

## Important Notice re: New Vote on CFUW and GWI

For 101 years CFUW has been affiliated with the international organization known originally as the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), and now as [Graduate Women International](#). GWI shares our goals of improving the status of women and promoting education and human rights. **For more information about CFUW's international work, click [here](#).**

In recent years there has been some dispute about CFUW's association with GWI, which has resulted in several motions at AGMs to disassociate ourselves from GWI. All of these votes have failed to pass and CFUW therefore remains part of GWI. At the same time, motions to increase dues to meet the rising cost of GWI membership have also failed, leaving the national board in the untenable position of an ongoing budget shortfall.

On December 1, 2020, in an effort to end this ongoing dispute and ease the strain on CFUW finances, the national board passed a motion to allow individual CFUW clubs to opt-out of paying GWI dues if they so desire. CFUW will remain a member of GWI, but individual clubs can withdraw their support by choosing not to be a part of the per capita calculation that determines the amount CFUW must pay in dues to GWI. Clubs must inform national of their decision by the end of March. **To read the December 9 2020 letter and background from CFUW president Kathryn Wilkinson, click [here](#).**

Accordingly, CFUW-Hamilton will be holding a vote on this issue at the general meeting on Tuesday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. If we vote to support GWI, the portion of our dues that goes to GWI will continue to do so; if we vote to opt out, that money will be allocated to a reserve fund which the 'opt-out' clubs will decide how to spend. Either way, the portion of our CFUW-Hamilton dues that we forward to national (currently \$76 per member) will remain the same — at least until a motion to change the CFUW dues passes at an AGM. However, since the present amount collected by CFUW for GWI membership doesn't cover the cost of GWI dues, it is to be expected that in the future, opt-in clubs will be asked to increase their dues. But the change to GWI membership will not take effect until January 2022, by which time any financial repercussions should become clearer. And individual clubs will be allowed to revisit their decision each year. **For FAQs on the GWI per capita dues calculation, click [here](#).**

In light of the historic association of CFUW with GWI, and with great appreciation for the international voice GWI gives us and the value of the work it accomplishes in countries that do not have our advantages, the CFUW-Hamilton executive has voted to recommend opting-in to paying GWI dues.

The vote at the March general meeting will be taken by Zoom poll. All members present will have a vote, and the decision requires only a simple majority. There will be an opportunity for discussion prior to the vote.

**If for some reason you are not able to attend the March Zoom meeting you may record your vote by emailing Debbie Welland [dwell26000@aol.com](mailto:dwell26000@aol.com) Brenda Wright [pibbal@bell.net](mailto:pibbal@bell.net) or Barbara Ledger [barbaraledger44@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraledger44@gmail.com) by noon on March 16.**