



**Annual Meeting  
April 27, 2019  
Champlain College, St Lambert**

1. Registration and Continental breakfast preceded the meeting.

**2. Opening Session**

2.1 Penny Ellison expressed a warm welcome to all and thanked everyone for attending.

2.2 Debbie Chistiansen-Stowe called the meeting to order at about 9:00 am and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2.3 Edna Ouellette together with Gretchen Cheung volunteered to be Secretaries for the meeting.

2.4 The roll call was taken and there were delegates from all of the 6 Québec Clubs with a total attendance of 25 club members including both Regional Directors. A quorum was present.

2.5 Agenda: Minor changes were made to the agenda, including the removal of item 8.b, Revenue Generating Committee, and 8.f which was also on the agenda under Business arising from the minutes. The wording of 8.g was changed to "Brief from SSUWC – Bill 21". The agenda as amended was proposed by Debbie Stowe and seconded by Linda Sestock. Motion carried. See Attachment 1

2.6 Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of April 2018: It was moved by Chitra Chopra and seconded by Anne-Lise Dupuis that the minutes be adopted as circulated. Motion carried.

**3. Getting to Know you Activity**

Penny Ellison circulated a quiz with a couple of historical statements from each club. Attendees were asked to identify the club described by each statement with collaboration from members of the other clubs. Congratulation to Judy Hopps, the winner of the quiz.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**4.1 Update of the Québec Council Bylaws**

It was noted that the bylaws have not been updated since 2012 and in the meantime communications technology among other things have changed. Areas of concern, for example, are the length of time it would take to approve an urgent resolution where there is a limited time for the resolution to be effective.

It was moved by Linda Sestock and seconded by Saôde Savary that Chitra Chopra and Edna Ouellette be appointed to update the CFUW Québec Council Constitution with input from the clubs. The aim will be to have a version ready for approval at the fall meeting of the Quebec Council.

It was noted that both the French and English versions of the constitution should have been available at the meeting.

**4.2 Website**

The website and data on the website need to be updated in both French and English. There needs to be someone responsible for update on an on-going basis. The clubs were asked to look for members with skill in website technology and someone who would be willing to do the updates going forward.

In the meantime, Debbie Chistiansen-Stowe with the help of Linda Sestock and Chitra Chopra will start the website upgrade process.

4.3 Archives: Management and storage of the Québec Provincial Council archives is required. The Bibliothèque Archive Nationale de Québec have refused to store our files and cannot help. A place to store the material is still needed.

## **5. Directors Reports**

5.1 The President's report was read by Debbie Chistiansen-Stowe (Attachment 2). The issue of membership in GWI and the fee increases to GWI were discussed in some detail. Currently CFUW negotiations are underway with GWI to attempt to find an approach acceptable to both parties regarding funding. The Winnipeg Motion will be brought to the CFUW conference in August. This motion proposes that individual members be allowed to decide individually if they wish to be a member of GWI and pay the required fees individually.

There is expected to be a motion at the CFUW conference to raise the CFUW fees by \$6 irrespective of GWI.

5.2 Jane Cowell, Regional Director English and Anne-Lise Dupuis, Regional Director French delivered their reports. See Attachments 3 and 4.

5.3 Chitra Chopra presented the Treasurer's Report. There is about \$4000 in assets. Attachment 5

It was moved by Chitra Chopra and seconded by Donna Jensen that \$1000 be set aside for translation of the Québec Council website and documents. Motion carried.

It was moved by Anne-Lise Dupuis and seconded by Penny Ellison that \$500 be set aside for each of the two RDs, Jane Cowell and Liette Michaud (in place of Anne-Lise Dupuis) to travel to Winnipeg for the CFUW conference. Motion carried.

## **6. Health Break**

## **7. Club Reports**

Each of the Presidents or delegate delivered the report for their Club. See attachments for detail.

AFDU Montérégie – Liette Michaud - Attachment 6

AFDU Quebec - France Remillard – Attachment 7

MLUWC - Linda Sestock – Attachment 8

SSUWC – Penny Ellison – Attachment 9

Sherbrooke and District – Judy Hopps - Attachment 10

UWCM – Saøde Savary – Attachment 11

The fundraising, scholarships, community outreach and other activities highlighted in these reports are most impressive. Congratulations to all!

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1 CFUW 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The CFUW conference in Winnipeg on August 16 and 17 will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Federation of University Women. In addition, each club will honour a `Notable Woman` and the club member with the longest membership in CFUW (Sage Award).

### **8.2 Membership Drive**

Patricia Duval reported that a concerted membership drive is being initiated to counter the decline in clubs and membership in recent years. CFUW has prepared a membership toolkit to help clubs attract more members. She emphasized the importance of all clubs recruiting new members. There is also a History of CFUW which may be downloaded and a number of items which may be ordered for awards or prizes. She asked that we all check the CFUW website and watch for emails regarding membership.

### **8.3 Graduate Women International (GWI)**

A Negotiation Committee is in the process of finding a solution for the GWI fees owed by CFUW. The GWI Triennial is to be held in July 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **8.4 Lunch Break**

### **8.5 UNCSW63**

Godelieve De Koninck attended the UN CSW63 conference on the status of women as a member of the CFUW delegation. Her very interesting report was read by France Remillard. The conference focused on the need for gender equality, education for girls, the unequal distribution of wealth, the need for proper nutrition for women and children, poverty, the need for sustainable development, and the urgent need to see major improvement by 2030. See Attachment 12 for details.

## **9. Guest Speaker, Ms Lise Émond, Director of Public Relations Mouvement Retrovailles**

Ms Émond described the challenges that adopted children have to find their birth parents. In the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century adoption was rarely talked about and many children did not even know they were adopted. The files were closed and adoptees could not obtain the names of their birthparents.

Towards the end of the century the idea of adoption became less of a stigma and finally in 2017 Law 113 was passed, which allows children to be given the names of their birthparents.

Anyone searching for their birthparents can go to the Social Services Montérégie, 575 Adoncour St. Longueuil, J4G 2M6, (1 888 441 7889) to obtain the names of their birth parents. Ms Émond cautioned that learning about and meeting one's birth family can be very traumatic for both parties. On the other hand, it provides the adoptee with his/her family history and gives the birth parents information about what happened to the child that they put up for adoption.

## **10. Brief for SSUWC - Bill 21**

Penny Ellison presented a motion on behalf of SSWU that the Council approve the preparation of a brief that opposes Bill 21, recently tabled by the National Assembly (See Attachment 13). However not all Clubs were opposed to Bill 21. There was discussion on the divisiveness of Bill 21 and the risk of presenting such a brief at the Council meeting. However, it was also pointed out that in order for the

organization to be effective, the Council must be able to discuss controversial issues in a rational and respectful way despite strong views held by some members.

The process outlined in the constitution of the Council for preparing a brief opposing Bill 21 would take too long for the brief to be effective. As well the list of organizations approved to present briefs at the consultations on Bill 21 has already been determined. Consequently, the SSWC withdrew their Motion.

It was decided that the SSUWC would prepare a form letter which would be distributed to all clubs for the clubs to send to their MNA as they see fit. Individuals could also send letters to the MNA on their own behalf.

#### **11. Wrap-up and Next Meetings**

The Sherbrooke and district cub will host the Fall meeting on Oct 26, 2019 and AFDU Québec will host the Spring Annual General Meeting on April 25, 2020.

Debbie Chistiansen-Stowe thanked the participants and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Edna Ouellette, SSUWC

Gretchen Cheung, SSUWC

**Attachment 1 Agenda as Amended**

**Attachment 2 President's Report – Debbie Christiansen Stowe**

**Attachment 3 Report of the Regional Director – English, Jane Cowell**

**Attachment 4 Report of the Regional Director – French – Anne-Lise Dupuis**

**Attachment 5 Treasurers Report – Chitra Chopra**

**Attachment 6 AFDU Montérégie – Liette Michaud**

**Attachment 7 AFDU Quebec - France Remillard**

**Attachment 8 MLUWC - Linda Sestock**

**Attachment 9 SSUWC – Penny Ellison**

**Attachment 10 Sherbrooke and District – Judy Hopps**

**Attachment 11 UWCM – Saôde Savary on behalf of Dominique Racanelli**

**Attachment 12 UNCSW63 Conference Report – France Remillard on behalf of Godelieve De Koninck**

**Attachment 13 Brief – Loi 21 – Penny Ellison**

