

**Meetings with MPs in Ottawa (Oct. 25 & 26
by Doris Hall, President and Sheila Crook, Secretary.**

**Honourable Rona Ambrose, MP Edmonton AB
Minister of Public Works and Status of Women**

**Also in attendance were the Minister's staff, Susanne Clément and, Coordinator,
Status of Women, and her assistant Teresa Simpson.**

The Minister was very interested in hearing about BPW Canada, so we started the conversation with a bit of our history. On the Resolutions Brief, we focused on prevention of violence against women, and equality issues since her portfolio includes Status of Women.

We introduced BPW International's Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). She had already heard about it from MP Joy Smith who we had met with the day earlier and was pleased to hear about the "well-deserved" Commendation BPW Canada had presented to Mrs. Smith. She was very interested in learning more about the WEPs program and saw the merit of engaging MPs and CEOs from across the country. She indicated a willingness to support this initiative and instructed her staff to assist us in our efforts to bring attention to the business case for the women's empowerment principles.

Susanne Clément, Doris Hall,
Honourable Rona Ambrose, Sheila
Crook



**Joy Smith, MP, (C) Kilodan-St Paul, MB
Chair of Health Committee and advocates changes to Criminal Code on Human
Trafficking**

It was a great pleasure to present the BPW Canada Commendation to Joy Smith in her office on this visit. She was absolutely thrilled to receive it and identified a prominent place on her bookshelf to display it where anyone entering her office could see it. It was very fitting that the presentation was made on that day since she was scheduled to present her Bill C-310 for second reading in the House later on. In fact, she provided us with Gallery Passes to attend the proceedings to watch and listen to the response. She obtained the support of all parties on this Bill.

Joy was also interested in hearing about all our resolutions, and in particular the one on human trafficking, and the two on health issues, specifically the energy drinks mixed with alcohol and the carcinogens in cosmetics and household products. As a follow up to this meeting, we forwarded a document which included all the resolutions that BPW Canada has passed on human trafficking since 2000.



Sheila Crook, Joy Smith, Doris Hall

During our meeting with Joy, we took the opportunity to introduce the BPW International Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) program. She was very excited about it helping us to promote this program and indicated ways that she could assist us to implement the program.

**Irene Mathysen, MP, (NDP) London East, ON
NDP Critic for Status of Women and Seniors**

Irene Mathysen is very familiar with BPW and has communicated with past national presidents, as well as meeting with Sheila and I in her constituency office in London last year. We reviewed the Briefs from both 2010 and 2011, going through each of the resolutions. As always, Irene was very receptive to BPW and is willing to support our issues as much as possible.



Sheila Crook, Irene Mathysen, Doris Hall

Mrs. Mathysen was very interested in hearing about the initiative from BPW International on the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). She was very excited about the program and said that she has a couple of companies in London that she will introduce to us to sign onto the WEPs program. As well, she will introduce the program to the NDP Women's Caucus that is looking for an issue to champion.

**Honourable Judy Sgro, MP (L) North York ON
Liberal Critic for Status of Women**

Our meeting with Judy Sgro was very brief; however, we were able to introduce BPW and present the Briefs for both 2010 and 2011. We went through the issues with her and solicited her support.

Ms. Sgro was also interested in the initiative from BPW International on the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). She indicated a willingness to introduce us to some companies in the Toronto area that we could approach to sign up. She also mentioned the possibility of holding a corporate forum in the spring at which she could potentially introduce the program. She was willing to sign up on the spot.



Doris Hall, MP Judy Sgro and Sheila Crook

*Doris Hall, President
Sheila Crook, Secretary*