



BPW Connections – Coast to Coast is the official publication of BPW Canada.

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Check out the website
www.bpwcanada.com

Happy New Year from your BPW Canada Board of Directors

10 things to do in 2010!

By Sue Calhoun

10) Keep sending articles and photos for your BPW Canada newsletter. It's wonderful to hear (and see) what BPW clubs across the country are doing.

9) Make a donation to W.O.R.K. This charitable group provides financing for BPW club activities that are educational and open to the public. The more funds W.O.R.K. has, the more BPW activities it is able to support. Your donation is tax-deductible.

8) Celebrate your membership in BPW! Ask not what your club can do for you; ask what you can do for your club. If you're a new member, get involved! Take on a position; help to organize an event. If you're in a leadership position, the best way to get a member engaged and involved is to give her a job.

7) Send a note of congratulations to BPW Toronto president Mina DiDomenico (Mina.DiDomenico@tdsecurities.com). Mina's club is 100 years old this year, and will be sponsoring the banquet at Convention 2010 on June 19th.

6) Join UNIFEM's global campaign to *SAY NO TO* violence against women. Start an action. Join an action. Click on www.saynotoviolence.org/ to register.

5) What does 1 + 1 equal? If you said, the *New power of BPW*, you'd be right! We're running a campaign this year, where each existing BPW member brings one new member into her club. We have prizes that will be handed out at Convention 2010, and both clubs and individual members can win! A reminder that there is a special reporting form (available on the secure page) that must be filled out and sent to Federation Promotion co-chair Terri Parent. Clubs also need to file a monthly Form 100a each time a new member joins. **You can't win if you don't participate** – and the future of your organization depends on your participation!

4) Visit the BPW Canada website (www.bpwcanada.com) and post your resumé on the BPW Careers page. Our new partnership with *Workopolis* is very important to us, as a member benefit and a new source of revenue for BPW Canada. Even if you're not actively looking for work, it's always a good idea to see what's out there. You can also fill out a survey to see if you're being paid enough!

3) **"Break some bread"** in February! Sponsor a Breaking Bread ceremony for our BPW international month, and support women in Afghanistan. Check page 4 for more detail or go to www.cw4wafghan.ca/what-we-do/breaking-bread

2) Plan on coming to Convention 2010 at the Horseshoe Resort north of Toronto. We're *"doing something different"* this time, holding Convention on the same weekend as the Ontario provincial conference. BPW Canada will be 80 years young in 2010, and we will be celebrating our accomplishments. Check the website (upcoming events) for more detail.

1) Put going to the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York at the top of your "to-do" list in 2010. It's not an exaggeration to say this will be a life-changing experience. But you need to register now. The form and schedule of events are at www.bpw-international.org/ Hope to see you there!

Welcome to BPW Mission



BPW Mission, BC was chartered in October 2009 with 24 founding members. Having identified some of their priorities as being to learn about and participate in topics addressing women's issues, here and abroad; supporting local women seeking office at all levels; and skill sharing with fellow members, the new group has hit the ground running with a membership binder and handbook already in the works and many plans for 2010.

BPW Cambridge in the news



BPW Cambridge's guest speaker in December was Olympic-hopeful Mandy Bujold, who is currently ranked fourth in the world for her weight class in women's boxing. Mandy has been part of the Canadian National Team for four years, and is looking forward to qualifying for the 2012 Summer Olympics. BPW Cambridge President Lin Buxton, to the right of Mandy (holding the trophy), is Mandy's second cousin.

BPW Coquitlam, BC celebrates 25 years



Members gathered on November 24th to celebrate the 25th anniversary of BPW Coquitlam's Charter and to honour the Charter President Hanna Konkin who is currently serving as Club President. In attendance were special guests BPW-BC President Connie Friesen; BPW-Abbotsford President Joanne Chartrand; BPW Richmond President Willa Sygall; Council of Women of BC President Rosemary Mallory and Council of Women of New Westminster President Florence Erwin. Hanna was presented with an engraved photo album in which pictures of the charter evening will be placed. Photo at left, Charter members 1984; at right, current President Hanna Konkin.

BPW Calgary's mentorship program officially kicked off



BPW Calgary president Mary O'Sullivan-Andersen and BPW Canada YBPW-VP Lia Robinson presented a wonderful workshop about the Calgary mentoring program at the 2009 AGM in Toronto.

BPW Calgary's mentorship program officially kicked off its second cohort of participants on November 25, 2009 with a workshop for protégés and mentors. Lisa Dare, a member of the mentorship committee, facilitated the evening along with Barb Francis. The participants, of which there are six pairs, were divided into small groups to discuss the topic of what is a mentoring relationship. In addition, they identified the values and benefits of mentoring along with the roles and responsibilities of mentors and protégés.

With the use of post-its to capture ideas and insights, there was much lively discussion and sharing. There was an opportunity to deepen the learning by having the pairs matched up later in the evening and start creating their mentoring relationship together.

The mentorship program will run from December 2009 and conclude in June 2010 with a graduation ceremony.

What's new at national?

- The Call for nominations for Convention 2010 will go out shortly. BPW Canada past president Sharon Selkirk will chair the committee. Will you step up and become a leader of this organization?
- In December 2009, BPW Canada responded to a call for submissions from the federal Public Safety and National Security Committee, and submitted a position statement concerning Bill C-391, an Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Firearms Act. Based on dozens on resolutions about violence against women over the years, we argued that BPW Canada opposes the closure of the Gun Registry.

• **Message from Linda Prafke** (BPW Saskatoon) – As chair of the 2010 Leadership Awards Committee, I would like to encourage you to look around you and acknowledge a woman who you look to as a leader in your Club by nominating her for the BPW Canada Leadership Award. The deadline is drawing near for applications, and I would hate to stand up at Convention and say we have no woman in Canada who we are prepared to recognize, when I know that each club has any number of deserving members. My challenge to you is to recognize their contributions!

- Convention 2010 will be held at the Horseshoe Resort, approximately one hour north of Toronto. Convention starts early Saturday, June 19th and will finish by around noon on Sunday, June 20th. Friday evening, there will be a joint barbeque between BPW Canada and BPW Ontario – a networking opportunity where you will meet a lot of your BPW sisters. It's not too early to reserve your room. Check the website Upcoming events for more information.



BPW Canada Membership Campaign 1 + 1 = The New Power of BPW

BPW Canada has launched a major membership drive.

**Bring ONE new member into your club during 2009-10 and WIN!
YOUR CLUB CAN WIN! YOU CAN WIN!**

- \$250 Westjet certificate
- **Criteria:**
 - 1 draw = 80% retention
 - 1 draw = each FP report filed with BPW Canada that includes a new member
 - 1 draw = for each new member

- Gift Certificates
 - \$250 WestJet
 - \$100 Radio Shack
 - \$100 Staples
 - Framed artwork by Dana
- **Criteria:**
 - 1 draw = each new sponsored member

Check the website for details www.bpwcanada.com

You can't win if you don't participate. Clubs must file a monthly Form 100a any time a new member joins. There is also a Special Reporting form (on the secure page) that must be filled out and sent to Federation Co-Chair Terri Parent at parentt@shaw.ca

BPW Canada's NEW partnership with Workopolis NicheNetwork

For **employers** – a cost-effective, easy-to-use system to hire members who are female business professionals. You are able to access an on-line tool that makes it simple to find qualified, experienced women for mission-critical roles within some of the best organizations in Canada.

For **Job seekers** – Looking to change careers? Or just want to know what's out there? This job board tool is available to post your resume and to apply to positions at no cost. Don't have time to search jobs every day? Set up a career alert, and the system will notify you via email when a position meets what you are looking for.

Whether you are looking for a full-time career or a part-time job, BPW Canada and Workopolis NicheNetwork strive to satisfy your needs. Visit soon and take advantage of this wonderful new tool for members!
www.bpwcanada.com

powered by **workopolis** 
NicheNetwork

In BPW, February is International Night

Lighting candles for our sisters around the world

The BPW Candle Lighting Ceremony was conceived by our founder, Dr Lena Madasin Phillips from the United States over 70 years ago. It is both an opportunity to reflect on the organization's many accomplishments over the years and a touching tribute to our sister BPW members around the world.

Although BPW members speak in many languages and live in countries with differing traditions, they share the same determination of purpose: the education and empowerment of women around the world. The 2010 Candle Lighting Ceremony will be posted on the website shortly.

Looking for ideas for speakers for your February meeting? At our Annual General Meeting in Toronto in June, BPW members voted to join Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, a group that works hard to raise money for women in that country. One way they do it is through a "Breaking Bread" event, and BPW clubs are strongly urged to consider doing this for our International month in February. How does this work? Instead of holding your meeting at a restaurant, where you normally pay \$25 or \$30 for your meal, hold a potluck. Everyone pays the same price anyway, and monies collected go to Breaking Bread. The objective is to raise \$750, the approximate cost of one teacher's salary for a year in Afghanistan.

Please consider doing this to help our sisters in Afghanistan. Learn more at www.cw4wafghan.ca/. If you would like to have a speaker, contact CW4WA Director Irene MacDonald at cpiamac@shaw.ca



BPWI Health Committee Appointment

Vicky Kotab (BPW Greater Sudbury) has been appointed to the BPWI Health Standing Committee and the Expert Advisers Group. Her role is to be BPW Canada's voice to our International Federation on health issues impacting women around the world. In particular, Vicky will report on:



- 1) What is already happening in BPW clubs in Canada that supports the Health Action Plan?
- 2) What else in the Plan can you take action on throughout your area?
- 3) Your suggestions about what BPW can do to improve women's wellness.

An example of a club activity might be co-sponsorship of World AIDS Day on December 1st. BPWI's Health Action Plan is now posted on our website, and the World Health Organisation has indicated that they want us to work primarily on the Wellness Project. Please send your information about your club's activities to Vicky at vkotab@sympatico.ca

Vicky is the program director and main facilitator at the Women's Centre for Well-being in Sudbury, Ontario.

SMART ECONOMICS

The World Bank recently said that to break intergenerational cycles of poverty in the world, invest in ... *you'll never guess...* teenage girls. A bit surprising from the World Bank? Their reasoning is economically based. Improving teen girls' economic opportunities has a very high payoff for their families and their future children, "with long term benefits for poverty reduction." (Otherwise) it's a drain on economic growth. The World Bank is so convinced of the link between gender and development that it has a "Gender Equality as Smart Economics" branch and recently launched an Adolescent Girl Initiative "to smooth the transition from school to productive employment for girls and young women"...

The status of girls and women is significantly different in developed countries like Canada compared to developing countries. Yet here too, as the World Bank says, "childbearing or marriage often coincides with the end of schooling"... That resonates in many provinces where birth rates to teen mothers are high..."

Recently, the Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner described it as "women ending up in poverty in retirement ...because they do society's caring work... Women are more likely to accumulate poverty during their lives than wealth... The problem is not women's decisions... it's the undervaluation of these kinds of work and the long-term financial penalty that follows"... Men's entry into poverty and the obstacles they face to leave poverty are quite different from women's. That is why governments and economic groups like the World Bank increasingly pay attention to the "gendered nature" of poverty...

From NB Advisory Council on the Status of Women Nov. 2009