



CFUW Sunshine Coast October 2012 Newsletter



President's Message

Welcome to a new season of CFUW activities. Our program this year ranges from a discussion of the use of Nurse Practitioners in the public health system to a consideration of available resources on the Sunshine Coast to address family and child poverty.

Every day as I walk Redrooffs Road with my little dog, I think of the great good fortune that has placed me here in one of the most beautiful settings, in one of the wealthiest provinces, in one of the most affluent nations of the world. At the same time, I know that some families in our community, most of them single-parent families headed by women, struggle to put food on the table and find that making ends meet is a daily challenge. Part of our focus this year in CFUW will be to consider possible causes and practical solutions to these problems facing young families on the Coast by way of a public forum. We think this is also a good way to raise the profile of CFUW in the community.

One of the on-going concerns of CFUW has been fund-raising to provide bursaries for women who wish to better their lot in life by returning to post-secondary education. In the last 25 years, the SC club has raised over \$103,000 for this purpose. All of the women we have assisted are extremely grateful, one of them saying she feels encouraged because "a group of women is standing behind me." It is a less lonely struggle for her.

As you know, the national organization approved a new version of the Constitution and Bylaws in June. It is time for our club to update our own Constitution and Bylaws, a task already begun by a

previous committee. If you are interested in getting to the nuts and bolts of the organization, I'm sure your input would be appreciated on the 2012/2013 Committee to Revise.

I'll end with a challenge: thanks to Peggy Malcolm and her team, our spring fund-raiser, Girls' Night Out, was a roaring success. We hope to revisit GNO but we are going to have to come up with a new name for it, since it seems we have co-opted GNO from another group who feels high dudgeon about it. My suggestion is "Ladies Out Late." What's yours?

- Mary Beth Knechtel

CFUW (SC) Bursary Society AGM

October 22, 2012

All members of CFUW(SC) are also members of the Bursary Society. It is a registered charitable organization that receives donations from individuals, as well as from designated fund-raising activities, and subsequently disburses those funds to women on the coast following a selection process in the spring. In June we selected eight recipients from 15 applications, and awarded bursaries ranging from \$500 to \$1500. We also sent \$500 to Capilano University for the annual CFUW(SC) Bursary, which is awarded by the

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Upcoming Meetings:

October 22: Food Banks with Regards to Child Poverty - Talk by Dale Sankey.

November 26: The Progress Plan - The economic well-being of women on the Coast - Talk by Michelle Morton

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University to a student at the Sechelt campus.

Exceptional fund-raising involving much hard work by many members, combined with the generosity of many individuals who made greatly appreciated donations to the Bursary Society over the year, enabled us to help nine women to upgrade their education. Their thank-you letters say it all. Many of them would not be able to do this without our financial support and encouragement.

We get a chance to celebrate all of this on Monday October 22nd immediately following the CFUW General Meeting. It is a time for us all to acknowledge the hard work and generosity of members, and to highlight one of the things that distinguishes CFUW from many other organizations.

- Patti Gunning

Membership Report

- September 25, 2012

The membership desk was busy at both the Membership Tea held on September 10, 2012 and at our first general meeting held on September 24. A warm welcome is extended to the following new members and members rejoining after an absence - Kit Artus, Patricia Baker, Lynne Brown, Sandra Cunliffe, Pamela Earle, Joan Harvey and Kathy Taylor. As well, several guests also attended and we hope that they will be joining soon!

New member information cards have been developed and were distributed to the libraries, visitors' centres, local shops and the Welcome Wagon on the Sunshine Coast to promote CFUW-SC. Please grab one for any friend or new neighbour who might be interested in joining! This is the year to top up our membership and sustain

our club for the future. And remember, that CFUW invites all women who support the purpose of CFUW to pursue knowledge, promote education, improve the status of women and human rights, participate in public affairs and provide fellowship and support.

- Carol Steedman

Woodworth Motion Defeated

- from CBC.ca

A motion to study the Criminal Code's definition of when human life begins was defeated in the House of Commons, Wednesday September 26, 2012. Members of Parliament voted 203 to 91 against Motion 312, sponsored by Conservative MP Stephen Woodworth.

The private member's motion sought to set up a committee to study how the Criminal Code defines when life begins. The provision, in the homicide section of the code, says a child becomes a human being when it has fully left its mother's body.

Critics said the motion was an excuse to reopen the debate on abortion in Canada and set limits on the procedure. Woodworth had said he hoped having a debate would convince Canadians to oppose abortion.

CFUW's Response - from *Week in Review*

CFUW is pleased by the outcome [of the vote], however is dismayed that the Status of Women Minister, Rona Ambrose threw her support behind the motion, which is akin to a vote against women's hard won reproductive rights. CFUW sent a letter to Ambrose to express our disappointment in her decision.

Of Note: Our local MP, John Weston (West Vancouver--Sunshine Coast--Sea to Sky Country) voted in favour of the motion.

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On the National Scene

Susan Murphy is excited to take on the Presidency of CFUW's national board. She has been a member of CFUW for nearly seventeen years, originally in UWC Winnipeg and more recently in the Nanaimo club, where she has lived since 2000.

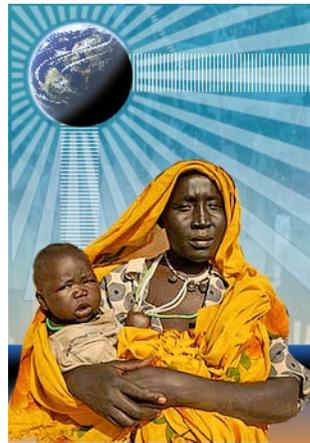
As you may already know, **October is Women's History Month**, with a number of activities and events taking place across the country. Among these events will be the Sisters in Spirit vigils held in communities all over Canada on October 4th to honour the memories of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. CFUW National will be participating in the Ottawa vigil, and clubs may consider attending one in their local communities. You can visit the Native Women's Association of Canada's website for information on the location of vigils: <http://www.nwac.ca/programs/2012-vigil-locations>

October 11th will also be the first ever **International Day of the Girl Child**, which we are sure will prove to be a major event. If your club has any events or activities planned for this day National Office would love to hear about it.

Persons Day is October 18th, and this year October 20th will be the first **Reproductive Justice Day of Action**, with events taking place across the country to highlight issues of unequal access to reproductive health services. Clubs can contact National Office at cfuwadvocacy@rogers.com if they are interested in participating in an event in their local community.

And as always, CFUW is very involved with the 16 days of **Activism Against Gender Violence** from November 25th to December 10th, including the December 6th commemoration on the National Day of Action and Remembrance on Violence Against Women.

October 17 - International Eradication of Poverty Day



The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has been observed every year since 1993, when the General Assembly of the United Nations, designated this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries - a need that has become a development

priority.

At the Millennium Summit, world leaders committed themselves to cutting by half by the year 2015 the number of people living in extreme poverty - people whose income is less than one dollar a day.

The theme for this year's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty -- "Working together out of poverty" -- highlights the need for a truly global anti-poverty alliance, one in which both developed and developing countries participate actively.

For more information and related links go to: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/poverty/>

Canada-wide CFUW collected \$1,049,214 during 2012 for scholarships and bursaries. British Columbia contributed \$371,345 coming second only to Ontario with \$393,311.

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Coursera – A new idea in Education

Coursera partners with top universities around the world to offer courses online for anyone to take, *for free*. Their goal is to empower people with education that will improve their lives, the lives of their families, and the communities they live in.

Coursera offers courses in a wide range of topics, spanning the Humanities, Medicine, Biology, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Business, Computer Science, and many others. Thirty-three universities are currently involved in the project, including the University of British Columbia, and the University of Toronto.

Will you get credit for the courses?

Coursera's answer:

You will not get credit with our partner universities. However, some students who are currently enrolled at other universities have been able to get credit for taking these courses, sometimes as individual research units. Check with your university to see if this is an option.

Many of our classes are designed to help you acquire particular skills, which potential employers might find valuable. Moreover, the fact that you've set aside time for personal education shows that you have a positive attitude towards learning, which is always a plus.

<https://www.coursera.org/>

Week in Review tells you what CFUW is doing, what our partners are doing, and provides a summary of women's news from around the world. To Subscribe to **Week in Review**
email: cfuwadvocacy@rogers.com`

Operation Christmas Child

Christmas boxes have arrived once again – and if you have not yet collected items for the boxes (hygiene items, school supplies, a brown teddy bear, etc.), now is the time to start.

I will have some boxes at the October meeting but you can call me at any time. Some prefer to purchase a Rubbermaid shoebox, which can then be used by the family in so many ways.

The boxes will be collected about the third week in November and I am more than willing to pick them up.

These boxes are the only gift children in Central and South America ever receive. Some day I'd like to be on a gift-delivery trip – that's my goal. Give me a call for more information. 604-886- 1969

- Marlene Oussoren

SAVE THE DATE



CFUW Sunshine Coast
Christmas Luncheon
Monday December 3
sunshine Coast Golf & Country Club

Time to think about items for the silent auction!

...

In support of the St. Bart's Food Bank

An historical fashion show:

A Waisted Effort

by noted fashion historian Ivan Sayers

Saturday October 13, at 1:30 pm.

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church

659 North Road, Gibsons

Tickets \$25, available at St. Bart's, 604-886-7410

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