

# NDCW

## NIAGARA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Established 1918

*"Working for the benefit of women, families, individuals & community since 1918"*

### January 10 @ 8 pm

Topic: Homelessness in Niagara. Speaker Panel: Bethlehem Place - Rob Cammaert; YWCA - Elisabeth Zimmermann; Niagara Falls Community Health Centre - A.J. Heafey; Community Care RentSmart - Bob Barkman.

### February 14 @ 8 pm

Topic: Care of Vulnerable Adults. Speakers: Cindy Forster MPP and Neal Schoen, Justice Niagara.

### March 14 @ 7:15 pm

Resolutions Debate: NCWC and PCWO policy voting.

### April 11 @ 6 pm

100th Anniversary Annual Dinner Meeting at Antipastos Di Roma, 87 Hannover Drive St. Catharines. Topic: Women in Leadership; Speaker: Maryanne Edwards

New Year's 2018 Greetings NDCW Members!

In this, our 100th year of community service, we have begun celebrating this historical occasion with special projects and events, including a new brochure and banner, and our first web site; a membership outreach letter to like-minded groups and individuals across Niagara; a Spring planting of a commemorative tree in Malcolmson Eco Park to honour our founding president Mary Malcolmson (who also started the first Girl Guide troupe in Canada in St. Catharines); our recent nomination for the June Callwood Outstanding Volunteer Group Award; our 100th AGM Dinner Meeting in April featuring Maryanne Edwards who will speak on 'Women in Leadership'; the organization of the June 7th to 10th National Council of Women of Canada's 125th AGM here at Niagara College; and a visual display of our history at the St. Catharines Centennial Library in June.

This past year we have carried on our important tradition of engaging the public in local, provincial and national issues with monthly speakers such as November's joint positive Living-NDCW program on decriminalizing people living with HIV, where Cecile Kazatchine (Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network) presented the first screening of "Positive Women: Exposing Injustice". At our December Members' Luncheon, speakers Rev. Javier Arias of St. Alban's Anglican Church Beamsville and Jackie Barrett-Greene of the Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group, brought into clear view the challenges and support services for the hard working, rarely-thanked "Invisible" migrant farm workers, who grow the food that nourishes us.

In the next few months, we are excited to continue to offer similarly excellent social justice programs, starting with the January 10th panel on Homelessness and the February 14th meeting on the Care of Vulnerable Adults, with speakers Cindy Forster, MPP and Neal Schoen of Justice Niagara.

We look forward to seeing you at our regular programs and the 100th Anniversary events in the coming months!

Gracia Janes  
President



WHAT'S NEW?

**New Meeting Times!**

Our Business Meetings start at 7:15 pm and the Public Speaker Forum at 8 pm.

**Where?**

Meetings are held in the Mills Room at the St. Catharines Centennial Library, 54 Church Street, St. Catharines.

**Women in Politics**

The Niagara Regional Labour Council is hosting a workshop on Saturday Feb 3 at 9:00 am at the St. Catharines Public Library. The focus is to encourage women to participate in politics. Please promote this event with those who you think are considering running or who may need a little nudge to get them going in that direction. For more information, contact Sue Hotte at 905-932-1646 / suehotte@yahoo.ca

**NDCW Luncheon**

Our Membership Luncheon was enjoyed by individual and federated members. Raffle winners were: Elaine Passfield, Jean Bradley, Clarice West-Hobbs, W. Stoddart, Ann Dunbar, Joy Stark, John Pruyn, Sheila Massey, Kelly Nicholson, Lana House, Santa Cyopik, Val Stepanchuk, Merle Richards, Christina Granton, Irene Newton.



**Our Voice is Heard!**



As you already may know, thanks to the excellent work of our Environment Convenor Ann Porter Bonilla and our Past-President Susan Pruyn, the extreme dangers of the planned transport of very dangerous high-level liquid nuclear waste through Niagara are part of the public record and dialogue and most recently through the promise of the Parliamentary e-petition staff that the e-petition against this nuclear waste transport, initiated by Durham Nuclear Awareness member Janet McNeill, will be read in Parliament just before or after Christmas. Susan worked diligently to bring Regional Council on-board in opposition (by unanimous resolution of Regional Council) and Ann and Susan spearheaded a letter-writing campaign. Susan also elicited considerable support for the e-petition and against the transport from the University Women St. Catharines, the Niagara Labour movement and NDP MPP Cindy Forster.

In Susan's November Report to the NDCW General Meeting, she wrote, "On October 10th, 2017, I presented an update on this (nuclear) issue with a link to the e-petition at the general meeting of the CFUW St. Catharines. They will put the link in the newsletter that is sent to our 200 members." "October 11th, 2017, I presented at a general meeting of the Niagara Regional Labour Council... the support was great. In the question period that followed I was informed that the president and the treasurer, Sue Hotte attended a nuclear meeting in Darlington with concern expressed from the Labour Council on this transfer through the Niagara Region. Their information obtained was that the local police were not informed on this transport and were very upset.... I visited the office of Cindy Forster with my copy of my reply from the Minister of Natural Resources. I also gave them a link to the Buffalo news article that said that the transport had been stopped for safety issues and then resumed... I asked whether this could be raised on the floor of the Legislature... Please keep the letters going to the PM."

**We are very pleased to announce that our new website is now officially launched.**

[www.ndcw.ca](http://www.ndcw.ca)

For more information contact Gracia Janes at [gracia.janes@bellnet.ca](mailto:gracia.janes@bellnet.ca)

<https://www.facebook.com/Niagara-District-Council-of-Women>

