**PRESS RELEASE**

**Marianne Wilkinson elected President of the National Council of Women at Their AGM in Saskatoon**

Marianne Wilkinson, former Mayor of Kanata and Councillor for Kanata North on the City of Ottawa Council was inducted as President of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) at their 130th AGM in Saskatoon. As President she will present briefs and meet with government leaders to stress the changes needed both nationally and to deal with international issues such as climate change.

The NCWC brought women’s groups together in 1893 to advocate for changes in government policies and programs to better serve Canadians, and in particular women and children. Over the years they have advocated for equality for women; health care; services to support Canadian needs; issues facing new Canadians and elimination of all forms of discrimination. NCWC has status with the United Nations and actively participates on international issues as well.

The Council carefully research issues to come up with specific recommendations on hundreds of issues over the years. In 2023 they approved policy to address issues of Urban Sprawl, the Ecosystems, the Impact of Unintended Pregnancies, Alcohol Risk for Cancer, a Call for an Independent Inquiry into Sports, Environmental Impacts of Mining, a request to Ban Nuclear Fuel Waste to make plutonium, Certification of Immigrants and the Rights of Temporary Foreign Workers. Work continues on many of the policies that can be viewed on our website, such as Human Trafficking and the need for more action on the Report on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women.

A common program on Housing as a Human Right will be undertaken this year, urging all levels of government to ensure that all Canadians have adequate, safe and affordable housing.

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