

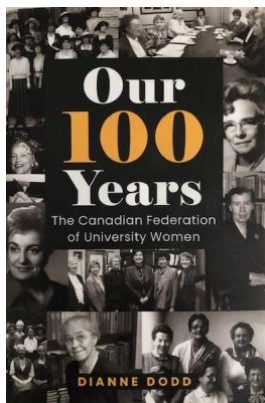


CFUW NEPEAN NEWS BYTES
VOL. 21, NO. 6 **March 2021**

**MARK YOUR CALENDER:
GENERAL MEETINGS on ZOOM**

**FEBRUARY 25TH 10:30 AM Meeting to
vote on Resolutions**

MARCH 2nd 1 PM Diane Dodd, author of *Our 100 Years: The Canadian Federation of University Women*, will discuss the celebration of 100 years of CFUW's advocacy, achievements and influence. An invitation will be extended to clubs across Canada to join us.



APRIL 6th 1 PM Anne Alper, will be speaking about the **Stephen Lewis Foundation**.

Visit CFUW Nepean on Facebook
<https://www.faceok.com/CFUW.Nepean/>

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

On March 8, people around the globe will be marking **International Women's Day** – a global day for celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity and, often, to fundraise for female-focused charities. International Women's Day was first celebrated 110 years ago in 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. Over a million women and men attended rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, to hold public office and end discrimination. Many women in the developed world have these rights, but in many parts of the world women's rights are limited. Graduate Women International, GWI, advocates for women's education and rights. The campaign theme for 2021 is **'Choose to Challenge'**. A challenged world is an alert world. And from challenge comes change.

We hope that our Club resolution on banning single use plastics is a challenge to our various levels of government and that through this challenge, CFUW can bring change. If adopted as policy at the national level, our resolution may go to the GWI triennial and become international policy!

The colours, originating in 1908, for International Women's Day are purple, green and white – purple for justice and dignity; green for hope; and white for purity (perhaps a little controversial these days!). Wear one of these colours to our March meeting. See you then.

Marcia

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

March 17 - 7 pm **Heather Duncan, Certified Financial Planner**, will be speaking on investment strategies.

BONUS BITS

FRIDAY mornings at 10:30

Coffee with friends on ZOOM - the pandemic version of face-to-face communication! Chat, laugh and share with friends. Link will be sent to all members on Thursdays.

INTEREST GROUPS

BOOK CLUB via zoom on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Contact **Valerie Barton** to join.

March 23 - Oil and Water by Stephanie Storey - A novel of Leonardo and Michelangelo
Reviewed by Mary Anne Rainer

April 27 - American Dirt - by Jeanine Cummins

May 25 - Once We Were Brothers - by Ronald Balson

BRIDGE GROUP continues via the internet every Monday afternoon. To join, contact **Dolores Dufresne**.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

Betty Ann Grainger

1 PM on the third Tuesday of each month, ZOOM invitation sent a day or so prior to the talk.

March 16 COLUMBIA presented by Debbie Poisson

April 20: Pat Coroy presents the **CANARY ISLANDS**

If anyone would like to coordinate Armchair Travel for 2021-22, please contact Betty Ann Grainger or Mary Ann Rainer.

NEW!!! CRAFTERNOON 1PM, the 4th Thursday of the month. This new group is another opportunity for conversation and sharing via ZOOM. Work on your favourite craft while you visit with other members. Not a crafter? Join in for conversation and you might be tempted to take up a new hobby. It's a CFUW version of an online craft-show with friendly demonstrations!

Fun for all. The dates are: **March 25, April 22, May 27.**

ATTENTION!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Betty Ann Grainger

Once again, **Interval House** needs large sized diapers (4,5,6) and wipes. If you wish to purchase them and get them to Betty Ann or send her a donation, she will be happy to get them on your behalf.

Delivery to Interval House will be in early May.

Thank you for your ongoing help.

ONTARIO COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 14 - May 15

ZOOM

LEAD 2021 - **Step into your Power** May 14 & 15, 2021 A virtual conference hosted by CFUW Orillia Friday evening keynote: Dr. Wendy Cukier Women's Leadership in the Economic Recovery Saturday:

<https://cfuwontcouncil.org/event/uwc-toronto-women-on-the-ballot-stories-of-our-trailblazers/>

Dr Wendy Cukier spoke to our club on Gun Control in September. Here is a chance to hear her address women's role in economic recovery - from the comfort of your own home.

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Sue Carter

Emma Maud Lampman the first woman to work on Parliament Hill: presenter Dianne Brydon – February 2, 2021 Maud married Archibald Lampman the poet who worked for Canada Post. She was not supportive of Archibald's poetry and he found solace with Kathrine Waddell to whom he wrote poems.

Archibald died when Maud was thirty-two leaving her with two small children to support. In the early 1900s, the only women that the government employed were cleaners at \$1.00 a day. She wrote to Sir Wilfred Laurier, who advised her to write the public service exams. She took these and then found work as a temporary clerk with a salary of \$259 per year which rose to \$550. Eventually, she got a permanent job with a salary of \$800 in 1903. Later, when her pay increased to \$1200 a year she bought a house in Rockcliffe Park and sent her son to a private school.

Men who discussed hiring women said that they were too frail to work, would replace a male breadwinner, could not manage anything, and have men to support them. Others felt that women have the chance to prove themselves. Most working women were either single or widowed. Many companies and in the government, made women give up their jobs when they married. The government paid double what teachers made and gave a good pension with benefits. The concept of wage parity between men and women did not exist. Maud died suddenly at the age of 40 and her sister raised her children. The insurance and pension left to support her children would be the equivalent of \$72,000 today. Maud was the first woman to work on Parliament Hill. Since then, thousands of women have entered the Public Service.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Joan Conrod

CFUW Nepean members are familiar with our timely resolution on Single-Use Plastic and Plastic Packaging. Included here is a brief summary of the three other resolutions which were accepted.

CFUW Cape Breton advocates for greater ease in having large domestic appliances repaired, in an effort to reduce both waste and carbon footprint. Their proposal is based on the EU **Right to Repair** being enacted in 2021.

CFUW Montreal Lakeshore's resolution addresses the need for policy on the **Opioid Crisis** ravaging Canada's youth. It deals with the need for increased awareness of the signs of overdoses, for greater access to treatment sites, and for increased psychosocial services. CFUW has no recent policies on drug misuse; former ones were presented in 1967 and 1976.

CFUW International Relations Committee raises the issue of **negative-gendered impacts in post-COVID recovery**. While women have, in recent, years, made strides towards equality both economically and professionally, the opportunity to make Canada inclusive, to facilitate the full participation of women in the economy, must not be overlooked.

Discussion and Voting on the Resolutions: February 25 10:30 AM A Special General meeting to vote on these resolutions has been called. Marcia sent the resolution package to all members. Groups of members volunteered to discuss a resolution in detail. Their recommendations will be a guide for all members when voting to accept, reject, or amend each resolution.

SHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

Marlene Sylvester

Innovative fundraising during COVID

Book Sale: In order to supplement our Scholarship Funds for 2020-2021 year our committee has orchestrated three events . On Feb, 9th Marlene Sylvester emailed a Master Book List and indicated that on a first come first serve basis members could purchase books. The response has been heartwarming. Thanks to all members who contributed books and the committee who will distribute the books.

Valentine Trivia: on Feb 12th Charlotte McWilliam and Marlene Sylvester organized a fun fundraising event. Fifteen members attended and Dolores Dufresne and Cindy Hyduk won the prizes. Congratulations .

Return for Deposits: February and March fund-raiser: We are asking all members to collect all liquor bottles, beer and pop cans. Pat Coroy and Marlene Sylvester will collect at the end of March.

No one can predict the next few months but we will continue to support the Scholarship Trust Fund.

GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWI, formerly IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO

CFUW is an international affiliate of Graduate Women International (GWI) and their website (<https://graduatewomen.org/>) has information on GWI and on federation activities around the world.

- To access the member-only section click on the 'Members Corner', then click on 'Register here 'under the login box. Enter your contact information and identify that your National Federation is CFUW. You will subsequently receive an email with login information. Once you are successfully logged in you will be able to see what tools and resources GWI has.
- To receive the monthly Update newsletter, click on GWI Material in the Members Corner and click 'Update Newsletter - subscribe'. The Members Corner also allows access to the GWI Member Discussion Network which has a variety of topics. While you visit this website sign up for their updates. Their programs and projects are amazing

CFUW and International Women's Day 2021:

UWC Toronto – Women on the Ballot Stories of our Trailblazers March 8 4:00 - 5:30, ZOOM ,free
UWC Toronto ZOOM Speaker Betsy McGregor Betsy is the author of Women on the Ballot: Pathways to Political Power and will speak about some of the trailblazing women in her book. Betsy's talk promises to be a dynamic and inspiring address for International Women's Day. To register go to info@uwctoronto.ca, and to find out more about her book visit <https://womenontheballot.com>. All are welcome.

<https://cfuwontcouncil.org/event/uwc-toronto-women-on-the-ballot-stories-of-our-trailblazers/>

THE INDIGENOUS FAMOUS SIX

Mary Two-Axe Early spoke out nationally and internationally about the sex discrimination in the *Indian Act* in the 1960s. More than 50 years later, on August 16, 2019 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued an order-in-council proclaiming all outstanding provisions of Bill S-3 into force this ending 162 years of sex discrimination in the *Indian Act*.^[18] Six women made this happen. CFUW Nepean salutes them on International Women's Day.

The **Indigenous Famous Six** were six contemporary Indigenous women challenged sex discrimination in the *Indian Act* either as plaintiffs, international actors and/or proponents at the senate level. They are Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, Yvonne Bedard, Senator Sandra Lovelace-Nicolas, Sharon Mclvor, Lynn Gehl, and Senator Lillian Dyck.

Jeannette Corbiere-Lavell, Anishinaabe from Manitoulin Island, Ontario, took her complaint about sex discrimination in section 12(1)b of the *Indian Act*, that removed Indian status from Indian women when they married non-Indian men (the same did not apply to Indian men when they married non-Indian women), to the Ontario County Court (June 1971). In the fall, she appealed to the Federal Court. The judges concluded it was not a violation of the guarantee of non-discrimination within The Canadian Bill of Rights.

Corbiere-Lavell is an advocate for Indigenous women and their families. In 1970s she was a founding member of Indian Rights for Indian Women; of the Nishnawbe Institute; and of the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA). She has been the president of the Native Women's Association of Canada. She received the Governor General's Person's Award in 2009 and the 2020 Indspire Award.

In 1971 **Yvonne Bedard**, Onondaga, from Six Nations in Ontario, filed a complaint about the sex discrimination in 12(1) b of the *Indian Act* in the Ontario High Court. Because the Corbiere-Lavell case had already been heard at the Federal Court of Appeal the Lavell and Bedard cases were joined at the Supreme Court of Canada which ruled that Corbiere-Lavell and Bedard had not been discriminated against as Indian women because *The Canadian Bill of Rights* only guaranteed equality **before** the law, not equality **under** the law. Equality before the law was interpreted by the court as meaning equality in the administration or application of the law.

In 1981 **Senator Sandra Lovelace** appealed to the United Nations Human Rights Committee but because her marriage and loss of Indian status registration occurred prior to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights the Committee declined to rule on the matter of sex discrimination.

Sharon Donna Mclvor's status entitlement moved through her mother-line rather than her father-line she was only entitled to 6(1) c status and she could not pass status registration on to her son's children. Mclvor said that this it violated section 15 of the *Charter*. She won her case but Canada appealed the decision to the British Columbia Court of Appeal where the court ruled that some of the sex discrimination was justified because it was an issue of matrilineal descent not sex discrimination. Then the court relied on the 1951 double-mother clause imposed on the descendants of Indian men as the comparator group to narrow down the remedy. This was a terrible moment for Indigenous women. Mclvor wanted 6(1)a for all her descendants born before 1985 rather than what she, her son, and grandchildren gained: 6(1)c, 6(1)c1, and 6(2) respectively. The Supreme Court of Canada refused to hear her appeal and so Mclvor quickly filed a petition with the United Nations. Through Bill C-3 the *Indian Act* was once again amended yet sex discrimination continued.

Lynn Gehl While Canada argued that all the sex discrimination was addressed through *Bill S-3* Lynn Gehl 's case on unknown and unstated paternity was heard in the Ontario Court of Appeal. Gehl was denied Indian status registration because through Indian and Northern Affairs' unknown and unstated paternity policy it was assumed her unknown grandfather was a non-Indian man. After 16 years of litigation, Gehl won her

case on appeal in 2017 when the court argued Canada had to be reasonable and look at the circumstantial evidence of her own father's birth. As a result of the case, clauses addressing unknown and unstated paternity were included in the *Bill S-3* remedy. While Gehl won her case, like Mclvor, she was faced with a new form of discrimination. Although she was born before 1985 the court ruled that she was entitled to 6(2) Indian status.

Gehl has a long advocated about the need for Canada to eliminate the sex discrimination in the *Indian Act*. She written community-based articles, and she birthed the slogan "6(1) a. All the Way!" as her effort to keep the issue in the public eye and give the matter more currency in the political area.

Senator Lillian Eva Dyck: While Canada claimed that it had removed all sex-based discrimination in the determination of Indian status registration in *Bill S-3*, the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples which was charged with examining the bill, discovered that this was not so. Led by Senator Lillian Dyck, the committee refused to study the bill until it was appropriately amended by the government; furthermore, the committee members, particularly Senator Lillian Dyck, convinced the senate as a whole not to pass the bill until it was amended to fulfill the goal of "6(1)a All the Way!"; that being to eliminate the 6(1)a and 6(1)c hierarchy and restore status to descendants all the way back to 1869.

The collective advocacy of Jeannette Corbiere-Lavell, Yvonne Bedard, Senator Sandra Lovelace-Nicholas, Sharon Donna Mclvor, Lynn Gehl, Senator Lillian Dyck and allies Shelagh Day, Gwen Brodsky, Mary Eberts, Vivian Michele, Pamela Palmater, Senator Marilou MacPhedran, and Senator Kim Pate were critically important in pushing Canada to amend *Bill S-3* to remove all sex-based discrimination in the Indian registry. The bill was enacted in two stages; in the first stage, status was restored to descendants with a 1951 cut off and in the second stage, status was restored all the way back to 1869. The second stage came into force by an order-in-council at a later date which allowed the government time to consult with stakeholders such as First Nation Chiefs.^[16]

United Nations ruling on the Mclvor Case

While Canada was consulting on the matter of the ongoing sex discrimination in the *Indian Act*, on January 11, 2019, the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights committee ruled on Sharon Mclvor's 2010 petition and concluded that Canada was under an obligation to provide Sharon Mclvor and her son Jacob Grismer with an effective remedy. The UN required Canada to make full reparation to individuals whose rights had been violated simply because of their matrilineal descent. Further, Canada was obligated to ensure that section 6(1)a of the 1985 *Indian Act* be interpreted as to provide 6(1)a registration equally to all persons born before April 17, 1985, regardless of their patrilineal or matrilineal descent. The UN ruled there must not be preferential treatment.

On February 19, 2019, Senator Lillian Eva Dyck tabled a motion in the Senate chamber urging Canada to bring into force the remaining "6(1)a All the Way" provisions of *Bill S-3* ending all the sex discrimination in the *Indian Act* once and for all. It was unanimously adopted.

Women in Science: Did you know?

The development of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine, the first approved jab in the West, is the crowning achievement of decades of work for Hungarian biochemist **Katalin Kariko**, who fled to the US from communist rule in the 1980s.

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