



Our Theme this year:

Shine a Light on Our Community

March 2025

Leadership Circle Members:

President: Christine Pagan president@cfuwpq.ca

Vice President: Position Available vp@cfuwpq.ca

Treasurer: Christine Pagan treasurer@cfuwpq.ca

Website: Val Gunn & Di Groffen website@cfuwpq.ca

Club Address: Box 113 Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K 1S7 See: <https://cfuwpq.ca>

Meeting: April 7 at 7 PM, Knox United Church

Program: Resolutions and Budget

Speaker: Leadership Group and Members

What To Look For:

President's Message

Resolutions program preparation

IWD event

BC Conference Information

Scholarship & Bursary Trust

Ladies who Lunch

Community Engagement

Book Club News

Book Review

President's Message



President's Report

Cherry trees in blossom, and bulbs bursting through the soil are such welcome sights of spring; but for me, the first wee tiny fig appearing on the bare branches is such a treat - the promise of lush green leaves sheltering lots of sweet plump juicy figs in a few long months is worth looking forward to. That is, unless the raccoons get them first!

Likewise - we have so many good things to look forward to as a club in the next few months: studying and debating the proposed resolutions; lunch outings; book clubs; the walking group, to name just a few. I'm especially excited about our Strategic Giving potential, and the broader 'giving back' that we can do in our community, thanks to our 2024 book sale. The work for the 2025 book sale is well under way, and the 'sorting office' is filling up with lots of 'good reads' - it's very tempting not to leave with handfuls of books!

In mid-April, we will run a member survey - similar to the one we did in 2023 - to gauge what we can do more of, or do better going forward. The SBT will be asking for members' help with putting up posters in local establishments for scholarships and bursaries ahead of the May 31 application deadline; and we have a fun club event planned for the May meeting....and finally - steps are in-place for a lovely

dinner in June to celebrate the end of what I hope has been a rewarding club year. Lots of good things to look forward to indeed...and no raccoons in sight!

Again, I want to say a huge thanks to all the members who made our March 08 2025 IWD such a success: under the leadership of Mary Ellen, we pulled off an amazing event, and I'm still getting comments from non-members about the impact our speaker, Alex Morton had on them.

so...see you all at our next meeting, Knox United Church, April 07. No speaker that evening, as we will be debating and voting on the proposed CFUW National resolutions, and also reviewing the proposed 2025-26 budget. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm, but come for 6:30 pm so we can all catch up beforehand.

Christine

Please visit the website (www.cfuwpg.ca) for more details on all our activities ... and don't hesitate to contact me if you have something to share, good or bad (president@cfuwpg.ca)

(Contributed by Christine P.)



Resolutions: Your Invitation to Join the Discussion

Did you know:

- CFUW advocates for public policy changes based on resolutions that are approved by our membership at our Annual General Meetings/Policy Sessions.
- Resolutions that are national or international in scope, and conform to CFUW's purpose and mission, are researched and proposed by CFUW Clubs or National Committees.
- The subsequent adopted resolutions form our framework for action and advocacy.
- The **CFUW Adopted Resolutions Book** houses resolutions adopted by our membership since 1964.
- There are 234 resolutions in the CFUW Adopted Resolutions book.
cfuw.org/assets/pdf/Adopted+Resolutions+2024/
- **It's time to study the seven proposed resolutions for this year**

The seven resolutions for this year cover a range of topics from menstruation, 2SLGBTQ+, sexual health, fossil fuels and more.

You are invited to join the discussion on these proposed topics; it may be that you know a lot about the topic or you may not know anything; regardless, please come. The meetings will be one hour in length.....longer if you are enjoying the camaraderie and possibly the coffee. Please email Mary Ellen at mecampbell@shaw.ca for meeting location or if you have questions.

Confirmed meetings plus brief summary:

1. Addressing Period Poverty and Menstrual Inequity in Canada

Period poverty affects menstruators across Canada, disproportionately impacting marginalized groups, including Indigenous communities, low-income individuals, immigrant communities, students, incarcerated women, and homeless populations. The inability to afford or access menstrual products leads to educational absenteeism, workplace barriers, and health risks, exacerbating gender inequality.

10:30am, Tuesday, March 25th

Expanding Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

CFUW does not currently have an adopted resolution on abortion or sexual and reproductive health. A previous resolution, "Abortion – 1970" urged the government to remove the sections pertaining to abortion from the Criminal Code, to thereby make abortion legal. This established CFUW's position that abortion should be legal, and this is an issue on which CFUW has advocated for many years; However, because those sections of the Criminal Code were removed in 1988, this CFUW resolution was deemed redundant and archived in 2024. This proposed resolution aims to fill the gap this has left and affirm that CFUW is supportive of the right to access and receive an abortion.

2pm, Tuesday, April 1st

3. Safeguarding 2SLGBTQ+ Rights

2SLGBTQ+ stands for: Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer. The '+' is inclusive of all other sexual and gender diverse identities, including non-binary. CFUW does not currently have any adopted resolutions on 2SLGBTQ+ rights or issues. This proposed resolution aims to fill this gap by affirming that CFUW is committed to 2SLGBTQ+ equality, rights, and inclusion. It is important to recognize that the struggle for 2SLGBTQ+ rights is a part of the wider struggle for human rights which CFUW champions, and to ensure CFUW spaces are inclusive and welcoming to all.

1pm, Friday, March 28th

4. The Violence Link: Advocating for Awareness and Animal Safekeeping for Individuals Fleeing Domestic Violence

The Violence Link is a significant barrier for individuals leaving abuse or violence. When an individual is forced to choose between their own safety and to leave their family pet in an abusive environment, many of them will choose to stay because they know that the animal's safety is at risk. Concern for the well-being of their pets can impact the help-seeking behaviour and subsequent actions of abused women. This is used by perpetrators by controlling their partners to be silent about their abuse, a form of coercive control.

10:30am, Thursday, March 27th

5. Equitable Phase-Out of Fossil Fuels

CFUW policies to date do not identify fossil fuels as the major cause of climate change, nor do they specifically urge the government to phase out fossil fuel extraction and consumption. The extraction and distribution of oil and gas are high-risk operations, with the possibility of uncontrollable explosions, accidental spills, or seepage of toxins. Canada has the 10th highest greenhouse gas emissions globally and the oil and gas sector is the biggest contributor to these emissions, followed by transportation.

2pm, Wednesday, March 26th

6. Archive past resolutions – **no meeting needed**

7. Housing as a Human Right and Social Good

Housing is a fundamental human right, enshrined domestically in Canada's National Housing Strategy Act (2019). Yet, housing insecurity and the affordability crisis plague many Canadians, disproportionately affecting marginalized groups such as Indigenous peoples, new immigrants, and women and children.

Meeting to be confirmed

(Contributed by Mary Ellen C.)

Final Report of IWD 2025

Happily, within CFUW Parksville Qualicum, no one works alone! Thank you to EVERYONE who suggested ideas for a speaker and appreciation to the following: Barbara B, Brenda, President Christine, Di, Erin, Eva G, Jacqueline, June, Lorna, Maureen W, Noreen, Sheila, Sonya, Val G and Wendy R.

On November 5. 2024, Alexandra Morton accepted our invitation to be our IWD speaker. At the actual IWD event, she mentioned that this was her first speaking engagement since covid. It seems the stars aligned and we experienced SUCCESS!!

Over 330 people attended including our MP, MLA, Mayors of Parksville and Qualicum Beach and the RDN representative. Our admission by donation bowl overflowed with cash and for those few who travel without cash, our square and etransfer capabilities were utilized.

What can be said about Alexandra Morton – a woman who has dedicated 45 years of her life to researching and protecting whales and the fish who inhabit the seas; a woman who recognized from the onset the dangers of fish farms; a woman who understood the sanctity between the land, the water and the Indigenous peoples; a woman who was humiliated, degraded and minimized by those who refused to acknowledge her education, her research and her persistence to ensure healthy oceans for healthy animals; a women who wanted the title “Women’s Work” for her most recent book but was told it wouldn’t sell and finally, a woman who walks graciously upon the earth instilling in our audience that our work is of equal value.

Proud day!







(Contributed by Mary Ellen C.)

**CFUW BC Council AGM:
Embracing Change Together, Hosted by CFUW Abbotsford
Registration Information**

The CFUW BC Council AGM will take place in Abbotsford, May 02-04, 2025. Visit their website to download the registration package, and get details on the conference agenda, tours, and accommodation: <https://sites.google.com/site/cfuwbccouncil/bcc>

Registration is online, deadline April 14 : <https://forms.gle/yE6dXqywTwg1axaq9>

Make your hotel bookings directly with the hotel ([Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre](#)). There are reduced rates for conference attendees who book before April 04.

It looks like a very interesting programme, with informative speakers, and of course, a chance to meet up with other CFUW women from across the province. Please let me know if you plan to go, and we could see if folks want to ride share (president@cfuwpg.ca)

(Contributed by Christine P.)

Scholarship and Bursary Trust Report. April 2025

In the February newsletter I explained the Post-Secondary Scholarship application criteria.

SBT was originally set up to give scholarships to girls graduating from SD69 schools in 1986.

Now we give scholarships to each of the 4 secondary schools in SD69 for \$2,000. The students apply through the councillor at each school with each school deciding on the best applicant.

A member of the trust attends the graduation ceremony at Kwalikum and Ballenas High Schools in June to present the scholarship to the winner. Both PASS and CEAP do not have a ceremony, however the names are passed on to us by the school administration.

Each student must be attending a tertiary college or university in September of that year, otherwise the money must be refunded.

Submitted Val G, Chair SBT PQ

Ladies Who Lunch



L: Catherine K, Mary Ellen C, Susan R. R: Val G, Christine P, Maureen W, June A, Brenda P.



The group, with thanks to Lorna M, who sent the pictures.

Community Engagement

Lorna M has prepared gift baskets for Forward House in Parksville. (She will add tags and a clear plastic overwrap.) She designed the one on the left for a woman and the one on the right for a man.



Book Clubs, Book Review

QFP (Quality Foods Parksville) Booklovers

Date	Facilitator	Book
Sept. 12	Sheila	The Woefield Poultry Collective
Oct. 10	Linda	The Salt Path
Nov. 14	Val and Dianne	The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store
Dec. 12	Susan	Too Soon Old, Too Soon Smart
Jan. 9	Maureen and Tracy	The Island of Sea Women
Feb. 13	Liz	The Postcard by Ann Berest
Mar. 13	Brenda	The Nightingale
Apr. 10	Pat	Greenwood
May 8	Sam	The Phoenix Crown
June 12	Jane	Always Pack A Candle, Marion Cook

(Contributed by Dianne A.)

Shrinking Violets Book Club Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Theme: Gardens

- Cadwaladr, Margaret. In Veronica's Garden. 2002
- Holden, Edith. The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady. 1906
- Lively, Penelope. Life in the Garden. 2017
- Lovell, Posy. The Kew Garden Girls. 2020. (A novel)
- Mansfield, Katherine. The Garden Party & other stories. 1922
- Newman, Nick. The Garden. 2025. (A novel)
- Sheeler, Jessie. Little Sparta: The Garden of Ian Hamilton Finlay. 2005
- Sheeler, Jessie. Little Sparta: a Guide to the Garden of Ian Hamilton Finlay. 2015
- Van Zuylen, Gabrielle. Alhambra: a Moorish Paradise. 1999

Submitted by Noreen B.

Book Review of the Month

The Capital of Dreams (2024) by Heather O'Neill

Since I deeply admired Heather O'Neill's earlier novels, I eagerly waited for this one on the long hold list at the library. When I read the flyleaf, I realized that this book is quite different from her other books. It is much more related to fantasy or an extreme case of magic realism. Neither type of literature is my happy place, so my reaction is coloured by that generalized dislike. Despite my dislike of (disinterest in?) of that type of book, O'Neill is a very accomplished writer. The book kept me guessing and trying to penetrate what she is trying to criticize and convey. Much of the book is certainly applicable to our current lives. If her train of thought is followed, her opinions are worthy of our attention.

The heroine of the story is fourteen-year-old Sofia Bottom, the only child of Clara, who is the most accomplished and admired intellectual of her country, Elysia. Elysia was granted its independence from the Enemy after the last war. It is a tiny country with a highly educated and artistic class in the Capital and a countryside of peaceful, hard-working people with a strong

belief in fairies and animated forests. Now the Enemy is attacking with its full force. (Hmm, does that sound familiar?) It is particularly determined to eliminate the intelligentsia and obliterate the Capital. Clara puts Sofia on the last train evacuating children but the real treasure is her disguised manuscript in Sofia's bag. The train stops near a forest and the children are unlikely to leave the field alive, but Sofia escapes, losing the bag in the process. In her subsequent travels as a refugee in her own land, she is accompanied by a highly articulate and philosophical goose. Their travels reveal the gamut of human behaviour. Some people they meet help them and others are bent on theft and a goose dinner. Sofia hopes to find the Black Market, where it is possible she could reclaim the manuscript. The story ends with a betrayal and an escape, as "sometimes a war can set a woman free."

The crux of the story is Sofia's coming of age, as she moves from a childhood with her selfish and critical mother to imagining a life of her own. The story seems to investigate and critique strident feminism, destructive motherhood, a wide gap between the elite and the working underclass that is unfortunately too much a feature of many cultures, vicious wars conducted for acquisition and control, the creation of a disparate society, and fundamental human nature. I noticed a pull between individuality/freedom and devotion/service. What is the price of creativity and scholarship?

The most frequent criticism I read in various reviews was that the characters were flat and boring. There is some merit in that viewpoint. For me, I was not lost in the enchantment of a magical place and magical creatures (although, the goose was interesting). I was trying to decide what exactly the author was holding up for examination. Perhaps the book was meant for those who appreciate such stories. Still, one remark caught my attention. A girl Sofia meets is addicted to drugs and she has run out. The comment is: "The cruellest thing about withdrawal was the realization that one had to go through life wide awake and conscious of what was happening."

Just because this book was not too much my style, you should not let that affect you. Perhaps I missed something quite central. It is dark. It is imaginative. It is poignant. One reviewer felt it was "wistfully comic." I still admire O'Neill's writing. The flyleaf says it is "as delicious as cake and as serious as a gunshot." It is powerful. The dark undertone of what we might think of as 'fairy tales' is on full display.