



President's Message Alberta Johnson

I hope you all enjoyed your holiday festivities and are settling back into your routine. I would like to first thank you all for your support, hard work and participation this past year. I am very proud to be president of such a dynamic and motivated group of women. I would like to welcome two new board members, Alexandra Shkandrij as treasurer-in-training and Shelagh Polischuk from Manitoba Women's Institute. I am so excited to see what these two accomplished women will bring to the board! We are also sad to see our Communications Chair, Lise Fenton resign. She has accepted a job within government and we wish her the best in her new position.

This past November we held our Semi-Annual Meeting, with a program on the topic of Murdered and Missing Women with two speakers: Chelsea Cardinal and Mandy Fraser. It was a great educational event and we had an excellent brainstorm session as to how PCWM can support this cause. Please see the article written by the programs chair for more details about the event.

With an influx of new members we are seeing growth in our committees, particularly our Resolutions Committee. I am so glad to see that we will be having some excellent resolutions coming forward for the AGM in May. I would also like to welcome Madeline Wieler, our new intern, funded through the University of Manitoba Women's and Gender Studies Program. She will be assisting the resolutions committee in research for their resolutions and doing federate outreach.

Coming up fast in the New Year is our general meeting on January 15th, our Annual Roundtable Event, and our Annual High Tea. Please see the details within this newsletter and mark your calendars, as they are bound to be excellent events. I would also like all federates to start thinking about people within their organizations that they would like to nominate for our Celebrating Women award. This is a great opportunity to appreciate women within the community and recognize their accomplishments!

Thank you again for your hard work, engagement, and support. This organization would be impossible without you. I wish you the best of luck and health in the new year and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Sincerely,

Alberta Johnson

"Being courteous to others is not only respectful to others, but it directly reflects on you as a person. It means putting yourself in the other persons shoes instead of thinking of yourself first." M Grossman



Political Intransigence on Prostitution and MMIWG

As 2014 winds up, here is a brief update on the prostitution law (Bill C-36) and murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, important developments in women's equality issues we have followed on the social and political front during the year.

Bill C36, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act came into effect December 6, 2014. Intended to shift the previous purpose to deal with prostitution as a nuisance, to treating it as sexual exploitation, the new law nevertheless does not reduce risks sex workers face that were deemed fatal to the previous law and creates a good deal of ambiguity and confusion for sex workers, law enforcement and the public.

The Federal Government, in almost complete disregard for the Bedford decision of the SCC that had struck down the previous prostitution law as unconstitutional in December, 2013, introduced the new law based on the Nordic Model that criminalizes the purchase, but not the sale of sexual services, thus criminalizing prostitution for the first time in Canada. Women who were involved in the sex trade voluntarily had lobbied for a law that would permit sex trade workers to work in safe and secure circumstances, and the Supreme Court had agreed with them that criminalizing "communicating for the purpose", bawdy houses or working indoors and "living off the avails" (for pimps and traffickers but including security personnel), put sex workers at risk of harm by forcing them into the shadows and exposing them to attack. Now, by criminalizing the john's role in the transaction and making no provisions for legitimate safe locations for the activity, it is driven into the shadows again, risking sex workers' safety and security, whether practiced indoors or in the streets. In addition, it puts sex workers at real risk of also being charged criminally for 'working' in forbidden locations such as vaguely defined places where children might

be present.

Providers of sex services are not criminalized. This would seem to be in consideration of multiple factors: that many children are involved in the trade and many have been victims of incest; that Aboriginal women are disproportionately represented in sex work; that poverty and dysfunctional families create severe vulnerability to luring, entrapment and participation in drugs and crimes including prostitution; in short, that poverty, inequality and lack of opportunity underlie this age-old activity. It is by now obvious to everyone that the present leadership in our Federal Government remains deaf to calls to address poverty, women's equality and social justice issues, and will treat prostitution essentially as a moral crime to be managed by law enforcement, no matter the consequences. Now it is back under the table until the next court challenge, and Canada has wars to fight elsewhere!

Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, MMIWG, is a renewed campaign to solve/prevent murders of indigenous women and children. Again, there is a stalemate with the Federal Government's responsibilities to Aboriginal Peoples of Canada and its refusal to call an Inquiry or to confront the issues based on objective data. It is debatable whether an Inquiry is required but what is clear is that answers must be found to the fact that the thirty-year RCMP review shows the rate of murdered and missing Aboriginal women had been increasing in recent years. Indigenous women are murdered or missing at seven times the rate of non-aboriginal women, while the rate of non-aboriginal victimization has remained constant.

In 2015 we must continue to promote action on pressing women's issues and choose carefully where to put our energies to foster women's equality in an increasingly intransigent political atmosphere nationally.

Marilyn McGonigal December 2014

Save the Date!
January 15th, 2015 General Meeting

On Thursday, January 15th, PCWM will be holding its next General Meeting. The event will take place from 6 - 8pm in room 202, 825 Sherbrook. The topic of the meeting will be looking at Access to Healthcare for Women with Disabilities. Emily Ternette will begin the evening with her knowledge on the topic, which will be followed by a question and answer period, as well as time for a roundtable discussion. As with our previous programs, we hope to engage in a follow - up discussion around what steps PCWM can take to help this issue, as well as create a guideline for our resolutions board to work with. The event will be open to all our federates, members, and the general public. Please RSVP to pcwm@mymts.net by Monday, January 12th. Refreshments will be provided.



Save the Date!
Friday, February 20, 2015
Federate Round Table Luncheon and Networking Event

On Friday, February 20th from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba will be holding the Annual Federate Round Table Luncheon. It will take place in the Bulman Centre Multi Purpose Room at the University of Winnipeg. We will be focusing on the theme of housing and will have time for federate representatives to share upcoming events with the attendees. We aim to create an environment that promotes both networking and mentorship between generations of women and Manitoba organizations. The event will once again be open to the general public, as we hope to continue to build relationships between diverse communities.

More information will be available shortly on our website and through email. Please keep your eyes open. We hope to see you there!



It is with sadness that we announce that a member of PCWM, Sheryl Janet Feller (nee Nichols), passed away on Tuesday, November 25, 2014. Sheryl facilitated PCWM's Strategic plan of 2012, and then became a member maintaining it since. Our sincere condolences go out to her husband, Barry, and family.





Sarasvati Productions
*has an exciting spring planned as its
Power Up themed season continues:*

So You Think You Can Act! – a fun fundraiser
February 18th

Gas Station Arts Centre

Featuring local participants trying their hand at acting - Rana Bokhari, Chris Cvetkovic, André Lewis, Kelly Linehan, Romi Mayes, Doug Speirs and Taz Stuart

Tickets: 204-586-2236 | <http://sarasvati.ca/season/sytyca-2015/>

International Women's Week Cabaret of Monologues - Super Women!

A diverse line-up of monologues exploring extraordinary women and ordinary women who do amazing things.

March 7, 2015 4pm and 8pm Public Shows at Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (400 Colony Street)

March 3-8, 2015 community venues

Tickets: 204-586-2236 | <http://sarasvati.ca/season/iww-super-women/>

Miss N Me - by two-time Governor General Award recipient Catherine Banks

A road trip through one woman's psyche! Dawna is turning 50 and preparing for her 25th wedding anniversary party, but takes off in her husband's plumbing van on a mission to meet rapper Miss Elliott.

May 21st to May 31st, 2015

Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (400 Colony Street)

Tickets: 204-586-2236 | <http://sarasvati.ca/season/missn-me/>

PCWM BOARD meetings 2015

Board Meetings are held in the kitchen at 825 Sherbrook St. (SMD Building)

January 8th - 6:30pm
February 5th - 5:30pm

March 5th - 6:30pm
April 2nd - 5:30 pm

2015 General Council meetings

General meetings are held at 202 - 825 Sherbrook St. (SMD Building) unless otherwise noted

January 15th 6pm Topic: *Access to Health Care for Women with Disabilities* with Emily Ternette

March 19th 6 pm Resolutions Meeting to discuss NCWC Resolutions

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

Watch for notices with further information.

SPECIAL EVENTS 2015

February 20th 10am -1pm
Location *TBA* – Roundtable Luncheon and Networking Event– Theme: Housing

March 1st 3pm-5pm
at the Fort Garry Hotel – High Tea in celebration of International Women's Day – Tickets \$50.00 available by contacting pcwm@mymts.net or 204-992-2751

May 2nd Annual General Meeting – Gimili (more details to come)

July 7th Annual Celebrating Women Gala at the Viscount Gort (more details to follow)

Please add us on Facebook and Twitter to get updates about upcoming PCWM and federate events!

Review of PCWM Semi-Annual Meeting: Murdered and Missing Women
By: Charly Wreggitt

The PCWM's Semi-Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, November 15th, 2014. The topic discussed was that of Manitoba's Missing and Murdered Women, with speakers Chelsea Cardinal and Mandy Fraser present to provide a background on the topic and shape discussion.

Cardinal spoke on the importance of returning voices to Aboriginal women, citing her involvement with the protest camp that took place in August. The protest camp involved members seeking justice for the disproportionate number of Aboriginal women who have gone missing or have been murdered within our province and across Canada. She also looked at the impact of poverty and its relation to women at risk of violence; due to systemic issues around poverty, racism, misogyny, and colonial history. Cardinal acknowledged the structural roots that often lead to the enhanced vulnerability of women.

Fraser added to this by looking at the history of trauma many Aboriginal women and girls live with due to a history of residential schools and forced assimilation. She emphasized the importance of culturally competent resource centres, examining the ways in which they reach out to and work with community members.

The individuals who attended the meeting broke into groups after the presentations to discuss the main points they had gathered, as well as to conduct a brainstorming activity focused on what PCWM, as an organization, could do. One of the main points that arose from discussion was establishing a welcoming program for individuals coming into Winnipeg from rural communities. This would include providing tips and information around safe(r) areas, awareness of vulnerability, and a list of resources, clinics, businesses, etc. The importance of connecting with Aboriginal groups and supporting families was also discussed, acknowledging the importance of humanizing and individualizing the topic of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal women.

It was also mentioned that PCWM should be working to support good journalism; not necessarily publicly, but at least privately. This could be accomplished by writing letters to journalists whose ideals and stories we support and stand by, as a way of encouraging the continuation of positive and fair media representation. It is important for PCWM to take a stance when possible and call out reporters when inappropriate language is used.

The last major point that arose from discussion, was to address the ongoing review of school curriculum in an effort to analyze what topics and points of interest are being prioritized. At the last board meeting, members who had attended the event felt it went well, and that it was able to spark necessary dialogue and draw attention to the issue, providing PCWM with a framework for resolutions and guidelines for where our allyship should lie.





We invite you to
High Tea
in celebration of
International Women's Day

Tickets: \$50

*Best Hat Contest and
Saraswati Monologues*

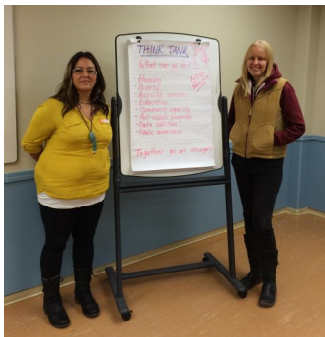
*Sunday, March 1st, 2015 3pm-5pm
at The Fort Garry Hotel*

*Please contact pcwm@mymts.net or 204-992-2751
for tickets or more information*

The Fundraising Committee is looking for donations of tea cups & saucers as favors for our guests at the High Tea in Celebration of International Women's Day. We need to get them before January 31, 2015. They can be dropped off at the general meeting on January 15th, or by calling [204 992-2751](tel:2049922751) or emailing pcwm@mymts.net.



Thank you for your kind support of PCWM.



Becca Quinn-Davis,
Charly Wreggitt,
Eden Friesen

Chelsea Cardinal
Mandy Fraser



Celebrating Women



Celebrating Women Gala - 2015

**Do you know a woman who has a history of volunteer work in Manitoba?
Would you like to see her recognized at the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba's
9th Annual Celebrating Women Gala Tuesday, July 7, 2015
to be held at the Viscount Gort Hotel?**

The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba is seeking nominations from its federate members for women to be honoured in the individual category.

Members of Federates are eligible.

Honourees will have a history of paid or unpaid work in the community that has not generally been recognized in a formal way, and should demonstrate the difference women make in the quality of life in Manitoba.

To obtain a nomination form contact:

Celebrating Women 2015

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba

204-825 Sherbrook St., Winnipeg, MB R3A 1M5

Or e-mail to: pcwm@mymts.net

Nomination Deadline:

April 15th, 2015

UNPAC: Not Afraid to Get Your Hands Dirty Award

By: Alberta Johnson

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, United Nations Platform for Action Committee (UNPAC) unfortunately has been dissolved, as of the fall of 2014. Through several discussions between PCWM and UNPAC a contract was drawn up to pass on UNPAC's activist award, "Not Afraid to Get My Hands Dirty" award. I am humbled to announce that for the next 5 years PCWM will be facilitating the continuation of this noteworthy award. The Not Afraid to Get My Hands Dirty award is an award given to a Manitoba woman who has recently demonstrated a creative activist response to an identified injustice. The recipient will be chosen by a committee comprised of members of PCWM, members of the former UNPAC, in addition to a member from an organization that focuses on international issues. The award this year will be presented at the 2015 Celebrating Women Gala in addition to our traditional Celebrating Women awards. I am very pleased that PCWM can continue to keep the spirit of UNPAC alive through this award. We thank them for their support and their number of years of advocacy, hard work and education. I am confident that their contributions toward a more equitable Manitoba will be felt for years to come.

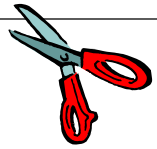
On behalf of Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba - Thank You

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.
204 – 825 Sherbrook Street, Winnipeg MB R3A 1M5
Phone: (204) 992-2751 Fax: (204) 975-3027
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 1/15 – Mar. 31/16
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, 2015 – March 31, 2016):	\$40.00
Individual Members (April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016):	\$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.