



CFUW Sunshine Coast February 2013 Newsletter



President's Message

Our **Symposium on Child Poverty** is fast approaching on 13 March 2013, open to the general public as well as to our club membership, starting at 9AM and running until 1PM in the Sechelt Band Hall (just behind McDonald's). Bring a friend, tell your Facebook pals, ask them to spread the word about this important event. (See poster on page 4) We are hoping for a broad community wide turnout.



Our theme is this: **We can't afford child poverty.** In fact, the effects of poverty on children has social ramifications that not many of us take time to think about. Quite simply, **poverty costs too much**, in lost human potential and productivity, in added burdens to the health-care system, the legal system, the social welfare system, and the front-line charitable organizations who take up the slack, or try to.

Our keynote speaker will be Michael Goldberg, who has worked in the field of poverty reduction for many years. Michael will provide the overview for an ensuing discussion of local problems by a panel of front-line workers from The Food Bank, Breakfast for Kids, Coastal Public Health, our sitting MLA (we hope), and The Progress Plan. Sandra Cunningham, a former president of CFUW–Sunshine Coast, has agreed to act as moderator.

After time for coffee and chat, break-out discussion groups will ask audience members to identify problems and possible solutions to these problems in terms of actions which we can decide to take or

ask our representatives to take in formulating a Poverty Reduction Plan for our Province and our unique area, the Sunshine Coast. Please help to make this event a success by spreading the word, and by coming out yourself.

Our major fund-raising event for the Spring is “**LOL**” or “**Ladies Out Late.**” We expect to be **laughing out loud**, and feeling **lots of love** since the timing—towards the end of May—puts us in Mother's Day month. We plan to have a Mother-Daughter theme, with a keynote address featuring our core goal: the important role education plays in improving women's lot in life, and by extension, improving a broad range of conditions in the society fostering women's education. We will try to equal the success of last year's wonderful Ladies' Night Out which set the bar very high. In fact, your executive board hopes that **LOL** will become a regular event that women in our community come to look forward to every spring. Plan to bring your daughter, or someone else's daughter, or maybe even a grand-daughter if you happen to have one. More about this later.

See you at the Symposium.
Mary Beth Knechtel

Christmas Luncheon Huge Success

And not just because we had a great time. The silent auction brought in \$ 1,370 for the Bursary Fund. Thank-you to everyone who contributed such desirable items. And thanks to all who bid and bought.

IF NOT YOU, WHO WILL ACT?



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Help Wanted

Would you like to get your picture in the membership brochure? Be invited to speak at every meeting? And in June, get a small gift for doing a wonderful job?

Then you want to be on next year's executive.

Executive meetings are once a month at some lovely lady's house who will make coffee and feed you cheese and crackers--or something even better.

Contact Sue Carson and let her know which position you would like:

Vice president: Biggest responsibility: looking after the banner. "All you have to do is put it into the back of your car and leave it there."

Treasurer: Go to bank, sign your name, don't steal the money.

Program: Call a meeting in August, make everyone else find speakers, feed them coffee and cookies, write everything down, buy little gifts, and make a handsome little thank you speech after every meeting.

Social: Circulate the list, bully people to bring something, come early and make coffee. Get your second in command to make the phone calls to remind people to bring stuff.

Communications: Contact the Webmaster when you have updates for the website - he does all the work; edit and distribute a newsletter - get other members to contribute the articles; submit notices to the local newspaper – also done by e-mail. Required skills: an ability to send e-mails.

Fire up your kettles. The March 25 meeting is our **Stone Soup Luncheon**.



If you have a favourite soup that you could bring, please contact Marlene Oussoren. (604) 886-1969

Upcoming Meetings:

February 25:

Update on Child Poverty Symposium
Template letter re: Bountiful

March 25:

Resolutions followed by a "Stone Soup" luncheon

April 22:

Habitat for Humanity - Talk by Gwen Hawkins

May 27:

Annual General Meeting followed by "The Great Canadian Quiz" with Dorothy Fraser

June 10:

Spring Tea – TBA

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INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY MARCH 8, 2013

In the weeks before and after International Women's Day, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women will be meeting in New York.



The 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW56) brings together government officials, rural women, representatives of the United Nations and civil society, the media and the private sector.

The 2013 session will focus on the following key areas:

- Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls
- The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving *in the context of HIV/AIDS*

For video clips of the 2012 Commission in action, go to: <http://www.unwomen.org/how-we-work/csw/csw-56/videos/>

UN Women

UN Women is the UN organization charged with advancing women's empowerment and gender equality worldwide. It began its work in 2011, the first new UN organization in decades.

On International Women's Day, 8 March 2013 UN Women will launch *One Woman: A song for UN Women*, a musical celebration of women worldwide, featuring more than 20 artists from across the globe. See <http://song.unwomen.org>

Singers and performers from all regions, contributed their talent. "One Woman" aims to become a rallying cry that inspires listeners about the mission of UN Women and engages them to join in the drive for women's empowerment and gender equality.

The UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF FEMINISM

Also in observance of International Women's Day, CFUW partners with the National Film Board to screen *Status Quo? The Unfinished Business of Feminism*



Feminism has shaped the society we live in. But just how far has it brought us, and how relevant is it today? *Status Quo?* a National Film Board (NFB) film asks these questions and uncovers provocative - at times shocking - answers about the evolution of women's equality in Canada. You can watch the trailer at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Yan8AUYweeM

Several CFUW Clubs will be hosting film screenings in their local communities.

IF NOT YOU, WHO WILL ACT?

Canadian Federation of University Women

www.cfuwsc.org

604-741-9846



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CAN YOU AFFORD THE COST of CHILD POVERTY?



FIND SOME ANSWERS

at the

Child Poverty Symposium

9am to 1pm (coffee at 8:30)

13 MARCH 2013

Sechelt Band Hall

(behind McDonald's)

Keynote Speaker: Michael Goldberg

Panel Discussion: Community Stakeholders

Round Table In-put and Action Plan

Sponsored by the Sunshine Coast CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women)

Donations to the Food Bank. For info go to www.cfuwsc.org or call 604-741-9846.

For on-site child-minding call 604-740-0025.

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