



### *Message from the President. . .*

It's that time of year again...Resolutions! For me it is when we see our connection to the National office and the broader purpose of CFUW. It is inspiring that local clubs are taking an interest in a topic, doing research and presenting us with their suggestions for lobbying our politicians and taking a stand. The fact that we can do this so freely in our country makes me proud and sad that there are places in the world where this is not allowed.

Please come to the meeting, we need a quorum in order to register our votes. To be even more enticing we are having pot luck dinner to enjoy with our voting. At the February meeting a few members volunteered to review and summarize the resolutions so that we don't have to read through all of them ourselves. We will include links in the newsletter to the national and Ontario sites where you can read them at your leisure. For the Pot Luck dinner we are not tracking the food, bring what you like. Keep in mind that we don't have a stove or microwave to use. Please bring your own plate and cutlery with your mug. See you at 7!

Cathy

*Have you bought your tickets for the  
International Women's Day Lunch yet?*

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with other women for a good cause. Bring a friend (or two) and enjoy a lovely lunch with an inspiring speaker. Details are on page 3 of the newsletter.



## Next General Meeting

**Wednesday,  
March 2, 2016**

## "Resolutions and Potluck"



### Location:

**Viva Retirement Centre  
1880 Glengrove Rd  
Pickering**

### Meeting Time:

**7:00 p.m.**

*Invite a friend to this meeting & introduce them to the fun and friendship of CFUW!*



## Minutes of General Meeting Wednesday February 3, 2016

International Women's Day – we have been organizing the luncheon jointly with the Scarborough club. Nonna has been working with them on behalf of our club. It is coming up March 6<sup>th</sup>. Please buy tickets from Jane C. The Scarborough chair has said that they will not be doing this again next year as there doesn't seem to be enough interest by members in attending. We are worried about ticket sales.

Sample pictures of banners on display at the Fall Gathering were circulated and members put comments on the one they liked best. The cost is \$90 plus tax and \$15 shipping. Resolution's meeting is in March - it will be pot luck dinner. Please bring your own dish and cutlery to cut down on clean up and costs for disposable items. There are 5 national resolutions and one Ontario. Copies were given to those who volunteered to review and summarize for us at the meeting.

Archives – does anyone know where these boxes are? We can look into storing them with the city archives as many other clubs have done. Caroline will reach out to Christina Douglas to see if she has them.

Next standing committee meetings are March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Ontario AGM is at Hockley resort in May.

Scholarship - Dorothy has a donation coming from a friend of Diane's.



## Dates and Data

### CFUW Websites:

Main website: <http://www.cfuw.org>

Ontario Council Website: <http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/>

### CFUW on Facebook

CFUW has a Facebook group! If you are a Facebook user you can join the group by searching for Canadian Federation of University Women, or visit <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2232370205>

### Ajax-Pickering on Facebook:

Our club now has its own Facebook page. You do not have to have a Facebook account to view this page. Simply Google Ajax-Pickering CFUW Facebook page or click on the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/CFUWAjaxPickering?ref=stream>

### Ajax-Pickering on Twitter: Use @CFUWajax

The Ontario Council newsletter, *Dates and Data*, is available on-line on the Ontario Council website.

*The Communicator* newsletter is available on-line on the main website.

## Upcoming CFUW Events

### Ontario Council Standing Committee Meeting

Next Meeting: March 12, 2016

All members are welcome to register and attend the Standing Committees Meeting and luncheon. Please download the registration form from the Ontario Council website and send the form with a cheque to the Treasurer by the Tuesday preceding the meeting.

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church  
1585 Yonge Street

**Morning Session Topic:** Refugee Crises: The Challenging Road to Resettlement

Speakers: Dr. Secil Ertorer, Dr. Branka Agic

**Afternoon Session Topic:** Mental Health and Well-being of Refugees in Canada: Continuing the Discussion

Check In 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Begins at 10:00 a.m.

Catering requires pre-registration

[Registration Form \(PDF\)](#)

**Celebrate International Women's Day  
with Canadian Federation Of University  
Women (CFUW)  
Scarborough and Ajax-Pickering Clubs!**



**Sunday, March 6, 2016**

**12:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

**Qssis Banquet Hall**

**3474 Kingston Rd. (at Markham Rd.)**

**Guest Speaker: Katherine Hensel, First Nations Lawyer**

**Gourmet Lunch**

**Tickets: \$45.00**

**Please contact Nonna (416) 806-0605 or  
Lenora (416) 690-5311**

**Menu for the International Women's Day  
Event**

**Salad** - Spring Mix with balsamic Vinaigrette, Ranch and raspberry dressing on the side

**Main Course** - Filet of sole with lemon capers and roasted chicken supreme with white mushroom

**Vegetables** - Parisienne potatoes, baby carrots and green beans

**Dessert** - Cheesecake (blueberry, cherry or strawberry)

**Coffee and tea, free soft drinks**

Arrival time- 12:30 pm.

Dinner served at 1:30 pm. - 2:30 pm.

Guest speaker 2:30 pm. to 3:30 pm.

**International Women's Day 2016**

International Women's Day was first celebrated in 1911 in the countries Austria, Germany, Denmark and Switzerland. In some countries today it is a public holiday. Those countries include (but are not exclusive ) Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, and the Ukraine. In 1975, the United Nations initiated the International Year of Women with the first conference on women's issues held in Mexico City. In 1977 the General Assembly of the United Nations invited all countries in the U.N. to proclaim March 8<sup>th</sup> as the International day for Women's Rights and Peace. The purpose of this proclamation was to eliminate discrimination against women or bring awareness of it on a global scale. It was also designated to assist women to gain full and equal participation in global development. Women were to be enabled to act as agents of change. The symbol of International Women's Day is the goddess Venus.

Why is it so important to educate girls around the world?

According to the non-government organization Oxfam, girls who complete primary and secondary education are more likely to be literate, healthy, and survive into adulthood. They will have children later when they themselves are adults and they will have fewer. They will reinvest their income back into their families, communities and countries. Most importantly, they will be aware of their rights and be able to be themselves agents of change.

Some statistics:

- Two thirds of children globally denied education are girls.
- Nineteen percent of 188 directly elected political leaders in the world are women.
- Seventy percent of those living in absolute poverty globally are women.
- Six hundred and three million women live in countries where domestic violence is not yet considered a crime.
- Sixty six percent of the illiterate adults globally are women.
- Three out of four fatalities in war are women and children.
- Seventy five percent of refugees and internally displaced persons in the world are women who have lost their homes and families.
- Over 95 percent of fetuses aborted in a hospital in Bombay India were female.

*(cont'd on p.g. 4)*

(cont'd from p.g. 3)

- Globally, domestic violence causes more death and disability among women 16-44 than cancer or traffic accidents.

References:

DoSomething.org  
 lwdtoronto.ca/international-womens-day-history-2  
[www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)  
[www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)

(article submitted by Marcy R.)

### Oshawa Club Let's Do Lunch

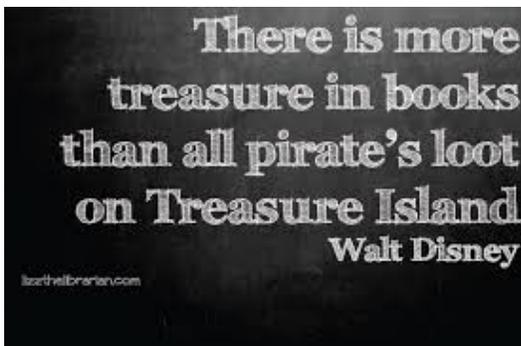
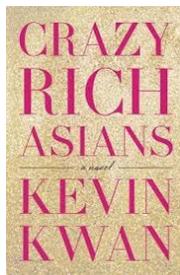
The March lunch has been cancelled since it falls on Good Friday. The next lunch date will be Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Details will be published in the next newsletter.

## Interest Groups

*Get involved—get connected!! Join an interest group or better yet – organize one!*

### Book Club

Book Club is open to all, and all are welcome! The March Book Club meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at 7:30 pm at Louise S's. The book is **Crazy Rich Asians** by Kevin Kwan. Please contact Louise at [louise\\_simmonds@look.ca](mailto:louise_simmonds@look.ca) to confirm attendance.



## Resolutions Information

The following are the resolutions for discussion at the meeting:

Proposed by CFUW-Ottawa  
 Related policies – none

**RESOLVED:** that the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Ontario to revise the Ontario Employment Standards Act to ensure that all employees who contribute to an employer's benefit plan remain covered for their full term of employment, regardless of age.

The complete resolution package is available at the following link:

<http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/Resources/OC%20Resolution%20Package%202016%20Age%20Discrimination%20in%20Ontario%20Employee%20Benefit%20Programs.pdf>

Additional Resolutions for 2015/2016:

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls—Ending the Marginalization of Indigenous Women in Canadian Society
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) - Diagnosis, Intervention and Support Plan for Children, Adults and Families Affected by FASD
- Strengthen the Pest Management Regulatory Agency in Order to Protect the Environment
- Electoral Reform: Adding Proportionality to the Electoral System in Canada
- Sustainable Development Goals

More information on these resolutions can be found at the following link:

<http://www.cfuwadmin.org/Portals/1/cfuwadminfiles/webfiles/advocacy/resolutions/proposed/2015-2016%20Proposed%20Resolutions%20for%20Amendment.pdf>

## **Gender Mainstreaming and CFUW Advocacy**

*Club Action Newsletter, February 19, 2016*

The new Government's attitude towards women in politics ("Because it's 2015") demonstrates a greater understanding of how policies impact women differently. We are reminded of why we advocate for more women at the decision-making table: because women experience the world differently, and policies will impact them in different ways. We need this gendered insight into how Government policy can be equally beneficial across the sexes.

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy used when creating policy to assess the implications of that policy for both men and women. It is about more than creating policy just for women: it is about considering the impact of seemingly neutral policy on different people. Gender mainstreaming is an important part of any policy advocacy we do at CFUW. This strategy recognizes that men and women are affected differently by policy, and is used to ensure that the proposed policies have fair results for everyone.

For example, it is incredibly important to use gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding situations. Armed conflict affects women and girls differently than it does men. Women experience war differently; they are vulnerable to different kinds of violence; they play a unique role in communities and family life during conflict, and in many societies it requires special strategies to get them to the peacebuilding table. Peacebuilding is proven to be more effective and long-lasting if gender-analysis takes place at the outset. By applying gender mainstreaming, we can ask questions such as: how will the presence of peacekeepers impact the women in this community? How are women experiencing this conflict? What role are women playing here, and how can we utilize their expertise and networks to bring about peace?

In Canada, the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women is a prime example of gendered analysis. While it is clear that the Indigenous population as a whole experiences higher rates of violence than the rest of Canada, Indigenous women are experiencing violence unique to their intersectional identity, as both women and Indigenous peoples. This identity subjects them to

two forms of systemic discrimination, and makes them particularly vulnerable. Study of and action on this violence is required, and will have to address both the racial and gender reasons behind it.

Gender mainstreaming has gained steam in the past several years and is a recognized part of public policy. Today, legislative bodies can employ specialized experts called Gender Advisors to do thorough research into how policies impact men and women differently, and to recommend what to include in the policy to ensure equitable results. The Government of Canada and the United Nations have both sought to include it in their decision making. However it remains important for CFUW to push for the inclusion of gender mainstreaming in all of our policies: to recommend the use of gender advisors, and urge for the equal participation of women at every decision-making table.

No one understands the lives of women better than women themselves, and it is in CFUW's mandate to ensure that women's experiences are heard, understood and acted upon.

Further reading: <http://ipolitics.ca/2016/02/03/the-language-of-policy-why-focusing-on-gender-matters/>

## **Violence against Women: Canada's Renewed Commitment**

*Club Action Newsletter, February 19, 2016*

A priority of the new federal government is tackling violence against women, particularly indigenous women. This has, of course, been on CFUW's radar for years. We have passed extensive policy and advocated for more funding for women experiencing violence, as well as for education on the topic. The Government is demonstrating their commitment by launching the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and making violence against women the focus of our national delegations at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations Human Rights Council.

These are big wins for anti-VAW advocates, there's no doubt. However we must remember that this is a small victory in a much bigger war: violence against women continues to pervade our culture and society. In light of this renewed commitment by our  
*(cont'd on p.g. 6)*

(cont'd from p.g. 5)

Government, we will take the opportunity to paint a picture of the current state of violence against women in Canada and around the world.

In Canada, violence against women is hidden: it is rarely committed in public or by a stranger. In this country, 84% of cases of reported violence against women, and 75% of sexual assaults, involve attacks by intimate partners.<sup>1</sup> More often than not, women know their attackers. This complicates how the public understands and reacts to these crimes: shame, victim blaming and stigma are common.

This impacts how many women report their experiences: we know that far more incidences of violence against women occur than are reported. The Jian Ghomeshi trial is highlighting the incredible complexity of these crimes: violence against women is so often committed in private spaces with nobody to witness them. When it becomes a "He said, she said" scenario, who he and she are become very important in the court of public opinion.

Women, however, are responding to the growing discussion around violence by sharing their experiences, supporting one another and promoting the mantra: "believe the victim". People are fighting back against the idea that women report false attacks to get attention or to injure the accused's reputation. It is becoming increasingly understood that the trauma of reporting assault far outweighs any kind of personal vendetta.

This shift in attitude, and openness to discussion, have been a long time coming - and there is still a long way to go. It should not be so traumatic for women to report assaults: there should be accessible, supportive services in place to deal with assault. Further, we need to make these instances rarer: we need policies in place to prevent assault before they happen. This goal requires policies to address even broader issues: increasing the economic prosperity of women; education on equality, and the overall social normalization of equality.

Last year, CFUW signed on to support the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Support Networks *Blueprint for a National Action Plan on Violence against Women*. This document outlines the strategies and policies needed to address systemic violence against women. It is important that we continue to push for its implementation, and keep our government accountable for their policies on violence against women.

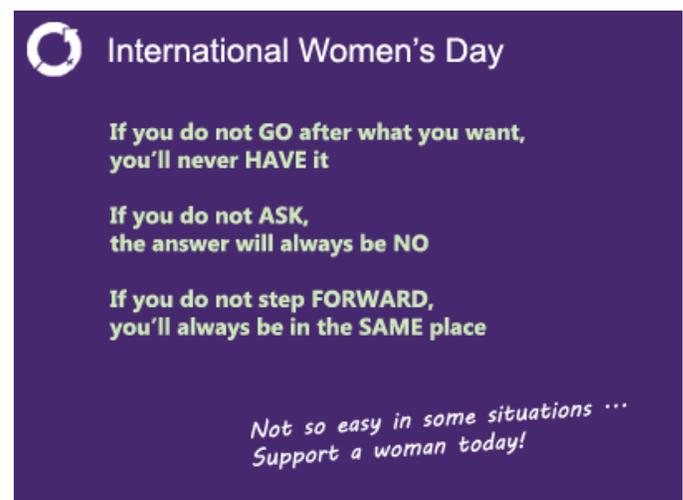
Internationally, violence against women persists as well. Sylvia Walby's research on violence against women in the UK demonstrates that these crimes are being erased by the way official statistics are collected. Statistics only record up to five assaults on a woman by the same partner. This means that whether a woman is assaulted 5, 50 or 500 times, the system only records 5. This not only invalidates women's experiences, but the lack of data also results in the removal of support services where they are needed. This example speaks to the repetitive, pervasive nature of violence against women.

Anti-violence legislation in over 125 countries is insufficient for the crimes being committed. We are seeing an increase, not a decrease, of these crimes that are rooted in hate and a determined rejection of equality. The sexual slavery and violence against women committed by ISIS in Syria, for example, or by Boko Haram in Nigeria, are instances where women's low economic standing and lack of social power are making them vulnerable to violence. Socially imposed roles for men and women and the power relations between them create dynamics of inequality. These dynamics are ingrained in our culture and in cultures around the world. To undermine these societal myths and eliminate violence against women will require global social pressure to empower women and normalize equality. For CFUW it means policy, activism, holding people to account and paying attention to international trends.

It may be 2016, but there is a long way to go.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada (2013), "Measuring Violence against Women: Statistical Trends".

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2013001/article/11766/11766-1-eng.htm>



**Newsletter Deadline**

Information for the April newsletter should be submitted by **Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.** Submissions can be mailed, dropped off, or sent via e-mail (jbriell@bell.net). Contact Sandy at 905 428-0003 for further information.

**Note from the Editor**

*The Grapevine* is available in both electronic (Adobe PDF) and hardcopy formats, with electronic being the preferred, more cost-efficient format. **If you have recently changed your e-mail address or other contact information**, please let me know so I can update the club membership list and get the newsletter to the right place!

**CLUB WEBSITE**

<http://www.ajaxcfuw.ca/>

Our website has a brand new look. If you have anything you wish to add, or any new content you would like to see, please contact Sandy. This is still a work in progress so keep checking back!

**Facebook/Twitter**

This year we will be sending out meeting information via these social media platforms to try to encourage new members. Visit our new **Facebook page** (see page 2 for more info) or connect with us on **Twitter** (@CFUWajax).

**March 2016**

| Sunday                           | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday                   | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                                  |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|---|
|                                  |        | 1       | 2 <b>CFUW Meeting</b>       | 3        | 4      | 5   |
| 6 <b>Intn'l Womens Day Lunch</b> | 7      | 8       | 9                           | 10       | 11     | 12 <b>Ont. Council Standing Cmtee Mtg</b> |
| 13                               | 14     | 15      | 16                          | 17       | 18     | 19  |
| 20                               | 21     | 22      | 23 <b>Book Club Meeting</b> | 24       | 25     | 26  |
| 27                               | 28     | 29      | 30                          | 31       |        |   |