



Montreal Council of Women / Le Conseil des femmes de Montréal
since 1893 / depuis 1893

ANNUAL REPORTS

MAY 15, 2014

Montreal Council of Women

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013-2014

It is with a distinct sense of pride that I present the Annual Report of the MCW. The year 2013 was a signal year for the MCW as it proudly celebrated its 120th Anniversary. I am very pleased to report some of the activities that were held in order to mark this historical event. For that purpose, a special organizing committee co-chaired by Bonnie Destounis and Vivianne Silver was formed.

The celebrations were launched in April 2013 with five successful events. On April 10th, organized by Cheryl Braganza, Convener of Culture, a tour of the exhibit at the Musee des Beaux Arts de Montreal –Peru: Kingdoms of the Sun and the Moon, in honour of Amy Williams, Past President of MCW. On April 12th, a cocktail reception at Montreal City Hall, hosted by Mayor Michael Applebaum and Madame Emilie Thuillier, organized by Eleni Bakopanos, V.P. of Governmental affairs. On May 28th, a Golden Square Mile Tour organized by Sandra Cohen-Rose, Past President was an equally successful event. On June 20th, a 120th Anniversary Federates Tea held at Les Jardins du canal organized by Frances Gregory, Convener, Hostess Group and her committee closed our spring festivities. On November 29th, a cocktail party at the Omni Hotel followed by a forum discussion on human rights.

On May 9th, 2013, the new slate of officers was presented at the AGM. The guest speaker for our afternoon program was Quincy Armorer, Artistic Director of the Black Theatre Workshop. Mr. Armorer gave us a most interesting presentation on the history of Black and Canadian theatre. In June, the 120th Annual General Meeting of the NCWC was held in Richmond, B.C. from June 6th-9th. I, as President, had the privilege of representing MCW, Sandra Cohen-Rose as Past President, Cheryl Braganza as MCW member, and Marjorie Windeler, Councilor of MCW. An excellent and in depth report of that conference, written by Marjorie Windeler, is available in the MCW's September 2013 bulletin.

On a personal note, I particularly appreciated the meeting of regional presidents called by Mrs. Denise Mattok. It was a wonderful opportunity to represent Montreal and to be able to exchange ideas with other presidents. It was also a time to renew our allegiance with the NCWC.

SEPTEMBER –MCW Town Hall Forum – Buses and Bullies and our Environment. A most successful program convened by Sandra Cohen-Rose, Past President. One of the presenters, Nusrat Mirza, Environment Convener, urged us to "increase our green-living knowledge, be more pro-active and push our governments to take decisive action to protect our planet". Chitra Chopra, our MCW Resolutions Convener, presented us with the outline of the NCWC's Resolutions of 2013-2014. She invited us to contact her with submissions of resolutions.

OCTOBER –Canada's Women's History Month –

The theme chosen by MCW in order to celebrate Women's History Month, on October 3rd, was "Montreal Women in Film".

The event was organized by Ingrid Berzins Leuzy, Convener Arts, Culture and Heritage.

The presenter was filmmaker, Anne Kmetyko, a film director who had two of her films, Truths and Liars and Graveurs d'images, screened at the Montreal Film Festival. We all enjoyed her knowledge of film making and her growing experience in that field.

NOVEMBER –

Exceptionally, the meeting was held on November 14th, the second Thursday of the month in order to accommodate our guest speaker, Mrs. Ella Amir, Executive Director of Ami-Quebec since 1990. Mrs. Amir's presentation was about the work of the Family Caregiver Advisory Committee for the Mental Health Commission of Canada that she chaired since its inception in 2012. Presently, she is on the Advisory Council of the Commission. The focus of her talk was on the guidelines for caregiver support. All in attendance particularly appreciated this subject as a mental disorder is one that can affect many of our loved ones. As well, it is a subject that is being addressed at the NCWC.

On November 29th, 2013, the MCW proudly celebrated its 120th Anniversary. The well attended event was held at the Omni Hotel who as usual, provided us with excellent service. Most sincere thanks are due to Bonnie Destounis, co-chair of the event and to Eleni Bakopanos both for their outstanding work to realize this special evening. As well, for their special efforts at the reception of our guests, Pat Nichols, Frances Gregory, Chitra Chopra and Marjorie Windeler. Thanks are due to many of our Board members who attended. Lastly, MCW extends its sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr. Pietro Micheletti, who was our photographer for the evening.

Because of the unsettling atmosphere in Quebec at that time, the committee had decided that in lieu of holding an evening Gala, we would have a cocktail party followed by a panel discussion on the important issue of the proposed government Bill 60. We were extremely fortunate to have Me Pearl Eliadis, an award winning human rights lawyer, who specializes in international human rights law as one of the presenters. Me Eliadis presses for social justice at the community, national and international levels, advising many NGO's and public interest groups. Me Shahad Salman joined Me Eliadis in the presentation to the MCW and their guests. Me Salman of Iraqi origin has travelled to Iraq and visited the country's post-war institutions. She blogs about public affairs

with a focus on the situation in Iraq and the Arab world. Both gave us most powerful presentations and were able to address the many concerns of our guests. Thus significantly marking the pages of our historical celebration.

In attendance at this event, was Mrs. Janice Arnold, Staff reporter for the Canadian Jewish News. She noted in her article of December 26th, 2013: "The MCW's landmark was recognized by Parliament, Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler who announced the MCW celebration in the House of Commons, "In the last few months alone, the MCW has advocated for improved public transit, raised awareness about bullying in schools, and honoured the important contributions of women in the field of journalism, while an affiliate of the International Council of Women, it has continued to concern itself with the plight of women worldwide". Indeed, MCW felt very proud to have its signal event recognized at the Parliament of Canada.

Further important Business information for MCW.

Exceptionally as President of MCW, I called a meeting of the Board on December 9th, in order to deal with some decisions that had to be taken for the well- functioning of the organization. As a result of the unfortunate resignation of our Executive VP, Mrs. Sheri McLeod, I asked the Board to support my naming Chitra Chopra, as Interim Executive VP. That proposal was unanimously approved. At that meeting, I also requested a leave of absence for personal reasons and I asked that exceptionally, Bonnie Destounis be named Interim President. That proposal was unanimously acclaimed.

The following as a summary of the MCW programs that took place in February, March and April are presented by Bonnie Destounis, the Interim President.

FEBRUARY

Thanks are extended to Nadia Baraghi, MCW program convener, who organized an excellent program in relevance to Heart Health month. MCW had the privilege of being addressed by Dr. Colin Rose, cardiologist, who presented an overview of the importance of health related to cardiovascular disease and hence, cardiac problems. One of the most important indicators for cardiac and cardiovascular health is that your waistline must be equal to half of your height. His presentation and question period lasted for over an hour, a true sign of audience appreciation. Sincere thanks are extended to Dr. Rose for taking time from his busy schedule.

MARCH

The program in March had to be postponed as our guest speaker, Barbara Kay, who apologized profusely, was not well. Daniela Chivu was kind enough to replace Barbara. Daniela Chivu is Convener for Immigration and Citizenship and Global Affairs, Co-representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women for CCWC. Many thanks are extended to Daniela for her inspiring presentation on human rights which are women's rights. Her presence was greatly appreciated.

The topic was relevant to the Commission of the Status of Women forum (CSW58) taking place at the United Nations, New York (March 8-21, 2014). Canada had a number of delegates who attended from various NGO's. Chitra Chopra was representing MCW and I was representing the National Council of Women Canada Development Organization (NCWCDO). For a first experience, it was an eye opener to perceive the severity of problems women face worldwide. Presentations were made by exceptional women, some rose from poverty stricken areas to higher education. They now had the opportunity to share their experiences and to influence NGO's. Although there are standards for development goals, women are habitually not included in the development or in the implementation strategies. Women from the grass roots must participate in community based programs.

APRIL

Our guest speaker for April 3rd, 2014, was Dr. Arshad-Ayaz, Assistant Professor, Concordia University. Her topic was "Challenges and Opportunities in Teaching Environmental Sustainability in Quebec". Dr. Arshad-Ayaz's research, teaching practice, and her previous anthropological experience directs her analyses to focus on the social, cultural, historical, political, and economic dynamics of a particular context that affect teaching and learning. Dr. Arshad-Ayaz's published work explores educational policies and programs especially those related to the introduction of educational technology and social media in developed and developing countries. The program, organized by our convener of environmental issues, Nusrat Mirza was most appreciated by all who attended.

MAY 15th –AGM of the MCW

At that time, the President's baton will be handed to the Executive VP, Chitra Chopra. As well; the new slate of officers will be presented to the federate members of MCW.

The guest speaker for our program will be Mrs. Barbara Kay. Mrs. Kay, writer and National Post columnist, will be speaking about the book she has co-written with Ms Aruna Papp: "Unworthy Creature: a Punjabi Daughter's Memoir of Honour, Shame and Love". We very much look forward to Mrs. Kay's presentation as it will be a befitting closing of a most productive year for MCW.

I wish to thank members of the Board for their hard work and for their dedication to MCW. My decision to step down from the presidency at this time was not an easy one to make; it was necessitated for personal reasons.

In closing, I wish to quote the late Robert F. Kennedy who stated: "Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events...it is from numberless acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped". I am glad to have had the privilege of contributing to the pages of MCW's august history and I hope that its role of advocacy will continue for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Vivianne M. Silver, President

TREASURER'S REPORT 2013-2014

As Treasurer of Montreal Council of Women for the 2013-2014 year, I have performed all of my duties as required. I have collected all monies due and paid all approved bills. I have kept a record of all entries and prepared a Financial Report (a Balance Sheet and an Operating Statement) for the period. Also a budget for the 2014 - 2015 year. Sheila Allan has audited the books for the 2012-2013 year.

The bank balance at April 30, 2014 is \$4106.60. We have one GIC in the amount of \$10,000.00. The Welcoming Committee is responsible for the float of \$50.00.

Respectfully submitted
Patricia Laven Nichols
Treasurer

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Following the resignation of the Executive Vice President, Sheri McLeod, in December 2013, I assumed the position for the remainder of the year. Since the President also took a leave of absence at the same time till the end of March 2014, I assisted the Interim President, Bonnie Stamos Destounis in the performance of her duties.

I was a committee member for the review of the Procedure Manual which we completed. The Correlation of the Procedures Manual with the By-Laws is still to be done. I was also a member of the Nominations Committee. Both these positions were under the direction of the Interim President. Along with Shirley Gyles and Bonnie Stamos Destounis I am on the website committee and we are hopeful to have a fully functional website by August 2014. I reviewed Board minutes and also helped prepare the amendment of the contentious June and September 2014 minutes. I was a delegate for NCWC to the United Nations 58th Commission on the Status of Women held in New York along with Bonnie Destounis and Daniela Chivu and we attended the meetings from March 9-15, 2014. We heard from many NGOs about the plight of women in their countries, the advances that have been made, and also the new and sometimes very innovative initiatives that were being made for the advancement of women. The Beijing plus20 objectives will not be fully met by 2015 but efforts are continuing to improve the status of women in many areas.

Respectfully submitted,
Chitra Chopra
Executive Vice President

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

There are 40 Federate 60 individual members paid up as at the April 30th 2014. Two new Federate members were welcomed during the year – Seniors Action Quebec Inc. and the Deaf Anglo Literacy Centre. A number of individual members have chosen to pay the extra to be Patron members which is very much appreciated.

We are sorry to report that Marjorie Bronfman, Ann MacLeish and Vi Bray died during the year and our condolences were sent to their families and friends. They were long time members who gave valued service to the organization.

Transportation Convenor Report for Montreal Council for Women.

Frances Gregory
Membership Committee

RESOLUTIONS' REPORT 2014

The following five resolutions were received from the National Council of Women for consideration and comment for voting at the June 2014 NCWC AGM.

1. Access to mifepristone (ru486): for use in medical abortions - *Proposed by Ottawa Council of Women*
2. Employment insurance reform regarding tips - *Proposed by Ottawa Council of Women*
3. Global farmland rush - *Proposed by St. Catharines & District Council of Women*
4. Banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on farm crops - *Proposed by St. Catharines & District Council of Women*
5. Reduction in sugar content in processed food, soft drinks and juices – *Proposed by Toronto and Area Council of Women*

Resolution numbers 1, 2, 4, and 5 were accepted with amendments. Resolution number 3 was rejected and sent back for reworking. The proposed amendments and comments were sent to the NCWC Resolutions Convenor in March 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Chitra Chopra
Resolutions Chair

CONVENOR OF TRANSPORTATION'S REPORT

The following is a summary of the main transportation issues affecting persons with mobility needs:

1. Expand mandate of Personal-aide pass with STM possibly in collaboration with CSSS's.

- Now only serves handicapped individuals qualifying for transport adapté

Or

- people with an intellectual or visual disability, whose functional limitations make it necessary for them to be accompanied when using the regular transit network, including:

Difficulties with temporal awareness;

Difficulties with spatial awareness;

Difficulties related to personal safety.

2. Increase safety and security of public transportation by:

- Increase amount of civic public transportation campaigns
- Put bus shelters at all bus stops
- Improve lighting in public transportation stops
- Ensure all metro stations are fully accessible (elevators)

5. Increase funding to organizations that offer volunteer driver services and accompaniment for medical appointments and organize possible collaborations with STM and CSSS's.

6. STM Senior Shuttles

1. The need to improve communication and availability of information
2. Discomfort in the vehicle (suspension)
3. The high number of stops resulting in too rapid pace of service

4. The need to clarify the service and the expectations of the STM not only with clients but also with drivers who seem to have conflicting information on the provision of the service. They rarely stop at the bus stops unless they see a senior waving at them, but they often drove too quickly for the senior to react.

7. Road crossing

There is a need to improve the following:

- Planning of intersections
- Planning between intersections
- Slowing traffic
- Traffic lights for pedestrians
- Lighting on streets

8. Increase funding and capacity of adapted transport

Context:

- The refusal rate for applicants paratransit service STM is around 20-25% for applications for admission (all ages).
- In 2012, the growth of the service was of 7% and 85% of new admissions paratransit were seniors 65 and older.
- The budget received in 2013 is the same as 2012, which does not take into account the percentage increase in anticipated travel (about 7%).

(Data provided by report from Marie-Josée Dupuis, TCAIM, September 2013)

Maya CerDA

HOSTESS CONVENER REPORT

During the year lunches were provided for six meetings. An outside catered was used for part of the requirements and two Federate members generously supplied the lunch for two meetings Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club and the Federation of Filipino Canadian Association of Canada Inc.

A big thank you goes to the members who have helped with setting up the room and clearing up following the meeting. These are Jane Wigglesworth, Marjorie Windeler, Grace Thornley-Brown, Mary Lennon Charlotte Bouie and Gloria White and also to Sandra Heijl on the reception desk.

Frances Gregory
Hostess Convener

Health, Child and Family

Health, Child and Family portfolio covers a wide range of interesting and, often enough, inter-related subjects. As diverse as the issues are, there are at times, common factors that can play a decisive role in our chosen solutions to particular problems. How we make a decision, any decision, is the most important step we take towards arriving at a particular destination or a solution. Our health and wellbeing be it physical or mental, emotional or spiritual, also has a starring role in our own sense of fulfillment not to mention on the lives of our nearest and dearest.

An overall awareness of our social trends and government policies is crucial when evaluating our own and our family's place in society.

I was pleased to touch on a few subjects relative to the portfolio I represent as a MCW convener.

Our newsletter is a must read. I thank you for your kind attention and I thank our Board for their unfailing support and encouragement.

Nadia Baraghi

Health ,Child and Family

CONSTITUTION REPORT

The MCW Procedures manual has recently been revised whereas the By-Laws were last revised in 2004. As a result, cross references in the Procedures manual to the By-Laws are not in agreement. Starting in September 2014 the Constitution committee will address these issues and report their recommendations to the Board of Directors for discussion and approval.

Respectfully submitted
Marjorie Windeler Convener

REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Members: Marilyn Berger, Chitra Chopra, Bonnie Stamos Destounis, Shirley Gyles , Marjorie Windeler

The following slate of the Board of Directors was reviewed by the committee taking into account the interest of the members, length of time served and the need for an increase in Board membership. Present Directors were contacted and asked if they want to continue on the Board in the same capacity or other and recruits were carried out to seek additional members.

The slate which includes the elected Directors for 2014-2015 and the appointed Directors for 2014-1015 was approved by the Nomination committee and then presented to the Board of Directors and approved April 3rd, 2014. It was then forwarded to the membership and to be voted on at the Annual General Meeting to take place May 15 at 1PM at 2300 Rufus Rockhead.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Stamos Destounis, Chair

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2014-2015

Honorary President	The Honourable Lucie Pépin	
Honorary Vice Presidents	Sophia Economides	Jeanne Maranda
	Patricia Rustad	Rosslyn Tetley
	Mair Verthuy C.M.	
Honorary Councillors	Sheila Goldbloom, C.M.	Dorothy Abike Wills, C.M.
	Elspeth Angus	

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Past President	Vivianne Silver
President	Chitra Chopra
Executive Vice President	Shirley Gyles
Vice President Governmental affairs	Eleni Bakopanos
Secretary	Shirley (interim)
Treasurer	Patricia Laven-Nichols
Assistant Treasurer	Shirley Gyles
Corresponding Secretary	Druse Bryan
Membership /Directory	Frances Gregory & Marilyn Berger

Councillors Druse Bryan Sandra Cohen Rose Elizabeth Hutchinson
 Elspeth Angus
VICE PRESIDENT Administration Marjorie Windeler
VICE PRESIDENT Public Relations Marilyn Berger
VICE PRESIDENT Government Affairs Eleni Bakopanos
VICE- PRESIDENT PROGRAM Bonnie Stamos Destounis
 Arts, Culture & Heritage Convener Josette Wescu
 Education Convener Florence Holt
 Environment, Housing & Land Convener Bonnie Feigenbaum
 Health, Child & Family Convener Nadia Baraghi
 Seniors Convener Joanne Tsoublekas
 Transportation Maya Cerda
Board Members at large Ginger Petty Daniela Chivu Ingrid Dixon

STANDING COMMITTEES

Woman of the Year Bonnie Stamos Destounis
 Nomination to be appointed Sept
 Constitution Florence Holt & Marjorie Windeler
 Resolutions Chitra Chopra

APPOINTED

Archives Marilyn Berger
 Hostess /hospitality Frances Gregory
 Bulletin Editor Shirley Gyles
 NCWC and PCWC Representative Elizabeth Hutchinson
 NCWCDO Representative Bonnie Stamos Destounis

FINANCIAL REPORTS 2010-2011

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN / CONSEIL DES FEMMES DE MONTREAL
FINANCIAL REPORT MAY 01, 2013 TO APRIL30, 2014

	ACTUAL TO DATE 2013- 2014	BUDGET 2013- 2014	VARIANCE
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Membership (Patrons 540 + Ind 1495 + Fed 1650)	3685.00	4060.00	-375.00
MCW Lunches (May, Sept, Oct, Nov, Feb,, Mar & April)	2180.00	3600.00	-1420.00
120th Anniv. (Golden Mile,Gala & Tea)	7205.00	21250.00	-14045.00
GIC Interest	262.42	260.00	2.42
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	13332.42	29170.00	-15837.58
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
Office-hall locker (May to April)	300.00	300.00	0.00
Office-hall rent (May,June,Sept,Oct, Nov, Feb, Mar & Apr)	960.00	1200.00	240.00
Archives	0.00	75.00	75.00
Donations (NCWC Prints)	95.00	100.00	5.00
Federated Affairs	0.00	500.00	500.00

120th Anniversary (Includes Gala refunds 700.00+NSF Chq 40.00)	3399.55	11750.00	8350.45
MCW AGM (Annual Report)	61.98	150.00	88.02
NCWC AGM (Air Fare 698.85 + Hotel 409.40 + Reg 590.00)	1698.25	2000.00	301.75
Annual Fees to National	414.00	500.00	86.00
NCWCDO Donation	125.00	125.00	0.00
PCWQ Fees	60.00	30.00	-30.00
Prof. Fees	5773.95	5000.00	-773.95
Translation Charges	0.00	1500.00	1500.00
Audit	100.00	100.00	0.00
Board Exp. (Reg. Mail 41.99 + Gifts 73.54)	115.53	360.00	244.47
Bulletin (Stamps 218.83 + Copies 135.42) Incls Resolution copies	354.25	900.00	545.75
Cupboards	495.00	500.00	5.00
Lunches (Sept, Oct, Nov, Feb & Mar)	1103.33	2500.00	1396.67
Membership (Postage)	36.22	250.00	213.78
Post Office Box	160.97	200.00	39.03
Public Liability Insurance	327.00	350.00	23.00
Filing Fee	34.00	35.00	1.00
(Bank Charges (S/C 5.06 + Cheques 56.27)	61.33	15.00	-46.33
Go Daddy Web Site	119.88	0.00	-119.88
TOTAL EXPENSES	15795.24	28440.00	12644.76
NET	-2462.82	730.00	-3192.82
FLOAT	-50.00		
B/Fwd @ April 30, 2012	1572.50		
MCW TOTAL TO DATE	-940.32		
WOTY	4502.92		
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	3562.60		
<u>GIC INVESTMENTS</u>			
MCW/CFM Matures May 14, 2014	10000.00		
Patricia Laven Nichols MCW/CFM Treasurer			

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN / CONSEIL DES FEMMES DE MONTREAL
BUDGET 2014-2015

	PROPOSED BUDGET	ACTUAL TO DATE	BUDGET
	2014-2015	2013- 2014	2013- 2014
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
Membership (Patrons 540 + Ind 1750 + Fed 1950)	4240.00	3685.00	4060.00
Lunches (9 mths @ \$300.00)	2700.00	2180.00	3600.00
120th Anniv. (Golden Mile,Gala & Tea)	0.00	7205.00	21250.00
GIC Interest	75.00	262.42	260.00
GIC	4500.00	0.00	0.00
	11515.00	13332.42	29170.00
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
Office-hall locker (May to April)	300.00	300.00	300.00
Office-hall rent (May,June,Sept,Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, Mar & Apr)	1080.00	960.00	1200.00
Archives	100.00	0.00	75.00
Donations	0.00	95.00	100.00
Federated Affairs	0.00	0.00	500.00

120th Anniversary	0.00	3399.55	11750.00
120th Anniversary Book	5000.00	0.00	0.00
MCW AGM (Annual Report)	75.00	61.98	150.00
NCWC AGM (Reg 445 + Hotel 250)	695.00	1698.25	2000.00
Annual Fees to National	468.00	414.00	500.00
NCWCDO Donation	125.00	125.00	125.00
PCWQ Fees	30.00	60.00	30.00
Prof. Fees	0.00	5773.95	5000.00
Translation Charges	0.00	0.00	1500.00
Audit	100.00	100.00	100.00
Board Exp.	200.00	115.53	360.00
Bulletin	500.00	354.25	900.00
Directory	500.00	0.00	0.00
Procedures Manual	200.00	0.00	0.00
Cupboards	0.00	495.00	500.00
Lunches (9 mths @ 150.00)	1350.00	1103.33	2500.00
Membership (Postage)	75.00	36.22	250.00
Post Office Box	200.00	160.97	200.00
Public Liability Insurance	350.00	327.00	350.00
Filing Fee	35.00	34.00	35.00
Bank Charges	15.00	61.33	15.00
Go Daddy Web Site	200.00	119.88	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	11598.00	15795.24	28440.00
NET	-83.00	-2462.82	730.00
FLOAT		-50.00	
B/Fwd @ April 30, 2012		1572.50	
MCW TOTAL TO DATE		-940.32	
WOTY		4502.92	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		3562.60	
<u>GIC INVESTMENTS</u>			
MCW GIC	5500.00	10000.00	

Patricia Laven Nichols
MCW/CFM Treasurer
April 9, 2014