

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc. NEWSLETTER



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ARPIL 2009

Empowering women to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and society
Honourary Patroness - Her Honour Ms Lenore Berscheid

President's Message—by Maxine Balbon

Dear Friends,

By the calendar it is spring, but as I gaze at the snow banks, and watch the sump pump set up in the basement, I think there were better times. PCWM is high and dry with plans for their 60th Anniversary year on the second floor of SMD. I want to wish all of you the best in these uncertain times. As I approach the end of my term as president, I must say that it has been an honour, a privilege, and a wonderful learning experience. I met and came to know many amazing women that have enriched my life and term in office. I most especially want to thank Mary Scott, past president, for her wisdom and willingness in guiding me through these past 2 years. To the Board of PCWM and the members, I want to say thank for your support and kind words.

The general meeting in January featured a presentation by Joan Butcher on "Basic Skills for Living". It is free printable web-based resources for teaching literacy and life skills to teens and adults – a community based project of the Manitoba Association of Home Economists Winnipeg branch. It was a most informative evening on a very current and timely project.

In February three letters were written. A letter written by Carolyn Garlich on behalf of the Joint CWW and PCWM Resolutions Committee went to Mr. Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation, thanking

the government for their initiative in the reduction of plastic bags going to the landfill, and requesting our participation in the public consultations in conjunction with the industry's business plan. The request was later granted by Mr. Struthers.

A letter written by Elizabeth Fleming was sent to the minister responsible for Manitoba Lotteries Corporation requesting that an independent working group be established to examine the social and economic costs of gambling given the economic climate, it is time that a clear warning be posted on gambling products, and that a moratorium on marketing gambling would be socially responsible.

A letter written by Mary Scott to Premier Gary Doer, requesting expansion of services to support those suffering disordered eating, eating disorders, and binge eating disorders. PCWM recommends a coordinated community approach to treatment, prevention, education and awareness. Further, in the rural areas a similar home program to that currently used in Alberta should be considered.

The Round Table was held on Friday, February 20th at Wolseley Family Place. It was a successful event with 17 federate members presenting their issues. Thanks go to the coordination work of Barb Kendel, the emcee Madeline Boscoe of the Women's Health Clinic, the Wolseley Family Centre for the use of their facility, the Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba for their contribution to the lunch, and Mary Scott's note taking.

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**Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba &
Micah House
Mental Health DVD Project**

An Overview
By Bev Goodwin

The mental health DVD project has been a long time in the making. As a group, we began our work of research in 1997 after the suicide of my daughter, Carolyn. The group formed became known as Concerned Citizens on Mental Health. At that time we gathered primarily professional women 1) to identify the issues and concerns and 2) develop a strategy to address some of the concerns.

Our focus has remained the same: family involvement (or lack thereof) in the care of a loved one who has a mental illness. (See attachment: vision statement and summary.)

We realized very early on that stigma and lack of public education about mental illness are serious issues and while attempting to influence change from within the system, recognized that was not forthcoming because there wasn't the community pressure for change. Hence, we became involved with the Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba because many of our members were (ageing) and we needed to have an organization to carry on our work into the future. Under the umbrella of the PCWM we wrote and presented publicly "The Way We See It: A Discussion Paper from the Perspective of the Family on Mental Health in Manitoba". (See web site: Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba Discussion Paper.)

The Paper promoted a lot of discussion however, we believed there needed to be a continued thrust to get the community at large 'breaking the silence' by giving voice to their stories – thus the DVD Project was created.

Over these years (12) the committee member composition has evolved and through Carol Hiscock, Executive Director at the time of CMHA (Manitoba) and also the incredible support from Sr. Johanna Jonker, Micah House Catholic Centre for Social Justice, Archdiocese of Winnipeg, we have broadened our base of support.

We are now finalizing pre-interviews of folk willing to share their stories and experiences as family mem-

bers who feel excluded from the process of supporting a family member with diagnosis of mental illness. The taping of the DVD will begin at the end of February. We are planning a public launch Wednesday, May 6th, 2009 to coincide with Mental Health Week. The venue will be St. Mary's Academy.

The DVD/Guidebook will be shared with organizations and members of the public as a 'tool' to encourage group discussion about family members experience and their stories. It is our hope that through a very public educational process persons will find 'voice' which will ultimately contribute towards a more balanced understanding of mental illness/mental health.

This project has been described as a microcosm of what the Mental Health Commission of Canada has undertaken through the leadership of Michael Kirby. (See web: Mental Health Commission of Canada.)

Lesley Hughes, previously a commentator with the CBC and presently a freelance writer/commentator will be producer and commentator for this project.

While the project has survived because of everyone's generosity of volunteership, we did have to acquire some funding for production which came from The Winnipeg Foundation and the Assiniboine Credit Union. We are continuing to seek funding for the launch and remain optimistic about a positive outcome.

Note: The Launch is May 6th, 7:00, St. Mary's Academy - see details on page 6

**Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba/
Micah House
DVD Project**

Vision Statement

To break the silence surrounding mental illness and the related issues that negatively impact families by encouraging public dialogue and education, and fostering awareness of the need to promote a therapeutic process involving families.

Message from the Editor

By Mary Scott

Lots of information in this newsletter! The Theme for this edition is **Mental Health**—many thanks to Bev Goodwin for the articles she has sent, and all the work she has done to bring this issue forward for Provincial Council, and the community. It is not an easy issue to talk about when it touches many of us in personal ways, but we must work at removing the stigma, and looking to the future with hope. All are welcome to the launch of the DVD on May 6th, 7:00, St. Mary's Academy.

Note the Annual Meeting is May 7th, with dinner and a meeting at Masonic Temple, at 5:30. You can reserve by phone or e-mail. **PLEASE NOTE: Annual Reports** are due April 30th—please send to pcwm@mts.net

And do note the 60th Anniversary coming up June 11th at Government House. It will be an opportunity to listen to stories from the past, and hear about the challenges of the future.

This is my last newsletter—I hope—thank you everyone for your suggestions and submissions. You are a hardworking group of individuals and federates!



Madeline Boscoe, facilitator at the PCWM Round Table, February 20th. Thanks to Madeline, Wolseley Family Place, and the Women's Enterprise Centre for their support!

It is time to renew your membership for PCWM. As a reminder, our year runs from April 1 - March 31. Please fill in the form included in this newsletter and return to Barb Kendel, Membership Chair, along with your cheque and completed form.

This is our way to keep updated with you as an Individual or Federate Organization. Thank you to those who have already renewed for 2009/10.

Three significant reports that will have an impact on the future of health care and mental health care in Canada have been advanced during the past nine years.

1. The Mental Health Commission of Canada, Chaired by Michael Kirby. The most recent report: *Toward Recovery and Well-Being*, Draft Discussion Paper, 2009.

The Commission is presently working on four key initiatives:

- a) A Mental Health Strategy,
 - b) An anti-stigma campaign,
 - c) Homelessness research demonstration projects, and
 - d) A knowledge exchange centre.
2. In 2006 the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, Chaired by Senator Michael Kirby, released its final report of its three year study of mental health, mental illness and addictions in Canada, *"Our of the Shadows at Last: Transforming Mental Health, Mental Illness and Addiction Services in Canada."*
 3. In 2002 the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada, Chaired by the former Premier of Saskatchewan, Roy Romanow, released two reports on the nation's health care system: a) *Shape the Future of Health Care*, and b) *Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada*. NB: Very little attention was given to the needed reform of the Mental Health System in Canada.

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**DVD on Mental Health
Project Summary**

To develop a DVD and guide to be used by Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Micah House and Federate Organizations and their members, and members of the community at large.

To make presentations to encourage family members and other natural supports to break the silence and become involved in the support and advocacy for patients receiving care within the mental health care system.

The DVD project will help to address issues such as stigma, education through sharing of experiences with other members of the community and help to identify issues which will promote positive change within the community and government.

If you agree with any/all of the following please go to the Mental Health Commission of Canada website and make your contribution to the development of a mental health strategy for Canadians known: www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/strategy

LIST OF GOALS

Goal 1

The hope of recovery is available to all

Recovery is understood as a journey of healing that builds on individual, family, social and cultural strengths, and enables people living with mental health problems and illnesses to lead meaningful lives in the community, despite any limitations imposed by their condition. Family caregivers, service providers, peers and others are partners in this journey of recovery.

Goal 2

Action is taken to promote mental health and well-being and to prevent mental health problems and illnesses.

Factors that strengthen wellness and the ability to face life's challenges – such as a balance of body, mind and spirit, resilience, nurturing families and vibrant communities – are promoted. Factors that increase risk of mental health problems and illness – such as bullying at school or stressful work environments – are reduced. Joint action is also taken to address the many social

and economic factors that influence mental health and well-being, such as housing, income, education and employment.

Goal 3

The mental health system is culturally-safe, and responds to the diverse needs of Canadians.

In a transformed mental health system, programs, services and supports are culturally-safe, and respond to the diverse needs of Canadians, including those arising from migration, ethno-racial background, age, language, gender, sexual orientation, or geographic location.

Goal 4

The importance of families in promoting recovery and well being is recognized and their needs are supported.

The unique role of family relationships in promoting recovery and well-being is recognized and supported through education and programs such as parenting support, peer support and respite care. With the consent of adults living with mental health problems and illnesses, and in their role as parents of dependent children and youth, family members are partners in the recovery process and are integrated into decision-making. Family caregivers are also supported to meet their needs that arise from their role as caregivers.

Goal 5

People of all ages have equitable access to a system of appropriate and effective programs, services and supports that is seamlessly integrated around their needs.

People of all ages have access to effective programs, services and supports in their community, or as close as possible to where they live. The system is centred on meeting people's needs, and seamlessly integrated across the public, private and voluntary sectors and across the lifespan. In addition, the special needs of Canadians living in northern, remote and rural areas are addressed.

Goal 6

Actions are based on appropriate evidence, outcomes are measured and research is advanced.

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Mental health policies, programs, services and supports are informed by appropriate evidence that is based on diverse sources of knowledge. They are evaluated on the basis of their contribution to improving the mental health of all Canadians and the health and social outcomes of people living with mental health problems and illnesses and their families. The support provided for mental health and mental illness research is in keeping with the economic and social burden of mental health problems and illnesses on society, and the translation of this research into practice is accelerated.

Goal 7

Discrimination against people living with mental health problems and illnesses is eliminated, and stigma is not tolerated.

People living with mental health problems and illnesses and their families are fully included in community life. They are accorded the same respect, consideration, rights and entitlements as people dealing with physical illnesses and as all Canadians, and mental health service providers are similarly respected. Mental health programs and policies are funded and supported at a level that is based on the economic and social burden of mental health problems and illnesses and is consistent with the funding provided to the rest of the health and human services sectors.

Goal 8

A broadly-based social movement keeps mental health issues out of the shadows – forever.

There is a sustained national effort to improve health and social outcomes for people living with mental health problems and illnesses, and to improve the mental health and well-being of all Canadians. A broad and dynamic social movement takes root that keeps mental health issues out of the shadows forever.

Taken from: Toward Recovery & Well-Being, a Framework for a Mental Health Strategy for Canada. Draft for Public Discussion, January 2009. Mental Health Commission of Canada.

Mary Scott and Muriel Smith attended the Commission on the Status of Women meetings at the United Nations in New York To see the report on these meetings, go to the NCWC web site, at www.ncwc.ca and check out "Whats New". While you're there, why not complete the survey on the Water/Energy Healthy Environment?

The consultation will close on April 19, 2009.

Canada is the only G8 country without a mental health strategy. The Mental Health Commission of Canada has been given the responsibility to work with Canadians to address this gap.

An important part of this process is for the Commission to hear from as many individual Canadians as possible that have been affected by or are interested in mental health issues. The Commission is also committed to engaging with organisations or groups who are active in the area of mental health, mental illness and addiction.

With this in mind, the Commission has launched an extensive online consultation process to allow you, or your group or organization, to learn about and provide input on this very important topic.

Make your contribution to the development of a mental health strategy for Canada by visiting: www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/strategy



Pat Elliott, Peggy Barker, and Leonore Saunders attending the February Round Table

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF MANITOBA and MICAH HOUSE

Invite you to attend

The Way We See It

A Local Documentary
Individuals and Families Living With Mental Illness

WHEN: Wednesday, May 6th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: St. Mary's Academy
550 Wellington Crescent
(Enter off Stafford)

Parking on site/located on bus route

No Charge

Vision Statement: To break the silence surrounding mental illness and the related issues that negatively impact families by encouraging public dialogue and education, and fostering awareness of the need to promote a therapeutic process involving families.

PLEASE BRING A FRIEND(S) AND CIRCULATE THIS INVITATION

We are grateful for the financial support from The Winnipeg Foundation and the Assiniboine Credit Union for this project



Women Working Together

**Come and Celebrate with Us!
1949-2009**

The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba is celebrating their 60th Anniversary this year.

As part of our celebrations, The Honourable John Harvard, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, and Her Honour Lenore Bersheid have invited us to a reception on June 11th, 2009, at 5:00 pm. at Government House.

The program will include stories of "women working together" from our past, and also we will hear from youth about what issues they are facing today.

Watch for more details about upcoming 60th Anniversary celebrations this Fall!

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Photos From The Round Table February 20th, 2009



COMING IN JULY!!

Mark your calendars for the Celebrating Women Gala—July 16, at the Khartum Shrine House. This is always a very special evening.

Note: Deadline for nominations of that special someone from your organization that gives exemplary service that should be recognized at the Gala is April 30th. E-mail your nomination and bio. to pcwm@mts.net



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From Our Federates and the Community

Women's Health Research Foundation Golf Tournament!

FORE WOMEN'S HEALTH is the first of future annual ladies' golf tournaments. This fun event is geared towards all levels of lady golfers with a focus on raising awareness about women's health issues. The tournament will be held on **Thursday, August 27, 2009 at Rossmere Golf and Country Club in Winnipeg**. The format will be a Texas scramble. In keeping with the theme of fun, contests will be creative such as longest-drive wearing oven mitts. Registration fees are \$175 per person for golf/cart/dinner. Each hole will feature a trivia question about a women's health issue. Answers to these questions will be addressed during the dinner. All proceeds go to the Women's Health Research Foundation of Canada.

The tournament's success is highly dependent upon the support of all members of the community. We look forward to seeing you on August 27, 2009! For more information about FORE WOMEN'S HEALTH Ladies Golf Tournament, please contact Donna Martin @ 771-2021.

Digital Marketing: The Changing World of Targeted Communication

May 12, 2009 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Delta Winnipeg, 350 St. Mary Avenue

Marketers are constantly challenged to stay ahead of the electronic curve. The Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba and the Canadian Marketing Association (CMA), Manitoba Chapter, are presenting a fast-paced, jam-packed day that will explore the latest digital trends.

Join entrepreneurs and marketing professionals who are looking for clear direction to effectively develop today's customer relationships using tomorrow's technology. Speakers include Rahaf Harfoush, who was part of the team that developed Barack Obama's social media election campaign, and Juliette Powell, media entrepreneur and author of "33 Million People in the Room: How to Create, Influence and Run a Successful Business with Social Networking." **Tickets on sale now** Registration form available at www.wecm.ca/events.htm or by phone: 988-1860 or 1-800-203-2343.

Let's Celebrate Equality Day!

Join the members and volunteers of L.E.A.F. Manitoba in recognizing the 24th anniversary of LEAF and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

- What's LEAF up to these days?
- The U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- The U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Thursday, April 16, 2009 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

The Blackstone Lounge, Taylor McCaffrey LLP
11th Floor, 400 St. Mary Avenue

\$20 Members \$25 Non-Members

(Proceeds to LEAF Manitoba)

For Tickets Please Contact:

LEAF Manitoba 453-1379 leafmb@mts.net

INSIGHT OUT Art Exhibit Shares Secret Postcards From The Community

From April 14th to April 18th secrets from the Winnipeg community will be on display. The secrets are expressed on postcard sized cards in a literal and visual way. They have been collected from ongoing workshops in our community. The Insight Out art exhibit is open to the public and on display at **ArtBeat Studio, 4-62 Albert Street.**

By giving people a voice Wolseley Family Place hopes to reduce isolation. The Insight Out exhibit is an extension of this goal. Wolseley Family Place hopes that people who visit the show will also benefit.

Facilitator and social work student Laurie McLean hosted workshops in the community to foster equal participation in this event. Some of the agencies who made this possible were Nine Circles and Taking Charge. Participants from the community were encouraged to share a secret desire, shame, regret, fear, or dream. They were asked to be creative, honest and to remain anonymous. The result is a collection of secrets which are heartbreaking, humorous, and insightful. The gala opening of INSIGHT OUT will be held April 15th at 6:00 p.m. at ArtBeat Studio. There will be entertainment and refreshments, and an opportunity to view the exhibit. Donations for Harvest Food Bank are welcome! For more information call: 788-8257 or e-mail malmclean@shaw.ca

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A Place to Call Home Long-Term Care in Canada

edited by Pat Armstrong, Madeline Boscoe, Barbara Clow, Karen Grant, Margaret Haworth-Brockman, Beth Jackson, Ann Pederson, Morgan Seeley and Jane Springer

Long-term residential care operates in the shadows — too often viewed as a necessary evil and best left invisible. This book takes a different approach. It dares readers to dream about developing alternative forms of long-term, residential care based on an understanding of what exists today and what is possible in the future. Given the fact that the overwhelming majority of residents and providers are women, the book makes gender a central concern in planning for care that treats both workers and residents with dignity and respect. This pioneering book jump starts the design of long-term care that would make us all feel at home.

(Just released—available at McNally Robinson Book Sellers)

Call for Applications for the Dr. Edith Rowles Simpson Family Finance Award

Individual Home Economists and/or Home Economics Associations are encouraged to apply for this award which supports professional updating in the family finance area. The Dr. Edith Rowles Simpson Family Finance Award is an annual award designed for potential leaders in the field who will invest their knowledge and expertise in improving the quality of life for families. This annual award is available to support updating for **individuals** or for **groups** through support of a seminar, conference or workshop that provides updating for a group. **Graduate students** are eligible to apply for support to attend specific up-dating events.

Level of the award: For individuals, the amount of the award is up to \$1000. For groups, the committee may award more than \$1000, depending on the nature of the project. More than one award may be made as funds permit. Those applications unable to be funded by this award in the current year may be referred to the CHE Foundation General Fund. used in teaching family finance.

· **Deadline for applications is June 30.**

For more information on how to apply go to www.homefamily.net and click on 'awards' or e-mail gross@mts.net

Women Business Owner's Association

The Business Owners of Manitoba Winnipeg Chapter present their annual Tulips And Tea Luncheon Charity Fashion Show on April 19/09 from 1:00pm-4:30pm at the Fort Garry Hotel in the Provencher Ballroom.

Tickets are \$60.00 each and net proceeds from the show will be donated to Osborne House a Safe Place for Women and Children. For tickets please call 942-7373 ext 240 and ask for Anrea.

Entitlements and Health Services for First Nations and Métis Women in Manitoba and Saskatchewan

Across the Road: Understanding The Differences In Health Services Available to First Nations and Métis Women.

Report Brief (pdf - 213 KB)

K. Bent

J. Havelock

M. Haworth-Brockman

Introduction

"It almost seems like the general population doesn't understand that there's specific benefits for each of us and if you are First Nations you can access as long as you have that 10 digit number but First Nation women without Treaty Status, Métis women, and other women are distinctly different and if they do not have that 10 digit number they do not have access to the same kinds of services and programs."

<http://www.pwhce.ca/entitlementsHealthServices.htm>

Registration Information on the 116th Annual Meeting of NCWC
Available at the NCWC web site!

Check out the NCWC web site for all the information about the upcoming AGM in Prince Albert, June 5 to 7. Special speaker on the Alberta Tar Sands.

http://www.ncwc.ca/whatsNew_agm.html

From Our Youth

Submitted by Tanya Tran, PCWM Youth Board Member

Dear Community Member,

I am writing on behalf of the "Save the Children" student group of Garden City Collegiate Institute. We are a group of globally concerned high school students who have been raising funds and awareness to help children in developing countries. At present, we are organizing a "Wake-a-thon" – an activity open to all students – where we will stay awake for 24 hours at the school. This event will take place on April 9th and 10th. We are planning many awareness-raising activities during the event.

We are asking for your help in this endeavor. We have decided to specifically support a HIV/ AIDS relief project in Bolivia through the Save the Children charity. The Canadian government has pledged to support this project by **matching all donations by three times the amount donated**. That means that a \$100 gift translates to \$400 that goes directly to this important project. Most of our donations will come through pledges the students bring in through family and friends. We are hoping, however, to raise more money by asking for community support as well.

You will be issued a tax receipt based on your donation and we will be sure to publicize any of our supports through the school and community.

If you would like to support this initiative or have any questions/ concerns, please feel free to contact the Corporate Fundraising Committee's teacher liaison, Ms. Wicklund at 339-2058, ext. 3009. **We are accepting donations until April 10, 2009.**

Sincerely,

The Garden City - Save the Children Branch

Lisa Wicklund
Garden City Collegiate Corporate Fundraising Committee

Why is there a need of HIV/AIDS prevention in Bolivia?

In Bolivia, 200 children 14 years old and under are currently living with HIV/AIDS. Despite the fact that HIV/AIDS infection rates in Bolivia are comparatively low, the threat is ever present, due to increasing rates of infection in neighboring countries and population movement between countries. In addition, although 66% of Bolivia's population is indigenous, at present there is very little information about the spread of HIV/AIDS among the indigenous population living in rural areas or frontier towns. Save the Children Canada is currently implementing a 5-year (2006-2011) HIV/AIDS prevention and protection program in partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). During the 2007-08 fiscal year, Save the Children's HIV/AIDS prevention and protection program has hosted 20,000 participants at a 7 day AIDS EXPO where there were 17 artistic activities (puppets, games, drama) on HIV for 36 affected children in Cochabamba. The program provided medical care, psychological analysis and motor skill evaluation to children affected by HIV. Your support in this program would enhance the capacity of community based organizations and partners to provide quality counseling, care and support services for 50,000 children affected by HIV/AIDS.

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From Our Youth—cont'd

Teen girls weigh in on rights of women

Rideau Hall forum hears fresh ideas from young voices

Katie Labelle didn't know the province of Quebec didn't grant women the right to vote until 1940. Nor did she know about, as she called them, the "fabulous five" and their fight to have women considered "persons" under the Constitution. So, the 17-year-old from Gatineau suggested a course in women's rights be added to high school curricula.

Her suggestion, made at a forum for young people at Rideau Hall on Tuesday, reached some pretty powerful ears. Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean was taking notes as Katie spoke.

There were plenty more suggestions from the 100 teenagers from across the country who gathered for this "youth dialogue" hosted by Jean, who has a special interest in young people. These conversations are a regular feature at Rideau Hall and Equal Voice, a non-partisan group that advocates for the rights of Canadian women, had asked her to consider the topic of women's participation in the political arena as part of its International Women's Day events.

Panellist Niki Ashton, a 26-year-old MP from Churchill, Manitoba, said confidence is a real issue and added that studies have shown that girls who seem to have plenty of it lose it at 13.

The Governor General, in her closing statement, brought that up. Jean said her daughter is now nine and has the confidence to express her opinions and to respectfully disagree with others.

"Will she lose that?" Jean asked. "I don't want this to happen." In closing, she told the group she felt that by listening to them, she'd gained "greater knowledge" and promised to take their ideas when she travels to an international conference on women's issues in Liberia. She was invited by Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first woman in Africa to be elected head of state.

Jennifer Campbell, The Ottawa Citizen

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

I was pleased to be asked by Val Noseworthy to pour tea at the Annual Spring Tea at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Mary The Protectress Auditorium on Sunday March 1.

It was my pleasure to bring greetings from PCWM at the gathering on the occasion of the 115th Birthday Celebration of the Council of Women of Winnipeg, on March 9th in the Annie Bond Room of the Health Sciences Center. It was an honour to represent PCWM as a guest at the 60th Anniversary of the Consumers Association of Canada – Manitoba Branch at Government House, hosted by His Honour John Harvard, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba.

On March 9th on behalf of PCWM I attended the International Women's Day Celebration at the Legislative Buildings. The theme was "Together We're Better: The Contribution of Immigrant Women." At our display table many people took the opportunity to pick up our brochures, and I was able to speak to those who expressed an interest in our organization.

The following resolutions were passed on Thursday, March 19, 2009 at the joint CWW and PCWM General Meeting:

1. Resolution on Endocrine Disrupting chemicals
2. Ensuring Police Accountability Through Effective Civilian Oversight
3. Ensuring Police Accountability in Cases of National Security Complaints
4. National Mental Health Strategy.

The resolution on Opposition to Income Splitting as Means to Achieve Women's Equality was neither defeated nor passed, but there was a general consensus that it needed further study, with an eye kept to Government activity on this issue.

I invite all of you to join us at the PCWM Annual General Meeting on May 7, 2009 at the Masonic Temple. Please plan to attend and I will look forward to seeing you there.
Maxine Balbon, President

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Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba

Annual General Meeting & Dinner

Thursday, May 7th, 2009

Time: 5:30 PM

Cost: \$25.00

Masonic Temple
(420 Corydon Ave. —at Confusion Corner)



Theme: “Fashion and Women at Work”

All are welcome to join us at this our 60th AGM!

*For reservations, please call 992 2751, or e-mail
pcwm@mts.net*