



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

#### Board of Directors 2008-10

President Sue Calhoun  
1st Vice-president Doris Hall  
Imm. Past Pres. Fran Donaldson  
Vice-president Joan Macklin  
Vice-president Vi Andersen  
Secretary Olga Gil  
Treasurer Lynn Johnston

#### PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS

BC & Yukon – Connie Friesen  
Saskatchewan – Terri Parent  
Manitoba – Colleen Allan  
Ontario – Carol Kollar  
Quebec – Julie Leclerc  
New Brunswick – Manon Sirois-Boudreau

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BPW Sudbury twins with Australia 2

BPW Toronto members get long-service pins 2

Triple Crown winners receive their pins 2

BPW Canada past President elected Regional Coordinator 3

La Paz nursing school great monument to BPWI 3

BPW Greater Moncton takes on food labelling 4

We're on the web! Check out our new website.  
[www.bpwcanada.com](http://www.bpwcanada.com)

#### President's message

### Why this year's theme at the United Nations matters

By Sue Calhoun

This year's theme at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March will be "the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS."

Commitments on this issue have been made by governments at the international level for over a decade, including at the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995), the World Summit for Social Development (1995) and the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the UN General Assembly (2000). Preliminary presentations were made at the CSW in New York in 2008, and the UN website also ran an online discussion on the theme last year.

Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men is important because gender equality will never be achieved until women no longer carry a disproportionate responsibility for home and family. As the Beijing Platform for Action states:

- Girls and young women are expected to manage both educational and domestic responsibilities, often resulting in poor scholastic performance and early drop-out from the educational system;
- Lack of access to productive resources and inadequate sharing of family responsibilities, combined with a lack of or insufficient services such as child care, continue to restrict employment, economic, professional and other opportunities and mobility for women;
- Women's unpaid work is undervalued and under-recorded;
- The unequal division of labour and responsibilities within households limits women's potential to find the time and develop the skills required for participation in decision-making in wider public forums.
- Within the context of HIV/AIDS, women and girls bear a disproportionate burden to care for and support those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Bottom-line, women have fewer hours in the day in which, as the Platform for Action states, to develop the skills required for participation in the larger society.

It is critical that governments worldwide address this issue. One example of how some governments have done it: In 2000, Iceland adopted a new law on parental leave, which allocated three months exclusively for the mother, three exclusively for the father, and another three months that the parents could divide between themselves. The allocations were based on "use it or lose it," since one objective was to increase the participation of fathers in childcare. For economic compensation, those who had been active in the labour force received 80 per cent of their wages while on leave.

The result? Based on a paper from the Centre for Gender Equality in Iceland presented in 2008 at the CSW, there are more fathers actively taking care of their small children than at any other time in Icelandic history. The economic situation of families with newborn children has improved, and fertility in the country has increased.

At the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March, member countries of the UN will present reports to show how their government is addressing this very important theme. Our BPW Canada delegation will look forward to hearing Canada's report.

### ***BPW Greater Sudbury twins with Australia***



It just goes to show that when you belong to BPW, you have sisters around the world! BPW Greater Sudbury International & Mentorship Chair Lin Gibson was on a trip throughout Southeast Asia recently, ending in Australia, and met up with BPW Freemantle President Maria Wesley, BPW Margaret River President Jill Turton as well as their members. BPW Greater Sudbury will be twinning with BPW Freemantle in 2009. In the photo, Lin (left) with BPW Freemantle President Maria Wesley.

### ***BPW Canada invited to World AIDS breakfast***



BPW Canada president Sue Calhoun (right) and BPW-New Brunswick president Manon Sirois-Boudreau attended the World AIDS Day breakfast in Fredericton on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. With them is Herménégilde Chiasson, NB Lieutenant-Governor and the Honorary Patron for HIV/AIDS in New Brunswick.

### ***BPW Toronto members presented with long-service pins***

BPW Canada 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president Doris Hall attended BPW Toronto's High Tea in late November, and was honoured to present long-service pins to several members. From left, Past National President Doris Guyatt (30 years), Doris with Dormer Ellis (50 years). Right, Henrietta Green (35 years). Congratulations all!



### ***BPW South-east NB meets finance minister***



BPW South-east met with the NB Minister of Finance Victor Boudreau in November to discuss several topics including pay equity, childcare and the involvement of women in politics. In the photo, from left, Laurence Marie, Rachelle Poirier, Kim Murphy (President of BPW South-east), Victor Boudreau, Sue Calhoun (President, BPW Canada), Diane Ricard & Gugi Leroc.

### ***Triple Crown pins for BPW South-east NB members***



BPW South-east NB members Manon Sirois-Boudreau (right) and Sue Calhoun (left) were awarded Triple Crown Challenge pins for bringing in new members during the 2005-08 period. With them is Kim Murphy, President of BPW South-east NB.

For BPWI North America and Non-Spanish speaking countries

## **BPW Canada past president elected Regional Coordinator**



Thanks to your support and support from delegates from all over the world, I was elected Regional Coordinator for North America and the Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean at the International Congress held in Mexico City, Mexico in October. As a member of the executive board of BPW International, I am looking forward to a busy three years working with President Liz Benham and the enthusiastic new team, leading to the next International Congress in Helsinki, Finland in 2011.

As many of you know, our BPW world is divided into five regions, Africa, Asia/Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Spanish speaking countries of the Caribbean and North America and Non-Spanish speaking countries of the Caribbean. (Visit the International web site [www.bpw-international.org](http://www.bpw-international.org) and click on "members" for more details). As the organization is represented in approximately 100 countries in the world, you will appreciate the major undertaking necessary to keep the lines of communication open. This is where the Regional Coordinators can really make a difference.

It is important to remember that we are all members of BPW International when we renew our membership each year. Therefore it is critical to building and sustaining membership that members are kept informed about what is happening around the world. It is even more critical that BPW International be in touch with members' needs and be able to respond accordingly.

My priority for the next triennium will be to represent the members of North America at the International level while working to strengthen our region by sharing information and encouraging involvement and inspiration. BPW Canada is a strong federation in North America and, as such, will play a large part in this task.

Thank you again for your continued support and now I ask for your help so that together we can make this goal a reality. I am counting on you to send me reports and pictures of your local activities so I can share them throughout the region. In turn, you will receive ongoing information about activities of all the members of the region. Please contact me with any questions or comments you may have and be sure to visit our BPW North America web site at [www.bpw-northamerica.org](http://www.bpw-northamerica.org), where events and pictures and newsletters will be posted.

Warmest wishes for 2009,  
Jill Worobec, BPW International 2008-2011  
Regional Coordinator, North America and Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean  
Phone: 1 604 945-6061  
E-mail: [jill.worobec@bpw-international.org](mailto:jill.worobec@bpw-international.org)  
Skype: northamerica5

### **Other BPWI appointments**

- BPW Canada Immediate Past President Fran Donaldson (BPW Trenton & District) was appointed to the Leadership Lifelong Learning Taskforce
- \* Maureen Craig-McIntosh (BPW Greater Moncton) was appointed as Chair of the Mentoring Committee

Our international connections

## **La Paz, Mexico nursing school wonderful monument to BPWI**

In 1986, BPW International through Project Five-O built the first nursing school in La Paz, Mexico on land donated by the local government. Student training at the Prof. Silvia Salazar Salazar School of Nursing is provided in maternity/ infant nursing, surgical/medical nursing, administrative nursing services and nutrition. The majority of students come from poor villages outside La Paz and go back to their local areas after graduation to work as nurses. They are in great demand because of the scarcity of health facilities. In October 2003, the School became the first Educational Institute in Mexico to be certified with the ISO 9001:2000 norm, which reflects the quality of the training. BPWI members donate annual scholarships for the school, which remains a wonderful monument to BPW International. To learn more about BPWI's involvement in Project Five-O, visit [www.project-five-o.org/](http://www.project-five-o.org/)



New uniforms were sewn & delivered by members of BPWI.

Leadership styles

## ***It's time to reflect...Synergy or Siphoning?***

By Vi Andersen, Vice President, BPW Canada

In their article Leadership: Do Traits Matter?, Shelley A. Kirkpatrick, PhD and Edwin A. Locke, PhD, noted for their work on leadership styles, employ the following six basic traits to distinguish leaders from non-leaders in management: Drive; Desire to lead; Honesty / integrity; Self-confidence; Cognitive ability; and Knowledge of the business.

As business and professional women in Canada, the traits listed above are those of many of the women who belong to BPW. Needless to say though, when we belong to this vast international body of women, we tend to forget our uniqueness as leaders. In small pockets, we team together with common goals and aspirations. These often translate into bursts of energy having positive impact on the whole organization.

Conversely, though, the opposite can happen. Negativity is created by an element in groups that actually acts as a "siphon." When factions come together to input plans or dialogue that 1) haven't been researched; 2) don't take into account the work being done; and 3) are negatively impacting on current efforts to affect change, they draw out energy from the group. Thus, the group at large is weakened.

In our corners of BPW, let's take a moment to reflect on what will bring synergy back into our clubs? Synergy happens when individuals and groups are more effective working together than working on their own. It is time for more synergy in BPW! Our members as leaders in business and the professions have the traits to do it. They also have the ability to discern and determine the action needed to create a strong, vibrant and robust organization.

## ***BPW Greater Moncton takes on product labelling issue***

The members of BPW Greater Moncton Inc. have had a busy fall season. After the club's resolution on the Product of Canada Labelling was passed at the 2008 Winnipeg Convention and submitted to the Federal Government in September, the club took the initiative to establish a National Day of Action to educate the public on the government's plan to implement changes to the Product of Canada Labelling system effective December 31, 2008.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, members gathered outside the Real Atlantic Superstore in Moncton to hold a press conference to protest these Product of Canada Labelling changes. A large number of local media was present, and Bethany Thorne-Dykstra (Chair of Resolutions & Bylaws) provided the media with information on our resolution and the changes we would like to see.

An e-mail was sent to all BPW Presidents across Canada asking for their support and participation in BPW Greater Moncton's initiative as well as their assistance with the circulation of an on-line petition.

As a result of this initiative, a partnership has developed between the National Farmers Union and BPW Greater Moncton. The National Farmer's Union supported our initiative by holding their own press conferences on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Fredericton and Woodstock. The press conference and initiative were reported in news stories on Global TV and CBC Radio as well as newspaper articles in the Bugle Observer, Times & Transcript, and L'Acadie Nouvelle!

An on-line petition has been created to support this initiative at [www.monctonbpw.com](http://www.monctonbpw.com). We have almost 200 signatures to date and encourage all BPW members across Canada to show their support by adding their signature as soon as possible.

### ***Communicating with members***

Club mailings go out about every six weeks. They are sent to three members of each club executive, and presidents are asked to share the information with members. This is a very important way that the BPW Canada Board communicates with members. If you haven't been receiving these mailings, please speak to your president. You can also go on the [www.bpwcanada.com](http://www.bpwcanada.com) website and download.

~

**Up to \$25,000** for 50 violence prevention projects - Canadian Women's Foundation, dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls. By 13 Feb 2009.

[www.canadianwomen.org/](http://www.canadianwomen.org/)

~

**We make our BPW members visible –  
sign on [www.bpw-business.org/](http://www.bpw-business.org/)**