



May 2020

President- Janet Glasspool
Vice-President- Ann Magner
Secretary – Kathy Needham
Treasurer- Styn Furness
Past President – Kerina Elliott

CFUW: The Power of Women Working Together

CFUW is a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with over 100 CFUW Clubs, located in every Province across Canada.

Since its' founding in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace.

It holds special consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission to UNESCO.

President's Message

And here we are again, beginning the month of May, still maintaining physical distancing in our homes and keeping up-to-date with the latest news about COVID-19. Our CFUW members do this with a positive spirit, knowing that they are protecting others in this community, as well as themselves. I believe that we also feel a renewed energy to create a better, more caring society when we come out on the other side of this pandemic.

I recently read a challenging article on this theme by Arundhati Roy, "The Pandemic is a Portal". The final paragraphs read as follows:

Whatever it is, coronavirus has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to "normality", trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists.... Nothing could be worse than a return to normality. Historically, pandemics have forced

humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different.

It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.

Arundhati Roy. (2020) *The Financial Times*. April 3

CFUW has always been committed to creating a better society. Our mandate is to create a better world through the pursuit of knowledge, promotion of education, active participation in public affairs, improvement of the status of women, and advancement of human rights.

Our local executive committee will be holding a virtual meeting on May 12 to plan for the future and ways to communicate with everyone in this environment. We, as well as our Ontario and National CFUW organizations, are preparing for virtual annual general meetings.

We have all learned how fragile we really are. We are learning the need for self-care, and for staying connected. I am confident that our wonderful CFUW members will continue to support each other in the weeks and months ahead, and emerge from this difficult time with an organization that is even stronger and more committed than ever.

Janet Glasspool, President

All CFUW Regular Meetings and Interest Groups continue to be suspended until further notice because of the COVID 19 Pandemic. If you find that you need assistance, please contact Ruth Henderson and one of our members will attempt to help.