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Business and Professional Women Canada Newsletter – Spring/Summer Edition 2023

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Dear <<First Name>>:



President's Message - Year One Accomplishments and Looking Ahead in Year Two

Happy Spring to everyone! The sun is shining and temperatures warming up. Snow is melting and giving us all hope and a little extra pep in our step.

As we wind down the first year in our executive positions it's time to reflect on all the things that we've done and accomplished and what else we'd like to do in the 2nd half of our terms.

Our UNCSW Delegates had a great time in NY, and we have learned so much from our experiences whether in person or virtually.

Happy to report that the webinars on the new priority theme Reproductive Rights and Justice have now concluded. A big thank you to Norma for all the hard work done in ensuring we get this to our membership and public for education and knowledge.

Stay tuned for our priority theme anti-human trafficking and webinars that we are looking to have on this topic in the upcoming months.

AGM planning is in the works and hope that everyone has saved the date of August 12th, 2023. Please ensure dues are submitted for your clubs and delegates chosen as soon as possible. AGM is open to all members regardless of if you're part of your club delegation or not, feel free to register in the upcoming weeks.

We all hope that you have a great summer and look forward to the 2nd year-term as your executive.



Angie Godin
President 2022-2024
BPW Canada
president@bpwcanada.com



<u>Immediate Past President's Message</u> - BPW North American and Caribbean (NAC) Regional Conference Update

It was my honour to represent President Angie at the BPW North American and Caribbean (NAC) Regional Conference in St Kitts in January. It was an amazing week, and all of the BPW Canada members that attended took away wonderful memories. With members from 21+ countries attending the Conference, it was a chance to get to know members that we had been able to meet during COVID over Zoom – always better to meet with each other in person than the little square on a screen.

I am very proud to advise that at the Conference, I was chosen to be the Nominee for the position of the next Regional Coordinator for NAC and will be on the ballot for the BPW International Delegation to vote at the BPWI Congress in Mar del Plata, Argentina in November 2024. I will be very honoured to represent the NAC Regional during the 2024-2027 term and follow in the footsteps of our dear departed sister BPW Canada's Jill Worobec who held this position from 2008 -2011. In addition, there was a vote on the location of the next NAC Regional Conference and the decision was for it to be held in Toronto. It will be held during my term as Regional Coordinator (I promised the Caribbean clubs it won't be in the cold months!!!).

I hope you will look at my full report of the NAC Regional Conference that has been posted on the website to gain a better understanding of what we were able to experience. It was a fabulous week and I hope many of you will be able to attend the next one that will be held in our backyard. <u>BPW North America</u> and the Caribbean Regional Conference 2023.docx (live.com)

Warm Regards,



Karin Gorgerat Immediate Past President BPW Canada pastpresident@bpwcanada.com

Membership and Women's W.O.R.K

- Sponsors, Fees, Forms and Contest Fun

Happy Spring to you all! I hope this report finds everyone in the throws of Spring and looking forward to a beautiful Summer.

I would like to remind everyone that if your Club is having a public event, please think of having W.O.R.K. as one of your sponsors. All you need to do is apply. Go to the BPW Canada website www.bpwcanada.com – go to Forms and find the W.O.R.K. forms and apply. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Your membership team has a few things we are currently working on. Of course, that means creating a new Club or revitalizing one. It looks like we will soon have a Kingston BPW Club along with the Saskatoon BPW Club joining us again which is wonderful news!

As you know, we teamed up with IDEAS4GE and GBA+ and we had a contest to get all of our Clubs involved in doing the survey. I am please to announce that BPW Bowmanville came in first with BPW London coming in second. These two Clubs will receive \$100 and \$50 from respectively from BPW Canada.

We are planning a Town Hall somewhere between June and September of this year. As this is in the planning stages a Doodle Poll will go out to the clubs to see what dates will work best for everyone, as we are getting to that time of year when everyone is planning their AGM.

Please be expecting contact from your membership team either following up from last term with conversations with Prima or contact for the first time from myself or a member of my team.

Lastly, your 2023-24 term membership fees were due on May 1st, 2023. Remember to complete your forms fully. If you have positions that are not yet filled, please list your President with all her contact information (phone, address, and email address). This enables us to keep the lines of communication open. If we do not have club member information, we do not know who to contact and you and your club may miss out on some important

information. If you need help filling out your forms, please contact me and I will be happy to help.



Shan McEwing
First Vice-President, Membership
BPW Canada
members@bpwcanada.com



Public Affairs & Advocacy

- Draft of Resolutions and Commendations Due Date & More

In the spirit of **National Volunteer Week**, thank you to all members for your advocacy work. Your efforts, whether they're big or small, local or national, collectively help to change our world. BPW Hastings and PE reminded me of this when I read their tag line "**Working with women locally for women everywhere**".

On April 30th the first 2023 Draft of Resolutions and Commendations was sent to members. **Feedback was due May 29th**. I know you were excited to read about these issues. Resolutions approved at the AGM will be compiled in a Brief to the federal government and other political influencers.

A big thanks to our Advocacy and Resolutions Committee (Mina Di Domenico, Shannon McNeill, Ophelia Rigault and Toby Toth) for their work on reviewing resolutions, updating documents, and ensuring that diversity and inclusion are integrated into our processes. More great work to come!

BPW Canada submitted a Brief regarding **Bill C-35 An Act respecting early learning and child care in Canada <u>C-35 (44-1) - LEGISinfo - Parliament of Canada</u> as it is now in Committee review. This is a collaborative effort with the IDEAS for Gender Equality Project (thank you Sheila Crook and Doris Hall). We**

attended the Oxfam Child Care Summit in Ottawa on May 5-6th and will continue to advocate for a more inclusive child care strategy.

So grateful for the opportunity to be a panelist at the NGO/UN CSW67 parallel event in NYC hosted by the Canadian Federation for Citizenship and speaking on the opportunities at BPW to use our voice to influence policy.



Colleen Babiuk-Ilkiw
Vice-President
Resolutions, By-Laws, Advocacy and Public
Relations
BPW Canada
resolutions@bpwcanada.com





Communications

- A Small But Mighty Team

The BPW Canada Communications Team is a small but mighty team. We have been working hard at keeping our community connected by sharing important news, club events, and National and International Commemorative Dates. Our goal is to boost engagement across all social media platforms. We ask that clubs help with social media engagement by liking, commenting and sharing our posts. If you want to learn more let us

know <u>communications@bpwcanada.com</u> we may have some suggestions and ideas to share with your club members.

Does your club have any news or events that may interest other members across Canada? You can share appropriate news Canada wide to reach more viewers and share your resources. When you create your social media post, just tag BPW Canada in the post itself, or your comments. Use our tag at **@canadabpw** on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Linkedin</u> and we will share it with our network(s)!

Sharing your club news and events helps our members stay informed and increases potential membership for all BPW Clubs!



Mary Beatty for Kelly Tallon Franklin Vice-President, Communications BPW Canada communications@bpwcanada.com









Ontario Provincial President's Report

- BPW Ontario Speaker Series, AGM & More

BPW Ontario continues to be busy. On June 10, 2023, we hosted our **Virtual AGM**. Clubs such as BPW London and BPW Hastings and Prince Edward are experiencing growth which is exciting news.

Toby Toth from BPW H&PE and senior consultant with Scope Consulting facilitated an exercise where we grew stronger together, sharing ideas around the metaphorical **Stone Soup** fire pit! The session was designed as a tool to engage our membership in understanding some whys and hows of deepened and broadened perspectives. Concepts discussed at an introductory level included Minorities and Dominant characteristics, Power and Privilege, Spectrums of Diversity, Micro-Aggressions, Marginalization, and Intersectionality.

BPW Ontario's mentoring program, Women Strengthening Women, continues to host the *Celebration of Learning series*. Please see the BPW Ontario website at https://bpwontario.com/bpw-ontarios-mentorship-program.html. For more information on Women Strengthening Women email Shahina Suleman, shahina.suleman@gmail.com.

BPW Ontario Speaker Series - catch them on YouTube!

Did you know that BPW Ontario offered monthly virtual speakers over the past five months? These enlightening discussions were free of charge, recorded, and are (or soon will be) posted to the BPWO YouTube channel.

November 2022 - Karen Moffat, former Ontario Provincial Police officer and volunteer with SafePet Ontario

December 2022 - Katherine Reid, Winemaker at <u>Joseph's Estate Wines</u>, Niagara on the Lake

January 2023 - Monique Belair, Fire Chief, City of Belleville

February 2023 - Barbara Worthy, former drama/documentary producer for CBC and Shaw Festival alumnus

March 2023 - Bonnie Douglas, Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering,

Science, Trades & Technology

Check out the recording of all of the past speakers HERE.

The monthly speaker series is on pause for spring and summer with plans for its return next fall!



Marlene McKinnon
President, BPW Ontario
president@bpwontario.com













Quebec Provincial President's Report- Sold Out Success in Energy, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Series

Business Professional Women - BPW Montréal

A tremendous success for the first in-present BPW Montréal event after several years. To a sold-out audience of 70 who came to Episode 7 of the series on initiatives in equality, diversity and inclusion held in the beautiful <u>BDC</u> Square, inspirational <u>Tina Sebti</u> and Yolande James spoke on EDI initiatives in their respective companies.

Following the panel discussion, members had the opportunity to exchange with

other dynamic professionals - the energy was palpable!

#bpwmontreal #equitediversiteinclusion #diversityandinclusion

Français

Un grand succès pour le premier événement en présentiel de BPW Montréal après quelques années - billetterie épuisée, nous avons eu près de 70 inscriptions pour l'épisode 7 de la série initiatives en équité, diversité et inclusion qui a eu lieu mardi soir dans le bel espace du <u>BDC</u> Square, avec deux panelistes inspirantes <u>Tina Sebti</u> et Yolande James qui nous ont parlés des initiatives en EDI de leurs organisations respectives.

Quel plaisir d'avoir aussi pu échanger lors du cocktail avec d'autres professionnels dynamiques - l'énergie était palpable!



Joan Macklin
President, BPW Quebec
jcallan@mymts.net













Manitoba Provincial President's Report - Mayoral Duties Reappointed and Equal Pay Day Proclamation

Joy Sul (Mayor of St. Andrews Rural Municipality and BPW Selkirk Vice President) describes her reaction to the March 10, 2023 unanimous decision by the Manitoba Court of Appeal that overturned an earlier decision by the Court of Queen's Bench, which had upheld a 2019 by-law/resolution removing her mayoral responsibilities. The Appeal Court overturned the decision of the application judge and declared the by-law/resolution invalid.

In 2019, because of disagreements with the first elected female mayor in the RM, five (males) of the six councillors had passed the by-law/resolution, taking away Sul's mayoral right to chair meetings and act as spokesperson for the municipality, essentially leaving her powerless. Her strength and persistence in fighting this injustice and the ensuing harassment and bullying are commendable. It is disappointing no assistance was given to Sul by the Province or the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, who encourage women to run for office.

Sul adds the words, "humbled" and "grateful," as she was re-elected Mayor in 2022 and five of the six councillor positions changed hands, leaving a municipal council that is now a pleasure to work with. Sul declares, "This decision affects every head of council in Manitoba, if not across Canada." Hopefully, I pray, this will never happen to any community ever again. It's a democracy issue. Five councillors overturned the results of the 2018 election. All women have a right to be heard and included."

See the Selkirk Record for further details.

6 The Selkiek Record Thursday, March 23, 2023

Appeal court unanimously decides council lacked authority to strip Sul's mayoral duties

Joy Sul wins appeal in Manitoba court

On March 10, three judges from the Manitobs appeal court released a 19-page document that overtuned a 19-page accurate that overtures an earlier decision in the Court of Queen's Bench of Mentuha. The document declared the 2018 by-law, which removed mayoral responsibilities from Mayor Joy Sol invalid.

"I was existic and I was actually

when a crowd of people gathered in the St. Andrews municipal office in Clandeboye to hear what was being discussed at an emergency mayting of

A sensor of five of the six councilines A gaing of live of the 46 controllines mamber, other than the head or deposition to the high over the service of the service o

round into that chair position.

It is important to note that in St. by-law

Municipal to voted to Municipal to the state of the state

quantil by the residents in their re-spective wards. The near for mayor is voted on by all residents in the mumicipality.
This issue was contestious in the

community as Sull was voted into her position in 2015 with 61 per cred of the vote.

An article in the Dec. 19, 2019 editon of the Solink Record goes into-detail documenting the opinions of some of the attendions at that morting "I was evolute and I was actually upon a distance of the opinions of parts later I followed due process all the way and bit a betch wall and then the appeals are some of the attendens at that meriting the way and bit a betch wall and then the open the contract says. The decision in the document says, "I wanted fallow the appeal with units throughout; set anishe the decision of it was a supposed by declaring both by lates that appeal by declaring both by lates that a large of 2021 which discussed at appeal by declaring both by lates that the contract of open the process and the process of appeal by declaring both by lates that the contract of the process of appeal by declaring both by lates that the process of the part of the process of the part of the process of the part of the part of the participal act.

Court of Queen's Bench of Manito-ba in June of 2021 which discussed whether or not countil has the power to take these actions against an elect-

no take these extions against an elect-ed mayor. This insolved interpreta-tion of the municipal act.

At that time Sul's attorpy argaint that the municipal act needed to be need as a whole. By that interpreta-tion, the power to appoint a council member, other than the head or dep-ury head of council, to preside over meetine- only takes effect when the

mornings could be about under a by-less as noted by a 87(2)(a) of the

year in which the Justice on the case sided with the 854's attorney's inter-

sided with the RM's attorney's inter-prenation of the manicipal axt.

Sul decided to appeal this decision shortly after the original decision took place and an appeal braining took, place in October off lant year.

"The judgine gave no indication which way they were going [to rule], it was still satisfance. It was in the leaded of the court," and Sul.

In the same manth, municipal elec-tions took ylaze and five of the six

tions took place and live of the six councillor positions in the RM of St. Andrews changed hands. Mayor Sull notained her position as mayor.

In the meantime, the appeal court justims were making their decision. The document released on March 10 states that section 63(2)(a) of the Municipal Act must be read in light of

nicipal Act must be read in Taglet of sertices 140(2) and 149(2)(0).

"Gleen that, in this case, as in many musticipalities, the SM is divided into wards to which consolitions are elected and the head of council is the only muraber silected at large feer sections. E7-85 of the Act), it is consistent with the legislative orders that the Act restricts when the duty to preside ever if (6, Andrews). strint when the duty to preside over council meetings can be removed from the elected head of council. That is, only when the head end the deputo head are unable to act or the offices are vacant," reads the March 10 docu-

trient. Sul said that she felt that this decisize is virulication for those ensidents originally



roted for her and also is rethat a precedent has been set so this will not happen to other mayors to

support, and five standing behind me for all these sears, reflecting me. The test all these sears, reflecting me. The test humbled and grainful," site said. The whole 19-page decision is uvaliable to view at https://www. manitobaccourts.min.co/site/assets/ files/1006/wal_v_the_nasal_re patity_of_st_andrews_manitobs_ot_ at_2023_mbcs_25.pdt.

Equal Pay Day Proclamation



BPW Canada awarded Mayor Larry Johannson a commendation for being the only Mayor in North America that has consistently declared Equal Pay Day since 2012. Pre-Covid, BPW Selkirk hosted a luncheon at our Golf and Country Club with Mayor Larry Johannson reading the Proclamation with a speaker. We will be doing this again in 2024!

Click HERE to view the Equal Pay Day Proclamation issued on March 18th, 2023.



Colleen Allan
President, BPW Selkirk
jcallan@mymts.net





Anti-Human Trafficking - Priority Theme

Anti-Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation – Working Forward to Prioritize this BPW Theme TOGETHER

Reminded of our membership model, we report engaged activities to: Learn Advocate Lead Collaborate in Anti Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation efforts.

I am privileged to work with a team and look ahead creating virtual and in person education and awareness modules, along with briefs, papers in our term.

As a BPW Canada UNCSW67 delegate I am grateful to Amanda Devison VP UNCSW for opportunity and leadership. I attended 14 in-person meetings and represented in UNWomen Events: BPW International - Investing in Women and Digital Technologies, Young BPW International - Designing Enabling Environment Women to Thrive Changing Time, OSCE/ODIHR High (where I have now accepted a 2 year co-Hort position for ISTAC).

Further representation at: <u>Canadian Sexual Exploitation Summit, Senate Judiciary Committee</u>, Parliamentary Committee WAGE, <u>Public Safety Canada</u>, Governor of New York, <u>Human Trafficking Institute</u>, <u>CALEO (Canadian American Law Enforcement Organization)</u>.

Our committee was consulted on: <u>Bill S-211</u> Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act Sponsor Senator Julie Miville Duschene, MP John McKay <u>Bill S-224</u> - An Act to amend the Criminal Code (Palermo Protocol definition) Sponsor: Senator Salma Ataullahjan, MP Colin Carrie <u>Bill C-308</u> - National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking Act Sponsor: MP Arnold Viersen and many provincial bills and bill amendments.

HIGHLIGHT: Organized a delegation to Parliament in Ottawa for Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada sponsored by: MP Arnold Viersen Founder Co-Chairpersons APPG MP John McKay, Senator Julie Miville-Deschene, MP Andreanne Larouche, MP Karen Vecchio Chair Status of Women's Committee, MP David Epp.

Watch our **Live Press Panel from Ottawa Parliament** Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= BZBkHlmjW0T

<u>APPG</u> presented us with a plaque, we spoke directly to the issues at hand before our Parliamentary introduction and acknowledgement during question period. Our delegates included:

- Mashooda-Lubna Syed Canadian Council of Muslim Women Member CCMW
- Margaret Elizabeth Byl President, Federated Women's Institutes of Canada FWIC/WI
- Marianne Wilkinson Resolutions Chair/President National Council of Women Canada NCWC
- Chantel Butterfield Canadian Rape Crisis Centres Council and Executive Director CRCC
- Gareth Williams Probation and Parole Association POAO
- Jade Boucher Fellow Queens University Law BPW Committee member
- Heather Ellis Canadian Teachers Federation, Past President BPW Ontario
- Marie-Chantal BPW Montreal
- Joan Macklin BPW Quebec President
- Lin Buxton BPW Cambridge President
- And myself

We commit to work on our agreed Priority Theme tirelessly, will you?



Kelly Tallon Franklin Vice-President, Communications Priority Theme Chairperson Anti-Human Trafficking BPW Canada communications@bpwcanada.com



Reproductive Rights & Justice - Priority Theme

- RRaJ Speaker Series and What's Next!

You Missed Them, But

The three webinars on Reproductive Rights and Justice (RRaJ) which included learning, discussion, information that was new, and just a chance to meet women working in this area are over.

Meghan Doherty of Action Canada, Rachel Cairns of Aborsh podcast and Stephanie Begun of the University of Toronto were amazing presenters. Not surprising some of their content overlapped but their perspectives gave us a much broader picture of not only the issues surrounding RRaJ, but also the work being done and left to be done. Our group is happy to have made these new connections for ongoing activities of BPW Canada.

If you were unable to attend the webinars, they will be posted in May to the BPW Canada website: **Reproductive Rights & Justice (bpwcanada.com)**

What is next for RRaJ?

The Abortion Resolutions group will be joining the RRaJ group and over the summer will be preparing a Policy Statement for BPW Canada. If that sounds appealing to you, please join us in lively discussions to decide what to include and how to present the statement. A lot of leg work was done during the research for the abortion resolutions, but the plan is to prepare a document that could be presented at not only the federal level but also to each provincial and territorial government as well.

Here is your chance to make your voice heard and make a difference for women across Canada.

Email Norma at <u>bpwnormayau@gmail.com</u> to get join our group.



Norma Yau
Priority Theme Chairperson
Reproductive Rights & Justice
BPW Canada
bpwnormayau@gmail.com



Convention Updates

- Save the Dates!

Next Annual General Meetings (AGM): The 2023 AGM will be VIRTUAL and will be held Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 11 am ADT/ 10 am EDT/ 9 am CDT/ 8 am MDT/ 7 am PDT.

Details are available on the <u>Virtual AGM page</u> on <u>bpwcanada.com</u>. Members must log in to view.



Next Convention: In person in Moncton, New Brunswick in August 2024. Start saving those dollars now!

CONVENTION PLANNING TEAM

Publishers Choice

We close this newsletter edition with a quote from Maya Angelou.





Photo from BPW Canada's 5th National Convention (first Biennial) held in Calgary, Alberta in 1935

Looking Ahead

– Key Days of Advocacy, Activism and Activities

- July 1: Canada Day
- July 30: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
- August 7: Civic Holiday
- August 9: International Day of Indigenous Peoples
- August 12: BPW Canada AGM
- August 26: BPW Canada Anniversary Date

Our next newsletters will publish in September/October - Fall Edition 2023, and November/December - Winter Edition 2023, April/May - Spring Edition 2024.

WATCH FOR OUR: Special UNCSW Report email shortly.

BPW Canada bpwcanada.com















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Contact Us:

General: <u>bpwcanada@bpwcanada.com</u>

Membership: <u>members@bpwcanada.com</u>

Newsletters: <u>communications@bpwcanada.com</u>

President: <u>president@bpwcanada.com</u>

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العربية

<u>Afrikaans</u>

беларуская мова

<u>български</u>

<u>català</u>

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日本語

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Português - Portugal

<u>Română</u>

<u>Русский</u>

<u>Español</u>

Kiswahili

<u>Svenska</u>

<u>עברית</u>

<u>Lietuvių</u>

<u>latviešu</u> <u>slovenčina</u>

slovenščina

<u>српски</u>

<u>தமிழ்</u>

ภาษาไทย

<u>Türkçe</u>

<u>Filipino</u>

<u>украї́нська</u>

Tiếng Việt