## Why Join CFUW - Canadian Federation of University Women?

## CFUW Ontario Council-Sunday, 6 January 2019

Does lifelong learning appeal to you? Do you yearn for a discussion on your favourite new novel? Are speakers on various topics, with study and interest groups, and activities, on all sorts of topics of interest to you? Are you passionate about issues such as climate change, child care, violence against women? Can you raise your voice for women and girls who need one? Awarding scholarships to deserving women of all ages – is it an interest for you?

If any or all of the above spark your civic, social or personal passions then CFUW – Canadian Federation of University Women—is the organization for you to join. CFUW offers opportunities to network with like-minded women at the local level, sponsor community action projects to promote equity, serve in club leadership positions, and lobby local, provincial and federal legislators on CFUW priority issues as we advocate for women's equality and human rights.

Among our national projects, we have just launched the Young Working Women (YWW) program – a mentorship program offered to recent graduates entering the workforce. YWW is continuing the work that CFUW has been invested in for the past 100 years by creating a mentorship program that addresses the needs of younger women, and the challenges they face when embarking on their careers. CFUW was started 100 years ago by young women to encourage other young women to get a post-secondary education; now our emphasis is to help women use that education. Young women are often looking for female mentors who have the knowledge and experience that can help them navigate some of the challenging issues and barriers they face. You could be a part of this exciting movement!

CFUW also has special consultative status at the United Nations and a delegation is sent annually to the Commission of the Status of Women held at the United Nations every year. Members have an opportunity to submit applications to be a part of this dynamic opportunity to engage in global leaders on human rights and the status of women around the world. CFUW is also represented at the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

CFUW is a non-profit, non-partisan self-funded organization with over 100 clubs across Canada. A full listing of the clubs is provided on our website: <a href="www.cfuw.org">www.cfuw.org</a>, under becoming a Member and How to Join. If being a member of a particular club does not fit into your current schedule, you may also consider joining as a "Member at Large."

CFUW Ontario Council serves the 51 clubs or 5,000 women. We offer a multitude of interest groups, advocacy avenues, and a robust Speakers Series program with workshops three times a year.

Has your interest been piqued? Do you need more information? Please contact me at <a href="mailto:president.cfuwontario@gmail.com">president.cfuwontario@gmail.com</a>. I am very happy to answer all of your questions! Sandy Thomson CFUW Vice President, Ontario President, CFUW Ontario Council