

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN – LE CONSEIL DES FEMMES DE MONTRÉAL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Autumn is now definitely upon us as the colours starts to change and we awake to cooler days. It is time to start thinking about snow and the positive aspects of winter: skiing, snow shoeing and, for those ambitious ones, “pond” skating!

Thank you to all those who participated in Federates' Day and helped make it such a success. We listened to very interesting and also some heart-warming statistics about our city. Women make up 52% of the Montreal's population, 87% of the heads of single parent families are women, 73% of the above 65-year olds living alone are women, 47% of the working population are comprised of women, while 51.6% women have university education compared to men, the average wage of women is only 89% of that earned by men. Much work still needs to be done.

However, equality is one of the essential values enshrined in the *Montreal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities*. This is focussed in five areas: **governance** where representation by women in politics is 42% and the highest of any municipality in the country, 6 of 19 borough mayors are women, a majority of promotions in the last 5 years were given to women; **employment** statistics are very promising and heading in the direction of equality with women making up 38% of municipal employees and holding 60% of the white collar jobs; **service to citizens** includes integration of immigrant women, fight against poverty, breaking the cycle of violence against women, development of self-esteem in young girls; **women as a motor for economic development** with the city encouraging participation by women in all economic sectors as being advantageous for Montreal with women currently at 39.2% in administrative councils; and **Montrealers on the international stage** with support for women in overseas programmes and the Montreal policy of equality for women frequently presented to foreign delegations.

Federates enjoyed a lovely lunch hosted by the University Women's Club of Montreal Inc. and then got down to the business of charting a course for the Montreal Council of Women by performing a brief strategic planning analysis. Groups of women from different Federates and individual members re-examined the mission statement, the strengths and weaknesses of MCW, and proposed suggestions for the future direction of MCW. A report of the exercise will be available shortly for all members to consider as we prepare an action plan.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the October meeting. Do come and hear Teresa Edwards speak to us about native women and their concerns – and bring a friend. – *Chitra Chopra, President*

FEDERATES DAY MEETING

On Thursday, September 4, over 40 individual and Federate members gathered together for MCW's Federates Day meeting, which included a presentation by two representatives from the City of Montreal and a Strategic Planning Session. Discussions were conducted, in round table fashion, amongst the various groups dealing with topics such as: issues facing women, advocacy possibilities and community outreach.

MCW President, Dr. Chitra Chopra opened the morning with a “welcome” to everyone after the summer break. Following the acceptance of the proposed agenda, Dr. Chopra introduced the representatives from the City of Montreal's Social, Diversity and Sports Division, **Ms Rabia Chaonchi**, a community development councillor and **Ms Salwa Majonji**, team Director who spoke about, “Equality Between Women and Men in the City of Montreal.”

Ms Chaonchi began her segment of the presentation with some interesting statistics and the following preamble statement, “a true democracy cannot exist without equal contribution by both women and men in all areas of political, economic, cultural and social life, a contribution that goes beyond numerical equality.”

“The City of Montreal's preoccupation with the matter of equality between women and men did not just start yesterday.” In 2002, the Montreal Sommet attracted close to 3000 participants. One of the areas of major concern was equality between women and men; that was the moment when the City committed to the idea of developing a policy of equality, by inviting Montreal's municipal population to participate in a vast democratic exercise on this issue and to keep Montreal's title as a flagship and that of a progressive city.

In 2004 the Conseil des Montrealaises was created and a policy for a peaceful and safe environment was created in 2007 by the City. Women's History Month was proclaimed by the City in 2009 and in that same year on the sixth of December, was proclaimed, Montreal's municipal day of commemoration and action against violence against women and girls and in remembrance of the tragic event that occurred at the Polytechnic 20 years prior.

Ms Majonji handled the second half of the presentation and addressed the five main thrusts for having equal participation of women and men in Montreal, a policy that was adopted in 2008.

Their presentation concluded both women left the audience with thought-provoking information. The meeting then moved into the second phase of the morning with the Strategic Planning and round table discussions. Chaired by the President, these deliberations followed the SWOT Analysis approach (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats).

After the information was gathered, a party from each group was invited to relay their findings with regards to the various topics. This idea worked quite well as it permitted everyone the opportunity to voice their opinion and also helped MCW gather information and thoughts from the membership while formulating new ideas as well. The afternoon ended with an introduction from each Federate. (Source: *L'égalité entre les femmes et les homes à la Ville de Montréal. Salwa Majouji, Rabia Chaouchi. Diversité sociale et sports Montreal.*)

FEDERATES DAY



WOMAN OF THE YEAR – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2014

The '2014 Woman of the Year (WOTY)' is an **Aboriginal** woman who has made an outstanding contribution to Aboriginal women's causes.

In 1987 Sophie Economides, life member of MCW, and the late Kay Aksich, established an annual award to be presented to a woman who has made a significant contribution to society. The award recognizes a woman who has promoted the advancement of women and the equality of women. She has initiated actions, programs and projects that have made a significant contribution to the betterment of Canadian society.

The Montreal Council of Women (MCW) publicly recognizes and honors one exceptional woman who has made a significant contribution to society in a particular area. She is a woman who by her daily actions, her strength of character or her professional path, enriches the community and contributes to the advancement of all women. She is an exceptional woman who serves as a role model for young people, inspiring others to excel.

The Women of the Year award (WOTY) luncheon will be held in Montreal at the **Omni Hotel on November 28th 2014 at noon.**

Regulations:

- A nomination may be submitted by a Federate member or an individual member of the MCW. Each candidate must meet the evaluation criteria and her nomination must be accompanied by a completed nomination form and information which clearly illustrates why the candidate meets some of the evaluation criteria.
- The WOTY Committee examines the dossiers and recommends 3 nominees to the MCW Board
- The Board of Directors selects the Women of the Year and announces the results to all candidates and publicly announces the 2014 WOTY on November 15th, 2014.
- The 2014 WOTY will be honored at the MCW WOTY luncheon at the Omni Hotel on Friday November 28, 2014.

Procedures

Nomination packages must include the following:

1. Completed and **signed nominating form.**
2. Curriculum vitae or **biography and/or volunteer and community achievements** or projects.
3. **Fits the criteria** below
4. **Two letters of support** about the candidate's activities or achievements
5. **Deadline for submission October 30, 2014**

Eligibility Criteria

- Contributed to a social cause, prevention of violence against women
- Contributed to helping Aboriginal women, through training, community education or alternative teaching
- Made an important contribution to Aboriginal society through her community activities.
- Through her actions and initiatives contributed towards the prevention of violence against women.
- Been a role model, and a source of inspiration and motivation for aboriginal women and girls
- Impacted Aboriginal society

MCW PROGRAM 2014-2015

- **OCTOBER 2, 2014- THERESA EDWARDS**
Member Status of Women Canada / Native Women's Association of Canada
- **NOVEMBER 6, 2014 - SUANNE STEIN**, Chair,
Lester B. Pearson School Board
- **NOVEMBER 21, 2014 - WOMAN OF THE YEAR**
OMNI HOTEL
- **JANUARY** NO MEETING/ PROGRAM
- **FEBRUARY 5, 2015 - Dr. CHARMAINE NELSON** - BLACK HISTORY MONTH - McGill
Professor in Art history Communication
- **MARCH 6, 2015 - TBA - INTERNATIONAL**
WOMEN'S Day
- **APRIL 2, 2015 - DIDA BERKU** -
ENVIRONMENT - Counselor in the City of Côte
Saint-Luc, Quebec and an Attorney at Law -
environment
- **MAY 14, 2015 - MCW AGM - DR. EPSTEIN**
Professor Concordia - " GET THE STOLEN ART
BACK" - WARTIME THEFTS

THE RAOUL WALLENBERG LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP PROJECT: MONTREAL

Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies
Wednesday, 29 October 2014 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Montréal, Quebec (*Location to be confirmed.*)

The Raoul Wallenberg Legacy of Leadership Project, an initiative of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies aims at increasing awareness of Raoul Wallenberg, his legacy and its importance for contemporary mass atrocity prevention in selected cities of North America and internationally during fall 2014.

By launching a discussion and imparting knowledge of Wallenberg and his legacy, a Swedish diplomat accredited with saving the lives of tens of thousands of Jews during the Second World War in Hungary, The Raoul Wallenberg Legacy of Leadership Project will echo the indispensable message that every individual can make a difference in standing up against mass atrocities.

Public events will be held in New York, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, and will bring together recognized advocates for genocide prevention and human rights to reflect on the matter through presentations and panel discussions.

Our **Montreal** event will be hosted in partnership with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre and will include speakers such as: **Adama Dieng**, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, **Irwin Cotler**, Canadian Member of Parliament for Mont Royal, **Michael Abramowitz**, Director, National Institute for Holocaust Education. The discussion will be moderated by: **Sophie Langlois**, Journalist at Radio-Canada.

Learn more about the project, our events and our speakers at The Raoul Wallenberg Legacy of Leadership Project website!

Join us in celebrating the life and legacy of Raoul Wallenberg and register today!

A reception will follow (cash bar)

Have questions about The Raoul Wallenberg Legacy of Leadership Project: Montreal? Contact Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies

Registration link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-raoul-wallenberg-legacy-of-leadership-project-montreal-tickets-12626719859?invite=&err=29&referrer=&discount=&affiliate=&eventpassword=> - (*Source: Eventbrite Website*)

Luncheon, Thursday, October 2014

The luncheon for the meeting on Thursday, October 2nd will be hosted by The **Auxiliary of the Royal Victoria Hospital**. The lunch will cost \$10:00 per person, payable at the door. It will be appreciated if you will advise Frances Gregory (514) 935-1674, e-mail: frances.gregory@videotron.ca if you plan to attend.

We are still looking for Federate groups **who would like to host a lunch** in the first part of 2015. If you would like to do this, please contact Frances. We also encourage the group to give a short presentation on their activities.



HOLD THESE DATES!
May 21 - May 24, 2015
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN
OF CANADA (NCWC) AGM

The MCW will be the hosts for the annual National Council of Women of Canada AGM, which will be held in Montreal from May 21 to May 24, 2015 at the Omni Hotel in Montreal. A number of events are being planned. **PLEASE STAY TUNED.**



Name of Event: Girl's education: innovation for impact

Description of Event: Annual fund-raising conference, preceded by a cocktail and silent auction

Date: **Tuesday, November 4th**, from 6-9 pm

Place: l'Ermitage on the Collège de Montréal campus, 3510 Côte des Neiges Road

Guest Speaker: Bev Carrick, Co-founder and Executive Director of CAUSE Canada

Tickets: \$100

Contact: www.60milliongirls.org or phone 514-933-6346 for tickets

Brief Description of Federate:

60 million girls is a public foundation that supports education for girls in order to create a more just and balanced world. Its objective is to fund projects focused on providing access to education to girls in developing countries, thus supplying the essential tools to help them transform their lives and those of their children and their communities.



The Coloured Women's Club

Founded 1902 • Member of the Montreal Council of Women
 is proud to host

A Dinner Gala – Tribute
 IN HONOUR OF

Dr. Trevor W. Payne, C.M.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014

Cocktails at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm

OMNI HOTEL

1050 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, QC H3A 2R6

Come and celebrate the achievements of one of Canada's finest virtuos!

Cameo appearances by
Dr. Oliver Jones and
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Tickets: \$135.00 • Information: 450-672-7081 • 514-488-3284 • 514-696-7944
 Email: sagyles@sympatico.ca • All proceeds go to the CWC Scholarship Fund

MCW Article and Announcement Submissions

The next issue of **The Bulletin** will be in November. Please submit your articles, announcements and photos by the 15th day of October via email to: bulletin@montrealcouncilwomen.org