Education Fund which is a charitable organization and able to give receipts for tax purposes. Cheques should be mailed to:

NCWC Education Fund, c/o Treasurer K. Dempsey  
307- 5570 Heatherwood Court, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 5N7

*HOW TO HELP THE WORK OF THE NCWC EDUCATION FUND:*

If you wish, you can also donate to us through **CanadaHelps.org**, which is a Canada-wide organization helping the public connect with charities by depositing donations directly into our bank account. Just google *CanadaHelps.org* and follow the easy directions.

Thank you all for your wonderful support over the past 20 years!

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**LCW Prince Albert and the PAGC Women's Commission Honour Orange Shirt Day!**



**Pat Weir, Economics and Employment Convenor, is pictured at the riverside monument erected by the Prince Albert Grand Council Women's Commission to honour and respect the many Indigenous women and girls who are missing and/or have been murdered.**

## **New Chapter in CHW History (www.chw.ca)**

Despite the pandemic, the past year has been one of change, growth, and innovation at Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW). The first in a series of exciting opportunities for change began with the appointment of CHW's first CEO, Lisa Colt-Kotler. Lisa has already spearheaded inventive fundraising strategies, including a 24-hour crowdfunding campaign that empowered victims of domestic violence in Israel. Along with a new direction for CHW fundraising, Lisa has introduced modern branding that represents the interconnectedness of Canada and Israel to CHW's mission and vision for the future.

Along with CHW's new CEO came new beginnings, a fresh look, new staff, exciting programs, and initiatives strategically intended to move CHW into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With a focus to empower women both in Israel and here in Canada, promoting programs and initiatives that create sustainability and succession, CHW will engage a new generation of donors to grow and strengthen this powerful organization of women from coast to coast.

As 2021 moves into 2022, CHW continues to fundraise online, focusing on the impact of virtual events. In the true spirit of CHW, dedicated volunteers and supporters ran a multitude of creative and highly successful Zoom events. Without geographic limitations, the new virtual events also began attracting a broader audience, giving the organization the opportunity to increase its reach.

In the coming year, there are even more exciting initiatives taking place at CHW, including Fashion Blooms 2022, a national event that showcases the talented graduates and alumni from the Fashion Department at CHW Neri Bloomfield Academy of Design; Journey 4 Impact, an exciting and once in a lifetime adventure to Israel supporting social impact investing and sustainability ([www.chw.ca/journey-4-impact](http://www.chw.ca/journey-4-impact)); and even a modern day re-launch of the CHW Bazaar!

As we are preparing to transition away from the pandemic, we all know that the world will be different on so many levels. However, our values, and our love for our Canadian community and our Jewish homeland will remain as strong as ever. By providing supporters and volunteers with a vehicle to effect meaningful changes through their philanthropy, CHW enables its supporters to make the world a better place.

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## **Provincial Council of Women of British Columbia**

- **Rani Gupta**

We had our Annual General Meeting in May 2021, and it was well attended by most of the board members, federates, and Convenors. Several members from the University Women's Club Vancouver, B.C., were invited. Our guest speaker was Sandeep Gupta, who gave a very informative and interesting talk on some Eco-friendly new innovations. One of them was a new type of air cleaning machine that kills many germs, including the Corona virus, and comes in

various sizes suitable for homes and bigger business complexes. A few natural by-products derived from some waste, and then mixed with any basic fibers, can make it stronger.

On September 27, 2021, we had our PCWBC semi-annual general meeting, which was well attended by the entire Board, federates, and convenors. Our guest speaker was Linda Cunliffe, the President of Soroptimists BC and Yukon International (also one of our federates), who informed us of their various projects to educate and improve the lives of women and girls. Their club also offers scholarships to aspiring female students for post-secondary education and provide mentors who can assist and guide the young girls to be successful in the profession of their dreams. Everyone enjoyed her very informative and interesting talk!

I personally also attended several workshops on the Zoom platform, including a UN sponsored International workshop on racial tension. It focussed on the UN's role in solving this problem through promoting international peace and gender equality. The presentation was from various people around the world. I was able to attend workshops and talks on various occasions on Indigenous people and their trauma due to COVID-19, unemployment, and various other factors. Right now, I am attending a Zoom series of talks on stress and its impact on the brain, and the difficulties in the transition of youth into adulthood in care in Canada. This is sponsored by the Montreal Women's Council in collaboration with few other interested groups. I also had opportunities to attend several workshops and talks related to women and their role in achieving peace, Afghan women and their plight now the Taliban is in control, child brides, and female genital mutilation.

I also had the good luck of enjoying many well-informed speakers organized by the Vancouver Council of Women and the New Westminster Council of Women at their monthly general meetings. We will hold our PCWBC AGM in May 2022.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a happy, prosperous, and safe New Year.

### Orange Shirt Day in British Columbia!



**PCWBC: Marlene, Jo, Marlene, Rosemary, Rosa, Gwen, Beryl, Linda, Alberta, Barbara, Leslie, Sheila, Rani (President), Bev, Betty**

## **Provincial Council of Women of Quebec**

- **Jane Cowell, President**

It has been about five months since our AGM, and we have been working hard to make the CPFQ-PCWQ the vibrant organization we know it can be!

Our Treasurer-Elect resigned a few weeks after the AGM. Dominique Racanelli heeded my call to be our new Treasurer and was co-opted to the Board by an electronic vote. She has a strong background in finance and accounting both on the professional level (CP Ships) and as a volunteer (past VP Finance of CFUW and past President of UWCM Inc.)

On August 25, the Board held an orientation followed by our first Board Meeting. We have a vibrant group of women who are anxious to get the CPFQ-PCWQ moving. We had the opportunity to look at the various positions and the division of labour during the upcoming year.

Maria Peluso is continuing in Government Affairs; Ruby Roy and Sandra Cohen Rose will assume responsibilities for Communications, Web, and Social Media. Anne Lambert will take on Membership and Outreach, and Penny Rankin, Resolutions. In addition to assuming the tasks as Treasurer, Dominique Racanelli kindly offered to take on the position of Secretary, since her position of Treasurer was not expected to be too taxing.

We decided this year to concentrate on increasing our membership (particularly Federate members), ensuring that our voice is heard by the provincial government, and improving our public profile.

We were asked to join with the Quebec Council of CFUW to sign a letter sent to the Premier François Legault as well as several members of his cabinet, concerning Afghani women and other vulnerable Afghani people. We encouraged the Quebec Government to play an active role in accepting as many immigrants as possible and to create emergency programs in conjunction with the federal government.

We were also invited to present a brief to the parallel consultations on Bill 96 being organized by the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN). The QCGN was concerned that only a small number of organizations had been invited to the government's own consultations on the language law and felt that more voices needed to be heard. Since there are many facets to this bill, we decided to concentrate on the effects on small business. We continue to follow Bill 96 that is expected to be enacted before Christmas. We have also started reaching out to various members of the National Assembly to put our organization on the map.

Sadly, we lost one of our founding members earlier this year – Drusilla (Druse) Bryan. Until last Spring when she suffered a stroke, she remained involved and committed to the NCWC and the CPFQ-PCWQ. She was the consummate volunteer, and she will be sorely missed. Our sympathies are extended to her family and friends.

## **Local Council of Women of Vancouver**

- **Chitra Khare, President**

The days are getting shorter, and the rain is incessant – looks like it is November. I hope that everyone is doing well and getting ready for their favourite winter activities!

The VCW got back to business as of September 2021 after a summer break.

We had our 1<sup>st</sup> in-person VCW Executive Board meeting on August 23rd at the Hycroft Centre. It was great to connect and catch up with everyone. All safety protocols were graciously followed by everyone.

It was decided at the executive meeting that we will continue the rest of our fall Executive and General meetings via ZOOM as the COVID numbers are rising again and some members and guest speakers were not comfortable doing in-person meetings. Most of us felt that the safety of everyone is our first priority at this time.

Our monthly newsletter is distributed to all members and includes news, upcoming events, and reports on child and family, citizenship and immigration, civic affairs, ecology, education, health, safety and housing, mass media, membership, and seniors.

Beginning in September, we also implemented Land Acknowledgements at the initiation of all meetings, to pay respect to the Indigenous people whose land we are on and who have cared for this land since time immemorial. Thank you NCWC for sharing their template.

At our September meeting, our guest speaker was Adaeze Jannette Oputa, Executive Director of the Vancouver Eastside Educational Enrichment Society (VEEES). She was able to enlighten us to their work helping the community, especially the younger generation.

At our October meeting, Joan Stewart, Co-chair, Board of Management, Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry (WANM) was our guest speaker. WANM has been serving the homeless and marginalized on Vancouver's Westside since 2007 with programs that include Street Outreach, Angels program, Mobile Care Unit and special meal events.

At our November VCW meeting, our guest speaker was Carolyn Oraziotti, who is a blend of Scottish, French and Mi'kmaq, and dedicated to serving the community. Carolyn has worked part-time as STAR Elder for the past four years with the Ministry of Children and Families (MCFD) in Surrey, where she focuses on spiritual programs for at-risk youth.

At our December VCW, our guest speaker is going to be Alexandra Ford, who started her anti-trafficking work at 11 years old. Ten years later, she was trafficked herself. After escaping, Alexandra dedicated herself to learning everything she could about trauma, its effects, and aftereffects. By combining her natural gift for the gab with more than a decade of post-secondary education, Alexandra empowers community heroes by starting conversations around difficult subjects.

It is with a very heavy heart that I write that VCW has lost a beautiful person on September 10th, 2021. Jill Worobec will be missed by all of us, and she will forever be in our hearts.

Sadly, we also lost Ruth Robinson, NCWC EF Treasurer, who passed away on August 27th, 2021. May her soul rest in peace.

**LCW Vancouver Honours Orange Shirt Day!**



**LCW Vancouver: Alberta, Jo, Beryl, Maria, Chitra (President), Maria, Rosa, Marlene, Gwen, Rani**

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**Niagara District Council of Women  
- Nyarayi Kapisavanhu, President**

At the NDCW, we continue to hold virtual board meetings once a month. Our membership both board and federated continues to grow and this growth has brought about diversity in the programming we deliver.

Through our 2021 programming, we are taking a deliberate opportunity to explore the efforts being made to address inequalities, barriers, and issues that have been highlighted by the Covid19 pandemic. Our program topics for the 2021 – 2022 year are as follows:

September: Renters rights

October: Islamophobia

November: Affordable childcare and decent pay for workers

December: Food security

January: Pharmacare

February: Basic income and poverty reduction

March: Resolutions

These discussions are deliberated through a panel of experts in the subject area, speaking from a Niagara Region lens perspective. We are very fortunate to not have encountered any significant challenges that would hinder programming and grateful to organizations that have made it possible for people to operate with relative ease on digital platforms.

Many more people can attend our programming due to it being accessible online. Our October program saw at least 50 attendants on the virtual platform Zoom. We are looking forward to a future of hybrid programming, with an option to either attend in person or virtually.

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### **Pedestrian Bridge Renamed to Celebrate Former Ottawa Councillor Marianne Wilkinson's Public Service and Leadership**

The NCWC is very proud of our own Marianne Wilkinson, a long-time member. The pedestrian bridge that connects north and south Kanata across Highway 417 has been renamed the Marianne Wilkinson Pedestrian Bridge in honour of the long-time municipal politician and community leader. The new name was unveiled in early October by Mayor Jim Watson at a special ceremony attended by Ms. Wilkinson's family, some Council colleagues, and Kanata-Carleton MP- elect, Jenna Sudds.

Ms. Wilkinson had a distinguished public service career, serving the residents in her Kanata community for more than 50 years. She was the first woman to run for March Township Council in 1970 and became the first woman Reeve of March Township in 1976. As March Township Reeve, Ms. Wilkinson was involved with the amalgamation of the western townships that became the City of Kanata, where she was elected as its first mayor in 1978.

When the amalgamated City of Ottawa formed in 2001, Marianne Wilkinson would continue to represent the interests of her residents as Councillor for Kanata North, until she left municipal politics in 2018.

Ms. Wilkinson's commitment to her community went beyond political service as she was actively involved with many area charities and associations including the Kanata Food Cupboard, the Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre, and the Kanata Choral Association.

In addition to the wealth of knowledge and experience that she brought to the Council table, Ms. Wilkinson was instrumental in the construction of the Kanata pedestrian bridge, which now carries her name, and in the expansion of the Beaverbrook community tradition of Give Away Week to the entire city.

Congratulations, Marianne; and thank you, Sheila Perry, for the photos of the event!!





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### **Campaign 2000**

- **Leila Sarangi, Director, Social Action  
National Director, Campaign 2000**

We are excited to share that today, Campaign 2000 released the annual national report card on child and family poverty, *No One Left Behind: Strategies for an Inclusive Recovery*, marking the 32nd anniversary of the federal government's promise to end child poverty by the year 2000. The report card finds that poverty reduction is stalling, children are living in deeper poverty and inequality is widening. The national report card was released in coordination with provincial and territorial report cards from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Manitoba, Alberta, and Yukon report cards are forthcoming. The French national report card will be released on November 30, 2021.

You can find all the report cards, press releases and infographics [here](#).

The report cards are accompanied by an [interactive map](#) created with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives that shows child poverty by federal riding. Click on your riding to find out how it fares in comparison across the country.

No One Left Behind: Strategies for an Inclusive Recovery found that despite the promise to end child poverty, more than 1.31 million children are living in poverty. Using the latest data available (from 2019) this report paints a stark picture of income, health and social inequalities, and deepening levels of child and family poverty.

**Some key findings from the report include:**

- Nearly 1 in 5 children lived in poverty (1,313,400 or 17.7%) in 2019
- The national child poverty rate declined by .5 of a percentage point between 2018-2019, representing an additional 24,170 lifted out of poverty. At this rate, it would take 54 more years to end child poverty.
- The child poverty rate is higher (18.5%) for children under six than all children.
- Children are living in deeper poverty. For example, the average single-parent family with 2 children living in low income was \$13,262 away from the CFLIM-AT in 2019, compared to \$9,612 away in 2015. To reach the poverty line, a parent earning \$15 per hour would need to work an additional 5.5 months full-time, assuming no taxes or deductions.
- The reduction in poverty associated with the Canada Child Benefit will continue to stall. The benefit cannot move eligible families in deep poverty out. The maximum CCB is \$6,639 for each child under six and \$5,602 for each child between six and seventeen.
- Canada's universal childcare plan must include low-income children with a sliding scale fee model of \$0 to \$10 maximum.
- Care work should be decent work. The care economy (including health, childcare, education) represents 21.1% of all jobs and generates 12% of GDP and must be central to an inclusive recovery.
- Canada still needs a national pharmacare plan, which should be expanded to include dental, vision, rehabilitation

We are very excited to bring you an update to the webinar next week - we have the list of incredible speakers confirmed including Sen. Wanda Thomas Bernard, Dr. Niigaan Sinclair, Gabriel Maracle, Rabia Khedr, David Macdonald and Inez Hillel. In the webinar, we will share some of the highlights of the report card findings and then have our panelists share what the report card means in relation to their areas of work. We are especially excited to have Youth Advocate from UNICEF Canada, Reanna Tazrean moderating the event.

You can [register for the event here](#).

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the national, provincial, and territorial cards, this work really does depend on collaboration and partnership, and thank you on behalf of the team at Campaign 2000!

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**Parting Thoughts for 2021**

- **Patricia Leson**

As we look forward to leaving behind the sorrows and woes of 2021, we also look forward, with hope and optimism, to a better, healthier, safer New Year. Sometimes, it is difficult to look past the storm to see the rainbow, but we must be heartened that, over many years, others have also

felt the same. In 1850, Alfred, Lord Tennyson wrote this poem that echoes our sentiments as we say goodbye to 2021 and set our sights on a better year ahead. I have made a few adaptations that are in parenthesis, with apologies to Lord Tennyson, to more accurately reflect our current times.

***Ring Out, Wild Bells***

***Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night.  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.***

***Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go.  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.***

***Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more.  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.***

***Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife.  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.  
Ring out the want, the care, the sin.***

***The faithless coldness of the times.  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.  
Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite.***

***Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.  
Ring out old shapes of foul disease.  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold.***

***Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.  
Ring in the valiant (wo)man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand.  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the (world) that is to be.***

Even though Tennyson’s poem was written more than 270 years ago, it encapsulates our times and the essence of our mission, our values, and our mandate, encouraging us to continue to advocate for “the larger heart, the kindlier hand”. And, by working together, we shall do so.

Stay strong, stay well, and be of good heart as we join hands to continue to work for the good of women, children, families, and our communities across Canada, ‘the great North, strong and free’.

Best wishes, always, from my grateful heart,  
Patricia

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THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA  
LE CONSEIL NATIONAL DES FEMMES DU CANADA