

National Council of Women of Canada

Brief Summary of AGM 2015

NCWC enjoyed a wonderful and highly successful Annual General Meeting/Conference in Montreal May 21-24, 2015, thanks to our wonderful hosts LCW Montreal and PCW Quebec. Our opening night reception was held at the spectacular City Hall.

Friday morning we started our business sessions which continued through to Sunday. One of our most important duties is policy development, and the following are our new policies and updates:

1. Maximize Removal of Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals from Wastewater before Releasing Wastewater into the Environment
2. Meat and Climate Change
3. Medically Assisted Death
4. Regulation of Toxins and Banning of Anti-bacterials in Personal Care Products
5. The Regulation of Electronic Cigarettes
6. Reduction in Sugar Content in Processed Food, Fruit Drinks and Soda

Updates to Existing NCWC Policies:

1. Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women
2. Asbestos Exposure: A Health Hazard

The NCWC Development Organization held their Annual General Meeting at Friday's luncheon. On breaks over the next couple of days, we held our fun fundraiser during which we auctioned off items donated by members, and also sold Celebrating Women prints and cards.

On Saturday the NCWC and NCWC Education Fund hosted a joint program on the AGM theme: *Shining a Light on the Challenges of Mental Health and Homelessness*. The keynote speaker was Dr. Laurence Roy who is co-leading a follow-up study of the At Home/Chez Soi project, a multi-site Canadian project of Housing First for adults who are homeless and live with mental illness. Her research focuses on social integration, occupational engagement and recovery of adults who live with mental illness or psychosocial challenges, particularly in the areas of housing, homelessness, education and justice involvement. This was followed by a Panel Discussion with Matthew Pierce, President and CEO of the Old Brewery Mission in Montreal; Ruth Bresnen, with Logifem Inc., a well-known shelter for homeless women; and Diana Pizzuti, Director of Programs at the YWCA Montreal.

Saturday evening at the Banquet, new Board Members and Convenors of Standing Study Committees were inducted. We enjoyed a wonderful meal and live jazz. Denise Mattok, who has served as President for the past four years, was thanked by new President Karen Monnon Dempsey. Denise Mattok, Rosemary Mallory, and Gracia Janes were presented with Honorary Life Memberships and our distinctive Bow Pins.

Sunday began with an Ecumenical Service for those who wished to attend, after which the Business of Session was concluded. The Common Program for the next two years was chosen: *Safety and Security of Persons*. All LCWs and PCWs are encouraged to have programs focusing on the Common Program in order to bring more attention to this issue. The 122nd AGM concluded with closing remarks.