



# 64TH ANNUAL MEETING FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA ANNUAL REPORT 2025 “Together We Rise”





## **FWIC VISION STATEMENT**

Fostering a future where every woman thrives and makes a meaningful impact

## **FWIC PURPOSE STATEMENT**

A national united voice of women promoting family, community, and personal development through learning and friendship. organization for personal development, the family and community action.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- To provide a united national voice for all Women's Institutes of Canada
- To initiate national programs and provide resource material
- To provide a medium of inter-communication among the units of FWIC

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 2025**

President Lynn MacLean

President Elect Angela Scott

Elizabeth Moss, NF

Miriam Lank, PE

Jacqueline Melvin, NS

Linda Janes, QC

Linda Zelem ON

Debra Barrett, MB

Donna Henderson, AB

Brenda Devauld, BC

Linda Mason, Treasurer

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## AGM AGENDA



- Welcome: President Lynn MacLean
- Native Land Acknowledgement- Donna Henderson
- O Canada - video
- Recognition of Past Presidents in attendance - Lynn
- Chair: Lynn MacLean
- Mary Stewart Collect: Jacqueline Melvin
- Introduction of Parliamentarian: Gayle Grills
- Rules of Order/explanation/Quorum: Lynn MacLean & Christine MacKenzie
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of Minutes 2024 AGM
- Business Arising from Minutes
- Financial Report April 1, 2024- March 31st, 2025
- Acceptance of Budget 2025-2026
- Appointment of Auditor
- President's Report: Lynn MacLean
- Keynote Speaker: Wen Shen
- FWIC Committee Reports:
  - Communications and Outreach – Angela Scott
  - Homestead – Lynn MacLean
  - Project – Angela Scott
  - Resolutions – Linda Janes
  - ACWW Coordinator – Miriam Lank
- Provincial Presidents' Reports
  - Newfoundland and Labrador – Elizabeth Moss
  - Prince Edward Island – Carolyn MacFayden
  - Nova Scotia – Margie Taylor
  - New Brunswick – Madine Keenan
  - Quebec – Linda Janes
  - Ontario – Cheryl Sullivan
  - Manitoba – Debra Barrett
  - Alberta - Linda Toews
  - British Columbia – Shelly Simrose
- Announcement of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Women of the Year for 2025
- Installation of Director
- God Save the King
- Courtesies/closing

FWIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19, 2025,  
TRURO, NS, ABBREVIATED

PREPARED BY ROSE D'AMOUR

**(Full version will be presented at the National Convention in 2027)**

**PLENARY SESSION ONE – September 18, 2024**

9:15 a.m. President Margaret Byl presiding.

9:20 a.m. Native Land Acknowledgement presented by Lynn MacLean.

9:22 a.m. Debra Barrett recited the Mary Stewart Collect.

9:25 a.m. Introduction of the Parliamentarian, Gayle Grills

9:27 a.m. The Scrutineers provided the numbers for voting.

9:30 a.m. The voting rules, including how the online votes will be tabulated, were presented.

9:35 a.m. The quorum was determined – 97 in person and online. A quorum would be 50% plus 1 = 49. The quorum for the By-laws would be 2/3 of the voters = 65 people.

9:36 a.m. Angela Scott moved that Rose D'Amour be accepted to act as secretary for the meeting. Eleanor Lilley seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

9:37 a.m. Judy Page Jones moved that the agenda be approved with any changes as required, seconded by Doreen Wall. **Motion carried**

9:39 a.m. Linda Zelem moved to approve the minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Convention as printed; Linda Hoy seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

9:42 a.m. Marion Lank moved to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting as printed. Lynn MacLean seconded the motion. Linda Zelem requested the following changes to the minutes: that the last names of attendees be included in the minutes and that the location of the meeting be included. **Motion carried.**

10:10 a.m. Linda Mason, Treasurer, presented the Financial Reports found on pages 32 and 33 of the Triennial Report. Linda Mason moved the acceptance of the Financial Reports for 2023-2024. Elizabeth Moss seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Eleanor Lilley moved the acceptance and approval of the Financial Statements for 2023-24 as prepared by Millard's Professional Chartered Accountants as printed on pages 34-50 in the Triennial Report. Hania White seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

10:20 a.m. Marian Austin moved the appointment of Millard's Chartered Professional Accountants for 2024-2025. Elizabeth Moss seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

11:00 a.m. **RESOLUTIONS**

**Special Resolution 2024** President Margaret Byl read the resolution:  
**THEREFORE:**

*"BE IT RESOLVED that the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada increase the fees on per capita basis from the Provincial and Territorial Units to \$4.75 for FWIC and \$1.50 for the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025."*  
Submitted by the Board of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada.

Angela Scott moved to approve the Resolution; Linda Janes seconded the motion.  
**Resolution sustained.**

11:15 a.m. **Resolution 2024-01 Licensing of Doctors Canada-Wide** President Margaret Byl read the resolution

**THEREFORE:**

*"BE IT RESOLVED that the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada request that the Government of Canada establish a federal accreditation program which will certify and make Canadian-trained Family Doctors eligible to work in any province across Canada to practice medicine under one national license to practice."*

**Resolution sustained.**

1:30 p.m.

## **SECOND PLENARY SESSION**

1:40 p.m. **Resolution 2024-02** President Margaret Byl read the resolution, which was amended  
**THEREFORE:**

*"Be it resolved the Federated Women's Institute of Canada request that the Government of Canada establish a streamlined and time-efficient federal accreditation program that will allow for immigrating Family Doctors trained in other countries where their medical standards are equal to Canada's to be eligible to work in any province across Canada to practice medicine under one national license".*

Submitted by: Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

Linda Zelem moved the approval of amended resolution 2024-02, and Michelle Phillippe seconded the motion. **Amended Motion sustained – 1 abstention.**

2:00 p.m. **Resolution 2024-03** President Margaret Byl read the resolution, which was amended

**THEREFORE:**

*"Be it resolved the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada request that Canadian students studying abroad be granted greater access to residency training programs in Canada to encourage them to return to Canada to practice medicine."*

Submitted by Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. Judy McLeod moved for the approval of the amended resolution. Vicki Hess seconded the motion. Margie Taylor moved that "*WI Canada puts an 's' on all (Federated Women's) Institute of Canada to make Resolutions uniform.*" Carolyn MacFadyen seconded the motion. **Resolution sustained.**

2:15 p.m. **Resolution 2024-04** President Margaret Byl read the resolution, which was amended to read

**THEREFORE:**

*"Be it resolved that Federated Women's Institutes of Canada initiate a Victim's Advocacy & Awareness Campaign to increase the knowledge of this Public Health Crisis across Canada and foster the development of a National Forensic Nursing Bursary."*

Submitted by: British Columbia Women's Institutes  
Kim Coy moved to approve Resolution 2024-04.

Hania White seconded the motion. Michelle Phillipi moved to replace "Women's" with "Victim's" Advocacy. Sharron Adams seconded the motion. **Resolution sustained.**

**PLENARY SESSION THREE – September 19, 2024**  
**Abbreviated**

9:10 a.m. President Margaret Byl presiding.

9:20 a.m. **Resolution 2024-05:** President Margaret read the resolution, which was amended

**THEREFORE:**

*"Be it resolved that Federated Women's Institutes of Canada call on the Provincial Governments to standardize the Forensic Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Forensic Nurse Examiner training across Canada and call on the Federal Government to provide a funding mechanism to support forensic nurses throughout Canada for the safety of all victims of sexual violence."*

Submitted by British Columbia Women's Institutes.

Kim Coy moved to approve Resolution 2024-05, and Vicki Hess seconded the motion.

Judy McLeod moved an amendment. Jill Copes seconded the amendment.  
**Resolution sustained.**

9:35 a.m. **Emergency Resolution 2024-06: President Margaret Byl read the resolution.**

**THEREFORE:**

*"Be it resolved that Federated Women's Institutes of Canada request the Federal Government to initiate beneficial programs in all federal correctional facilities for substance abuse in place of the needle exchange program to eliminate the putting in harm's way the inmates, correctional staff, their families and all communities where affected inmates are released".*

Moved by Marilyn Wattenbarger and seconded by Linda Toews. **Resolution sustained.**

1:45 p.m. **Committee Reports**

Committee Reports were presented and discussed. Donna Henderson moved to accept the Committee Reports, and Linda Hoy seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

3:00 p.m. **Installation of Board/Presentation of Pins – Joan Holthe.**

Joan Holthe performed the installation ceremony of the FWIC Board for 2024-2027:

President Lynn MacLean,  
President Elect Angela Scott, NB  
Brenda Devauld, BC  
Donna Henderson, AB  
Debra Barrett, Man.  
Linda Zelem, ON  
Linda Janes, Quebec  
Miriam Lank, PEI  
Jacqueline Melvin, NS  
Elizabeth Moss, NL

Joan Holthe congratulated everyone on their new positions.  
Singing of God Save the King.

**Motion to adjourn.** Angela Scott moved to adjourn the meeting. Susan Cushing seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

## FWIC PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT

### LYNN MACLEAN, FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to bring you an update on the work of the FWIC Board since Sept 2024.

After a successful convention held in Nova Scotia, thank you again to the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia for all their work in making it a great convention. We said thank you and goodbye to directors Judy Page Jones, Eleanor Lilley, and Doreen Wall, as well as President Margaret Byl. We thank them for their dedication to FWIC.

In September, the new board took time to evaluate the mission statement and objectives of FWIC. Using the software, Mentameter ideas were generated and eventually shaped into our vision statement, purpose statement, and the theme for this Triennium. The vision statement is "Fostering a future where every woman thrives and makes a meaningful impact." Additionally, the purpose statement is "a national united voice of women promoting family, community, and personal development through learning and friendship."

To celebrate WI Day, FWIC partnered with ACWW Canada Area to observe the occasion. With Denise Joss as moderator, ACWW Canada Area President Marie Kenny and I shared information on significant Canadian women and outlined the FWIC project. The second part of the evening featured Dr. Elizabeth Ann Kelly, ACWW Advocacy Lead. Dr. Kelly offered practical steps members can take to advocate for an issue. She also provided a follow-up on Advocacy in early March. If you missed either of these sessions, they are now available on the FWIC WI Canada YouTube Channel.

Each triennium, the board chooses a project that provides opportunities for learning and hands-on involvement. This past winter, the board brainstormed possible project ideas and selected one focused on sustainable fashion. It was further developed into a concept of sustainable style with mindful consumption.

In April, FWIC celebrated Earth Day with an event centering on the Sustainable Style project, focusing on mindful consumption. This provided an overview of the project, sharing information and resources. If you missed the event, the video is also now available on the FWIC WI Canada YouTube channel.

May marked the beginning of my travels to represent FWIC from one coast to the other. First was the ACWW Canada Area convention in Langford, BC, where we heard informative speakers around the theme of Sustainable Growth for the Future, Focusing on the Environment. This was followed by an invitation to attend the PEI Convention, with its theme of Resilient Together. It was an excellent opportunity to meet members and hear about PEIWI's work on the Island, as well as to join in welcoming their new president, Carolyn MacFayden. Following PEI's Convention, on the invitation of the Quebec President, I attended virtually Quebec's AGM. Learning about Quebec's projects, "Postcards to the Front" and "Days for Girls," was most interesting, as well as hearing about their committee work.

And just when I thought I would have a few days before heading to Newfoundland and Labrador's Convention, FWIC received an invitation to attend the tree planting ceremony to honor Their Majesties' first trip to Canada as King and Queen. How could FWIC say no to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity? FWIC was one of fifty organizations given priority seating, which offered an excellent chance not only to meet Their Majesties but also to speak with them. Past President Margaret Byl and Quebec President Linda Janes were able to accompany me on this prestigious occasion. This was a great honor for FWIC, and we had the opportunity to share what FWIC does with other organizations.

Later, I traveled to Newfoundland and Labrador to celebrate their 90th Anniversary and the first in-person convention since the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme was '90 Years Strong... Embracing Change.' Learning about their history and work was enlightening, and I was impressed with their extensive crafts. I greatly appreciated the opportunity to represent FWIC at this event and look forward to participating in more provincial AGMs and conventions in the future, as funds allow.

The work of the board doesn't happen by itself; it results from many volunteer hours contributed by your provincial representatives. Every FWIC board member has a role, whether as a committee chair, a committee member, or in another capacity where they can help. Their contributions are truly appreciated.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Angela Scott and her unwavering commitment as Chair of the Communication and Outreach Committee, as well as her work in preparing WI Connections and managing FWIC's social media platforms. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge FWIC Treasurer Linda Mason for overseeing the financial responsibilities of both FWIC and the Homestead. Between meetings, these talented women provide excellent support to your FWIC president.

We are grateful to have a committed and dedicated board. Additionally, we highly value and appreciate the input from our provincial presidents during the FWIC Board meetings.

Finally, thank you to each of you for your ongoing support of FWIC - WI Canada and the significant work you do in your respective provinces.

# FINANCIALS 2024-2025

PREPARED BY MILLARDS ACCOUNTING

## FWIC BUDGET 2025-2026

TREASURER LINDA MASON



## GUEST SPEAKER

### WEN SHEN



**Applicant:** Wen Shen

**University program:** Fashion

**Area of research:** Circular economy or slow fashion/ Social justice in clothing production and use

#### **Short Bio:**

Wen Shen is a graduate student at Toronto Metropolitan University, pursuing an MA in Fashion with a focus on sustainable textiles. With a background as a trained fashion designer and product developer, Wen's current research explores the potential for Ontario's local fibers, working closely with farmers to transform fleece into high-quality products. Her work addresses the issue of fleece waste by experimenting with different sheep breeds and advocating for the value of Ontario wool. Wen's goal is to educate the public on the journey of fleece, from raw material to finished product, while promoting sustainable practices within the textile industry. Through her research, she aims to demonstrate that local wool can be a valuable resource, helping farmers avoid waste and supporting a more sustainable, regional fiber economy. Wen's academic and professional experiences have shaped her belief in creating meaningful, long-lasting products that carry stories and purpose—values she strives to instill in her work and share with others.

## COMMUNICATIONS NS OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** ANGELA SCOTT (CHAIR) DEBRA BARRETT, BRENDA DEVAULD, MARION GREEN, TRICIA HENDERSON, SUE HOSZOUSKI, ELEANOR LILLEY, ANN MANDZIUK, ELIZABETH MOSS, MARGIE TAYLOR, SHELLY SIMROSE, LYNN MACLEAN

### **Annual Report – Outreach and Communications Committee**

The Outreach and Communications Committee is pleased to report a productive and impactful year of initiatives that have strengthened visibility, engagement, and connection for FWIC and Women's Institutes across Canada.

#### **Communications Support**

- Collaborated with the **Resolutions Committee** by distributing information requests nationally to support development of timely and relevant resolutions.
- Circulated information and promotional materials for the **Pampered Chef Fundraiser**, aiding in fundraising efforts.

- Maintained consistent support for **ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World)** by posting **awareness campaigns** on violence against women across FWIC's Facebook platform.
- Designed and supervised a new **FWIC Website creation**, with support of **Ryan Duffy**

## Events and Campaigns

- Supported planning and promotion for the **ACWW Canada Area Conference**, including advertising and outreach.
- Contributed to the FWIC and ACWW **joint WI Day celebrations**, which featured an **advocacy workshop** highlighting the power of women's voices in action.
- Delivered a **virtual Earth Day event (April 22, 2025)** exploring the environmental impact of the fashion sector, promoting education around the **7 Rs of Recycling**. The 7Rs include **Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Regift, and Recycle**
- Issued a **public International Women's Day address** on Facebook and sent notices to national news outlets in all provinces, spotlighting the strength and unity of **WI in Canada**.

## National Projects and Messaging

- Led the development and national launch of FWIC's current project: "**Sustainable Style with Mindful Consumption**", raising awareness on ethical fashion and consumer responsibility.
- Initiated and promoted Facebook campaigns including "**Get Canada Talking About WI**" and "**Try WI**", designed to attract new members and expand public understanding.
- Researched, designed and prepared mock ups for **Public Service Announcements** (PSAs) aimed at reinforcing the national presence of **WI in Canada**.

## Publications and Digital Outreach

- Published **12 issues of WI Connections**, ensuring consistent national communication.
- Generated over **600 Facebook postings**, covering topics such as events, advocacy, education, and engagement.
- Marked increased reach and interaction across social platforms, contributing to greater national and international visibility.
- Published recorded versions of virtual events on **YouTube**

## Collaborations and Partnerships

- Initiated discussions and early-stage partnerships with aligned individuals and organizations, including Wen Shen, Charlotte Little, and Osteoporosis Canada, to build cooperative outreach and advocacy opportunities.
- Provided communications assistance in **national philanthropic funding development** for FWIC.

- Worked with **provincial presidents** to gather information and strategize on **new members and new branches** approaches for the future of WI in Canada

## National Representation

- Supported publicity and documentation efforts related to a landmark moment: the official representation of **WI in Canada** by **President Lynn MacLean, Past-President Margaret Byl, and QWI President Linda Janes** in meeting with **His and Her Royal Highness, King Charles and Queen Camilla**, in May 2025.

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The Outreach and Communications Committee remains committed to amplifying the mission and work of FWIC through strategic messaging, national visibility, and inspiring women across Canada to connect, contribute, and grow.

## FUNDRAISING REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: DONNA HENDERSON (CHAIR), JANET BANGS, BRENDA DEVAULD, ANGELA SCOTT, AND LYNN MACALEAN

As a committee, we are trying to put the FUN into FUNdraising.

In November, we had a very successful month-long Pampered Chef online party, raising \$1726.

These funds were used to update the FWIC website.

We are planning another Pampered Chef fundraiser in November of this year.

Get your Christmas lists ready.

Another idea the Committee is considering is Aloette Skin Care, Makeup and Body Care products. Let us know if you are interested in this one for April next year.

This type of fundraising is proving to be less labour intensive for the organizers and more lucrative too.

Thank you to the committee and all its members for their support of these projects.

## HOMESTEAD REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: LINDA ZELEM,  
LYNN MACLEAN AND NANCY CARUBBA, MUSEUM MANAGER



A D E L A I D E  
H U N T E R  
H O O D L E S S  
H O M E S T E A D

The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead is not only the childhood home of Adelaide Hunter, but it is also the national office of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada -WI Canada.

Since March 2023, Nancy Carubba has served as the museum manager, organizing numerous workshops and events that have increased the number of people visiting the Homestead.

In 2024, the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead introduced three new exhibits: two artifact displays and one digital exhibit. The first exhibit showcased items related to the Royal Family and their connections to the WI, as well as possessions from the marriage of Adelaide Hunter and John Hoodless, highlighting the property's suitability as a venue for weddings or special events. The second exhibit featured a "High Tea" display in the Homestead dining room, displaying heirlooms belonging to the Hunter family. This exhibit aimed to encourage discussion about hosting High Tea events at the Homestead. The third new exhibit for 2024 was a digital display featuring photos of the original cooking fireplace, along with artifacts and furniture related to kitchen activities in the basement, which many senior visitors or those with mobility issues may find difficult to access due to its location.

In addition to the new exhibits, several educational events were held at the Homestead, including Addie Fest, Women's Empowerment, Mindset Matters, Creative Writing, Homeschool at the Homestead, Kids Heritage Day Camp, a Doggie Fashion Show, and activities that teach modern methods of Victorian-era preservation.

In 2024, in addition to the summer student funding, the Homestead received funding from the Brant Community Foundation, Brant Enterprise, and the County of Brant, all of which contributed to improving the Homestead. A Trillium Seed Grant was also received, which runs from October 2024 to October 2025. This grant will include a play loosely portraying the life of Adelaide Hunter and Voices of the Past, which will highlight the achievements of various Canadian women throughout history. It will combine heritage, culture, and the arts. The play will be performed at the Grand View Theatre in Brantford, while Voices of the Past will be presented throughout the summer, including a performance in front of the mural in St. George.

Since last summer, several repairs have been completed at the Homestead. During the ice storm, the eavestrough came loose, and before it could be reattached, the supporting boards

had to be replaced. The main door was also repaired. Additionally, due to advances in technology, the alarm system was upgraded to 5G.

In the following year, the 30-year-old oil furnace will need to be replaced. Quotes are being collected on various types of furnaces. Since oil will not be an option, this will include removing the oil tank.

This spring, funding was obtained from the Young Canada Works program in partnership with the National Trust (Archival Assistant) for fourteen weeks starting May 12. This grant covers approximately 75% of the required funds. Additionally, a Canada Summer Jobs position (museum assistant) for eight weeks was approved, commencing on June 16. This grant provides approximately 98% of the total financing.

Mayor Bayley and Brant County have invited Ontario's Lieutenant Governor to visit Brant County, including the Homestead. This event will take place on July 11. It will feature a tour of the Homestead, a discussion with the Lieutenant Governor about the Homestead, followed by a tea in the pavilion. It is hoped that Her Honour's visit will bring more attention to the Homestead.

On a sad note, Nancy Carubba has had to resign due to a serious health issue. We wish her all the best as she works to regain her health. On a positive note, the two students, Veronica Boone and Rachel Gubbins, who worked at the Homestead last summer, have been rehired for this summer. They possess a thorough understanding of the Homestead and its operations, enabling them to plan and manage activities effectively. Additionally, we appreciate the support provided by Linda Zelem, the board member who is closest to the Homestead.

## PROJECTS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: BRENDA DEVAULD (CHAIR), SUSAN HOSZOUSKI, DONNA HENERSON, ANGELA SCOTT, LYNN MACLEAN

### Actions:

#### **Meeting Result 2024**

Project: the National Project was voted on and approved in November 2024.

The Sustainable Style Initiative was chosen as the National Project

The Project will run over 3 years, ending in 2027

Decision made to launch the Project January 2025 in WI Connections

First article will outline what the project is and what we hope to accomplish

#### **Meeting Results 2025**

Messages regarding the project were put out on Facebook, website

Reviewed and approved a draft calendar of the project for over 3 years  
Monthly articles, including quizzes put in the WI Connections  
No articles during the summer months  
Question and discussion: What is the big picture of this Project  
The Project name was changed to be: Sustainable Style with Mindful Consumption  
Discussion on sharing circles, takeaways, the Four Pillars Idea, incorporating the project into the Tweedsmuir Competitions, and the Triennial banquet.  
Meet with other committees to help facilitate actions for the project  
Helped to launch the Project at the FWIC Earth Day Zoom Event in May,  
Discussion on speakers for events  
Research questions were given to each committee member regarding fast fashion and environmental impacts.  
There are monthly craft activities in the WI Connections that reflect the project.  
A manual has been put together that contains all the information on the Project to date.  
Decision to promote the project as much as possible, firstly through letters to Provincial Ministers and Premiers

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: LINDA JANES (CHAIR), COLLEEN BIANCHI, KIM COY, DONNA HENDERSON, ANGELA SCOTT, AND LYNN MACLEAN

The Resolution Committee has held three meetings since the start of the new triennium, with one more meeting next week. We have been working on the resolutions that were passed at the Triennial Convention in Truro.

Kim Coy sent out a questionnaire about Forensic Nursing to the Provinces, but unfortunately, we didn't get much of a response. We have, however, decided on an action item as follows: We can ask all Provincial WI Boards if they are willing and able to start a bursary fund within their Province for Forensic Nurse training. B.C. is currently doing this, and they are willing to share how their program works.

Our next item was the resolutions regarding the licensing of doctors. Kim Coy then prepared letters, one for each resolution, giving our support to the Canadian Medical Association in their efforts to get the Provincial governments to sign on with the Pan-Canadian Licensure. All of these letters have been translated so they can be used in all Provinces.

We discussed the emergency resolution that was presented regarding needle use in Federal prisons but decided that we need to find out more information and background before going further with this resolution.

I would like to add that we are looking for suggestions for new resolutions that we can work on. I would also like to thank the committee for all their work to date.

## ACWW COORDINATOR REPORT

### MIRIAM LANK

When ACWW was founded in 1929, its purpose was to address the daily challenges faced by women in rural communities. One of the biggest was that they were so prevented from fully participating (or participating at all) in political procedures, public affairs, and society as a whole. The United Nations Human Rights Council has recently launched a call for information to better understand the realities of life for women in rural communities globally. ACWW wants to help with this process. All members were invited to respond to a short survey.

ACWW is an organization that advocates on behalf of its members. It is a non-political organization.

This past year ACWW reached out to a number of individuals and society members to participate in an initiative to highlight the importance of International Women's Day to our organization. Responses were gathered from 20 countries. They can be viewed on the ACWW's Facebook page.

In February, FWIC and Canada Area ACWW celebrated the founding of the Women's Institute. A discussion took place with Denise Joss, Lynn MacLean, and Marie Kenny.

At the ACWW World Conference in Malaysia in 2023, three resolutions were passed. One of these was addressing food waste and food insecurity. This is continually being worked on. Another resolution was to urge all governments to address the needs of all rural women. ACWW wants to ensure and promote training and education, safe employment practices, good working conditions, and access to resources such as financial, technology, and advise on career and business opportunities.

ACWW is undertaking several projects. These are made possible by the Rural Women in Action Fund (previously called Pennies for Friendship). These projects focus on rural women in areas where development resources and infrastructure are severely limited. ACWW ties to help and hopes for change in these areas. Knowledge, sharing, and working in collaboration are the main backbone of ACWW.

Most recently, a wonderful Canada Area ACWW Conference was held from May 13-15, 2026, in Landford, BC. World President Maggie de Kock attended.

ACWW has members in 80 countries, with its next Triennial World Conference scheduled to take place in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, from April 26 to May 1, 2026. It will be held at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa.

## ALBERTA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

LINDA TOWES, PRESIDENT

Alberta Women's Institutes' branches continue to be active, vibrant members of their communities. As in previous years, branch members donate time, money and items in kind to support local community groups and causes. Our constituencies and districts held their usual conferences which were well attended in each area.

We rescheduled our 2025 Convention from its usual timeframe of June as we were not able to get our usual date due to other events ongoing in our venue, and it turned out that other available dates closest to the date were not suitable. Our Convention will now be taking place in September. The bonus is that it gives us more time to sell raffle tickets, and to prepare our entries for the Handicraft competition. As always, we have interesting speakers, crafts, and fun participatory events.

AWI's project of "Livin' & Learning – Skills for Today" made possible through the New Horizons Grant for Seniors Program was very well received. We presented sessions both online and in person in the project. We used Zoom for online presentations. This made it possible for some of the presenters to attend in person, while others presented from their own location. We presented information sessions on various topics including wills, scams, chair yoga, feeding birds in winter, planting seeds, and a variety of other topics. Our craft sessions were extremely well attended and kept growing in participation throughout the grant period. We had craft projects such as acrylic painting, crochet, crohooking, Christmas wreaths, Pysanka (Ukrainian easter eggs), needle felting, smash albums, and a wide variety of other exciting crafts. Some members had gatherings in their homes or other locations so that others could attend, and our central location was bursting to capacity. We plan to build on this success this year with our new project of "Learn Something New – Key to Better Living" which has been made possible by another successful grant application.

We are looking forward to our September Convention, and the great camaraderie and sharing that takes place during that time.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

SHELLY SIMROSE, PRESIDENT

The British Columbia Institute has seen a decline in numbers for the year 2025. We have 377 members, down from 391 members in 2024. We have 5 districts and 31 branches.

As I am writing this, the ACWW Area Canada Conference is being held next week, May 13-15, 2025, in Langford, British Columbia. I am looking forward to meeting all those who can make this conference in person. Some, for the first time, some acquaintances renewed.

We support the BC Children's Hospital and the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island with monetary donations. Our contributions come from the branches and enable us to help the different health authorities by contributing funds for much-needed equipment or going to general funding.

We continue with the Forensic Nursing Bursary. It was well received within BC. The Forensic Nursing Bursary is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with intakes held twice a year. Contributions come from our branches, enabling us to continue this much-needed service. A Big Thank You to Kim Coy for her dedication to the Forensic Nurses' Bursary. And another big thank you to the Committee for administering the Forensic Nurse's Bursary: Donna Jack, Sandy McPherson, and Linda Martorino.

FWIC has a National Project: Mindful Consumption. This is a three-year project that acts as a guide for WIs to delve into and include in their monthly meetings and activities. There are six keys for this national project. Quality over Quantity, Ethical Choices, Health and Well-being, Environmental Impact, Reduction of Waste, and Action.

I am very proud to be a member of the Women's Institute, and to be working with Dedicated Women on the BCWI Board, Federated Women's Institute of Canada, and women who are like-minded in helping others.

Reminder to Plant Kindness, Grow Calm, Serene, and Gentle.

## MANITOBA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

### DEBRA BARRETT, PRESIDENT AND FWIC DIRECTOR

Our year seemed to rush by once again, and we are left wondering how 12 months can fly by so quickly.

The Manitoba Women's Institute Board's workload certainly took on an air of urgency with the push from MB Agriculture staff to repeal the Manitoba Women's Institute Act. This Act is very important to Manitoba, as it was and is instrumental in the creation of MWI and establishes WI as a legal entity in Manitoba. Without the Act, Women's Institutes would cease to exist as a legal body and become a not-for-profit organization without a mandate to speak with MB Agriculture and personnel. MWI formed a Repeals Committee, and with the swift actions of this committee, Minister of Agriculture Ron Kostyshyn, who had knowledge of rural organizations and Women's Institutes, directed his staff to quash the repeal. MWI submitted correspondence to the Minister requesting that MB Agriculture staff work with MWI to modernize the Act to ensure it reflects the language of current provincial statutes. MWI greatly appreciated Minister Kostyshyn's understanding of MWI and our mission to focus on personal development, the family, agriculture, rural development, and community, locally and globally. We look forward to continuing our long-standing working relationship with MB Agriculture.

This year, the MWI Board welcomed Marge Knutson as our President-elect. Marge will assume the role of President in April of 2026. The learning curve has been steep as it is for any new president-elect, but Marge assumed the role with courage and a willingness to take on new challenges.

We also welcomed Jacqueline Chartrand, our Eastern Regional Rep., as Chair of the Resolutions Committee. Jacqueline provided leadership and focused the committee's work on creating strong resolutions that follow the criteria of current legislation.

The Board was fortunate to have Liz Chongva take on the roles of Rep. to the West and North regions. Liz quickly contacted members past and present in these regions to determine how best she could serve them. We appreciated her strong desire to continue as the board's unofficial historian and storyteller.

As the MWI Rep. to the FWIC, I sat on the Outreach Committee and grew not only my knowledge of FWIC but was fortunate to meet and develop working relationship with the Presidents and provincial Reps to FWIC. These women certainly provided a strong core of talented and hard-working individuals who seek to unite WIs across Canada.

Over the past year, our Office Administrator, Mallory Makinson, has advanced our social media presence from prehistoric to an advanced level comparable with similar organizations worldwide.

Social media along with our monthly zoom presentations on timely topics of interest to members provided MWI with visibility near and far. Thereby, helping to strengthen an understanding of the mandate of MWI and WI organizations across the world.

We also thank the dedication of our membership as they continue to volunteer to sit on committees. We have certainly been blessed with a mixture of board and non-board members gifting MWI with their ideas and energy to create strong committees to steer MWI forward. Our committee structure is included on our website. Members continue to be encouraged to consider joining a committee that instills a spark of interest in them.

In 2023-24, the Board continued to partner with like-minded organizations to amplify the mission and vision of MWI as we promoted our message and made certain our message was heard far and wide. We recognized that the more organizations voicing the same message as MWI, the more our good works would be acknowledged, valued, and our resolutions implemented.

As a Board, we continued to work towards providing every MWI member with an equal opportunity to vote on MWI business. Therefore, MWI decided to use a mail-in ballot again this year to achieve our AGM 2025 vote. We were fortunate to experience another year with a high vote return by members on our mail-in ballot AGM vote. The ballot included an opportunity for members to provide feedback, ideas, and resolution suggestions in the AGM ballot's comment section.

The hard-working ethic of the Board and their willingness to work together to further the mission and vision of MWI was truly appreciated and valued. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the privilege of being the MWI President to work with and lead a Board that not only shared their diversity of experiences, knowledge, and common sense, but did it while ensuring we enjoyed the process with humour and grace.

The MWI Board continues to congratulate Members on their dedication and the work they put into their communities and MWI. MWI's membership are truly a gift to not only to their families, communities and Manitoba, but also to Canada and our world.

## NEW BRUNSWICK

### MADINE KEENAN, PRESIDENT

The New Brunswick Women's Institute (NBWI) continues to thrive as a strong network of women dedicated to improving the quality of life in their communities. With 388 members across 39 active Branches, the organization maintains a vibrant presence in both rural and urban areas of the province. This diverse membership base is supported by a dedicated leadership structure, including an Executive composed of a President, Past President, President-Elect, Vice President, and Secretary, as well as five regional Board Members who ensure representation from across New Brunswick.

Over the past year, NBWI has engaged in several meaningful projects that reflect its commitment to education, well-being, and community development. Among the highlights are the *New Horizons for Seniors Project – Aging in New Brunswick* and the *Bring Back Home Ec* initiative, both of which address current social needs and aim to restore valuable life skills and support systems. In addition, the Institute continues its long-standing support for education through six scholarships, each valued at \$500, encouraging students to pursue post-secondary education.

The generosity of NBWI members and Branches is evident in the substantial contributions they make to local causes. It is estimated that between \$60,000 and \$132,000 worth of donations—including funds, time, talents, and goods/services—are provided annually by the 39 Branches. These contributions benefit a range of important causes, such as school breakfast programs, women's shelters, food banks, animal shelters, and other community-based services that uphold the WI's motto of supporting "home and country."

This year also marks a season of renewal and planning for NBWI leadership. A new Board has recently completed an orientation process and will engage in strategic planning work throughout the summer in preparation for the fall Board Meeting. Additionally, most of the 12 Districts will be hosting their Annual District Conventions during the summer months, providing opportunities for members to gather, reflect, and plan for future efforts.

Communication remains a cornerstone of NBWI's organizational success. Members and Branches stay informed and connected through a variety of methods, including email, telephone, regular mail, and digital platforms such as Facebook and the NBWI website. A monthly electronic newsletter keeps members up to date on news and initiatives, while the *Home and Country* booklet, published twice a year in print, as well as electronically, ensures that every member, regardless of digital access, receives a tangible connection to the wider organization.

Overall, NBWI continues to demonstrate strong membership engagement, effective leadership, impactful community outreach, and a commitment to preserving and enhancing the lives of women and families in New Brunswick. The organization's blend of tradition and forward-thinking projects positions it well for continued growth and meaningful service in the years ahead.

## NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

### ELIZABETH MOSS, PRESIDENT AND FWIC DIRECTOR

This year is the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institutes, and we are celebrating. We have accomplished 90 years of enriching the lives of each other and of those in our communities. As the branch reports come in, the quantity of goods and services members create and donate is astounding, representing countless hours of their time dedicated to helping others. Our focus is on women, but we also support youth, families, education, healthcare, food security, community projects, and humanitarian relief efforts.

Our Patron, Lieutenant Governor Joan Marie Alyward, held a reception for us at Government House to honour our members and to present our annual provincial scholarship.

We had fifteen of our members in attendance at the FWIC Triennial Convention in Truro, NS, in September 2024, where we met WI members from across the country. We are looking forward to attending the ACWW Conference next spring.

We just held our 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Board Meeting at our 28<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention in Gander in early June. Our members enjoyed gathering for the first time since 2019. Old friends were reunited, and new friendships were made. We shared our experiences, accomplishments, and exchanged ideas. We hosted Lynn MacLean, FWIC President, and Marie Kenny, ACWW Canada Area President. Our Theme for the next three years is "90 Years Strong.... Embracing Change". This is a huge challenge because we all claim to want change, but the truth is that temptation lies in staying with what has become familiar.

## NOVA SCOTIA

### MARGIE TAYLOR, PRESIDENT

Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia (WINS) 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Margie Taylor- President

Vacant- President-Elect

Jacqueline Melvin- Past President/FWIC Director for WINS

Ellen MacGillivray Simpson- Annapolis/Digby Regional Director

Yvonne Kennedy- Cape Breton Regional Director

Judy Benjamin- Colchester/Cumberland/Hants Regional Director

Sharon Crooker-Lewis- South Shore Regional Director  
Judy Parks- Kings Regional Director  
Ann Munro- Pictou/Guysborough Regional Director  
Christine MacKenzie- Office Administrator/Treasurer-WINS

Members 245, Branches 22

WINS community projects this year, to name a few, included a “Lady Parts” project creating bookmarks to provide awareness about uterine and ovarian cancer, donations of towels and face cloths to local SPCA, donations to homeless shelters, participating in “Dress a Girl” project, mastectomy bags for surgery patients at local hospitals, quilts and baby blankets distributed throughout local communities to various charities, comfort shawls for wheelchair patients, and tips on “Helping to Create a Healthier Planet”.

Fundraising is also part of who we are as an organization. This year we are selling tickets on a home-made quilt, graciously donated by one of our own WI members, and we are also planning on creating a calendar for the 2026 year. This calendar will include pictures of members, branches and districts highlighting what our members are doing throughout the province. This will be an excellent way for networking as well as an opportunity to spread awareness about WINS, especially when the calendar will be sold as a gift.

WINS throughout the year celebrates their branches anniversaries/birthday with special events and enjoys networking within their district meetings and rallies promoting WI in every aspect of their celebrations. This year’s provincial scholarship, which donates \$1000 to a deserving winner, was presented to Priscilla Barkhouse- a student of the “Disability Supports and Services” program at Kingstec Campus, sponsored by the Delhaven & District branch. Several districts and branches across the province also donate scholarships and bursaries from their area, with varying amounts offered to the winners.

WINS method of communication with its members is through their newsletter “Home & Country”, as well as circulation of information through email and social media via Facebook and Instagram.

## ONTARIO

CHERYL SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT

**Membership** 2023-2024 – 1,694; 182 branches

**Provincial Board** – 8 Regional Board Directors, President, and President-Elect

**Projects:** We continue the discussion on Project Maple Leaf – Human Trafficking in Canada. The guest speaker at the FWIO AGM talked about her work on the Provincial Human Trafficking Intelligence Led Joint Forces Strategy of the Ontario Provincial Police, which was a very informative presentation. We continue to support Lyme Disease research for modern diagnosis and treatments. We have also communicated with our provincial government

regarding Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and hope that some legislation is put in place to deal with this growing concern in our communities.

**Scholarships** – Provincial Scholarship for a student attending their first year of post-secondary education, Helen M. McKercher Scholarship to assist a graduate students to pursue a post-graduate degree in Family and Consumer Studies, Home Economics; 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship for a Women's Institute (WI) Member upgrading their education; Ontario Women's Institutes Scholarships (up to 3) to assist students studying at the University of Guelph, College of Social and Applied Human Sciences

**Special Events** – There was a lot of support for the ACWW resolution on Food Waste. FWIO hosted a Zoom Bloomer; some branches watched documentaries, while others encouraged discussion on this topic through roll calls, speakers, and theming their district annuals around it. One Area gave each attendee a gift at their annual meeting of a plastic dish for their leftovers. One branch created a “Rescue Corner” at each meeting. Members can bring in food items that they won’t be using, to be freely given to anyone interested in the item. This expanded to more than just food to items like shampoo and garden seeds. Various branches participated in Women Walk the Word activities.

**Zoom Bloomers** topics this year included Death and Taxes, Cybersecurity, Days for Girls, Zero Waste, Anaerobic Digestion, Medical Assistance in Dying, Land Acknowledgement, and Positive Health Network.

Our **Tweedsmuir** Coordinator revamped our Tweedsmuir Manual this year. A lot remains the same, rules for recording history does not change very much, but technology has changed.

Our **Digitizing** Coordinators helped Hastings and Prince Edward District digitize more Tweedsmuir Community History Books through funding received for this purpose. Overall, provincewide, more than half of the digitized books have been processed and opened to the public, there are still 1,000+ books to go. Forty-four were opened this year.

The **Erland Lee Museum** Committee has recorded over 1095 volunteer hours plus! Special Events held this year at the Lee included 7 workshops, a pancake breakfast, participation in Doors Open Hamilton, participation at three events at Battlefield House, Stoney Creek, including a special Re-enactment Day for school children in early June (around 1500 show up for the day) and on Saturday and Sunday there was a whole weekend of Re-enactment. Tents, campfires, and different regiments from the Civil War era participated. The Committee hosted 27 WI members from Wales and 42 visitors from Germany for tours.

**Method of Communication:** Email, phone calls, mail, and attending annual meetings and special events.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

### CAROLYN MACFAYDEN, PRESIDENT

Women's Institute on Prince Edward Island has had another successful year under the direction of now past President Sheila Gallant.

The WI provincial convention took place late May at the Rodd Charlottetown with greetings brought forward from Minister Bloyce Thompson, Department of Agriculture; Canada Area President of Associated Country Women of the World, Marie Kenny; and Federated Women's Institute of Canada President, Lynn MacLean.

#### Our current PEIWI 2025-26 Board

Carolyn MacFadyen President, Lillian MacCannell Vice President, Kari Ferguson Treasurer, Miriam Lank FWIC, Gena Yeo Secretary, Conveners; Nancy Wu, Karen MacRae, Helen Nicholson, Sarah Outram, Elaine Pottier, Jenifer Stenhouse, and Janet Wright.

#### Current Membership is 67 Branches with close to 900 members (many are 80+)

- In October 2024, informative Fall Workshops were held in Summerside, Charlottetown and Vernon Bridge with great attendance.
- In December 2024, \$10,000 was raised for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as a result of the Festive Country Christmas Gala Dinner and Yuletide Auction. This funding was deeply appreciated by the QEH Foundation as it will be helpful in meeting the needs of their large equipment list.
- Also in December, branches provided donations to the White Cross Campaign for Canadian Mental Health.
- Members have continued to show their generosity by knitting mittens for children in grades one to six. Many larger excess mittens were displayed on a Christmas tree outside the WI office for distribution to Holland College students. Every pair was gratefully received
- In January and February, WI promoted a challenge to branches and the general public to support food banks and Island pantries during the long, cold winter months
- Founder's Day essay contest to highlight a line from the Mary Stewart Collection was a great success with many submissions.
- Founder's Day roundtable discussions with regards to event planning, many great ideas.
- Founder's Day RCMP discussion on fraud.
- A Book entitled "WI Resilience – the Untold Stories" was published and the book launch was held at the Annual Convention.
- Membership for the organization has been increased by thirty-five new members.
- The Purple Hat campaign supplies many hats for newborns at our local hospital. Branches continue to donate to this very worthwhile cause.
- The creation of a new Cooking Contest was initiated, made open to not only school students but to the general public as well. The winning entries have been posted on the CBC Radio Charlottetown website. This was a partnership between WI, Department of Agriculture, Island Farmers, and CBC

- In February, a total of \$8,000 in sanitary products were collected for Island food banks. This is a partnership between WI, Murphy's Pharmacies, and the Upper Room Hospitality Ministry.
- Continue to highlight many PEI farms on our Heard It Through The Grapevine.
- The annual ACWW "Women Walk the World" event was held on April 29 and several board members completed a walk at Victoria Park.
- This year's Roadside Cleanup was a tremendous success again this year. There were 14 tonnes of waste collected in 2024. This year's total will be available in the coming weeks.
- Submission to FWIC to announce an intention to host triennial conference.
- Many awards were passed out at our AGM, Earland Lee award, Adelaide Hoodless award, Women in Agriculture award, Friend of WI award, 3 Golden Book awards, one per each county on PEI.
- Two resolutions were brought forward at our AGM
  - 1) Motion for districts to be called an annual (meeting). Approved
  - 2) Motion for branches to allow a jr memberships age 10-15. Redacted

Events the President and VP attended this past year.

- Volunteering at Agriculture Days held at the Charlottetown Civic Centre, reading to a Grade 3 class about Agriculture
- Attended two sessions hosted by Health PEI discussing their Strategic Plan
- Attended Health PEI's annual meeting
- Took part in "Breakfast on the Farm" as a volunteer
- We attended the FWIC triennial convention in Truro, Nova Scotia
- Laid a Remembrance Day wreath on behalf of PEIWI
- Met with the Law Society around information sharing
- Lit a candle for a Memorial Service at the Confederation Centre of the Arts
- Interviewed by three students, one of whose article appeared in the Guardian
- Appeared on CBC TV's Compass several times regarding various events
- For International Women's Day, delivered a presentation on Women's Institute.
- Presented award at PEI Kiwanis's music festival.
- Attended WI Taste and Tunes. Chefs made local seafood chowder and rolls while local musician entertained
- Attended the ACWW convention in Langford, BC

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- Marie Kenny Community Builder scholarship \$100
- WI Agriculture Scholarship \$1000
- Dr Helen Herring Scholarship \$500
- PEIWI Education Scholarship \$500
- Agriculture Resilience Scholarship (New) \$500

## QUEBEC

### LINDA JANES, PRESIDENT AND FWIC DIRECTOR

The Quebec Women's Institutes has 201 members in 21 branches in 13 counties. This year, two of our branches decided to merge due to their low membership, which means we have lost one branch. We have gained some new members, but we have also lost quite a few.

Our Provincial Board consists of the President, President-Elect, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, County Presidents (13), and 4 chair positions, Agriculture, Education and Personal Development, Health and Community Living, and Publicity and Awareness.

Our main line of communication is through emails; however, for those who don't have email, we usually phone. Branches have a phone chain and try to ensure that they talk to their members at least once a month to see how they are doing and to pass on important information.

Our scholarships/bursaries are the Frances Taylor Memorial Bursary, Edna L. Smith Memorial Bursary, Mrs. Alfred Watt Memorial Prize, and Frederica Campbell MacFarlane Prize. Many of our counties/branches also give their prizes to schools in their area. We also have an annual writing competition for elementary school children. This project is well-received, and the participation has been growing every year.

We support various charities, including Days for Girls, 4-H, Postcards to the Front, food banks, homeless shelters, and women's shelters. Additionally, counties and branches also support local activities, fairs, and other initiatives. We also collect Coins for Friendship, which is given to ACWW, as well as participate in Women Walk the World.

I have been sending out suggestions for monthly projects for the Branches. Some involve collecting money for donations. Our most recent was to collect for Days for Girls in memory of our late Past-President Elizabeth Milroy, and we collected \$600.