

**PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
OF WOMEN
OF ONTARIO**

Web: pcwocanada.org
pcwontario@gmail.com

FEDERATED MEMBERS

LOCAL COUNCILS

London and Area Council
of Women
Ottawa Council of Women
Niagara District Council
of Women
Toronto & Area Council
of Women

**STUDY GROUP
Oakville and Area**

**PROVINCIALY
ORGANIZED SOCIETIES**

Association of Early
Childhood Educators
– Ontario (AECEO)

Business & Professional
Women's Clubs of Ontario
(BPWO)

Elementary Teachers
Federation Of Ontario
(ETFO)

Federated
Women's Institutes of Ontario
(FWIO)

Ontario English Catholic
Teachers' Association
(OECTA)

Ontario Dental Hygienists'
Association (ODHA)

Ontario Home Economics
Association (OHEA)

Polish Canadian Women's
Federation

Ukrainian Women's
AssociationCanada (UWAC)
– Eastern Executive



Reminder Notice: Please register by April 16, 2018:

**Provincial Council of Women of Ontario
95th Annual General Meeting
Monte Carlo Inn, Oakville
Saturday April 20 - Sunday April 22, 2018**

Come celebrate our 95th Annual General Meeting

- enjoy meeting members from our diverse member organizations
- join in lively discussions
- work and decide on our resolutions
- hear interesting speakers
- share good food and good times

The meeting will take place at the Monte Carlo Inn in Oakville. **A block of rooms has been reserved until Thursday, March 22nd.** The cost will be \$114.90+tax, which includes continental breakfast and Wi-Fi.

The address is 374 South Service Road East;

☐ Phone 905-849-9500 to book your room

Mention you are with the PCWO.

Registration is due by April 16th, 2018.

- Registration (2 days) : \$180
- Saturday only (does not include Banquet) : \$ 80
- Banquet Tickets : \$ 40

Make cheque payable to PCWO - Mail to Marnie Sherritt,
15 Medway Cres., London, ON N5X 3S9 - Phone: 519-642-2138
e-mail: margerysherritt@sympatico.ca

Registration forms & maps may be downloaded from our website:
pcwocanada.org or click on this link:

[2018 AGM Information and Registration Package](#)

We kindly ask for an item for our fundraiser auction.

- **The Board Meeting** will be on Friday, April 20th, 2018 at 4:00pm in the President's suite.
- **Registration on Saturday** will be at 8:30am, with the meeting beginning at 9:00am.

We invite Provincially Organized Societies to bring a display. Tables will be provided.

PCWO AGM Dinner
Speaker
Saturday, April 21st



Joyce Wayne,

Author and blogger, who will speak about the new “un-retirement” trend and financial concerns for women. Joyce Wayne is an award-winning literary journalist, a former editor at *Quill & Quire* and the author of the historical novel *The Cook's Temptation* (Mosaic Press, 2013). This month, Joyce's second novel is about Soviet spies operating in Ottawa during World War II, and was published this month under the title *Last Night of the World*.

For many years, Joyce was the head of the journalism program at Sheridan College where she launched the Sheridan Centre for Internationally Trained Individuals. Joyce was a winner of the Diaspora Dialogues contest for short fiction and has been awarded the Fiona Mee Award for literary journalism. She lives in Oakville with her husband where she runs writing workshops for the Public Library and writes the bi-weekly blog [RetirementMatters](http://RetirementMatters.com).

President's Report to the Semi-Annual PCWO General Membership Meeting Queen's Park, Toronto, November 14, 2017

As in every year, the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario set to work to speak out on behalf of all Ontarians, but particularly of women and their families and for the protection of the communities they live in. Our Provincial Council started out with a bit of a handicap, as both, our new VP environment, Jane Hanlon, and our VP Status of Women, Thelma McGillivray resigned for health reasons. We were particularly saddened that Thelma McGillivray, a long time Board Member of Council and an active advocate for the rights of Women was very seriously ill. It is through the hard work of women like Thelma McGillivray's that our Provincial Council has been able to remain an influencing factor in the public affairs of Ontario for 94 years.

As Ontario is moving into a provincial election, many of our ongoing longtime concerns as they pertain to better lives for women and their families will also be election issues. This applies to solutions to home care and quality long-term care. We have had a letter to the editor on long term care published in the *Globe and Mail*. (May 13) It iterated our PCWO policy. Equal pay and the gender wage gap, minimum wage and guaranteed minimum income will all be important election issues, where PCWO can weigh in with its policy.

During the summer PCWO action was directed towards the treatment and disposal of nuclear waste. The current plans to deal with nuclear waste affect us all, but particularly our fruit, vegetable and wine producing Niagara Region and Eastern Ontario and Quebec with their communities all along the Ottawa River.

- We commend the initiative of Gracia Janes and her Niagara Region Council of Women in their successful community educational campaign on the dangers and risks of some ways to transport and store nuclear waste.
- Beverlee McIntosh and I, representing OCW and PCWO respectively, met with Ottawa MP Catherine McKenna, who is also the federal Environment Minister, about the risky nuclear waste transports through the Niagara Region.
- We submitted PCWO comments to the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal, to Emergency Management, and to the Ministry of Community Safety and Corrections Services with regard to the Discussion Paper on the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP) Planning Review and Recommendations.
- PCWO participated with Comments on the Canadian Nuclear

**2018 AGM
Panel Discussion
Saturday, April 21, 2018
10:30 to 12:noon**

Theme:

“Finding Opportunity in Changing Times: How Established Advocacy Organizations Can Stay Relevant and Influential During Periods of Significant Social and Political Change”

**Facilitator: Catherine Butler,
PCWO VP Status of Women**



Catherine Butler, BA, RN, BScN,
MHA, VP Home & Community
Care Champlain LHIN

**Proposed
2018 PCWO Resolutions**

UPDATE
RESOLUTION:

***Alcohol Promotion and Protection of Children from Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Child Developmental Delays** (Niagara District Council of Women)

****Fragrance Free Policy for Schools and Child Care Facilities.** (Niagara District Council of Women)

*****Organic Regulation in Ontario** (Niagara District Council of Women)

******The Impact of Precarious Employment/ NonStandardized Work on Women** (Ottawa Council of Women)

UPDATE RESOLUTION:
*******Administrative Segregation/Solitary Confinement in Ontario Prisons** (Ottawa Council of Women)

Safety Commission (CNSC) Environmental Assessment Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) - Chalk River Laboratories.

- We also signed on to the Canadian Environmental Law Association and Canadian Association of University Teachers response to the consultation on the proposed regulatory approach to prohibit asbestos and products containing asbestos.

During the fall months the focus of our efforts were on preparing for the Semi - Annual Membership Meeting at Queen’s Park , namely on completing the 94th Annual Brief to the Government of Ontario.

- I want to thank Mary Potter, Past President, for assembling and delivering the 2017 PCWO Annual Brief to the Ontario Government, to the Opposition Leaders and to all sitting MPPs.
- The brief advocated for the newest PCWO policies, adopted through the resolutions process at the April PCWO AGM, as well as for “ongoing issues” that we would like the Government to deal with once and for all, such as in the areas of health-, dental-, pharma-, long -term- care, basic income, housing, universal child care, gender lens in government legislation and programs, Nuclear Emergency Response Plan, suicide in indigenous communities.

Thank you to Gracia Janes, Environment Policy Advisor; Linda Davis, VP Economics; Beverlee McIntosh, Health Policy Advisor, for their contributions to the “ongoing issues” content of the brief, and to Maide Yazar, VP Resolutions, who guided the Resolutions through the grass roots process till they became PCWO policy. This year we also included a recommendation summary of the brief which was e-mailed to all our PCWO members ahead of the Meeting.

We received a note from our Honorary President, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, thanking us for our brief and remarking on the “ongoing issues” feature in the brief.

I should like to invite all members to take part more freely in the policy building process of PCWO. Each of your organizations has its own niche, expertise and advocacy experience . If we put our heads together more, we can approach some of these “ongoing issues” from several sides and perhaps together, we can eliminate some. Our PCOW deadline for new resolutions is November 30th. Contact me or to Maide Yazar about how we could support each other in our effort to improve the lives of women and their families.

Website

Our website editor, Ann Porter Bonilla , has revised our website so that it is now easy to look up our PCWO policies back 45

**2017 PCWO
Semi-Annual Meeting
Photos by Ann Porter Bonilla**



Gracia Janes & Mary Potter



Margaret Carter (ODHA)



Margaret Byl (FWIO)



Margery Sherritt,
PCWO Treasurer



Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay UWAC

years for easy reference. We appreciate that Ann is working hard to make the website more useful to us.

Claim Your Space

On October 18, Person's Day, at the invitation of the Minister on the Status of Women, Indira Naidoo- Harris, I attended the evening reception celebrating Women's History Month at Queen's Park with the Theme "Claim your Space" It was an occasion to honour achievement by women from a cross section of diversities including from the LGBT and Indigenous communities. The event was attended by the premier and female and male ministers and staff. It was certainly inspiring to see and hear what the mostly young honorees were doing and achieving to erase inequality and suffering in their communities. It was also good to connect with some of the new women's groups springing up through the Province.

PCWO 2017 Semi- Annual Meeting

I want to thank all members of the PCWO Board, who helped to make the November 14, 2017 PCWO Semi-Annual General Meeting at Queen's Park a smooth advocacy and networking event. I want to thank Mary Potter for submitting the 2017 PCWO Annual Brief well in advance of the meeting to the Ontario Government and to all MPPs of all three political parties. I also commend and thank Mary for her professional way of handling all arrangements for the venue and for food and creature comforts at Queen's Park. Thank you to Margery Sherritt for handling registration and unexpected guests. Thanks also to Ann Porter Bonilla for the technical support and lovely photos of the event. And much appreciation to all board members and federate members who contributed with reports, comments and questions to the discussion of the issues of Council concern. It was good to hear about the various actions and projects of our Federates.

The Hon. Marie-France Lalonde sponsored us at the Legislature, and we thank the Minister and her staff for their helpfulness. To experience Question Period, it was nice to have seats on level of the floor in the government section of the Gallery. PCWO was introduced in the Legislature by the Hon. Lalonde. Linda Davis, PCWO VP Economics, was commended by Peggy Stadler MPP NDP (London) for her community service in London. Thus, PCWO made it into the Hansard of the day (as has probably happened previously during the last 94 years) I have listed the politicians from all three political parties who came to meet with us with all their official areas of responsibility. We appreciate that these politicians gave of their time, as their mandates and responsibilities covered many areas of our Councils' concerns.



Edeltraud Neal, Hon. Indira Naidoo-Harris MPP, Maide Yazar (BPWO)



Hon. James Bradley



Hon. Nathalie Des Rosiers



Ted Arnott, MPP

**2018 PCWO
Semi-Annual Meeting
Tuesday, November 27
Queen's Park – Toronto**

Ministers, MPPs and Government Officials who met with us on November 14, 2017 at Queen's Park.

Hon. Indira Naidoo- Harris MPP Lib (Halton)

- Minister of the Status of Women
- Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care

Hon. Marie- France Lalonde MPP Lib (Ottawa – Orleans),

- Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services
- Minister of Francophone Affairs



Hon. Yasir Naqvi MPP & Hon. Marie-France Lalonde MPP, Edeltraud Neal

Hon. Yasir Naqvi, MPP Lib (Ottawa- Centre),

- Attorney General ,
- Commissioner, Board of Internal Economy ,
- Government House Leader

Hon. James J. Bradley, MPP Lib (St. Catharines)

- Member, of Standing Committees: on Estimates, on Regulations and Private Bill, on the Legislative Assembly
- Chief Government Whip
- Deputy Government House Leader

Hon. Nathalie Des Rosiers, MPP Lib (Ottawa—Vanier)

- now Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry ,
- then Parliamentary Assistant to several ministers,
- former law professor, president of the Canadian Law Commission
- champion of women and human rights

Alyssa Brierly, Treasury Board Official, Minister's Policy Team and the lead on the Ministry of the Status of Women was interested in our group.



**Ontario
Equal Pay
Coalition**

**Equal Pay Day
Tuesday April 10**

**Close
The Gender Wage Gap**

On average, women must work 15.5 months to make what a man does in 12.

That's why we're marking #EqualPayDay on Tuesday April 10.

Equal Pay Day Events

Toronto Rally:

Join us for our [Toronto Equal Pay Day rally](#) on April 10 outside of Queen's Park. Bring your members, family, friends, and allies! **Wear red to protest how unequal pay leaves women in the red!**

When: Rally 12-1pm

Where: The North West corner of College and University

What: Samba Squad! Food truck! Short speeches! Gender Priced Bake Sale! And much more!

Kingston / Queen's University Event:

[Queen's University Equal Pay Day of Action](#)

11-2PM at Joseph S. Stauffer Library at Queen's University

Ottawa Event:

[Equal Pay Day Salary Negotiation Workshop](#)

organized by the Canadian

Peggy Sattler MPP NDP (London West)

- NDP Critic for Education,
- NDP Critic for Advanced Education and Skills Development for Women's Issues



Maide Yazar, Peggy Sattler MPP, Edeltraud Neal, Linda Davis, Margery Sherritt, Sheila Perry

Ted Arnott, MPP PC (Wellington—Halton Hills)

- PC Critic, Environment and Climate Change ,
- First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House

Laurie Scott MPP PC, (Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes-Brock)

- Vice Chair of Standing Committee on the Legislative Committee
- PC Critic for Community Safety,
- PC Critic for Women's Issues

Ms. Laurie Scott, as she has done for several years , had accepted to meet with us, fell ill on the day, however, and in her stead came Lisa Thompson MPP.

Lisa M. Thompson, MPP PC (Huron—Bruce)

- PC Caucus Chair
 - PC Critic for International Trade
 - PC Critic for Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
 - Member, Standing Committee on General Government
- To our pleasant surprise, Ms. Thompson herself, her mother and grandmother had been long term active members of the Women's Institute, a historic federate of the Councils of Women

Federation of University Women, noon to 2PM at St. Paul University

Stratford Events :
Canadian Federation of University Women campaign From now until #EqualPayDay, The [CFUW Stratford](#) is sharing facts, busting myths, and encouraging action to close the #genderpaygap on their [Facebook event](#)! On April 10 Join CFUW Stratford at 11:40am in front of City Hall and **wear something red** to pose for a photo and help us share information downtown about pay inequality and how to close the pay gap. Everyone welcome!

PCWO is a member of the Ontario Equal Pay Coalition

**In Memoriam
 Thelma McGillivray**



In January, we received the sad news that Thelma McGillivray, who was until last summer, PCWO VP Status of Women and newsletter editor had died. Thelma was a strong always graceful and gracious pillar of PCWO and will be greatly missed. Our condolences are



Naheed Qureshi, Maide Yazar, Edeltraud Neal, Lisa Thompson MPP Huron-Bruce, Mary Potter, Gracia Janes, Marnie Sherritt, Sheila Perry. Back: Margaret Byl, Nadia Chuda Witwicki, Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay, Alberta Johnson

Advocacy December 2017 to April 2018

- In December 2017, PCWO submitted comments to the Senior Tribunal Officer Secretariat Division of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, with regard to the **Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) Application for a 10 year Relicensing of Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) from 2018 to 2028**. In the interests of public and worker health and safety, and environmental protection, PCWO asked, why the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission would grant a licence to a primarily private sector consortium, with no proven track record on the site. Such a licence would be between 2 and 5 times longer than that AECL has received in the past, and with much weaker standards. PCWO is concerned greatly about the dangers and risks to the health of the Ontario (and Quebec) environment. PCWO is opposed to the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) application for a 10 year licence of the Chalk River Laboratories without extremely strong regulatory CNSC oversight conditions.
- In December 2017, PCWO, signed on to a letter of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) with regard to the **Federal Environmental Assessment Legislation and the role of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission**. The letter was directed to The Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, The Hon. James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources to request that the respective ministries implement the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment Expert Panel with respect to the conduct of federal environmental assessments (EAs) of nuclear projects.
- In January 2018, on behalf of PCWO, Gracia Janes took part in the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission January 23-25, 2018

extended to her family and friends.

Thelma died in her 85th year on Sunday, January 28, 2018 in Burlington, Ontario. She had been active at all levels of Council: President of the Hamilton & District Council of Women until it dissolved; President of the Oakville & Area Study Group; Past-President and most recently Convenor of Women's Issues and Newsletter Editor for the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario; Vice-President Social Development for the National Council of Women; and Senior Issues Advisor for the International Council of Women. She also served on the NCWC Development Organization.

Thelma and her partner Bill loved to travel, garden, curl and dance. Her passion was reading, writing and acquiring knowledge. During her career as a MSW, she worked in family mediation and therapy. Thelma was proud to call herself a feminist and social activist. Besides the Council of Women, Thelma advocated for children, women and seniors for many other committees and organizations such as Canadian Federation of University Women, The Older Women's Network, and Advancement of Women Halton



Public Hearings in Pembroke to consider an application from Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) for the renewal of its nuclear research and test establishment operating licence for the Chalk River Laboratories (CRL)

- In March 2018, PCWO wrote to Hon. Dr. Helena Jaczek MPP, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, with regard to the Private Member's Bill 33: Time to Care Act. Bill 33 passed Second Reading in the Ontario Legislature with unanimous support from all three parties on November 2, 2017. Fearing that Bill 33 may become a casualty of the upcoming election, PCWO is urging the Minister and all MPPs on the Government side to support Bill 33 as it goes into third reading and may then be sent to Standing Committee on General Government. PCWO strongly supports Bill 33 as it would require an *average of four hours of direct nursing and personal support care worker services per day* for the residents of Ontario Long-Term Care homes.

Dear Members, as we hopefully leave this stubborn winter behind us, with prospects of change, sunshine, green grass and new blooms, we hope that these prospects of change also include a respectful election campaign, where the concerns of citizens and the promises of political parties are taken seriously. Our Ontario Provincial Council of Women is of course scrupulously non-partisan. In its 95 year history, PCWO has seen many elections and resulting governments come and go. Our Provincial Council with its members has worked with all past Ontario governments, monitoring the role of women in public affairs and the state of society in many areas, formulating policies and working to influence Ontario Governments to be protectors of equality rights, and of the rights of women and their families to safety and security, to good health, education and equal opportunity. The PCWO has urged Ontario governments to be good stewards of the land and of the environment, for agriculture, recreation and for the safe utilisation of Ontario's natural resources, of clean water and clean air and more.

It is sometimes said that the Councils of Women dilute their feminist advocacy focus by not sticking strictly to the canon of the day of "women's issues" and by always including also the family and the citizen's lens. We beg to differ: "all public affairs are women's issues". I invite you to go over the list of policies on our website from 1975 to 2017, you will note a progression of changes that have actually happened, and that form a framework for a sustainable more socially just living environment for women and families. So far, we note quite a few of our PCWO policies included in the election platforms of (at least two) of the Ontario political parties. Which ones will we see implemented after the election?

Edeltraud Neal, PCWO President