



## Thinking Outside the Club

### Ontario Council and your Club Executive

**COMMUNITY→CLUB→REGION→ONTARIO COUNCIL→CFUW→GWI**

Members come from many different communities with diverse needs and concerns.

- Clubs are part of a region:  
Ontario North, Ontario Huron, Ontario South, Ontario Central, Ontario East, Ontario West
- These 6 regions form Ontario Council, which, with the other Councils in CFUW - BC Council, Alberta Council, Saskatchewan Council, Manitoba Council, Quebec Council and Atlantic Regional Council - represent the over 8000 members in over 100 clubs across Canada.
- CFUW is the largest of the national affiliates that make up the Graduate Women International (GWI).
- Four of the Councils – Ontario, BC, Quebec and Atlantic Regional - are led by a President who in turn represents her members as a Vice-President on the National Board of Directors. Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are represented by the VP Prairies.
- Regional Directors (RDs) are the clubs' link to the Ontario Council and in turn to the CFUW Board of Directors. Your RD is in the position to help you and to bring your concerns forward, in the direction of our “bottom up” Federation.
- Ontario Council executive consists of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications, 6 Regional Directors and 3 Standing Committee Chairs (Education, Status of Women and Human Rights, and Legislation). Appointments are Webmaster, Advocacy Coordinator and Policy Advisors.
- To contact any of these, email [info@cfuwontcouncil.ca](mailto:info@cfuwontcouncil.ca) .

## WHAT DOES \$6.25 BUY?

In a mall not much, but within Ontario Council it provides clubs with many benefits. Ontario clubs pay

**\$6.25 per member to Ontario Council** and receive the following:

1. Clubs with a membership of 60 or fewer regular and life members, who have a member attend an Ontario Annual General Meeting, will receive their current year Ontario Council club fees back. This is to give assistance to small clubs to send members to an Ontario AGM.
2. Ontario Council provides General Liability Insurance for our member clubs and your club functions (individually clubs would have to cover each function separately at a much higher cost).
3. Club members are given opportunities to get together with other club members through Regional Gatherings, Standing Committees meetings and the Ontario Council Annual General Meeting, and occasional local regional meetings.
4. For Standing Committee meetings, clubs at more than 50 km distance from Toronto are able to receive travel assistance.
5. Clubs hosting a Regional Fall Gathering are given a \$100 grant in recognition of their efforts. A \$300 advance (loan) is also available to cover expenses incurred before registration fees are received.
6. The Host Club of an Ontario Council AGM is given \$250.00 in recognition of their efforts. A \$2500.00 advance (loan) is also available to cover expenses incurred before registration fees are received.
7. A Grant in the amount of \$300.00 may be offered to local clubs for a non-revenue generating special event or project (i.e. all candidates meeting, public forum, membership recruitment).
8. An advance (loan) of \$300 is available for a revenue generating event or project to cover expenses incurred before revenue is received (i.e. fundraisers such as raffles, house tours).
9. Ontario Council executive members are available to come and speak on a variety of topics at no cost to the club.
10. Standing Committee Chairs are available to help with advocacy.

11. The newsletter is prepared after each Standing Committees meeting containing the reports of the meetings, club news and activities, and articles of interest.
12. The website, [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca), provides information about clubs in Ontario and their activities, as well as about Ontario Council, its work and policies.
13. CFUW Ontario Council speaks to the Government of Ontario on behalf of our members on issues that are of concern to ourselves and to other women.
14. CFUW Ontario Council forms coalitions with like-minded organizations in order to extend our advocacy efforts.

## ONTARIO COUNCIL WEBSITE

Use Ontario Council website [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca) for the following

- Standing Committees meetings – speakers, dates, registration information and reports
- Advocacy alerts and updates
- Information about letters and briefs that Ontario Council has sent to the government
- Information for clubs: financial policies which benefit clubs, club president resource materials, advocacy tools
- Policy and resolutions, including a link to CFUW National Policy Book
- Annual General Meeting – location, theme, registration information
- Ontario Council clubs contact information.
- Newsletter issues, archived

### **Keeping your Charitable Number**

Treasurers over the years have stressed the importance of keeping your Club's scholarship charitable number. Once lost, through not fulfilling the requirements of the government regulations involved, it is difficult to regain, plus your Club might be subjected to a fine!

It's important that the treasurer of your scholarship fund stays abreast of what's new. Information can be found on line at [www.cra.gc.ca/charities](http://www.cra.gc.ca/charities) . If you have any questions you should direct them to the government at 1-800-267-2384. Better to spend a few minutes calling than have to fight to get your status back.

## **NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CLUB**

- ❖ **Standing Committees Meetings:**

Held in September, January and March; travel assistance (based on distance) available

- ❖ **Fall Gatherings:**

Regional clubs come together to share ideas, successes and to learn from OC themed workshops.

- ❖ **Hub meetings:**

Members come together with their Regional Directors to discuss issues in person or by telephone conferencing.

- ❖ **Ontario Council Annual General Meeting:**

Held annually in May, a great opportunity to meet members from across Ontario. Small clubs (with less than 50 members) qualify for financial assistance to attend an OC AGM.

- ❖ **Club Guest Nights:**

Invite OC clubs in your region to attend one of your meetings, or accept an invitation from another club, share in their fellowship and perhaps come home with new ideas for your own club.

- ❖ **Host an event with another OC club, or a similarly minded organization:**

For example, Earth Day Activity, Breaking Bread for Afghanistan Dinner, International Women's Day event.

- ❖ **Advertise your event/fundraiser on the website and/or in our newsletter.**

## **YOUR CLUB EXECUTIVE AND ADVOCACY**

Both President and members of your club's executive will find themselves involved in advocacy done by the club. Ideally you will have an Issues group who are prepared to do the actual work, but you need to know about and be able to authorize what's happening.

## Concerning advocacy you will receive from Ontario Council:

- ◆ Information about the three Standing Committees meetings – notices and registration sent before the meeting, reports in the Ontario Council newsletter; also available on the web at [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca) .
- ◆ Emails asking for your help concerning some advocacy activity – perhaps a letter writing campaign, notice about government consultations, a petition campaign that a club has initiated...  
Please respond if you can, or delegate it to your Issues Committee to work on the project.
- ◆ Our newsletter. Please use the articles and Standing Committees reports for your own newsletters, simply copy and paste from the electronic version or the report on the website.
- ◆ Links to the **CFUW Advocacy Toolkit**, a group of how-to manuals concerning advocacy found on the CFUW Member Resources website ([www.cfuwadmin.org](http://www.cfuwadmin.org) [viewonly; cfuw4321] under Advocacy & Resolutions.
- ◆ Ontario Council Resolutions for club discussion  
Please study these, prepare amendments to return to Ontario Council and be prepared to discuss the resolution(s) at the next AGM.

## To help you with advocacy, there are

- ◆ Standing Committees meetings, and the Standing Committee chairs who are always available to help;
- ◆ Regional Directors who can direct you to others who could assist you;
- ◆ Template letters plus other information sent from Ontario Council on specific campaigns by the Council;
- ◆ The reports of the Standing Committees meetings which can be found in our newsletter and on the website;
- ◆ The website [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca) , in particular the **Issues page** which has links to letters and briefs prepared by Ontario Council and the **Club Resources page** which has a section on **Advocacy Tools**;
- ◆ The two **Policy Books** – Ontario and National – links can be found at [www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/policy.html](http://www.cfuwontcouncil.ca/policy.html) , and
- ◆ **CFUW Advocacy Toolkit** found on the CFUW Member Resources website [viewonly; cfuw4321] <http://www.cfuwadmin.org/AdvocacyResolutions/AdvocacyToolkit.aspx>

## CFUW GUIDELINES for ADVOCACY

*As approved by the CFUW National Board, June 29, 2011*

- ◆ When writing, or speaking, “on behalf of CFUW” and asking for some action, this **must be based on CFUW policy** as found in the *CFUW Policy Book*.
  - ◆ If a club needs to react to a local situation when there is no policy, a vote shall be taken of its membership before committing the club to any course of action. Any action must be consistent with CFUW purposes and policy.
  - ◆ When there is no policy, letters may be written asking for information only – “Our club is studying ...”
- ◆ **Local clubs write to their local elected officials and local MPs/MPPs/MNAs /MLAs**, but not to the Premier, the Prime Minister or Cabinet Minister (unless he/she is the local MPP or MP).
  - ◆ Dealing with your own MPs and provincial legislators is what creates the momentum and potentially adds to the pressure. These are discussed in caucuses.
- ◆ If your club invites a Cabinet Minister to a social event or to speak to a meeting, tell your RD, who might want to give you a package of information for the Minister.
- ◆ Clubs, Councils and National CFUW write to elected officials within **their own jurisdictions**. If they wish to contact someone elsewhere, they need to consult with the club or, if it is a provincial matter, the provincial Council and/or provincial Regional Director in consultation with the Regional Vice President.
  - ◆ National and Councils may send letters, etc. to Ministers and Critics without necessarily notifying the local club.
  - ◆ If letters are being sent to elected officials where there is no CFUW club, do explain to the recipient why they are receiving the letter from you.
- ◆ **Letters must be sent out under the signature of the club President, or designated member of the executive, on club letterhead.** The club President or designated member of the executive committee should have the support and authorization of her executive.
  - ◆ If the President has a conflict of interest or is uncomfortable signing, she must excuse herself, discuss the matter with her Board, and if necessary delegate someone else to sign.
- ◆ The **individual club member** is encouraged to write to any politician on any issue about which she has a concern. She may use information from CFUW sources, but she may not write “on behalf of CFUW” or use CFUW letterhead.