



## FOR THE RECORD

### CFUW BC Council Newsletter

### WINTER 2008

#### President's Report by Fran Mitchell

As I write this, I am getting ready to attend the CFUW Board meeting in Ottawa. The agenda is long and the topics varied as you would expect for our organization. In addition to the Board meeting, I will be spending time with the other 4 Vice-presidents where we are able to share the strengths, weaknesses and problems of our varied councils, as well as the fellowship, which I appreciate more and more, is the glue, (maybe the Royal Icing) that keeps us all as enthusiastic members.

A CFUW BC Council Executive meeting was held on January 14. Phyllis Scott joined us for lunch and gave us an update on IFUW happenings. The Executive has adopted a policy on "Hosting an AGM" which will be sent to the clubs for inclusion in the CFUW BC Council Resource book. The slate of officers nominated for the next biennium, 2008-2010 was submitted by Nominations Chair Pat James and is listed elsewhere. You will see that the Legislation Chair is vacant – so far. Please talk about it and let Pat know if your club has a candidate. Nominations are called for from the floor of the AGM.

The Executive also reviewed the latest revision of the Constitution and Bylaws which will be presented to the membership at the 2008 AGM. I have been very impressed with the thoughtful work done by Fiorenza Albert – Howard and Susan Murphy in preparing a document that will provide a practical framework for conducting future BC Council business. Clubs are asked to carefully review the material before the AGM and to phone or email any of us to discuss your concerns.

There is never enough time at an AGM for in depth discussion so make sure your concerns are known beforehand.

The 2008 AGM in Prince George has some interesting (no, you can't go to all the workshops) workshops as well as tours that showcase the community. Maureen Johnson is looking into a charter bus so book your seat ASAP. Thank you, Maureen.

As I head into the last few months of my term as BC Council president, and I read all the newsletters and minutes that are sent to me, I realize just how active clubs around the province have been in terms of advocacy on CFUW and BC Council policy, as well as support for women through scholarships. Our club speakers and interest groups help keep the members themselves educated and involved in community issues.

I look forward to reading more about each of our 26 BC clubs in the Annual club reports as well as those famous 30 second oral reports at the AGM.

I hope many of you will be joining me in Prince George in May.



President Fran pictured in her new kitchen prior to going to Ottawa.

## **BC West Regional Gathering**

We hosted a very successful Regional Gathering for all BC West clubs in early October. Representatives from all 11 clubs attended. Fran Mitchell, BC Council President led a President's roundtable, while CFUW and BC Council advocacy initiatives were shared by Sheila Thompson, National Status of Women and Human Rights Director and Maureen Johnston, BC Council Status of Women Chair. A Membership Roundtable led by Jean Garnett, CFUW Richmond provided useful ideas and discussion. Club reports offered an overview of activities and issues of concern. The warm fellowship shared by all the participants made the event an enjoyable one!

Marg Picard  
Regional Director  
CFUW - BC West  
"Visible Voice - Voix Visible"



Above: the Membership roundtable at the BC West Fall Gathering

## **Island Gathering March 15th**

"Leadership CAN be fun!" That is the theme for this year's Island Gathering, to be held Saturday, March 15th from 10-3 at the Nanaimo Golf Club, 2800 Highland Boulevard, Nanaimo. Do you want to discuss and debate an issue? There will be table topics. Do you want to hear from leaders in our organization? There will be a panel - Peggy Matheson, Past National

President, Marian Ennis, IFUW Convener of the Hegg Hoffet Fund, and Kathy Torhjem, President of CFUW-Nanaimo to share their experiences. Then a buffet lunch will be followed by our afternoon speaker, BC Council President, Fran Mitchell, who will also share her experiences over four years as our VP for British Columbia. And finally, for the lucky among us, a door prize or two!

Please see your Island Club President for registration forms and information.

Susan Murphy  
RD, Vancouver Island

## **Bountiful Roundtable sets up Action Fund for Teresa Blackmore**

Last September Wally Oppal, B.C.'s Attorney-General, appointed power lawyer Leonard Doust to take a more "aggressive approach" in reviewing allegations of misconduct in the polygamist community of Bountiful. Meanwhile, the Bountiful Roundtable Committee, at Hycroft, has been quiet for the past couple of months, awaiting the results of Mr. Doust's investigations.

In November, however, another development occurred, that could have a profound effect on the future of the women and children of Bountiful. This one involves Teresa Blackmore, who left Bountiful a couple of years ago with her three children, and now lives in Payette, Idaho. Since that time her sister, Elissa Wall, testified against Warren Jeffs at his recent trial in Utah declaring him guilty of two counts of rape as an accomplice. He is now serving 10 years to life in prison. Right after Elissa's court appearance, Roy Blackmore, Teresa's ex-husband, slapped her with a custody suit and is now trying to get back their children. Roy is Winston Blackmore's nephew and part of the Warren Jeffs group. He has all the money he needs to hire a top lawyer.

Teressa, on the other hand, is struggling to make ends meet. Wally Oppal's case against the Bountiful polygamists depends entirely upon women testifying in court on charges of sexual assault. If Teressa loses her children, this could send the message to all women in the FLDS that if they speak out, they'll lose their children.

At our most recent meeting on November 18, 2007, it was agreed that a fund, to be called the Bountiful Action Fund, would be set up as soon as possible. The purpose of the fund would be to collect money to help Teressa Wall Blackmore fight the custody suit for her children, as well as other needs which may arise. After that meeting, three members of the Roundtable committee met with the chair of the VanCity Community Foundation and were given the information about becoming a part of this foundation.

In the meantime, "Altering Destiny Through Education," based in Creston, has set up a Trust Fund to help Teressa Blackmore to fund her custody suit. This fund cannot issue official tax receipts, but for those for which this is not a concern, the name is Teressa Blackmore Defence Fund, and it's being held at the East Kootenay Credit Union, 920 Baker Street. Cranbrook, BC V1C 1A5.

Contributors can wire a transfer to Transit #22310-809 account # 200376020, or send a cheque to the Teressa Blackmore Defence Fund, 100 Birch Drive, Cranbrook, BC V1C 5X.

In early December Teressa Blackmore won an interim order for sole custody of her children, pending the outcome of a final custody ruling in the case. The Bountiful Roundtable group will be informed as soon as the arrangements are clear for the establishment of the Bountiful Action Fund. It has been reported that one of the West Coast LEAF lawyers has been in touch with Teressa to determine how that organization can help, and Daphne Brahman reported that the HOPE organization in the US is also

posting the above information on its website, as has the Vancouver Sun. It would appear that the work of the Bountiful Roundtable is beginning to have some results.

Maureen Johnston  
Chair, BC Council  
Status of Women

## **Proposed Resolutions for BC Council 2008**

### **1. VIOLENCE PREVENTION SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS**

Sponsoring Club: CFUW Saltspring Island

**RESOLVED:** that the BC Federation of University Women and its member clubs urge the government of British Columbia

To encourage all school districts in the province of BC to adopt programs **such as** the Respectful Relationships program developed by Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse (SWOVA).

### **2. FAIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMAN AND CHILDREN IN POLYGAMOUS COMMUNITIES**

Sponsoring Club: Legislation Committee of B.C. Council

#### **Resolution:**

That, in addition to implementing CFUW National and BC policies regarding sexual exploitation of women living in polygamous lifestyles, the Province of B.C. be urged to:

- (a) Provide education, legal and social services to enable women currently living in polygamous lifestyles to make free choices regarding their lifestyles;

- (b) Seek clarification of polygamy legislation with respect to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms;
- (c) Introduce legislation to ensure that any woman living in a state of polygamy, as defined by the Criminal Code of Canada, has fair recourse under the law for pensions, support, child custody and support, and inheritance; and
- (d) Review the provisions of the Independent Schools Act to ensure that funding provided under this Act does not support discrimination against women and children as may occur in polygamous communities

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Business at the AGM in Prince George will also include discussion and voting on proposed **Bylaw/ Constitution** changes. Material has gone to club presidents.

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Above: On a lovely fall day, some of CFUW Richmond's afternoon bridge group playing bridge with CFUW cards purchased at the AGM in Vancouver!

CFUW Saltspring Island President Ursula Livingston reports-We had two 10th Anniversary Celebrations – the first a BBQ at Emily and Duncan Hepburn's farm on September 8th, orchestrated by Emily and Lonia McLeod; the second a Bridge Luncheon on Nov.2nd organized by Joan Byrne and the CFUW Bridge Club. Both events were highly successful by every meaningful standard: attendance, “consumer satisfaction” or just plain fun to be had, community impact in the form of photos, articles and notices in the *Driftwood*, and funds generated for scholarships and club expenses.

### Fundraising and Awards

The following are reports of some of the wonderful events that have been held or are scheduled to raise funds for club awards and other community outreach.

From CFUW Coquitlam's newsletter, an excerpt from a thank you letter and the reason CFUW club members work so hard on these events.

*"I am very grateful for the award as well as the fact that such an organization exists to help students such as myself to work towards achieving personal as well as educational goals."*

### CFUW Parksville-Qualicum

It's been a very successful fund-raising season for the PQ club. Our bridge luncheon netted more than \$1000, the book sale over \$6000 and a yard sale \$1100. Working through London-based CCL, our global outreach program now supports three high school girls in Africa. Thanks to our generous membership, the silent auction held at our Christmas dinner raised \$1700 in aid of Haven Homes, the SOS service to abused women and children.

Submitted by Shirley Ledrew, Publicity Chair, CFUW Parksville Qualicum

Christine Petersen, President of CFUW Kamloops presented the first \$1000 bursary for a female graduate student at TRU on November 22 at the university, as well as several undergraduate awards totalling over \$3000. The local press was invited and told "As part of our mandate we raise monies to encourage post secondary education for women. Many of these students would not be able to attend TRU due to the high costs of tuition and we are pleased to help them achieve their educational goals."

CFUW-Richmond is pleased to announce our annual Fundraiser at the Metro Theatre on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 8:00 PM **WEDDING OF THE YEAR (Comedy)** by Norm Robbins. Proceeds are used for scholarships to Richmond Secondary schools and to our Kwantlen University College Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$10.00 (check out our website at [http://www.cfuw-richmond.org/special\\_events.htm](http://www.cfuw-richmond.org/special_events.htm)).

Here are 2 of CFUW Nanaimo's fundraising Ideas.

*Bookshelves overflowing since the December gift-giving season?*

*Make room for those new books by bringing old ones to the general meeting! And if you didn't receive enough, you can buy some! \$1 per book helps us raise scholarship funds!*

*The Scholarship Committee will happily sort, count and deposit into the Scholarship Account any and all spare change you collect in jars, piggy banks or other containers... a little spare change adds up quickly!*

CFUW Comox Valley used books slightly differently when they moved and passed - Motion: That for November meeting, each member brings a book to sell and pay \$2 to buy a book. All monies raised by this sale be sent to the National Charitable Trust 2008-2009.

Dickens Reading. "On behalf of the Penticton Community Soupateria Society, I want to express members' gratitude for CFUW-Penticton's sponsorship of the CBC Dickens' Christmas Carol reading. Approximately **\$5,000 was raised for the Soupateria.** That amount provides more than one month's worth of meals for Soupateria diners and is the largest single donation received this year. It is truly a significant amount.

I especially want to thank the hardworking team headed by Bonnie Ross and Claire Hawrys for their organizing and dedication to ensuring the success of this year's event. Members of the team included Sharon Amos, who produced what some consider the best production ever of this event and made sure it had the publicity to guarantee a full house; Elsa Gladwin, whose lovely decorations added to the evening's theme; Faye McGeachy, for great suggestions and attention to all kinds of details, and Bonnie Bodtger for her solid input and willingness to take on tasks. As well, thanks to all of you who sold your tickets and helped out the night of the event, all needed and appreciated. It was certainly a CFUW-Penticton event. And it was wonderful.

As we say, "it takes a community" to keep the Soupateria operating. I am proud to be part of the CFUW-Penticton community which made the Christmas Carol happen this year." Sincerely, **Sandra Henson.**



Books for Babies – CFUW Coquitlam reports

On June 13th 2007, the University Women's Club presented a cheque to the Terry Fox Library during their Friends of the Library meeting. Our member Pat Robinson, a Port Coquitlam resident, presented the cheque to Margaret Owens who chairs the Friends of the Terry Fox Library and to the Library Manager, Pat Dawson. The \$500.00 cheque, raised at our Bridge Tournament, was donated for their Books For Babies Program.

## **ADVOCACY and FORUMS**

### **Women's Lives - Have We Come A Long Way, Baby?**

#### **Margaret Harrington Program Chair**

CFUW Sunshine Coast's public forum held in late October was a resounding success. Since CFUW president Laura Sabia lead the women's movement in 1967 to establish the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada, CFUW has been involved in the ongoing process of speaking out for equality.

A capacity crowd heard Gene Errington, the keynote speaker, address the work of the Vancouver Status of Women Office back in the 1970s. Errington was the Ombudswoman, and heard the pleas for human rights and an end to discrimination in

the work place. Her examples showed an astounding picture of the reluctance and hostility of many in places of power.

Then three generations of women, Sarah Start, Kate von Riesen and Joyce Fitzpatrick, candidly answered questions about their lives..... Was your life better or worse than your mother's? What restrictions did you face in your career? Did you have concerns for your safety? Was there a double standard in sexual behaviour? Could you continue your job when you had children? The women on the panel bravely revealed a cross-section of the reality of women's lives over the past decades and today.

Questions from the audience brought forward the frustration of many--- What can we do? Society still objectifies women; government still does not realize the importance of our children and a quality national daycare system etc.

Many felt there was a lot more to do - to raise awareness, to keep on it, to allow zero tolerance, to set examples, and to speak out! Getting involved in government at any level is one way to be heard.

Have we come a long way baby? Not yet !



President Sandra Cunningham notes not only was the public forum televised but we have also been on the local radio station and there was an interview in the Coast Life magazine so we've sort of blitzed all forms of the media!

The University Women's Club of Vancouver will be holding a series of speaker/presentations on "homelessness" in the coming months. Dr. Nancy Hall spoke to our general membership in October on her experiences in working with homeless people in both Greater Victoria and Vancouver. We will continue our theme on January 31<sup>st</sup> when two recipients of the Order of Canada, Milton Wong and Michael Clague will share with us their stories of working in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and their visions of revitalizing the area through affordable housing. In March, we will have Geoff Plant, Vancouver Civil City Commissioner to tell us the focus of his work and how his office is working to address the issue of homelessness in Vancouver. For more information on these presentations, please call 604-731-4661 or email [admin\\_uwc@telus.net](mailto:admin_uwc@telus.net).

January 19, CFUW Prince George held its annual public forum, this year on Child Care. Panelists were:

- Kathy Basaraba, Early Child Care Educator (ECE), Manager of Children First, Northern Health
- Gail Mason, Prince George and Area Child Care Resource and Referral Centre
- Cindy Gosnell, ECE, Aboriginal Supported Child Care consultant at Native Friendship Centre
- Sherry Sethen, Executive Director, PG Chamber of Commerce and City Councillor
- Denise Marshall, ECE-Special Needs and Infant and Toddler specialist, Chair of PG ECEBC

We had hoped to have a representative from Alcan in Kitimat, as Alcan was a business negatively impacted by unavailable child care. Unfortunately, at the last moment they were unable to attend..

Panelists spoke of the difficulty day care operators had in recruiting and retaining

qualified staff. The reasons stated were as follows:

- extremely low entry-level wages. In fact, some said they could earn more working in almost any other job, including as servers in restaurants, including fast-food places; or as maids in the hospitality industry. However, unlike some of their entry-level counterparts, they receive no health or dental benefits, no opportunity for advancement and no possibility of seniority-based or merit-based wage increases.
- low morale due to poor wages, in spite of the fact that they have specialized college training, operate under a code of ethics, and hold an individual **License to Practice** issued by the provincial government
- low wages are indicative of a lack of recognition by society of the value of their training and expertise, and the important role they assume with Canada's children and their families
- inability to offer any benefits at all to attract and maintain qualified workers
- inability to take sick days due to the lack of qualified "subs" to replace them. In some instances, the day care has to shut down, putting parents, businesses and even the day care itself at risk.
- high stress levels due to the lack of a "safety net" i.e. knowing that if she takes time off, there's no one to fill in for her
- financial stress--the need for a wage that will support a family
- inability of workers to take advantage of available professional development dollars because they have no one to sub for them

They also expressed despair at the exodus of qualified child care workers from BC to

other provinces, all of which pay higher wages (BC is the lowest). Some pay benefits, and maintain a pool of qualified ECEs to sub for a sick worker when necessary. Frustration of operators at their inability to open publicly-funded spaces due to lack of qualified staff was also evident.

Other gaps in services are the lack of qualified ECEs to care for special needs children and lack of safe and appropriate transportation for such children

Athena Carr, College of New Caledonia ECE student and mother of two pre-schoolers, expressed her concern over the use of public capital expansion funds (\$12.5 million) by large, for-profit child care chains, such as the foreign-based multinational child-care corporations, *A.B.C. Learning Centres* and *123 Busy Beavers Learning Centres*. The A.B.C. chain describes itself as “the largest *publicly listed* child care provider in the world” According to ECEBC, these private, for-profit centres offer top dollar to buy out existing community-based child care businesses, build large facilities and, by offering fees much lower than traditional day care businesses can afford, run their competitors out of business.. ECEBC reports that in Australia, where the chain has been in operation for some time, fees are now going up dramatically while wages remain low. In fact, it has been reported in the media that the increase in child care fees (over \$100/day/child in Sydney!) was third highest in all goods and services. (Vegetables and gasoline ranked higher.)

In the for-profit child care centres, wages account for 50% of operating expenses; whereas, in community-based child care businesses, they account for 80 – 85%. In a recent survey conducted in Australia, 21% of workers in the corporate centres stated that they would not send their own children to the centres they work in due to quality concerns.

123 Busy Beavers Learning Centres is currently trying to buy up community-based child care in BC. For more information on this, go to the website [www.cccabc.bc.ca](http://www.cccabc.bc.ca) and click on the **BC Childcare is NOT FOR SALE** icon. Athena particularly recommended the article, “**Hindsight from Australia – Foresight for BC?**”

Prince George Chamber of Commerce Director, Sherry Sethen, said that BC businesses want to be part of the solution and, to that end, the BC Chamber has created a child care policy of its own. Go to [www.bcchamber.org](http://www.bcchamber.org) to read their policy.

Other websites for further information are as follows:

- [www.ecebc.ca](http://www.ecebc.ca)
- [www.advocacyforum.bc.ca](http://www.advocacyforum.bc.ca)
- [www.earlylearning.ubc.ca](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca)
- [www.bctf.ca](http://www.bctf.ca)
- [www.bcgeu.ca](http://www.bcgeu.ca)

We have not had the opportunity to discuss this issue as a club but will do so soon.



Penny Nelson of CFUW Coquitlam reports C.F.U.W. Chair, Sylvia Wiest, brought to our attention the very thorough documents from head office which organizes and highlights the extensive work that C.F.U.W. has done in many areas of our country's important issues and shows clubs how to advocate for positive changes. We are going to try and follow up on these ideas by introducing a new Interest Group, "Get Serious", which will take on this challenge. One suggestion was to meet initially for a pot luck dinner and with a bit of fun and fellowship, look at the different issues with the goal of choosing a couple and pursuing a course of action.

**To inform more interested members -** CFUW Nanaimo's Status of Women and Women's Issues Committee continues to have interesting discussions and programs. We recognize that many interested members are unable to attend our meetings or commit to the committee.

All CFUW-Nanaimo members are invited to receive the minutes of the Women's Issues Committee if you are interested in following the topics that we are addressing.

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## **CLUB DINNERS in FEBRUARY**

February 17<sup>th</sup> will mark the first time all Nanaimo members are invited to engage in hosting or being hosted at potluck dinners on the same evening. This is the germ of an idea to eventually have all CFUW clubs across the country hold the same event on the same evening of the year. In 2008, Montreal and Calgary CFUW clubs are participating. Nanaimo has 2 houses filled with hosts and guests.

"750 MILLION YEARS OF EARTH HISTORY"- the first in a series of Lunch Hour Lectures sponsored by Nelson's University Women's Club invited attendees to travel with Lesley Anderton, retired Selkirk College geology instructor, as she detailed changes the rocks and landscapes of the Nelson area have seen during the last 750 million years.

This event took place January 10th at the Nelson Library.

Further to the IFUW photo in our fall newsletter-President Cheryl-Ann Johansen of CFUW North Delta-Surrey writes: Great newsletter and a great photo of the BC CFUW members who did attend the IFUW conference in Manchester. Now I know that not all members were present at that photo session and the ones I know who were absent were Mary Stewart, Joy March, Charlene McDonald and myself, Cheryl-Ann Johansen. Just thought I would mention it. It was the first IFUW conference for Charlene and myself. We met so many interesting and wonderful women trying to make a difference.

IFUW is a launch partner for UNIFEM's campaign [Say No to Violence against Women](#).

[www.saynotoviolence.org](http://www.saynotoviolence.org)

The United Nations Foundation has announced that it will donate \$1 for each of the first 100,000 signatures to the UNIFEM-managed UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

We encourage all IFUW members to participate! Every signature will result in a donation of \$1. Goodwill Ambassador Nicole Kidman urges you to add your name to the UNIFEM virtual book to join hundreds of thousands of participants who are sending a strong message to all governments that the issue of ending violence against women must be placed high on the global agenda.

Judy Beinder President of CFUW Saanich Peninsula reports the following sad news - One of our very active and long time members died December 7<sup>th</sup>- Audrey Mawby. She was our president last year and many readers will have known her.

Gladys Utendale, president of CFUW White Rock-Surrey reports-Our Club has been 'reading' with children for some years and now we have 3 schools - the One to One program is in Vancouver and I think came from Kelowna.

For a switch, we now have our first school, with a student program to teach two of our members at a time on the computer etc. for which they will receive credits for their 'volunteer' work in the community.

CFUW BC Council Nominations for 2008-2010.

Position	Name	Nominating Club
Secretary	Kathy Torjhelm	Nanaimo
Treasurer	Martha Dagg	Kelowna
Education Chair		
Legislation Chair		
Status of Women	Maureen Johnston	North Vancouver
Communications Chair	Monica von Kursell	White Rock
Resolutions	Helen Collinge	Richmond

These will be declared elected at the BC Council AGM as no further nominations have been received .

Pat James (Nominations Chair)

**We are busily getting ready to welcome all BC members to the 2008 BC Council AGM and Conference, May 2-4! If you have not made plans to come, you'd better hurry up. Hotel rooms are going fast. .Using the 1-800 reservation service has proved quite unsatisfactory for a number of people. They've been given inaccurate information, e.g., "There are no rooms available" when there are. For better service, we suggest that you contact the Coast Inn of the North directly at 1-250-563-0121  
Donna Brundige, Past President CFUW Prince George and Conference Convener**