

November 2018

President's Message

I am honored and excited about the opportunity to serve as President of the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Canada) for 2018 - 2020. For the past twenty-four years I have been fortunate to be a member of BPW. In those years I have served as local Club President, District Director, Provincial President, and National Vice President. Over these years, I have been so fortunate to come to know many of you and count on your support and friendship.

Among our diverse clubs across Canada, our common journey to strive for gender equality and balance in our communities, nationally and worldwide binds us in a sisterhood. We want to make a difference. We strive to help, to have an impact and make the lives of others better.

Beginning with each one of you, we have many good reasons to feel optimism about the future of BPW. With almost 500 members in 26 clubs across Canada, the connections we make with each other, at the annual conferences, in meetings, and during phone calls, webinars, and social media, demonstrates the commitment we have to our work and our confidence in the future.

It is my great pleasure to work with exceptional women on the 2018 – 2020 BPW Canada Executive. Continuing on the Executive, Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla (BPW Calgary) moves to our Immediate Past-President and Karin Gorgerat (BPW Trenton and District) moves to our Vice-President, Membership. I welcome Caval Olson-Lepage (BPW Saskatoon) as First Vice-President, Maide Yazar (BPW North Toronto) as Vice-President, Resolutions and By-laws, Prima Mabonzo (BPW Montreal) as Vice-President Young BPW, Janet Riehm (BPW Ottawa) as Treasurer and Josée Dufour (BPW Montreal) as Secretary.

Provincially I welcome the return of President Karen Burwash for Manitoba and Liaisons Dawn Nason for Alberta, Christine Poulin for Quebec and Guylaine Roy for New Brunswick. I also welcome newly appointed Presidents Linda Rice for Ontario, Caval Olson-Lepage for Saskatchewan, and Arlene Simpson for British Columbia/Yukon Territories. Shannon Ewing in her role as club's President will serve as BPW Canada Online Club Liaison.

Doris Hall (BPW London) will continue to serve as Representative for the Canadian Coalition to Empower Women.

Thank you all for your willingness and dedication to serve our members for the next two years.

My leadership focus for the next two years will centre on a theme of **She for She**. Through this focus I hope to empower all BPW members and women in our communities to look at the things we do every day and recognize and celebrate those actions that promote women in a positive way.

For the next two years we have a number of tasks identified by our membership as priority items. In the coming year the Executive will focus on:

1) **Translation:**

- Members have requested that BPW Canada documents and web pages be translated to French.
 - BPW International has offered to assist, as they are able. Documents have been sent for translation into French.
 - Google translator has been added to the BPW Canada website. This product translates to 58 languages. All webpages are translated including the Resolutions Database
 - A working group will be established to investigate costs and funding sources to have translation available at AGM and Convention.
 - We will send out a call of interest to all members who would like to participate.

2) **Charitable Status:**

- Members have requested that we establish BPW Canada as a Charity to secure operational funding for succession planning.
 - A working group will be established to review the requirement to obtain charitable status.
 - Doris Hall will lead the development of this investigation.
 - We will send out a call of interest to all members who would like to participate.

3) **Fundraising and Grants**

- The budget requires donations and fundraising to meet the operating budget for the coming 2 years.
 - A working group will be established to review funding opportunities and options.
 - The goal is to develop a plan to ensure sustainability.
 - With Maide Yazar and Karin Gorgerat, Linda Davis will lead the development of the plan.
 - We will send out a call of interest to all members who would like to participate.

4) **She for She**

- I would like to establish a **She for She** campaign, which includes training modules that could be delivered to members and the public.
 - A working group will be established to review funding opportunities and establish parameters for the project.
 - With Linda Davis, Karin Gorgerat will lead the development of this plan.
 - We will send out a call of interest to all members who would like to participate.

5) **2019 AGM / Regional President's Meeting**

- Christine Poulin will lead a team to host the 2019 BPW Canada AGM and potentially the Regional President's Meeting in August of 2019 in Montreal.
 - The BPW Canada Board will assist in this process.

6) **Sustainable Development Goals SDGs**

- Each club is asked to review their current programs and determine which SDG is addressed by that activity. Once the SDG is identified we request that this information be communicated to the Provincial President or Liaison for reporting to the BPW Canada Board.
 - Caval Olson-Lepage will track the information and display on the website and in newsletters. This information will also be shared with BPW International.

We will draw on the expertise of every one of you through meetings, working groups, conversations, and surveys to learn best practices to promote BPW. I strongly encourage all members to get involved in some of these working groups. It is through our diversity of experience, expertise and passions that we enrich the BPW experience.

I truly appreciate your support in the coming years and the opportunity to serve as President and many thanks to all of you, for the tremendous work you are doing.

Linda Davis
President: 2018 - 2020
BPW Canada