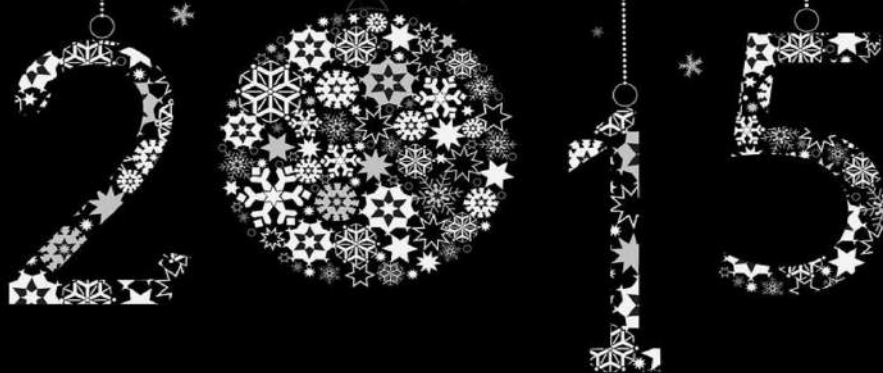




BPW Canada Newsletter

From the BPW Canada Executive
ISSUE 01 JANUARY 2015



* Happy New Year *

New Year Greetings from BPW Canada

As many of you know, 2015 is an immense milestone for BPW Canada as it gears up to celebrate its **85th Anniversary**. The national executive board wishes its 600+ members, 39 clubs, and countless supporters and partners across the nation a very happy and prosperous new year. May all of our individual and collective efforts, across Canada and worldwide, turn into great achievements this year.

President Colleen Allan—Click [HERE](#) to read her message on our website.

First Vice-President Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla

Immediate Past President Cara Coté

Vice-President, Resolutions Linda Davis

Vice President, Membership Shannon McEwing

VP for Young BPW, Katherine Regnier

Treasurer, Karin Gorgerat

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EQUAL PAY DAY

To support clubs across Canada in hosting their own event or program to create awareness, BPW Calgary has developed many resources over the last three years as they took the issue of Equal Pay from the streets, to the schools, libraries and board rooms to the House of Commons. Brochures, power point presentations, a highlight video, school books, media interviews and photos can be accessed at the [BPW Calgary website](#). BPW London has been supporting the Equal Pay Coalition to highlight the gender wage gap. BPW clubs in the East and the West have joined forces to create modules that are customized by province in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission.

On September 15th, BPW Canada's First Vice-President, Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla was invited by Green Party Leader Elizabeth May's office to attend the House of Commons' opening session as she presented the petition for Equal Pay for Equal Work. BPW Ottawa's President, Amanda McLaren, and First Vice-President, Chantale Neapole, were also in attendance. Two days prior to the first fall opening session, BPW Ottawa hosted "Tea on the Hill" featuring Carleton University's President and Chancellor Roseann O'Reilly Runte, as

well as Clare Bekton, Executive Director of Women in Politics and Public Leadership at Carleton University.

On October 17th, day before Person's Day, First Vice-President Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla was accompanied by BPW BC Provincial President, Heather Stewart and Secretary, Barbara Ferhmann, along with members of the Justice Education Society for BC, Christine Atkins and Lisa Hemmington, as they discussed possible teamwork at Vancouver's Metro Theatre's Lounge after viewing "Rebel Women", a play about a group of militant suffragettes who shaped democracy for us all. Lisa and Christine shared the objectives of their **#MsMayor** Social Media campaign launched on International Women's Day in Vancouver to inspire change as part of the Young Women Civic Leaders project. It was clear that women's participation, not only to vote but also to run for political office and lead civil society, needs to increase dramatically in order to create real and profound change to re-position women in Canada.

According to Vice-President for Membership, Shannon McEwing's report, "we have established a new Langley Club, have two other lower mainland clubs—Abbotsford and Mission—that



are doing very well, and are looking to amalgamating two clubs in the Interior". As BPW Clubs grow in BC, the possibilities to engage young professionals are endless.

The issue of Equal Pay is on the minds of all women in the business and in the professions, regardless of their age, industry, occupation and geographical location. Together, we can advance the position of women who make up almost half of our workforce from coast to coast to coast.

Wear Red on March 18th at work, and remember to wear red to your dinner meetings in March and April. Share your plans for Equal Pay Day and send in your photos from events to raise awareness on the issue of Equal Pay Day to 1vicepres@bpwcanada.com.



2015 Call for Resolutions

A resolution is a formal expression of opinion. It is a position that your Club thinks will make a good policy or directive. If you and your local club have taken a particular interest on an issue that falls within the BPW mandate, then submit a resolution by **January 31, 2015**.



As a member in good standing, you have the right to bring your ideas to your local club, to draft a resolution, have your members discuss and vote on it, and have the resolution presented to either the Provincial or National Resolution & Bylaw Committee for further consideration. The Committee will review it, and either accept it as written, return it for further clarification or re-drafting, or if another club has a similar resolution, ask you to work with that Club and come up with a single resolution.

If you are not submitting a resolution, then submit a commendation. A commendation is a formal complimentary message commending the government for taking action on an issue that falls within our mandate. You can view the recent actions the government has taken on women's issues and the success stories [HERE](#).

Please forward your resolutions or commendations electronically, in a word document format to Vice-President for Resolutions, Linda Davis at bpwlindadavis@gmail.com.

For more information about how to complete a resolution please log in to [BPW Canada's website](#), and click the link for Resolutions on the lower right side of the members menu.



HAS THE BATTLE
FOR WOMEN'S
RIGHTS BEEN WON?

UP FOR DEBATE

THE ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

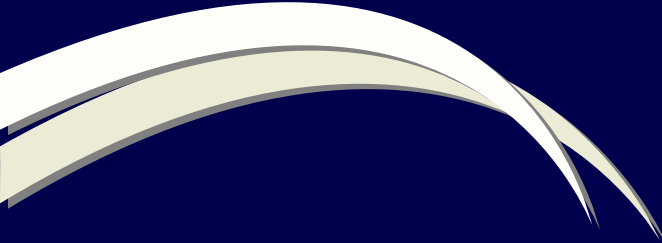
UpForDebate.ca



Partnership with Up for Debate



In the lead up to the 2015 Federal election, BPW Canada has joined the Up For Debate campaign, an alliance of over 100 women's organizations and their allies from across Canada united in raising awareness about women's rights. Up For Debate calls on all political parties to commit to a federal leaders' debate on issues identified by women—the first in 30 years, and to make meaningful commitments to change women's lives for the better, at home and abroad by ending violence against women, ending women's economic inequality and supporting women's leadership and organizations. Are you Up For Debate to promote women's rights? Over 3.5 million Canadians are in support of the campaign to take action. You join [HERE](#).





#BringBackOurGirls Movement

According to the Regional Coordinator for Africa, Adenike Osadolor, who lives in Nigeria, December 21st 2014 marked the end of the 250 days since the Chibok Girls were abducted. There is a global campaign to put pressure on the Nigerian government to take more effective action to get those girls back—and alive.

BPW International requested members to write to their government to communicate and to urge the government of Nigeria to get the girls back.

BPW Canada's Immediate Past President, Cara Coté, wrote a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Read the letter [HERE](#).



Upcoming Events

MONTH	EVENT
January 2015	Nominations open for BPW Canada's Leadership Award
February 2015	Annual Candle lighting ceremonies held at BPW Clubs worldwide
March 2015	BPW International Leadership Summit (New York), March 6-8 with 85th Anniversary Gala CSW 59 @ UN Headquarters in New York (Mar9-20) International Women's Day (March 8) Equal Pay Day (March 18)
May 2015	BPW Ontario Provincial Conference in Barrie, ON (May 22-24)
August 2015	BPW Canada Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg (Aug 7-8)
November 2015	North American Regional Congress in Grand Cayman Islands (Nov6-8)