



CFUW-Hamilton Annual Report 2024-25

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*CFUW-Hamilton
Luncheon & Annual General Meeting
Agenda*

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Liuna Station, King George Room, 360 James St. North

11:00 am

Mix and Mingle
Photos and Historical Mementoes from the Archives
Photo-taking with the 100th Anniversary Poster
Silent Auction

12:00 pm

Welcome, Grace and Land Acknowledgement
Greetings by Hamilton Deputy Mayor Maureen Wilson and Presentation of 100-Year Certificate of Recognition
Luncheon Buffet

1:00 pm

Guest Speaker: CFUW National President Linda Sestock
Recognition of 50-Year Members by CFUW Ontario Council President Sandra Shaw
Cutting of Anniversary Cake
Announcement of Silent Auction Winners

2:00 pm

Business Meeting

Call to Order and Introduction of the 2024-25 executive
Approval of the AGM Business Agenda
Approval of the 2024 AGM Minutes
Approval of the 2024-25 Annual Report
Treasurer's report & presentation of the 2025-26 proposed budget for approval
Election of proposed 2025-26 Executive
Installation of 2025-26 Executive
Incoming President's Remarks
Adjournment

President's Message

It was another active year for our Club – this time, one which brought us closer to our National and Ontario members as well as local community organizations and initiatives. CFUW National and CFUW Ontario Council have decided to hold in-person AGMs every other year. Annette Richardson and Renate Manthei represented us (as reported in their Advocacy report) at the Ontario Council AGM in Windsor in May, 2024, and I attended the CFUW National AGM in Edmonton in July, 2024. This summer our representatives will be attending CFUW National and Ontario Council AGMs on Zoom.

With the assistance of our Ontario Council liaisons Joyce See and Christine Marks, and feedback from some of the clubs in southern Ontario, we were able to develop updated high-level “job” descriptions for our executive members and a timetable of club deliverables expected each year. These documents can be viewed in the members-only section of our website. In the coming year, we plan to update our bylaws to make them more consistent with our club’s current practices. If this is something that interests you, please get in touch with Michelle McGinn.

Our members participated in two major events in the fall of 2024. First, we were Screening Partners in the showing at the Westdale theatre of the documentary “An Unfinished Journey,” about four women from Afghanistan who have been struggling to win back women’s rights in that country. And then, our annual author event featured Lorraine Sommerfeld, columnist in the *Hamilton Spectator* and *Post Media*, who talked about her first novel/thriller, *A Face in the Window*, to a rapt audience of close to 200.

In March, new member Serena Habib was one of twenty delegates representing CFUW at the UN’s 69th Commission on the Status of Women. Read about this on page 13.

As part of our initiative to return to some of our pre-pandemic practices, we held a get-together of the old and new executive in my backyard a few weeks after our last AGM. Despite the heatwave, we were able to relax and enjoy each other’s company under a large tree with a welcome cool breeze. Also back in place was a coffee/tea welcome/gathering before Christmas, to welcome new members into our club.

Throughout the year, we continued to have our stimulating monthly speakers, regular newsletters and of course our 100th year Anniversary Event and AGM. All of this could not be possible without the work of our brilliant creative team of Joanne Curtis, social media/website coordinator, and Judith Purdell-Lewis, newsletter/news bulletin coordinator, who make us all look good.

It has been an honour to work in my second year as President with such a talented and dedicated group of women! I am always impressed by the extraordinary team spirit of our club members and executive.

I hope you enjoy the reports from members of our executive as well as the leaders of our Interest groups on our activities this past year.

Cathy McPherson,
2024-25 President

Minutes of the CFUW-Hamilton AGM Tuesday, May 21, 2024

The CFUW-Hamilton Luncheon and Annual General Meeting were held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 12 noon, in the Continental Room of the Liuna Station banquet centre on James St. North. There were 34 attendees, including two guests.

President Cathy McPherson welcomed everyone, and thanked Social co-chairs Sheri Selway and Brenda Wright, and the staff of Liuna Station, for their efforts in ensuring a wonderful lunch. After reading the Land Acknowledgement, she invited Regional Director Joyce See to the microphone. Joyce thanked us for the invitation, and brought greetings from Ontario Council and National.

Myrtle Greve said grace and asked us to raise our glasses in a toast to Canada and CFUW, after first acknowledging that those tasks have for many years been performed by Marilyn Hill, who sadly is in hospital, following a stroke.

Brenda asked the head table to proceed to the buffet, with the other tables to follow.

After a tasty and varied lunch of salads, crudités, sandwiches, sweets and tea and coffee, Lori Dessau introduced the speaker. Victoria Muir-Burcea is a graduate in health promotion from Queens University and has worked in the wellness field for 25 years. She leads online physical, emotional and brain wellness programs through her website, myrecreo.health.

In her talk “Worry-free and Joyful Living,” Victoria spoke about the importance of connection, not only with friends and family, but also the seemingly insignificant contacts we make throughout the day. She talked about brain fitness and had us out of our seats to try an exercise where we lifted our knees and touched them with our opposite hands, while reciting an old phone number — backwards. Victoria also said that affirmations often fail because a statement such as “I am strong” is answered with a negative voice that says “No, you’re not.” She suggested starting affirmations with “I am choosing to believe that I...” to quiet that negative voice.

Susan Fainer-Levy thanked Victoria for providing many ‘aha’ moments in her enlightening talk, and presented her with a scarf from the ‘Wrapped in Courage’ Inasmuch House fundraiser.

Cathy McPherson called the business meeting to order at 2:10 p.m., with 30 members in attendance. The current executive members were acknowledged and thanked.

The approval of the 2023-24 AGM agenda was moved by Annette Richardson, seconded by Theresa MacDonald, and carried.

The approval of the 2023 AGM minutes was moved by Barbara Ledger, seconded by Lori Dessau, and carried.

The approval of the 2023-24 Annual Report was moved by Carole Peters, seconded by Valerie Parke, and carried.

Treasurer. Wilma van Zwol reported that Barbara Mahaffy reviewed the end-of-year financial statement. As of the end of April, the General Fund held \$7646.75, plus \$20,000 in GICs and the Scholarship Fund held \$7439.69, plus a \$5,000 GIC.

Wilma then explained the draft budget for 2024-25, acknowledging that it shows a deficit because of anticipated expenses in our 100th anniversary year. It was moved by Wilma that the budget for 2024-25 be approved. Seconded by Barbara Ledger and carried.

Nominating Committee. Debbie Welland and Trudi Down presented the proposed slate of officers for 2024-25:

President — Cathy McPherson
Vice-president — Michelle McGinn
Past-president — Debbie Welland
Secretary, General meetings — Doreen Knol
Secretary, Executive meetings — tbd
Treasurer — Wilma van Zwol
Membership — Patrice Palmer
Publicity, local — tbd
Publicity, website and social media — Joanne Curtis
Publicity, newsletter/news bulletin editor — Judith Purdell-Lewis
Program — Lori Dessau
Advocacy — Renate Manthei
Scholarship — Myrtle Greve
Social — Sheri Selway and Carole Peters
President's Appointees
Archivist — Cathy Tell
Fundraising — Myrtle Greve, Sharron Johnston, Carolyn van Hoevelaak and Heather Oliver
Goodwill ambassador — Jan Armstrong
GWI liaison — Debbie Welland
Parliamentarian — Michelle McGinn
Ontario Council Committee Representatives — Annette Richardson, Renate Manthei, and Myrtle Greve.

After the requisite three calls for further nominations, the slate was elected by acclamation. Joyce See offered thanks to the old executive and congratulations to the new.

Cathy McPherson reflected on the past year of great accomplishments — 100 attendees at our author event with Kerry Clare and Marina Endicott; fun and information at our Mocktail Party fundraiser; and our wonderful success at the 2023 national AGM where our resolution on reducing maternal deaths was accepted into Policy.

She promised that in the coming year we will continue to build ourselves back up after COVID. She will soon be convening a meeting with the fundraising committee and others, to look into ways to celebrate our 100th anniversary. She wished everyone a great summer.

Annette asked us all to thank Cathy for her leadership this year with a round of applause.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

CFUW-Hamilton Proposed 2025-26 Executive

Position	2025-26 Proposed
President	Michelle McGinn
Vice-President	Kathleen Carroll
Past President	Cathy McPherson
Secretary	General Meetings — Doreen Knol Executive Meetings — Kathleen Carroll
Treasurer	Cathy McPherson
Membership Development	TBD
Publicity: Local Website & Social Media Newsletter/news bulletin editor	Joanne Curtis Judith Purdell-Lewis
Program	Lori Dessau
Advocacy	Renate Manthei
Scholarship	Myrtle Greve
Social	Sheri Selway
President's Appointees	
Archivist	Cathy Tell
Fundraising	Myrtle Greve, Sharron Johnston, Heather Oliver, Carolyn van Hoevelaak
Goodwill Ambassador	Jan Armstrong
GWI liaison	Debbie Welland
Parliamentarian	Michelle McGinn
Ontario Council Standing Committee Reps	
	Myrtle Greve
	Renate Manthei
	Annette Richardson

Executive Reports

Advocacy

The mandate of the Action and Advocacy group has been, for many years, education, equality for women, and the protection of human rights for women and children. This year, in Hamilton, we undertook a number of activities, beginning with acknowledgment of indigenous Orange Shirt Day and a visit to three local Indigenous groups, the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC), the Native Women's Shelter, and a housing project. We created a brief picture report focussing on these organizations and on several famous indigenous women (which can now be viewed on our website).

Other activities included:

- Participation by a contingent of four feisty walkers in the Coldest Night of the Year event (CNOY) supporting the local Hamilton Salvation Army. CFUW-Hamilton raised \$850 for the group to assist those in need.
- Our club was a screening partner of a film, "An Unfinished Journey", about four courageous women from Afghanistan who have been struggling to win back women's right to education, jobs, and now the ability to speak in public in that country. The documentary was shown on October 2, 2024, at the Westdale Theatre.
- We participated in White Poppies for Peace, where we provided a display at the October author's event in conjunction with a local peace group active in Westdale.
- We acknowledged the UN Day of Peace in September, with five fabric "pieces for peace" made by members Brenda Wright and Barbara Ledger. These were displayed at our meeting, as we were unable to travel to Ottawa as planned.
- Annette continues to bring her "Pink Bag" to general meetings and other club events to collect items for WomanKind, an addiction program for women (originally part of Inasmuch House Women's Shelter but now part of St. Joseph Hospital Health services for women). This collection continues to be very well supported by our members and WomanKind continues to express deep gratitude for these efforts.
- Resolutions: Cathy McPherson led a productive resolutions procedure involving all members at our March meeting. She divided us into small groups to discuss and process the resolutions, both provincial and federal.

In May, 2024, we both attended the Ontario Council meeting in Windsor, participating and meeting very interesting and friendly women from other areas. Annette continues to be our Ontario Council rep. and attends regular Zoom meetings.

The Action and Advocacy group this past year has been small, consisting primarily of the two of us. However we have had plenty of help from others on an ad hoc basis and we are particularly grateful to President Cathy McPherson for all her help, initiative and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Renate Manthei & Annette Richardson

Membership Development

As of May 2025, our Club had six new members join us, bringing our total membership to 62. This includes one new student membership.

New members received a "welcome" email with a copy of the Fall Newsletter when they joined. They were encouraged to attend in-person meetings (and bring a friend or two) and also contact the Interest Group leaders. Those members without email received their newsletters via post. The Membership Directory was updated with new member information as well as photographs. In November, a New Members' Tea was held. More than 20 people attended, and it was a great opportunity to learn more about the skills and expertise of our new members and reconnect with existing members.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrice Palmer

Newsletter, Directory and News

The CFUW-Hamilton newsletters – Hamilton Happenings – were produced and distributed three times, in August and December 2024 and March 2025. They contained the President's Letter, information about the next three months' Interest Group dates and events and news, articles of general interest and pictures contributed by CFUW members. They were emailed as PDF attachments to all but two members, using the MailChimp system. A few were printed out by me and given to the one of the two members without computers who is able to read.

The Directory was updated in January, 2025, with information from Patrice Palmer, membership chair, and from Joanne Curtis, who created PDF format of the submitted online membership forms. The Directory was emailed in PDF and booklet formats to members and added to the Members Only section of our website. A few updates were sent out in mailings as were updated PDFs as well.

CFUW-Hamilton emails were sent out using MailChimp 34 times during the year. (This does not include the mailings sent out in May 2025.) They included meeting reminders before each general meeting and at other times with important/urgent messages.

No financial costs were incurred.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Purdell-Lewis

Program

We have had a diverse and insightful group of speakers for 2024/25! We started the program year in October with Sandra Shaw, President of CFUW Ontario Council speaking about Intimate Partner Violence.

In November, we heard a timely presentation by Judy Anne Rickey about how to "Reclaim your Space and Declutter".

Our January speaker, Ellen Ryan, brought us an interesting Zoom presentation on "Community Oriented Housing Options for Resilient Aging".

In February, our own member Michelle McGinn gave a Zoom presentation on her research about “Working Conditions and Expectations for Women in Academe”.

April’s meeting turned to environmental issues with Caroline Hill Smith discussing water resource management and a project called Save Our Streams.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Dessau

Scholarship/Fundraising

The first recorded scholarship donation from our club was made in 1925 to Bryn Mawr Summer School and it supported women in trades. We can be proud that 100 years later we are supporting a woman returning to Mohawk College to study a trade. The CFUW- Hamilton Scholarship was first awarded in 1927 and is one of the oldest continuous awards given out by McMaster University.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of our club and of our scholarship program we are pleased to be able to increase our awards this year due to the generous donations from members and the successful fall fundraiser, which featured local author Lorraine Sommerfeld. Thank you to the fundraising committee: Sharron Johnston, Heather Oliver and Carolyn van Hoevelaak.

This year we will be contributing a total of \$11,000.00 as follows:

McMaster University:

- CFUW-Hamilton Scholarship - \$3,000.00
- CFUW Past President’s Prize - \$2,000.00
- CFUW Memorial Political Science Prize - \$2,000.00

Mohawk College: \$2,000.00

We will also award \$2,000.00 to the Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton for a female crown ward who has been accepted to an Ontario college or university.

Please remember to include the Scholarship Fund in your annual charitable giving and in your estate planning, or to commemorate special events such as birthdays or anniversaries.

Thank you to the scholarship committee: Trudi Down, Nancy Baker, Michelle McGinn and our treasurer Wilma van Zwol.

Respectfully submitted,
Myrtle Greve

Social

We organized the rental of the meeting venue, The First Unitarian Church Fellowship Hall, for the in-person meetings, and we wish to thank them for the excellent space which includes using the kitchen! We also wish to thank the members of interest groups who contributed a variety of snacks. We also participated in planning the AGM and the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Peters & Sheri Selway

Social Media & Publicity

This year, we continued to expand and strengthen CFUW-Hamilton's digital presence. A key part of our work involved curating and sharing relevant information from CFUW National and Ontario Council. By highlighting events, publications, and articles from their newsletters and emails, we helped keep our members informed and engaged with broader club initiatives.

We also expanded our social media reach by adding a new platform—BlueSky—to our existing channels. CFUW-Hamilton is now active on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), BlueSky, LinkedIn, YouTube, and the blog page of our website (cfuw-hamilton.com).

To increase community awareness, we began sharing our events and speaker series on local community pages. As a result, our monthly social media reach now ranges from 1,300 to 4,000 views, depending on the event. We've also made it a practice to list our public meetings and events in the free Hamilton Spectator event listings to boost visibility further.

Thank you to everyone who contributed content, shared posts, and helped spread the word about CFUW-Hamilton throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Curtis

President's Appointees' Reports

Archivist

This year, in preparation for our Club's 100th Anniversary, as several of our members and I attempted to research our Club files that had been stored at the Hamilton Public Library Central Branch (Local History and Archives Department), it became evident that there was a problem. Many of the items that our Club's archivists had deposited at the library through the years had not been "processed" or had been "misplaced." I am very happy to announce that—as of March of this year—all of our materials have been found and have been flagged by the HPL Archives Department as being a "High Processing Priority."

I will continue to visit the HPL Archives to make sure our materials (many of which you will be able to see at our AGM Luncheon today) are safe and are being taken care of properly.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Tell

Goodwill Ambassador

The role of the Goodwill Ambassador is to send members cards that celebrate, console or uplift. This past year, three sympathy cards and two get-well cards were mailed. Several telephone calls were also made to check up on members' health recovery.

Please continue to advise me of any member who would benefit from receiving a card from our club.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Armstrong

Parliamentarian

CFUW is a member-driven advocacy organization. Our collective efforts rely upon the input and engagement of all our members. As such, it is important that we include everyone's voices as we make decisions throughout the year. As Parliamentarian, I attempt to facilitate our decision-making by suggesting wording for motions and pointing to the expectations as defined in our [Constitution and Bylaws](#). This year, the Executive started to discuss some needed changes since we last updated that important document in 2013. Please engage with me in the fall as we undertake a refresh to help guide us over the next several years.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle McGinn

Interest Groups

Art Appreciation

We have 25 members on our mailing list, with an average of 20 attending events this year.

In September, we met on Myrtle Greve's deck to learn about the American artist Peter Max and to plan for the year. The rest of the year we learned about art and artists and enjoyed one another's company as follows:

October: The Crown and Press.

November: The Cotton Factory

December: Carnegie Art Gallery for the Christmas Arts and Crafts Show.

February: Dundas artist, Murray van Halem.

March: Annette Richardson invited us to her home to enjoy her art collection.

April: Art Gallery of Hamilton: Helen McNicoll: An Impressionist Artist

May: Innovation Gallery

June: Glynhurst Gallery and Golden Teapot

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Barrette & Myrtle Greve

Bridge

The feisty Bridge girls look forward to playing together on the 4th Thursday of the month at 1:30 p.m., at each other's homes. Despite the years of doing this, we barely improve our skills, but with the aid of a glass of wine we solve the world's problems, as well as our own. We would welcome any new members to join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Macintosh

Creative Writing

This year we were a group of seven, who were inspired by such prompts as: PARSLEY, SHIP, HOOK, UNCERTAIN, and SILENCE among other stimulants, all in an atmosphere of support and good will, and that most important quality, humour.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Helson

Daytimers

The Daytimers group had a very enjoyable year exploring some of Hamilton and area's trails and neighbourhoods.

We have up to 10 members, walking 10 months of the year. From sidewalk strolls in Dundas and trail walks at the RBG and in Burlington, to a bit of an historical walk along the Burlington Heights, we had a good variety of experiences.

Most of our walks ended with a coffee/tea get-together. A most sociable group!

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Armstrong

Déjà Lu

This book group meets the fourth Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Each member reads a book on a given topic and gives a brief description of the book. The topics chosen this year were Mystery, Alice Munro, Winter Sports, Translated from Czech, Somerset Maugham, Green and, in May, a personal choice. The purpose of the group is to clear out our bookcases. Some progress has been made.

Respectfully submitted,
Alexandra Gall

Friday Group

We are a small group of only eight members, but we are big in the fun department. We met on the third Friday in our members' homes, brought sandwiches to share, and over a delicious soup made by our hostess, we always laughed a lot and enjoyed the camaraderie. Oh yes, of course we discussed world and local events, as well as our personal issues, and always found that we are excellent problem-solvers. We snuck in an unscheduled meeting just before Christmas with only three of us including Norma, our birthday girl. What fun we had at our little party. We also enjoyed a meeting hosted by our oldest member, Doreen (at 100 years young), in her new home. Finally, we look forward to our annual potluck lunch on Christine's terrace in June.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Gerth

HEAL (Healthy Eating and Living)

This year we have enjoyed another variety of activities to give us both healthy eating and healthy living. We enjoyed a lovely walk around St. Elizabeth Village and included a pot-luck dinner to start the year, followed in October with a meal out at Bangkok Spoon

in Dundas, and in November our annual Christmas pot luck and regifting exchange. In the new year, we enjoyed a night of discussing various health topics, a presentation on sleep, a movie night with soup and sandwiches, a games night with healthy appetizers and our final scrumptious pot-luck dinner. Good food, good activities. Good fun!

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Oliver

Modern Books

This year twelve members who have a mutual love of reading and literature met together in the Modern Books interest group. Our meetings are held in the evening on the fourth Tuesday of the month in members' homes. In January, February, and March we met on Zoom. We take turns preparing reviews of recently published books to present to the group. We have two co-leaders and three book distributors who look after our lending library. In September, we collect \$20.00 from each member and at that meeting decide by discussion and informal vote which titles to purchase from a master list of books suggested by our members and leaders. Not everyone has to read the same book but can decide after hearing the review. At each meeting, members have an opportunity to share the titles they have read during "Quickie Corner" and a list is generated to send out following the meeting.

Here is a list of the books we reviewed this year:

The Other Valley by Alexander Howard

Long Island by Colm Toibin

James by Percival Everett

You Are Here by David Nicholls

Piglet by Lottie Hazell

The Secret Keeper by Genevieve Graham

Undersong by Kathleen Winter

The Titanic Survivors Book Club by Timothy Schaffert

Shakespeare, the Man Who Pays the Rent by Judi Dench

I Cheerfully Refuse by Leif Enger

Biography of a Woman: Journey to Freedom by Susan Garrod-Shuster & Giang-Chau Ghent

The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus by Emma Knight

Burma Sahib by Paul Theroux

Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty

Tell Me Everything by Elizabeth Strout

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Johnson & Brenda Wright

Music Appreciation

This group did not meet this year.

Readers' Circle

Wednesday Afternoon

The Wednesday Readers' Group has become quite small. We really missed two of our members this past year, one due to surgery and the other due to work commitments. Those remaining thoroughly enjoyed reading and discussing novels such as *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett, *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon and *The Phoenix Crown* by Janie Chang and Kate Quinn. We are really looking forward to new book selections in June and a return of Lynn and Patrice.

There are many advantages to a small afternoon book group. We can meet in members' homes and enjoy an afternoon outing when daylight driving is less stressful. Please consider joining our group. We look forward to seeing you in September.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Gmell

Tuesday Evening

The 12 members of the Tuesday evening Readers' Circle enjoyed an eclectic range of books this year, varied in theme, setting and style, which elicited, as always, varied responses.

Historical fiction continues to be a popular genre with us; we read *The Jane Austen Society* by Natalie Jenner, *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon and *The Phoenix Crown* by Janie Chang and Kate Quinn. *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett is set during the pandemic, but looks back to the narrator's pre-family life. We read a book in translation, *Fresh Water for Flowers*, about a cemetery caretaker, her tragic background and the people she encounters in her work, by the French author Valérie Perrin. A couple of Canadian titles made our list: the immigrant novel *Hotline* by Dmitri Nasrallah, and the edgy short story collection *Chrysalis* by well-regarded Hamilton author Anuja Verghese.

We met in members' homes in the fall and spring, but took shelter on Zoom in the winter. We look forward to our June dinner meeting with the Wednesday group to select wonderful books for next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Ledger

Personal Reflections on UN CSW

By Serena Habib

This March, I had the privilege of joining the Canadian Federation of University Women at the 69th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. This year marked the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a groundbreaking global framework for securing gender equality, and focused on reviewing the progress made in its implementation. It was a week of listening, learning, and reflecting as we engaged in international and intergenerational dialogue with civil society representatives and delegations from across the globe.

Throughout the week, I attended various side events and parallel civil society events at CSW. At events hosted by the Government of Canada, I learned about Canada's progress with regards to the Beijing Platform and was introduced to a number of Canadian organizations which work towards gender equality. Marissa Moar reminded us to ask ourselves "who is not in the room" during decision-making processes. Katrina Leclerc, chair of the Women, Peace and Security Network Canada, challenged us to intervene at least once at CSW, and I carried this with me throughout the week, pushing myself to ask questions in front of the group and engage in dialogue. The Beijing+30 Network held a separate event where civil society organizations provided their perspective on Canada's progress, which was incredibly informative. I was struck by the increase in gender-based violence within Canada and across the globe. Canada has reached record rates in interpersonal violence amidst a labour crisis in shelters that provide refuge. I attended an illuminating and alarming session on sexual and gender-based cyberviolence—hosted collaboratively by France, Mexico, Sweden, and Canada, in partnership with Osez le féminisme—and learned about the role of social media and violent pornography in record rates and novel methods of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation. As countries like Sweden and France work to push back against social media companies and regulate access, the rest of the world needs to get on board.

CFUW hosted a session in partnership with Women Graduates-USA on Educating Women and Girls, where I was introduced to the Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning (RACHEL) by Wanda Bedard, President and Founder of 60 Million Girls. As the number of women and girls living in conflict-affected countries increases, and climate change persists, girls' education is inevitably impacted. RACHEL is a portable server which allows local, offline connection for up to 50 devices and provides contextually relevant educational content to girls in 20 countries. Also at this session, Geeta Desai discussed the importance of critical thinking as part of education, and the need to democratize the teaching and practice of critical thinking in order to allow individuals to discern misinformation, avoid confirmation bias, examine power dynamics, and develop a nuanced understanding of issues.

In between sessions, I was gaining knowledge and perspective from interactions with trailblazers all around me. I spoke with a delegate from Mexico about how gender and

racial equality go hand in hand. I discussed the importance of qualitative research with a Tanzanian researcher. I heard from a youth advocate in Guinea who helped families find economic alternatives to female genital mutilation. I had a cafeteria discussion with an American social worker about the importance of educating girls about healthy relationships in addition to sexual and reproductive health. I learned about the importance of gender segregated data, and the current “gender equality backlash”, from Sarah Hendriks, UN Women Executive Director for Policy.

I emerged with a global perspective of gender equality and advocacy, and an increased awareness of both the threats to gender equality and efforts to counter them. I now have a better recognition of the role that civil society plays in making social changes. I see the necessity for larger organizations to partner with local, grassroots organizations to make an effective and sustainable impact. I have a more holistic perspective of motherhood, labour, education, and gender-based violence. I am inspired by those at this year’s conference who were present in 1995, continuing to be advocates, mentors, and change-makers. As we experience continued and emerging barriers to gender equality, the unity and commitment from the 13,000 participants at CSW provide hope.



The CFUW-Hamilton Annual Report 2024-25 was compiled by Barbara Ledger, with submissions by our committed executive and dedicated interest group leaders.

Draft Budget May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026 (based on 61 members)			
	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Budget	Actual	Budget
General Fund			
Revenues			
Fees	7562.50	7780.00	7500.00
2024 AGM lunch tickets	1650.00	1760.00	
2025 AGM lunch tickets	1650.00	1925.00	
2026 AGM lunch tickets			1650.00
Scholarship fundraiser	3000.00	2969.13	3000.00
100th Anniversary - Cathy McPherson, President	2000.00	0.00	
GIC interest	510.00	510.00	490.00
GIC interest	272.50	272.50	261.00
GIC interest	261.00	261.00	197.50
Total Revenues	\$16,906.00	\$15,477.63	\$13,098.50
Expenses	Budget	Actual	Budget
CFUW National dues	5400.00	5576.06	5600.00
CFUW GWI topup		147.80	150.00
Ontario Council dues	381.25	382.75	385.00
MEETINGS/CONFERENCES - fees/travel expenses			
CFUW National AGM June 2024 - Registration	500.00	519.75	
Ontario Council AGM May 2024 - Registration/Hotel	300.00	327.70	
CFUW National AGM June 2025 - Registration	ZOOM	0.00	500.00
Ontario Council AGM May 2025 - Registration/Hotel	ZOOM	0.00	300.00
ANNUAL DINNER/LUNCH			
Food service - May 2024	1650.00	1726.44	
Food service - May 2025	1650.00	2365.00	
Food service - May 2026			1650.00
OTHER EXPENSES			
Room Rentals \$120 each + 1-year ZOOM costs	850.00	1212.84	1250.00
Social/Refreshments	175.00	107.73	175.00
Printing & Supplies (general)	200.00	123.92	500.00
Honoraria	300.00	150.00	300.00
Newsletter & postage	75.00	0.00	50.00
Website	20.00	0.00	20.00
Annual Review Honorarium/Bookkeeping Assistance	100.00	100.00	400.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	0.00	100.00
Transfer to Scholarship	3000.00	2969.13	3000.00

Scholarship Fundraising up front expenses	1200.00	565.20	600.00
100th Anniversary - Cathy McPherson, President	2000.00	824.90	
Bank Service Charges	70.00	75.95	70.00
Total Expenses	\$17,971.25	\$17,175.17	\$15,050.00
Revenue less Expenses	-\$1,065.25	-\$1,697.54	-\$1,951.50
Investments:			
Development Fund \$10K @ 4.9% due June 10, 2025 (\$490.00)			10,000.00
Development Fund \$5K @ 3.95% due Nov 29, 2025 (\$197.50)			5,000.00
Development Fund \$5K @ 5.22% due Mar 6, 2025 (\$261.00)			5,000.00
Draft Budget May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026 (based on 61 members)			
	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Budget	Actual	Budget
Scholarship Fund			
Revenues			
Donations	5000.00	4933.26	4500.00
Transfer from General Fund	3000.00	2969.13	3000.00
Bank interest	150.00	255.80	150.00
GIC interest	278.50	278.50	205.00
Total Revenues	\$8,428.50	\$8,436.69	\$7,855.00
Expenses			
Mohawk Bursary	1000.00	2000.00	2000.00
McMaster CFUW Scholarship	2000.00	3000.00	3000.00
McMaster CFUW Past Presidents' Prize	1000.00	2000.00	2000.00
McMaster CFUW Memorial Political Science Prize	1000.00	2000.00	2000.00
CAS Scholarship	2000.00	2000.00	2000.00
100th Anniversary special scholarship	3000.00	0.00	
CFUW Charitable Trust donation (\$2 per member)	122.00	122.00	122.00
Total Expenses	\$10,122.00	\$11,122.00	\$11,122.00
Revenue less Expenses	-\$1,693.50	-\$2,685.31	-\$3,267.00
Investments:			
Scholarship Fund \$5K @ 4.1 % due Sept 9, 2025 (\$205.00)			5,000.00
Revised May 6, 2025			

Canadian Federation of University Women - Hamilton			
Income Statement to April 30, 2025			
General Fund			
Balance as of April 30, 2024			\$ 7,646.75
Receipts			
Membership Fees	\$ 7,780.00		
Annual Dinner	2,475.00		
Transfer from Development Fund	1,046.44		
Total	\$11,301.44		
Expenses			
National Fees	\$ 5,723.86		
Ontario Fees	382.75		
Annual Dinner	1,671.44		
Fundraising	519.75		
Ontario Council & National AGM	152.70		
Newsletter	-		
Honoraria	150.00		
Social/Misc	107.73		
Accountant	100.00		
Website	-		
Advocacy	-		
Printing and Supplies	123.92		
Room Rental - ZOOM charges	1,212.84		
Bank Fees	75.95		
Total	\$10,220.94		
Net Income (Deficit)			1,080.50
Closing Cash Balance (General Fund)			\$ 8,727.25
Development Fund			
Balance as of April 30, 2024			\$20,000.00
Receipts			
GIC Interest	1,046.44		
Disbursements			
Transfer to General Fund	1,046.44		
Transfer to Scholarship Fund			
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,046.44		
Net Income (Deficit)			\$ -
GIC Purchases			

Closing Balance (Development Fund)			\$20,000.00
Investments			
Dev Fund \$10K @ 4.9% Home Trust due June 10, 2025	10,000.00		
Dev Fund \$5K @ 3.95% Home Trust due Nov 29, 2025	5,000.00		
Dev Fund \$5K @ 5.22% Home Trust due Mar 6, 2025	5,000.00		
Balance Development Fund	20,000.00		
Scholarship Fund			
Cash Balance as of April 30, 2024			\$ 7,439.69
Receipts			
Donations	\$ 4,933.29		
Canada Helps Donations	-		
Fundraising - TruEarth	269.93		
Author Evening Tickets Sales	2,805.00		
Mocktail Ticket Sales			
Transfer from Development Fund			
Interest from Bank and GIC	535.06		
Total	\$ 8,543.28		
Expenses			
McMaster University Scholarships	\$7,000.00		
Mohawk College Bursary	2,000.00		
CFS one-time Scholarship	2,000.00		
Charitable Trust	122.00		
Fundraising Expenses	986.49		
Bank Fees and Service Charges	-		
Total	\$12,108.49		
Net Income			\$(3,565.21)
Closing Cash Balance (Scholarship Fund)			\$ 3,874.48
Investment \$5K @ 4.10% Home Trust due Sept 9, 2025	5,000.00		
Balance Scholarship Fund			8,874.48
Reviewed by B. Mahaffy, May 9, 2025			