

NDCW

NIAGARA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Established 1918

February 13

@ 7 pm

The Opioid Crisis in Niagara: What is Being Done? Guest Speaker Talia Storm, Manager of Street Works Services at Positive Living Niagara

March 13

@ 7 pm

NDCW Resolutions Debate: NCWC and PCWO policy voting.

April 10

NDCW AGM Dinner
Location: Antipastos
Guest Speakers:
Jennifer Dockstader,
ED Fort Erie
Friendship Centre &
Wendy Sturgeon,
ED Niagara Chapter
Native Women Inc.

May 8

NDCW Spring
Auction & Dessert
Party. Location TBA.

Dear Members,

What an exciting Fall and Winter this has been as we connected with our growing Federated and Individual membership and the broader public through a variety of stimulating, educational and action-oriented programs that were well covered by the press and on our web site at www.ndcw.ca

In September our first-ever “*Women in Niagara Politics*” forum, with an over-flow crowd of more than 150 enthusiastic attendees, heard the views and promises for change of 24 candidates for Regional Niagara Council. In October, well known waste management expert John Jackson urged us to protect the Great Lakes, particularly from the scourge of “plastics”. In November, Niagara College professors Patrick Robson and Bill MacDonald, Regional Niagara Health Department’s Diana Teng and Pelham Planning Director Barb Wiens, gave us a broad and clear view of the huge changes legalized cannabis will bring. Our December Luncheon was enjoyed by over 45 Members and friends. Executive Director France Vallaincourt and Erin Berumdzija described the services provided to over 350 people in Niagara by Community Living Grimsby, West Lincoln and we were moved by the inspirational life stories of Community Living Advocacy Team members, Roberta Fitzpatrick and Jodie Bezemer.

In January, Brock Professor Jeff Boggs, Lori Kleinsmith of Bridges Community Health Centre and St. Catharines Councillor Kerry Porter gave us a detailed and precautionary glimpse of the growing number of residents without secure employment income and living in or on the edge of poverty. They left us with the message that our support for a basic income guarantee is needed and employers who provide a “Living Wage” here in Niagara are at the forefront of a better work world. Our February 13th forum addresses the growing opioid crisis facing our community, presented by Federated Member Positive Living’s Talia Storm and March 13th is our Resolutions Debate.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our 101st AGM Dinner meeting on April 10th – our guest speakers will be Jennifer Dockstader, Executive Director of the Fort Erie Friendship Centre and Wendy Sturgeon, Executive Director of the Niagara Chapter of Native Women Inc.!

Gracia Janes, NDCW President

gracia.janes@bellnet.ca

WHAT'S NEW?

Meeting Times!

Our Business Meetings start at 7:15 pm and the Public Speakers Forums begin at 8 pm.

Where?

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

March Resolutions!

It's Resolution Time and our voices need to be heard. The resolutions we discuss and vote on at our March Resolutions Debate and are passed at the National Council of Women of Canada and the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario Annual General Meetings, become policies. These are then used to write letters and briefs and sign on to petitions and letters initiated by like-minded groups.

Provincial Council of Women of Ontario AGM April 26-28

Location: Oakville



In November, Regional Niagara Health Department's Diana Teng, Niagara College Professor Bill MacDonald, Pelham Planning Director Barb Wiens and Professor Patrick Robson gave us a broad and clear view of the huge changes legalized cannabis will bring.

Our Voice is Heard Through Resolutions, Policy, Actions!

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA

- Letter to the Prime Minister asking the federal government to take on the Basic Income Guarantee Pilot program that was cancelled by the Government of Ontario
- Two letters to the Minister of Public Safety, Ralph Goodale re Bill C-83 a with request to "end without delay, solitary confinement"
- Two letters to the Minister of Border Security & Organized Crime Reduction Bill Blair, regarding guns and gang violence and need for community programs and gun control
- Sign-on to Campaign 2000 asking the Federal government to strengthen Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF ONTARIO

- Participation in e-consultation on Ontario Government's *Alcohol Choice and Convenience*
- Comments to Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, agreeing with the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County, Greenpeace and other groups and individuals that CNSC should not be promoting small nuclear reactors and that the licensing of these reactors should be subject to the Environmental Impact Act assessment
- Sign-on to CELA letter against the provincial government's cancellation of the position of Environmental Commissioner and transfer of this role to the provincial Ombudsman
- Sign-on to Citizens of Renfrew County petition against Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL- a consortium of large private companies such as SNC Lavalin) plans to store nuclear waste in a 17 storey high mound, as well as bury old reactors, on the shores of the Ottawa River