

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.

Newsletter



JUNE 2014

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President's Message Alberta Johnson

diverse group of women. We will be continuing to recruit more federates and members to further enrich our organization and build a louder, more well-rounded voice for the women of Manitoba.

Thank you for all of your support and I look forward to the upcoming year.

Greetings Members of PCWM

I am truly humbled and honoured to have been elected president of this amazing organization. I am excited to continue to move forward with this organization and work to further engagement with our federates, membership and communities.

In line with the Strategic Plan created last year, we are hoping to move forward with recruitment and exploring different forms of advocacy. We hope to be holding regular programs throughout the year, in which actions for issues will be discussed. We are looking forward to partnering with our federates, Council of Women of Winnipeg, and other organizations throughout Manitoba. We will be working on creating a stronger web presence and a comprehensive social media plan to engage new generations.

With our wonderful blend of veteran board members and new board members, this year will be a year of mentorship and moving forward as a



2014 - 2015 Board

Back row: L to R
Eden Friesen, Charly Wreggitt, Lise Fenton, Maxine Balbon,
Marilyn McGonigal, Kelly - Ann Stevenson, Twyla Szoke
Front row: L to R
Sharon Taylor, Alberta Johnson, Aster Abraham

Meet the PCWM Board: 2014 - 2015

Alberta Johnson - President
** - President Elect
Sharon Taylor - Past President
Muriel Smith - Honorary Vice President
** - Treasurer
Eden Friesen - Recording Secretary
Maxine Balbon - Electronic Recording Secretary
Aster Abraham - Membership Chair
Marilyn McGonigal - Archivist
** - Resolutions Chair
Marilyn McGonigal - Constitution Chair

Lise Fenton - Communications Chair
Charly Wreggitt - Programs Chair
Shirley Walker - Fundraising Chair
Kelly-Ann Stevenson - CWW President
Twyla Szoke - Member at Large

The Board would like to thank deeply Eva Beaudoin and Sally Thomas for all of their hard work and dedication to the board in the past years.

Newsletter Editor - Lori Blande
Web Editor - Jen Dyck

** are positions yet to be filled

UNPAC dies prematurely due to lack of funding

The social justice community in Manitoba mourns the loss of UNPAC (the United Nations Platform for Action Committee) which is closing its doors. At the same time, the innovative organization that supported women's equality and empowerment - locally and globally - through community action and education, will be celebrated. A gathering to acknowledge UNPAC's legacy will be held on Tuesday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m. at MAWA, 611 Main Street in Winnipeg.

UNPAC came into being in 1996 after 45 Manitoba women attended Beijing for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, most on their own dime, participating in both the UN conference and the parallel NGO Conference in 1995. They returned with a commitment to see the recommendations in the Platform for Action - the roadmap for equality that was agreed to in Beijing by Canada and 188 other nations - implemented.

The Platform for Action identifies 12 Critical Areas of Concern regarding the main obstacles to women's advancement. The areas are: poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, decision-making, institutional mechanisms, human rights, media, environment, the girl child and the economy.

Through the years, UNPAC found creative, interactive ways to encourage Manitobans and their elected officials to implement the recommendations of the Platform for Action here at home.

Highlights include:

- The Women and the Economy project (2001) which promoted women's economic literacy in Manitoba, the Banging Down the Door: Women and the Economy video and two-volume resource book
- Gender budget workshops (2004-2008): 46 workshops were held to promote Manitoba women's economic literacy/security and encourage the provincial government to create a more gender responsive budget
- Femme Fiscale, a real-life feminist superhero, who was also the focus of a postcard series on poverty, housing, child care and other issues of concern to women and their families
- Equality report cards (2010, 2012) which graded the provincial government on their performance in such areas as women's health, economic security, childcare, housing, access to justice, violence against

- women and rural and northern issues
- Changemakers and Pathmakers mentorship, skill-building and leadership programs in Winnipeg and four rural areas
- UNPAC website (UNPAC.ca) with information sheets on key issues and analysis, women and the economy, and program curriculum
- The Not Afraid to Get Your Hands Dirty activist award to acknowledge women who contribute to the empowerment of marginalized people

UNPAC has suffered, as have other women's organizations, from the cold climate for funding educational and advocacy work at a grass roots level. Canada Revenue Agency requirements to drastically alter the UNPAC purpose in order to obtain charitable status, which might have increased access to other funding, felt like a "cure that was worse than the disease". UNPAC decided to decline the charitable status.

After careful consideration and with sadness, the UNPAC Coordinating Committee and members voted in April to dissolve the corporation and cease operation, effective June 30, 2014. "Many inequalities still need to be addressed" UNPAC's co-chair Caryn Douglas said. "It is hoped that a vision of something new will emerge that is as responsive to the needs of women and girls in Manitoba as UNPAC strived to be - from grassroots to treetops!"

The celebration of UNPAC's life will be preceded by its last annual meeting at 7:00 p.m. This year's Not Afraid to Get Your Hands Dirty award will be presented to performing artist Debbie Patterson at that time. A book titled "Counting on Marilyn Waring - New Advances in Feminist Economics" which features a chapter by local authors Lorna Turnbull and Mara Fridell will also be unveiled. To attend, please RSVP at www.UNPAC.ca.

For more information, contact:
 Caryn Douglas
 UNPAC Co-chair
 204-487-2076



NCWC Report

After a wonderful weekend of socializing and debate at the National Council of Women of Canada several subject were discussed. There was great discussion about the possibility of moving to plain language resolutions. It was decided that for the next two years resolutions could be submitted in either plain language or the previous format to the Resolutions Committee. The resolutions would then be distributed in both formats for review and discussion. Listed below are the resolutions discussed:

- 1. Access to Mifepristone (RU486): For Use in Medical Abortions - **Passed**
- 2. Employment Insurance Reform Regarding Tips – **Passed**
- 3. Impact on Local Populations of Global Rush to Acquire Farmland - **Passed**
- 4. Banning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides to Protect Food Crops - **Passed**
- 5. Reduction in Sugar Content in Processed Food, Soft Drink and Juices - **Defeated**
- 6. Update: Curriculum of Medical Faculties Pertaining to Elective Early Termination of Pregnancy - **Passed**

The NCWC Education Fund put on an excellent program regarding mental health and stigma. Dr. Heather Stuart discussed how stigma is barrier to health care and health care reform. Stigma is created within our society through our interactions and perpetuation of stereotypes of those suffering from mental illness.

The 2015 NCWC AGM will be held in Montreal next year.



PCWM Past President - Sharon Taylor



PCWM President Alberta Johnson

"I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is; I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat."
 Rebecca West, The Clarion
 1913, England

"If it is true that men are better than women because they are stronger, why aren't our sumo wrestlers in the government?"
 Kishida Toshiko,
 19th Century Japanese Feminist

PCWM Calendar 2014-15

July 8, 2014 - Celebrating Women Gala, at Viscount Gort (see poster in this newsletter)

PCWM Board meetings:

2014: July 17, September 4, October 2, November 6 and December 4

2015: January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4

General Council meetings

2014: Semi-Annual: Saturday, November 15th or 22nd from 9 am to 2 pm, date and location TBA

2015: March 19, NCWC Resolutions meeting, at 6:30 pm at SMD 825 Sherbrook St.

Other fall and 2015 general council meetings will be announced in the September Newsletter

Watch for notices with further information.



LEAF Manitoba

Women's Legal Education and Action Fund

Persons Day Breakfast Thursday, October 16, 2014

Our speaker at the Persons Day Breakfast will be Shulamith Koenig, recipient of the 2013 UN Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Human Rights and founding President of "The Peoples Movement For Human Rights Learning".

The title of her presentation will be "Equality where we live, work and play - A Human Rights City".

Time and place-the same as usual -7:15 -9:00 am Winnipeg Convention Centre. Tickets and tables can be ordered now.

Call or e-mail LEAF MB. at [204-453 1379](tel:204-453-1379) or leafmb@mymts.net

FemFest2014: A Powerful Experience!

This fall, Sarasvati Productions' *FemFest2014—She's Got The Power* will explore, define and reimagine the concept of women's power. This 12th annual festival of life changing plays by women for everyone is a must-see event. Stories of family feuds, tattoo-covered teens, Immaculate Conception and part-time paranormal seekers will descend upon the U of W Asper Centre for Theatre and Film this September. Whether you see one production or the entire festival lineup, you are sure to leave with a new understanding of power and possibly even a tasty brownie. Please visit our website, www.femfest.ca, to learn more about the *FemFest 2014* lineup and ticket purchasing options.



National Council of Women of Canada takes action on mass surveillance issue

Submitted by Elizabeth Fleming

The Edward Snowden revelations about the scope of spying by the National Security Agency and its international partners including Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC) have drawn attention to the increasing importance of finding a balance between national security and civil liberties.

National Council has relevant policies, The Right of the Canadian Public in Information Concerning the Public Business 1977 and Balancing Protection against International Terrorism and the Protection of Civil Rights 2002. These policies were the basis of letters sent to the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (18 September 2013) encouraging her to investigate and report on CSEC's compliance with Canada's privacy laws and to the Prime Minister (25 March, 2014) urging an independent commission of inquiry. This, we said, was necessary because of the unprecedented escalation of mass surveillance by governments and private companies in tandem with the growth of electronic communications world-wide since 11 September 2001. Senator Hugh Segal who sits on the Senate Committee for National Security and Defence – at least until he steps down at the end of June – called for a Royal Commission in an op-ed in the Globe and Mail, 13 January 2014.

The University of Ottawa hosted an invitation-only workshop on The Politics of Surveillance, 8-10 September. I was fortunate to represent NCWC and learned much from academics, lawyers and advocates from Canada, the United States, Austria, Australia and England. The event began with a book launch. "Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada" is an easy to read publication available for free in pdf from the New Transparency Project's web-site.

The workshop ended with the circulation of a consensus document, Ottawa Statement. The National Council of Women of Canada has signed on. It is posted on the openmedia.ca website.



More pictures from the AGM

L - Lise Fenton

R - Karen Busby (blue) and Dr. Michelle Owen (pink) speakers at the AGM



Front row - L to R
Sally Thomas, Sharon Taylor,
Marilyn McGonigal, Aster
Abraham



Back row - L to R
Eva Beaudoin, Alberta
Johnson, Maxine Balbon, Barb
Toews, Kelly - Ann Stevenson

The Controversial *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (Bill C-36)*
Submitted by Marilyn McGonigal

The proposed federal prostitution law (Bill C-36) introduced in Parliament recently, is very controversial. It creates new offences criminalizing the purchase of sexual services (while the sale of sex services remains legal), prohibiting communicating in any place for that purpose, and profiting from prostitution of others. The law was supposed to conform to the S.C.C. Bedford decision of December 20, 2013, which ruled the present laws made sex work unsafe and breached prostitutes' constitutional right to security of the person. The Court delayed the application of the decision for one year to allow the government to come up with a replacement. Instead, sex workers' representatives say it makes their activities as unsafe as, or more dangerous than before and exposes the prostitutes to criminal charges if they ply their trade anywhere children could be present. It is likely to be challenged for the same reasons the previous laws were struck down.

The main dispute in this new attempt to limit the activities of purveyors of sex services is not concern about the 'immorality' of prostitution but is about two views of the essential nature of prostitution. One is the notion that performing sex services voluntarily for payment is a private affair between consenting adults and is a legitimate occupation that does no harm to anyone. The other, more realistic view, is that prostitution is violence against women: 'sex workers' in reality are mostly children, youth and young women; sex work is exploitative and involuntary wherever self-supporting wage-work for women, vulnerable children and unskilled young people is non-existent; and tricking and trafficking young girls and women into inescapable sex slavery with unimaginable brutality is the most profitable enterprise enriching ruthless criminals worldwide. With our present Federal Government's aversion to broad consultations with the most informed and affected communities, namely representatives of Aboriginal women and girls, agencies who provide services for damaged children and youth, and women's resources in our communities, it is not surprising that the new criminal prostitution laws stated to be aimed at a) protecting those who sell services, b) protecting communities from harms caused by prostitution, and c) reducing the demand for sexual services, fall far short of the sophistication and imagination needed to eradicate the crimes associated with prostitution in Canada.

The Supreme Court of Canada judgement has left few options for criminalization as a solution. The Governments of Canada and the Provinces must now take the lead in developing innovative solutions. They need to go back to the drawing board. The regulatory option known as the Nordic model adopted in Europe and other countries has not reduced prostitution, and trafficking women from poor countries to unregulated brothels near or in affluent countries to be sex slaves has even increased.

In prostitution we meet the real consequences of gender inequality and poverty. Canada needs more than exit strategies - we need to develop serious relevant education, training and opportunities for girls and women living in poverty, vulnerable to predators promising fairy tale rescues. If we cannot stop the suppliers - pimps and traffickers - then dry up the supply. Increase the minimum wage to a living wage, pay our youth to stay in or go back to school; and offer real opportunities for youth and women, whose potential education and skills and value to the economy are so essential to a healthy and viable future.

And above all, we must recognize and eliminate misogyny and gender inequality that undermine young women's self-worth and enable their exploitation.

Celebrating Women



The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba
invites you to the

8th Annual
Celebrating Women
Gala and Fundraiser

Tuesday, July 8, 2014 starting at 7:00 PM
at the Viscount Gort Hotel, 1670 Portage Avenue

**Honouring individual and federate members for their service to the
community**

Susan Proven, PHEc – Manitoba Association of Home Economists
Nancy Schneider, PHEc – Manitoba Association of Home Economists
Enid Clark – Manitoba Women's Institute
Kelly-Ann Stevenson – Council of Women of Winnipeg
Sarasvati Productions

Refreshments Jazz Band 'Nightfall'
Rainbow Auction Door prizes
Celebrating Women Boutique & Prints

Tickets \$35.00

Tickets are available at McNally Robinson Booksellers or call 204 775-0743 or e-mail sleepyhollow52@gmail.com.

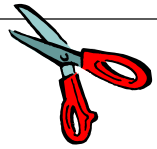
"PCWM founded in 1949 – women working together for 65 years"

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204 – 825 Sherbrook Street, Winnipeg MB R3A 1M5
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Or E-mail: pcwm@mts.net

Thank you for your interest in the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.
It is now time to renew your membership for the upcoming year.
The membership year runs from April 1/14 – Mar. 31/15
To renew your membership, please follow the steps outlined below:

- 1) Fill out the form below.
- 2) Send the completed form, along with a cheque **payable to The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.** to:
PCWM – Membership Chair
204 – 825 Sherbrook Street
Winnipeg , MB R3A 1M5

Membership Form — PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY



Please indicate whether you are applying to be an **Individual** or **Federate** member:

Individual member - Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

Federate member – Name of Organization: _____

Name of the President/Executive Director _____

Name of the Representative to PCWM: _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Federate Phone # and E-mail (if applicable): _____

May we send newsletters, articles and notices by e-mail? Yes No
May we share your contact information with the PCWM membership? Yes No

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Please circle applicable amount:

Federate Members (April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015):	\$40.00
Individual Members (April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015):	\$20.00

Would you like a receipt for this payment? Yes No

The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc. is committed to protecting the privacy of our members. The contact information of our membership is only circulated between members of the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc. and is not made available to any outside groups or individuals.