



# 62ND ANNUAL MEETING FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA ANNUAL REPORT 2023





## **FWIC MISSION STATEMENT**

An 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 APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2022-MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 2023**

President Margaret Byl

President Elect Lynn MacLean

Elizabeth Young, NF (Ended June 2022)

Elizabeth Moss, NF (June 2022-)

Doreen Wall, PE

Eleanor Lilley, NS

Angela Scott, NB

Judy Page-Jones, QC

Linda Zelem (January 2022-December 2022) ON

Anne Innes, ON (January 2022-)

Denise Joss, MB

Karen Gerwing, (ended June 2022) SK

Linda Mason, AB

Colleen Hooper, BC

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## AGM AGENDA



- Welcome: President Margaret Byl
- Native Land Acknowledgement- Michele Phillipi
- O Canada and Parade of Flags-video
- Official Greetings: President Margaret Byl
- Recognition of Past Presidents in attendance - President Margaret Byl
- Presentation of Erland Lee Certificate
- Chair: President Margaret
- Mary Stewart Collect: Linda Janes
- Introduction of Parliamentarian: Donna Russett
- Rules of Order/explanation/Quorum (for in person and on zoom): Jennifer Gyuricska
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of Minutes 2022 AGM
- Business Arising from Minutes
- Financial Report April 1- March 31st
- Acceptance of Budget 2023-2024
- Appointment of Auditor
- President's Report: Margaret Byl
- Keynote Speaker: Stacey Bester
- FWIC Committee Reports: Communications, Outreach, Homestead
- Promotion of FWIC National Convention 2024
- Speaker: Kim Coy
- Provincial Presidents' Reports
- Announcement of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Women of the Year for 2023
- Installation of Directors
- Institute Ode
- God Save the King
- Courtesies/closing

## FWIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 11, 2022

PREPARED BY LYNN MACLEAN

1. **OPENING:** President Margaret Byl thanked everyone for attending this meeting, the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of FWIC and the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of WI. She commented that Adelaide Hunter Hoodless and Erland and Janet Lee could not have foreseen how WI has adapted over these last 125 years.
2. **NATIVE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** was read by Michelle Phillipi, President of FWIO.
3. **OFFICIAL GREETINGS:** President Margaret read the official greetings from MP Larry Brock and MPP Will Bouma who were unable to attend in person. David Bailey, mayor of Brant County, joined virtually, acknowledging his and the Council's ongoing support for WI and the Homestead. ACWW Canada Area President Linda Hoy brought greetings on behalf of Canada Area and the Associated Country Women of the World. ACWW World President Magdie de Kock sent a letter acknowledging the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of WI and the work done by the three Canadians on the ACWW Board.
4. **RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:** President Margaret recognized past FWIC presidents who were in attendance either virtually or in person including Dr. Ellen McLean, Faye Mayberry, Shelia Needham, Ruth Blenkhorn, Marie Kenny, Linda Hoy, and Joan Holthe.
5. **MARY STEWART COLLECT:** Denise Joss, Manitoba, repeated the Mary Stewart Collect.
6. **PARLIAMENTARIAN:** President Margaret introduced Joan Holthe as the parliamentarian for the 2022 AGM.
7. **PROCEDURE:** President Margaret introduced Jennifer Gyuricska from Prairie Telegraph, who provided instruction on the voting procedures for both those in person as well those attending virtually. Voting will be done in the chat feature of Zoom and any questions can be directed to her in the same feature.
8. **ROLL CALL & VOTING STRENGTH:** Jennifer did roll call which determined there were 96 votes. A quorum was therefore achieved. The number of votes required for 50%+1 majority would be 49.

**9. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** Linda Zelem, Ontario/Judy Page Jones, Quebec, moved to approve the agenda with changes as required. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM 2021**

**MOTION:** Doreen Wall, PEI/Denise Joss, Manitoba, moved to accept the minutes of the AGM 2021. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021.

**11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - President Margaret presented her President's Report for the year which was found on pages 10-12 of the Annual Report.

**12. FINANCIAL REPORT**- Linda Mason, FWIC Treasurer, introduced Whitney Deane, Millards Chartered Accountants, who then presented the Financial Statements as prepared and reviewed by Millards Chartered Accountants. The Financial Statements were found on pages 13- 29. Linda Mason thanked the Chartered Accountants for their work and members were invited to ask any questions.

**MOTION:** Linda Mason, Alberta/Elizabeth Moss, NFLD, moved to accept the Financial Statements as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**13. BUDGET:** Linda Mason presented the Budget for 2022-2023 which was found on page 31 in the Annual Report.

**MOTION:** Linda Mason, Alberta/Eleanor Lilley, Nova Scotia, moved the acceptance of the FWIC budget for 2022-2023. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**14. AUDITOR FOR FWIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2022-2023**

**MOTION:** Miriam Lank, PEI/Denise Joss, Manitoba, moved to appoint Millards Chartered Professional Accountants as the Auditors for 2022-2023. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A short break was taken.

**15. INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:** - Lynn MacLean introduced guest speaker Professor Gail Cuthbert Brandt. Professor Cuthbert Brandt, a graduate of Carleton University and York University, is a specialist in Quebec history and Canadian women's history and has published several books. She is also a founding member and former executive officer of the Ontario Women's History Network and a member of the Canadian Committee on Women's History.

**16. GUEST SPEAKER PROFESSOR GAIL CUTHBERT BRANDT** - Prof Cuthbert

Brandt provided an overview on women's organizations in Canada and the fundamental role they have played in shaping Canadian society. She described the characteristics of these organizations and their impact in three different eras: prior to 1920, from 1920 to 1990, and since 1990 and speculated a little on their future. She underlined the continuities and the changes the women's organizations made to Canadian society. She also provided some suggestions to help the WI organization continue.

17. **THANK YOU-** Angela Scott thanked Professor Gail Cuthbert Brandt for her presentation.

18. **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:**

- i. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT** – The Communications Report was found on pages 32 and 32 of the Annual Report. Angela Scott shared that the Communications Committee focused on internal communications, such as the *WI Connections* and Facebook. In the fall the committee will focus on external communication, working on membership, and telling our story.
- ii. **OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT** – The Outreach Report was found on pages 33-35. There were several events held during the past year and most of those events have been uploaded to the FWIC WI Canada Channel on YouTube. For the FWIC Project, reports indicate that 125 trees have been planted across Canada to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of WI. The second part of the Project was to increase the membership across Canada by 125. The names of new members which have been submitted were published in *WI Connections*.
- iii. **HOMESTEAD REPORT** - The Homestead Report was found on pages 35-36 of the Annual Report. President Margaret introduced Lauren Marco, museum assistant and Jayden Walters, summer student worker and thanked them for their work this summer. Thanks to a donation from Mr. Hollie Archer as well as a donation from Brant County, the roof on the Homestead will be replaced this year. President Margaret also shared that the original minute book for WI is available to be viewed.

President Margaret requested approval of reports as they have been presented. Judy Page Jones, Quebec/Diane Dammann, Alberta, moved the adoption of the committee reports. **MOTION CARRIED.**

President Margaret also thanked Linda Zelem for her work as a member of the Homestead Committee.

19. **ONLINE AUCTION-** Lynn MacLean shared that an online auction would be held in

the fall. Donations (up to three) are requested from the provincial units. Each donation should be a minimum of twenty dollars and items are to remain in the provinces. The winning bidder will pay for the shipping. A picture of the donated item and a short description are requested by September 16, 2022.

20. **E-BOOK-** Lynn MacLean shared that the e-book contains stories of how the members coped during COVID. The cost of the e-book will be \$10 and will be available from the FWIC online store. She indicated they were looking for a title. One suggestion provided during the meeting was “Coping and Caring during COVID”.
21. **INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER** – Linda Zelem introduced Fred Fulkerson, a graduate of University of Western Ontario and of Conestoga College. He is a Red Seal Certified General Machinist and is a certified Mastercam and SolidWorks instructor and has been teaching for more than twenty years at Conestoga College. Fred is new to beekeeping but is enjoying the challenge and finds bees fascinating creatures.
22. **GUEST SPEAKER FRED FULKERSON** – Fred gave a detailed description of the hive, including the importance of the queen and the worker bees. He showed examples of the inside of the hive and what is needed to start a new one. He explained that honey was the food of the bees, but pollen is their protein source. Fred shared that there are insects, like the varroa mite, that can destroy a hive. He concluded his talk noting the importance of bees to nature and to our food sources.
23. **THANK YOU**-Denise Joss thanked Fred Fulkerson for his presentation.
24. **PROVINICIAL REPORTS**- President Margaret called on the Provincial Presidents to provide an update from their province.
  - i. **British Columbia:** BC's Report is found on page 39. Brenda Devauld, President of BCWI, shared they have collected enough money to offer five Forensic Nursing bursaries. The BC members were very supportive of this project. She also thanked the BC board members for all their work.
  - ii. **Alberta:** Diane Dammann, President of AWI, is focused on getting new members and has been to a few social events passing our brochures for WI.
  - iii. **Manitoba:** Debra Barrett, President of MWI, noted their report was on page 39-46 and reported MWI had a very busy year focusing on membership and their Made in Manitoba project. They are going into their second term and have been all re-elected.

- iv. **Ontario:** Michelle Phillipi, President of FWIO, shared their report was found on page 46. She enjoyed the day today and thanked her board members.
- v. **Quebec:** Elizabeth Milroy also had challenges with COVID and shared they had a good turnout at their AGM in May. They are working on having the Quebec tartan officially recognized.
- vi. **New Brunswick:** Sharron Adams, President of NBWI, enjoyed hearing the reports and felt it was an honour to be part of this event. She loves to learn about what the other provinces are doing.
- vii. **Nova Scotia:** Jacqueline Melvin, President of WINS, said the last year was a shut-down year due to COVID and how the fall is better. She appreciates being able to attend the board meetings and has learned from her attendance.
- viii. **Prince Edward Island:** Miriam Lank, President of PEWI, noted their report was on pages 47-48 and appreciated being able to attend the meeting in person. They also had an in-person convention, the first in three years, which was enjoyed by all. At the convention, they passed out 125 trees.
- ix. **Newfoundland and Labrador:** Elizabeth Young, past president, shared that COVID and the government restrictions caused many challenges for WI. Members have worked hard and were creative. Unfortunately, some branches have closed. Elizabeth learned lots while attending the FWIC board meetings and thanked her board for all their help.
- x. **Introduction of FWIC WI Canada Board-** President Margaret introduced the board which included Lynn MacLean, Elizabeth Young, Doreen Wall, Eleanor Lilley, Angela Scott, Judy Page Jones, Linda Zelem, Denise Joss. At this time President Margaret introduced Karen Gerwing and invited her to present her report.
- xi. **Saskatchewan:** Karen Gerwing, President of SWI, noted her report was found on pages 49-51 and sadly reported that SWI has decided to fold. President Margaret presented Karen with a Certificate of Recognition for her outstanding support to WI.
- xii. **Continuation of Introduction of the FWIC WI Canada Board-** President Margaret continued the introductions namely Linda Mason, and Colleen Hooper.

**25. CANADIAN WOMAN OF THE YEAR-** President Margaret announced that the FWIC WI Canada Woman of the Year was Faye Mayberry from Alberta and noted all the work done by Faye. Faye thanked FWIC WI Canada for the award.

**26. INSTALLATION OF THE FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSITITUTES OF CANADA**

Past President and ACWW Canada Area President, Linda Hoy, performed the installation ceremony of the FWIC Board for 2022-2024 and the newly installed officers joining the board were:

Linda Zelem, Ontario  
Elizabeth Moss, Newfoundland and Labrador

27. **INSTITUTE ODE**- President Margaret invited those present to repeat the Institute Ode
28. **GOD SAVE THE QUEEN**- In recognition of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, God Save the Queen was sung, and a reception was held after the meeting.
29. **THANK YOU**- President Margaret presented roses to the people who worked to get the AGM ready. They included Linda Mason, Eleanor Lilley, Linda Zelem, Miriam Lank, Sally Thorne, Jayden Walters, Lauren Marco, and Lynn MacLean. President Margaret thanked everyone for attending the AGM and wished them a good evening.
30. **Adjournment**- Karen Gerwing, Saskatchewan, moved the meeting to be adjourned.

## FWIC PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 1, 2022, TO MARCH 31, 2023

MARGARET BYL, FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA PRESIDENT

“Sailing into the Future with a Recipe for Success!”

Dear Members of the Board of Directors of FWIC/WI Canada, Provincial Presidents, Guests, Friends, and Sisters in WI:

Another year has come and gone. Where does the time go? As the second year of my term as FWIC/WI Canada President ends, I reflect upon the many changes that have happened along the way and the most notable is our Zoom meetings. The FWIC/WI Canada Board meets monthly, generally on the first Monday evening at 7 pm ET. Provincial Presidents are welcome to join the Board meetings, and I am pleased to say that many have participated.

The FWIC 2022 AGM was a hybrid event held on July 12<sup>th</sup> with 53 WI members registered to attend via Zoom and 38 WI members and friends registered to attend in person. Keynote Speaker Gail Cuthbert Brandt and Fred Fulkerson gave wonderful presentations

enjoyed by all. Special thanks to the County of Brant for sponsoring the reception in honour of the Platinum Jubilee of HRM Queen Elizabeth II. The luncheon and Tree Planting Ceremony were held at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead to celebrate 125 Years of WI. County of Brant Mayor David Bailey brought greetings and participated in planting the 4 trees on the Homestead grounds.

Thank you to Linda Zelem, Linda Mason, Lynn MacLean, Eleanor Lilley, Lauren Marco (YCW Museum Assistant), Jaeden Walters (CSJ student hired as FWIC Receptionist for the summer) and Sally Thorne for making the AGM and Celebrations a success.

Following the AGM, President-elect, Lynn MacLean, and Treasurer Linda Mason and I met with Maureen Beatty to discuss the fantastic FedDev Grant awarded to the Homestead through the Hamilton, Halton, Brant Tourism Relief Grant (see the Homestead Report for details). Due to poor health and an ever-increasing workload, Sally Thorne, Bookkeeper left our employment and Larry Gillis was hired. Sadly, we received word that Sally passed away on October 6<sup>th</sup>. I went to the funeral on behalf of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. Sally will always be remembered as a kind and gentle soul.

August found us busy with interviews and Amanda Wieber was hired for the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Museum Manager.

I am truly fortunate to have such a great Board and Executive to work with. The Board and the Outreach and Communications Committee have met monthly via zoom as well as Lynn and Linda and I have met via zoom on numerous occasions.

In September, my husband lost both of his parents, Len and Lena Byl unexpectedly 5 days apart from each other. Lena, a WI member for more than 60 years, voluntold me into the WI and I haven't looked back since. Thank you, Lena. I am extremely grateful to Lynn MacLean and Linda Mason for their tireless work on behalf of FWIC/WI Canada and their support during this trying time for our family and to everyone for their expressions of sympathy. Do you know that saying "it doesn't rain but it pours"? September and October were hectic months. After more interviews, on October 12<sup>th</sup>, Samantha Schibler was hired as our new and current Bookkeeper.

November 11th, I had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. A Remembrance Day Ceremony was held virtually, and, on the 16th, WI Canada hosted a virtual membership rally. On November 25<sup>th</sup>, I was fortunate to be able to bring greetings in person to the FWIO AGM held in Brantford, Ontario.

Early December found the renovations from the FedDev Tourism Relief Grant completed and the new metal roof on the Homestead and pavilion, courtesy of Mr. Hollie Archer, was ready to protect the house over the winter. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, I brought greetings on behalf of FWIC to a Holiday Tea hosted by Virgil WI with members and guests in

attendance. On the 21<sup>st</sup> as the keynote speaker, I brought greetings and gave a talk about the history of the WI to the Niagara District Council of Women's virtual Christmas event. The museum and National Office were closed for the Holidays.

January began with a sense of renewal and the continuation of the Leadership Modules were presented by Angela Scott, Chair of the Communications Committee. I would also like to thank Angela for the amazing job that she does every month as editor of the WI Connections E-newsletter. If you do not receive the WI Connections and wish to do so, please drop me a line at [info@fwic.ca](mailto:info@fwic.ca) and we will add you to our subscription list. Amanda, Museum Manager gave one week's notice, for personal reasons, and finished work on the 14<sup>th</sup>. And so, the search began again! On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, FWIC hosted a meet the Candidate's zoom night to introduce the ACWW Canada Area candidates, Linda Hoy, and Marie Kenny. All Canada Area societies were invited. The meeting was well attended.

February was another busy month. I met with Mayor Bailey in person while Lynn and Linda joined via zoom to discuss the Homestead and grant possibilities. Two grants were applied for – one for FWIC and one for the Homestead. After several days of interviews, Brianne Casey was hired as the new Museum Manager on February 6<sup>th</sup> and shortly thereafter Brianne received a call from an employer that she had hoped to work with, and so, her notice was given, and the search began again! On February 9<sup>th</sup> I attended a Town Hall meeting held by my local MPP, Wayne Gates, on the state of our medical system.

February 15<sup>th</sup>, at the invitation of Kelly Franklin, founder of Courage for Freedom and Press Panel Chair Business and Professional Women International, I attended Parliament Hill in Ottawa along with FWIO President Michelle Phillipi and delegates from various organizations to address the Parliamentarians on the topic of Human Trafficking. Delegates included Business and Professional Women Montreal Marie-Chantel Hamel, Vice President; Business and Professional Women Quebec Joan Macklin Regional Liaison; Federated Women's Institute of Ontario Geertje (Kim) de Bruin Director; Federated Women's Institute of Ontario Linda M Zelem President Elect; Federated Women's Institute of Ontario Michelle Marion Phillipi President FWIO; Federated Women's Institute of Ontario Sandy Miller Eastern Regional Board Director; Kiwanis Club of Cambridge Connie Cody Director and Committee Action Against Sexual Exploitation of Children; Kiwanis Club of Cambridge Lin Buxton Human Trafficking Chair; Ontario Association of Rape Crisis Centres Chantel Butterfield; Executive Director Sexual Assault Crisis Centre Sarnia HT Survivor; Ontario College of Teachers, Courage for Freedom President, Past President Business and Professional Women Ontario Heather Ellis; Turkish Community Heritage Centre of Canada Maide Yazar Vice President

The Press Panel Delegates included Delegation Moderator/Press Panel Chair Kelly Tallon Franklin, Courage for Freedom; Canadian Council of Muslim Women Mashooda-Lubna

Syed Representative; Federated Women's Institute of Canada Margaret Byl President, (FWIC/WI Canada); Boost Child and Advocacy Centre/Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Ashley Salerno CYAC Team, Former Covenant House Youth in Transition Worker Ontario; National Council of Women Canada Marianne Wilkinson Resolutions Chair and incoming President and Parole Officers Association Ontario Gareth Williams Vice President. A copy of my press brief is attached. The press briefing was broadcast live to Members of Parliament and recorded. The delegation also met with individual members of parliament and the All-Party Parliamentary Group to End Human Slavery for a briefing. The delegation sat in the gallery for a Parliamentary proceeding and was recognized on the floor.

I was unable to attend the next Courage for Freedom event at Queen's Park, Toronto. I am grateful that Anne Innes was able to represent us there on the February 20<sup>th</sup>. The good news is that on February 23, 2023, MPP Chris Glover and MPP Collard Schreiner, and Laurie Scott brought Bill 41 for a 3rd reading during question period. I was able to watch the Parliamentary Session on parliamentary TV as the bill was passed with **all parties** voting unanimously in favour. The Bill amends the *Consumer Reporting Act* and the *Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking Act, 2017*. The *Consumer Reporting Act* is amended to prohibit the inclusion in consumer reports of unfavourable information about a consumer that resulted from human trafficking. For more information, please visit <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-43/session-1/bill>.

The third week of February is recognized annually as WI week and the 19<sup>th</sup> is recognized as WI Day. On February 22, FWIC hosted a virtual gathering highlighting four new members from across Canada telling us, "Why WI?". The Why WI? Campaign continues to be a recurring theme with many Facebook and WI Connection submissions being posted. On a sad note, former FWIC President, Jacquelyn Linde of BC passed away on February 4, 2023.

I attended the Southern Ontario Tourism Conference March 6 – 8 at the Sheraton Hamilton, Ontario and was home in time for the International Women's Day event in which FWIC/WI Canada hosted a complimentary program with author and guest speaker Lindsay Sealey on "Growing Strong Girls", learning how we can empower women and youth today. Thank you to the New Brunswick Government for helping to sponsor this event.

On March 9, I attended at the Homestead for an in-person interview with Nancy Carubba and online with Lynn MacLean and Linda Mason. After reviewing her references, we are pleased to have hired Nancy Carubba as our Museum Manager. Nancy has done a great job promoting the museum and involving the community. Talk about a whirl-wind training session. Nancy jumped in feet first and hit the ground running with our plans for the

Easter Events (Ukrainian Egg decorating and Easter at Addie's. Thank you, Nancy! Please see the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Museum report for more information.

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day and April 28<sup>th</sup>, Arbor Day. What better way to celebrate both days and combine it with Climate Change and you have another complimentary event that was hosted on April 19<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker Meghan White, who spoke about the effects of Climate Change on Forestry.

I am grateful for the opportunity to attend, along with many of our members, the 30<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World held in Malaysia on May 17<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. The conference was hosted by the gracious Women's Institutes of Pahang, a member society of ACWW and at the invitation of Her Majesty, Queen Azizah Iskandar. Our time in Malaysia will be a cherished memory. Congratulations to Magdie de Koch, on her election for a second term as ACWW World President; Irene Chinje, Deputy World President; Marie Kenny, the newly elected Trustee and Canada Area Chair and to Anne Innes, elected as Agriculture Committee Chair with the new title of Trustee and Board Lead on Knowledge Sharing & Local Activities. I wish to thank Linda Hoy for work on behalf of FWIC and the Canada Area Societies. Best of luck in her future endeavours. Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Trustees and best wishes as you enact the new ACWW theme for 2023-2026: Sustainable Growth for the Future

June was busy with Provincial AGMs and invitations to attend either in person or virtually. I wanted to thank all the Provincial Presidents that had extended invitations for me to join them. I had the opportunity to attend the BCWI Triennial Convention June 15 – 16. Thank you to Brenda Devauld for the kind invitation, Betty Bartlett for picking me up at the airport and making arrangements at the hotel. Special thanks to all the BCWI members in attendance for your hospitality and welcome to the incoming Provincial President Shelly Simrose. It was nice to see some familiar faces and to make new acquaintances as well.

Thank you to President Jacqueline Melvin, Eleanor Lilley and the WINS Planning Committee who have joined us in virtual meetings throughout the year. The FWIC/WI Canada Triennial Convention is to be held in Truro, Nova Scotia on September 17, 18 & 19, 2024. The Board has chosen "Sailing into the Future with a Recipe for Success!" as our theme. More details will be released at the AGM.

And now, as we make the final arrangements for a wonderful AGM, I wish to thank Mr. Hollie Archer, Mayor Bailey and the Councillors of the County of Brant and everyone who have given generously and for their continuing support.

In closing, I am extremely grateful for the Executive, Board of Directors Communication & Outreach Committees, and volunteers who give generously of their time and energy and

without whom we could not have done so much nor gone so far. Lastly, but not least, to my husband Lane, I am most thankful for his continuing support!

Yours for Home & Country,



Margaret Byl, President  
Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

## COURAGE FOR FREEDOM PANEL STATEMENT FEB 15, 2023

### PRESIDENT MARGARET BYL

WI Canada is known as The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) and is the national organization that provides a united voice for all Women's Institutes across Canada while advocating for national directives in health, education, food safety, environmental preservation, and community support. The women's institutes movement grew from humble rural origins.

1. From Coast to Coast to Coast the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada/WI Canada and the Provincial Units of Women's Institutes have great concerns for the issue of human trafficking and missing women and children throughout the nation, many of which are coming from our rural communities.
2. While the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking recognizes the sexual exploitation of our vulnerable communities; Missing Indigenous Women and Children, 2SLGBTQQIA+ persons and migrant workers continues to be a real problem in Canada. We are asking the Federal Government to ensure that rural women & children have access to technology, education, transportation, medical and mental health support.
3. With the average age of recruitment into sex trafficking being 13 years old, how do we help spread the word on the issue of human trafficking in Canada and we would encourage the federal government to coordinate programs across Canada with an emphasis on social media and anti-human Trafficking.

Many WI Branches have had programs including Courage for Freedom's Kelly Tallon Franklin, to learn about how Human Trafficking and Sexual exploitation happens. On International Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup> FWIC/WI Canada will be hosting a complimentary program with author and guest speaker Lindsay Sealey on "Growing Strong Girls", learning how we can empower women and youth today.

## FINANCIALS 2022-2023

PREPARED BY MILLARDS ACCOUNTING

Financial Statements

## FWIC BUDGET 2023-2024

TREASURER LINDA MASON

**FEDERATED WOMEN'S  
INSTITUTES OF CANADA**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2023**

**FEDERATED WOMEN'S  
INSTITUTES OF CANADA**

**For the year ended March 31, 2023**

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## INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Directors of  
**Federated Women's Institutes of Canada**

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Federated Women's Institutes of Canada that comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and schedules.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Practitioner's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

### **Basis for Qualified Conclusion**

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Entity derives revenue from bequests, contributions and fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to us obtaining evidence we consider necessary for the purpose of the review. Accordingly, the evidence obtained of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Entity. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to bequests, contributions and fundraising revenues, excess of revenue over expenses and cash flows from operations for the years ended March 31, 2023 and 2022, current assets as at March 31, 2023 and 2022 and net assets as at April 1 and March 31 for both the 2023 and 2022 years. Our review conclusion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2022 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

**Qualified Conclusion**

Based on our review, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Conclusion* paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Federated Women's Institutes of Canada as at March 31, 2023, and the results of operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Millard, Haase & Rosebrugh LLP*

July 2, 2023  
Brantford, Ontario

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS  
Licensed Public Accountants

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)

As at March 31	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Restricted and unrestricted cash and bank (Note 3)	67,397	87,106
Accounts receivable	-	7,500
Government receivable	13,799	1,850
Inventory	3,297	3,038
Prepaid expenses and other assets	6,709	8,437
	91,202	107,931
<b>Long Term</b>		
Investments (Note 4)	118,623	129,085
Capital assets (Note 2h)	1	1
	118,624	129,086
	209,826	237,017
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	7,044	5,472
Government payables	460	2,107
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	-	6,636
	7,504	14,215
<b>Net Assets (Page 5)</b>	<b>202,322</b>	<b>222,802</b>
	209,826	237,017

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (UNAUDITED)

For the year ended March 31	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Operating Fund - FWIC (Page 6)	39,537	86,011
Operating Fund - Hoodless Homestead (Page 7)	202,240	102,752
Endowment Fund (Mrs. Alfred Watt Trust) (Page 8)	764	726
	242,541	189,489
<b>Expenses</b>		
Operating Fund - FWIC (Page 6)	47,703	62,153
Operating Fund - Hoodless Homestead (Page 7)	211,971	65,049
Endowment Fund (Mrs. Alfred Watt Trust) (Page 8)	3,347	300
	263,021	127,502
<b>Excess of Expenses over Revenue</b>	<b>(20,480)</b>	<b>61,987</b>

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (UNAUDITED)

For the year ended March 31	2022	Excess / (Deficiency) for the year	2023
<b>Operating Funds</b>			
General	160,908	(8,166)	152,742
Hoodless Homestead	37,703	(9,731)	27,972
	198,611	(17,897)	180,714
<b>Endowment Fund (Mrs. Alfred Watt Memorial Trust)</b>			
	24,191	(2,583)	21,608
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>222,802</b>	<b>(20,480)</b>	<b>202,322</b>

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS - FWIC OPERATING FUND (UNAUDITED)

For the year ended March 31	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	7,117	6,711
GST/HST rebate	-	5,842
Interest and investment income	6,063	8,941
Unrealized investment gains	-	10,902
Provincial fees	15,108	20,115
Grant - County of Brant	5,000	-
Grants - other	2,983	30,000
Other income	3,266	-
Lottery	-	3,500
	39,537	86,011
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative and office expenses	9,449	5,481
Insurance	2,317	2,215
Professional fees	604	514
Salaries and contract services	7,501	38,438
Triennial convention expenses	-	3,001
Utilities	1,049	915
Event expenses	4,364	476
New Horizon	-	2,174
Sundry	187	169
Telephone, computer and internet	1,588	2,265
Advertising and promotion	3,534	1,156
Travel, meals and accommodation	528	418
Repairs and maintenance	1,016	4,931
Unrealized investment losses	15,566	-
	47,703	62,153
<b>Excess of Expenses over Revenue</b>	(8,166)	23,858

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS - HOODLESS HOMESTEAD OPERATING FUND (UNAUDITED)

For the year ended March 31	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations and admissions	53,946	35,635
Museum tours and other income	1,995	3,666
Event income and rentals	5,781	440
Grant revenue - Reopening funding	-	19,685
Grant revenue - Emergency museum funding	19,806	12,729
Grant revenue - HODG funding	-	1,545
Grant revenue - County of Brant emergency support	-	25,000
Grant revenue - County of Brant	16,250	4,025
Grant revenue - Hamilton Halton Grant	99,772	-
Provincial fees	4,598	-
Interest	92	27
	202,240	102,752
<b>Expenses</b>		
Insurance	8,393	7,329
Professional fees	5,437	4,630
Repairs and maintenance	160,385	27,404
Salaries and contract services	26,103	12,912
Utilities	6,897	6,502
Telephone, computer and internet	3,607	3,374
Office and administration	871	1,245
Travel and meals expenses	278	1,653
	211,971	65,049
<b>Excess of Expenses over Revenue</b>	(9,731)	37,703

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS - ENDOWMENT FUND (UNAUDITED) (MRS. ALFRED WATT MEMORIAL TRUST)

For the year ended March 31	2023	2022
<b>Revenue</b>		
Investment income	764	726
<b>Expenses</b>		
Convention expenditures	3,047	-
Sundry	300	300
	3,347	300
<b>Excess of Expenses over Revenue</b>	(2,583)	426

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (UNAUDITED)

For the year ended March 31	2023	2022
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>		
Excess of expenses over revenue	(20,480)	61,987
Charges (credits) to income not involving cash:		
Unrealized (gains) / loss on investments	15,566	(10,902)
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations		
Accounts receivable	7,500	(7,500)
Government receivable	(11,949)	259
Inventory	(259)	(1,728)
Prepaid expense and other asset	1,728	(5,430)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,572	(3,420)
Government payables	(1,647)	2,107
	(7,969)	35,373
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities</b>		
Operating loan	-	(20,000)
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities</b>		
Net investment activity	(5,104)	(7,902)
Deferred revenue	(6,636)	2,611
	(11,740)	(5,291)
<b>Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	(19,709)	10,082
<b>Opening Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	87,106	77,024
<b>Closing Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	67,397	87,106

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) For the year ended March 31, 2023

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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE ENTITY

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The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) is federally incorporated under the Canada Business Corporations Act as a not-for-profit organization and is a registered charitable organization within the meaning of the Income Tax Act and is not subject to income taxes. FWIC is dedicated to:

- (a) providing a united voice for the Women's Institutes;
- (b) initiating programs and to provide resource material;
- (c) providing a medium of intercommunication among units of the Federation;

The members of FWIC are also members of other Women's Institutes across Canada. The various institutes work closely together to fulfil a shared mandate; however, there is no common control or ownership between the FWIC and the other Institutes.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook and include the following significant accounting policies:

**(a) Fund Accounting**

Revenues and expenses for service delivery activities and administration are reported using fund accounting:

The general fund reports the contributions/income and expenditures related to the operations.

The restricted funds report the income and expenditures for the fund directly on the fund statements. Interest earned on these amounts is credited directly to the restricted funds.

**(b) Revenue Recognition**

The Entity's activities are supported through donations, grants and fundraising activities.

The Entity recognizes contributions using the restricted fund method.

Restricted contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue of the operating fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the operating fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received or receivable can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

The contributions for the Endowment fund are recognized as revenue of the endowment fund and are used for the purposes specified in the Endowment Agreement. Investment income is recognized as revenue when earned in the fund.

Other revenue including donations, provincial fees, conference fees, and event fundraising revenues are recognized when received. Revenues from grants are recognized in the period to which they relate. Where a portion of revenue relates to a future period, it is deferred and recognized in the appropriate period.

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) For the year ended March 31, 2023

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### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd)

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**(b) Revenue Recognition (continued)**

The Entity recognizes revenue when the amount of revenue can be measured reliably and collectability is reasonably assured. Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

**(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash and highly liquid financial instruments. Due to the short-term nature of these assets, the fair value of these instruments is not significantly different from their carrying value.

**(d) Harmonized Sales Tax/Goods and Services Tax**

The Entity is a qualifying not-for-profit organization and is entitled to claim a rebate of 50% of the federal portion and 82% of the provincial portion of the HST paid on purchases.

**(e) Inventory**

Inventory, primarily consisting of finished goods, is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out method.

**(f) Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires the Entity's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of certain assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of certain revenue and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from the Entity's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future. These estimates and assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the periods in which they become known. Specifically, these financial statements include management estimates and assumptions relating to the valuation of accounts receivable.

**(g) Contributed Services**

The work of the Entity is dependent on the voluntary service of many members. Since these services are not normally purchased by the Entity and because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, donated services are not recognized in these statements.

**(h) Capital Assets**

Capital assets, with the exception of land and building, are expensed on acquisition. The land and building represent the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead located in St. George, Ontario which was acquired in 1959. These capital assets are recorded on the statement of financial position at a nominal value \$1. Amortization has not been recorded. The total receipts of the Entity are less than \$500,000 over the past two years, thus the Entity is not required to capitalize the asset and amortize it.

Computers, office equipment, building improvements and furniture purchased (not capitalized) in the year amount to \$115,677 (2022 - \$901). \$113,377 of this total was expensed as repairs and maintenance in the Hoodless Homestead Operating Fund and \$2,300 was expensed in advertising in the FWIC Operating Fund.

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

For the year ended March 31, 2023

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### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Cont'd)

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#### (i) Capital Disclosures

The Entity's objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern. This enables the Entity to continue to provide goods and services as outlined in the purpose of the Entity.

The Entity manages the capital structure and makes adjustments to it in light of the changes in economic conditions and the risk characteristics of the underlying assets and liabilities.

#### (j) Financial Instruments

The Entity initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities originated or exchanged in arm's length transactions at fair value. Transaction costs related to financial assets that will be subsequently measured at fair value are recognized in the statement of operations in the year in which they are incurred.

Financial assets and financial liabilities originated or exchanged in related party transactions, except for those that involve parties whose sole relationship with the organization is in the capacity of management, are initially measured at cost. The cost of a financial instrument in a related party transaction depends on whether the instrument has repayment terms.

The Entity subsequently measures all its financial assets and liabilities at cost or amortized cost, except for investment in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in the statement of operations.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, accounts receivables, grants receivables.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include bank indebtedness, accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

The Entity's financial assets measured at fair value include quoted shares and mutual funds.

3. CASH AND BANK	2023	2022
<b>Cash and bank consist of:</b>		
Unrestricted operating	43,759	27,730
Unrestricted Homestead	17,002	44,517
<hr/> Total Unrestricted Funds	<hr/> 60,761	<hr/> 72,247
<hr/> Endowment	<hr/> 769	<hr/> 4,080
<hr/> Restricted Cash/Bank		
Hoodless Homestead Fund	5,867	10,779
<hr/> Total Cash and Bank	<hr/> 67,397	<hr/> 87,106

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) For the year ended March 31, 2023

4. LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS	2023	2022
Held by FWIC operating fund	97,798	108,238
Held by Mrs. Alfred Watt Memorial Endowment Fund	20,825	20,847
	118,623	129,085

Investments are Mutual funds, common shares and foreign securities at major chartered banks and a major investment firm.

## 5. RESTRICTION ON NET ASSETS

### Internally Restricted Funds

The Board of Directors internally restricted \$27,972 (2022 - \$37,703) of unrestricted net assets to be held for:

(a) the Hoodless Homestead Fund: a fund to be used for the maintenance and operation of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. These internally restricted amounts are not available for other purposes without the approval from the Board of Directors.

### Externally Restricted Fund - (Mrs. Alfred Watt Memorial Trust)

The endowment fund consists of the Mrs. Alfred Watt Memorial Fund which was established from contributions from the 1985 Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Canada Conference Committee. The interest earned by the fund must be used to pay for expenses related to the ACWW activities as stipulated in the Mrs. Alfred Watt Memorial Trust agreement.

### Unrestricted FWIC Operating Fund

The FWIC operating fund is used to account for the Entity's program delivery and administrative activities.

6. DEFERRED REVENUE	2023	2022
Opening deferred revenue	6,636	4,025
Add: Funding received during the year	184,007	19,365
Less: Revenue recognized	190,643	16,754
Ending deferred revenue	-	6,636

Deferred revenue represents restricted funding received or receivable in advance of the incurrence of the related expense. As the expenses are incurred, the contributions are recognized as revenue.

# FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) For the year ended March 31, 2023

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### 7. GENERAL OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND PROCESSES

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The Board and management are responsible for determination of the Entity's risk management objectives and policies and designing operating processes that ensure the effective implementation of the objectives and policies. In general, the Entity measures and monitors risk through the preparation and review of monthly reports by management. The main objective of the Entity's risk management processes are to ensure that the risks are properly identified and that the capital base is adequate in relation to those risks. The Entity may be exposed to risks of varying degrees of significance which could affect its ability to achieve its strategic objectives. The principal risks to which the Entity is exposed are described below.

#### **Credit Risk**

The Entity is exposed to credit risk on receivables and government remittances receivable of \$13,799 (2022 - \$9,350). Credit risk is the risk that other organizations, contributors and government agency that owe monies to the Entity will not repay their obligations as they become due. The Entity manages this risk by endeavouring to ensure as best as possible that all claims submitted to each government agency with whom they transact business are submitted correctly and on a timely basis to ensure that the amounts recorded as amounts receivable will be received as anticipated by the Entity. In the opinion of management the credit risk is low and is not a material risk to the Entity. This risk has remained unchanged from the prior year.

The Entity also has credit risk relating to cash, which it manages by dealing with large chartered banks in Canada and investing in liquid investments. The Entity's objective is to minimize its exposure to credit risk in order to prevent losses on financial assets by placing its investments in highly liquid investments such as money market funds. The Entity's cash and cash equivalents carrying value is \$67,397 (2022 - \$87,106) representing the maximum exposure to credit risk of these financial assets. There is a concentration risk associated with cash and cash equivalents as all of the cash is held by one financial institution. In the opinion of management the credit risk associated with cash is low and is not a material risk to the Entity. This risk has remained unchanged from the prior year.

#### **Liquidity Risk**

The Entity is exposed to liquidity risk on the accounts payable, accrued charges and government payables of \$7,504 (2022 - \$7,578). Liquidity risk is the risk that the Entity will not repay their obligations as they become due. The Entity manages this risk by ensuring that it prepares an annual budget wherein it plans its revenues and expenditures. The Entity meets its liquidity requirements by monitoring cash flows from operations, anticipating investing and financing activities and holding assets that can be readily converted into cash. The Entity has a credit facility in place should it be required to meet temporary fluctuations in cash requirements and to ensure the timely payment of all its obligations. In opinion of management the liquidity risk is low and is not a material risk to the Entity. This risk has remained unchanged from the prior year.

### 8. ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURES

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The Entity maintains its accounts and records in a manner that enables it to allocate expenses to various funds and displays its reliance on the funding it receives from various sources. General support and management expenses are allocated based on time spent and management judgement.

# **FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)** **For the year ended March 31, 2023**

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### **9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

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During the year the Entity contracted a board member to act as project manager on the renovations being completed as part of the HHB Tourism and Government of Canada Grant project. The agreement ran from August to December 2022. Total agreed to consideration was \$26,800 plus HST.

These transactions were carried out in the normal course of operations. The fees were measured at the exchange amount. Payables were measured at cost determined using the undiscounted cash flows. No differences resulted from these transactions.

### **10. COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

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Certain of the prior year's figures, provided for purposes of comparison, have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

### **11. COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

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In March 2020 the World Health Organization declared a global coronavirus pandemic. In response, the Government of Ontario imposed restrictions on all workplaces to protect the health and safety of all Ontarians. The Entity is following all government regulations with respect to operating and is monitoring operations, liquidity, and capital resources and is actively working to minimize the current and future impact of this unprecedented situation.

As of the date of these financial statements, the situation continues to evolve and the full impact to the Entity's financial position is not known.

<b>Federated Women's Institute of Canada</b>			<b>DRAFT</b>	
<b>Budget April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024</b>				
<b>REVENUE</b>			<b>FWIC</b>	<b>AHH</b>
Provincial Membership Fees		20000	14000	6000
AGM - Convention		1500	1500	
Museum Tours & Pavillion Rent		1500		1500
Events & Programs		9250		9250
Interest/Investment Income		1000	800	200
HST Rebate		25300	300	25000
Communications & Marketing	Branding - Inventory & Consignment	1000	300	700
Silent Auction		1000	1000	
Sundry/Miscellaneous		600	100	500
<b>GRANTS AND DONATIONS :</b>				
Donations	FWIC	6000	6000	
	Museum - Adelaide Hoodless Homestead	5000		5000
Grants		30000	5000	25000
County of Brant - Operating		3700	1470	2230
Brant County - Events		5000	2100	2900
Brant County - Capital		5000	1500	3500
HODG Grant		1500		1500
Canada Summer Jobs		4500		4500
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$121,850</b>	<b>\$34,070</b>	<b>\$87,780</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES :</b>				
Canada Summer Student	Payroll (includes Vacation Pay & Merc.)	5055		5055
Employee's Payroll	Museum Assistant	29200		29200
Bookkeeper/Receptionist	Part Time/ Full Time - Contract	13000	6500	6500
ACWW Dues & Donations		500	500	
Professional fees :	ReviewAudit Fees	8500	3500	5000
AGM	Reception, Advertising, Speakers, and	2000	2000	
Event Expenses (FWIC & Museum Events)		3000	900	2100
Advertising/Promotional		1100	125	975
FWIC Executive & Board Meetings		1000	500	500
Board Development *** needs		0	0	0
Strategic Planning/Renew/Reset		2500	1250	1250
Office Expenses		4000	1000	3000
FWIC President's Allowance & Expenses		0	0	0
FWIC President Elect's Allowance & Expenses		0	0	0
FWIC Treasurer Allowance		0	0	0
Yard maintenance		2000	150	1850
Travel, Meals, Accommodation		1500	750	750
Insurance		12000	3000	9000
HST Expenses		1150	115	1035
Repairs and Maintenance		1500	150	1350
Utilities		9500	950	8550
Security system		925	100	825
Telephone		3000	1250	1750
Communications/Internet & Website		1350	675	675
Bank and Visa Fees		425	60	365
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$103,205</b>	<b>\$23,475</b>	<b>\$79,730</b>
<b>BALANCE (REVENUE MINUS EXPENSES)</b>		<b>\$18,645</b>	<b>\$10,595</b>	<b>\$8,050</b>

## GUEST SPEAKER

### STACEY BESTER



Stacey Bester is the owner of Brantford's largest full-service bakery, where everything is made from scratch using only real butter. Stacey is a self-taught baker who began baking with an Easy Bake Oven.

After baking for family and friends for almost two decades, she decided to follow her dreams and open her SWEET little bakery. Since opening the bakery, Stacey has continued to have many exciting opportunities such as filming 6 seasons of her own baking show on ROGERS TV Regional, called SWEET Occasions; and host

Foodie Tours with Pauwels Travel to such places as Paris, Rome, and Barcelona. An exotic trip to Morocco is planned for this fall. Stacey is currently working on writing her cookbooks and has opened an event space on her property for unique SWEET experiences. SWEET Bakery celebrated 9 years in June.

The accomplishments that Stacey is the proudest of are her 3 (grown) children Sarah 31, Spencer 29, and Alex 28. Stacey married Justin Bester in 2019, and they have three crazy cats Pinny, Paulie, and Calypso.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

### ANGELA SCOTT AND ELEANOR LILLEY

Since 2022, the Communications committee has worked directly with the Outreach Committee to expedite and facilitate communications. With only two official members, we are very grateful for this arrangement, and feel 'in the loop' when projects and initiatives are created. Please note the division of tasks and our appreciation for everything that the Board members, Executive, and Committee Members offer in the way of their time & talents.

Social Media	Eleanor Lilley
WI Connections	Angela Scott
FWIC Website	Margaret Byl
FWIC E-Mail Communications	Lynn MacLean
You Tube	Lynn MacLean

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### Monthly Columns for WI Connections

President's Note	Margaret Byl
Homestead Report	Margaret Byl & Nancy Carruba
Ellen's Corner	Dr. Ellen McLean
Health & Wellness	Judy Page-Jones
Plants & Things	Linda Mason
The Environment	Sue Hoszouski
From the Lecturn	Denise Joss
PEI Agriculture	Ellen MacPhail

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### Weekly Content for Social Media – Eleanor Lilley

Mondays	Recipes
Tuesdays	Crafts/Hobbies
Wednesdays	Health/Exercise
Thursdays	Environment/Climate change
Fridays	Advocacy

Over the past year the Facebook page has grown to 1520 regular followers, reaching over 6500 with active post engagement of 4000 +. On average, each month there are 20 new followers.

As shown, many people combine their time and talents to provide the many pieces of communication that we have shared. Mention should also be made of the “Why WI” project that so many have participated in and provided much enjoyment for all.

This year we also worked with a special focus group to support membership which included Lynn MacLean, Sheila Needham, Elaine Tully, Sue Cushing, Debra Barrett, Jacquie Cleveland, Donna MacDonald, Chandra Smith and Rebecca Austin. We were able to complete the Leadership Modules and Membership & Social Media Rallies with their assistance. Other activities we were involved in promoting were Remembrance Day, WI Week, International Woman’s Day, and The Environment and Forestry.

Future points of interest for the Communications Committee include:

- Enhanced participation from provincial representatives and any interested WI Members in submitting content for social media and WI Connections.
- Website renewal and participation.
- Short videos to share regarding meeting/get together approaches, convention planning, rules of order for motions, and minute taking.
- Perhaps a special recorded function to support resolution construction and advocacy.

In closing this report, we would truly like three more volunteers to support our committee. One to help Margaret with the website, another to liaise with the provinces regarding content, and a final volunteer to support resolution communications. We would expect to have an orientation and then work side by side with current volunteers to achieve the important work of WI. If you have just four hours per month and are comfortable with your computer, we would love to have you join our committee.

And finally, a huge thank-you to all who have submitted and participated in the past year's adventures. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: DEBRA BARRETT, SUE HOSZOUSKI, DENISE JOSS, JUDY PAGE JONES, ANGELA SCOTT, DOREEN WALL, LYNN MACLEAN, MARGARET BYL

The Outreach Committee is responsible for planning special events, proposing national projects, providing opportunities for the provinces to connect, advocating on issues effecting women and families as well as seeking opportunities to connect with other organizations.

The e-book that contains stories about how WI members coped during COVID was finally completed. It can be purchased from the FWIC store for a donation.

This past year, FWIC presented several special events which were all held virtually through Zoom. In October we hosted a workshop on using social media. Monica Rivers and Donna MacDonald, WINS, provided suggestions on how to set up a Facebook page and what branches could post. From that workshop was born the Why WI? activity where WI members were invited to share why they joined WI. These were posted on the FWIC Facebook page. If you have not completed this activity, you still can. Directions have been posted in a few issues of *WI Connections*.

In November, FWIC observed Remembrance Day by inviting a retired service person to share her story. Sergeant Edith Scott from New Brunswick talked about her time in the forces and the work she did.

One topic that concerns all of us is the decline in membership across Canada. In August a membership committee was created and in November presented. Using a combination of skits and presentations, the current reality was shared as well as what is working in three areas. Angela Scott, NBWI FWIC Director talked about the virtual branch in Greater Fredericton. Brenda Devauld, BCWI President, shared how resolutions have built enthusiasm within their membership while Elaine Tully, President of Women Inspiring Women, talked about the creation of the branch and what is working for them. It was suggested that another session be held in the fall to provide an opportunity for members to share what they are doing to attract members in their branch or province.

On February 19, FWIC and the provinces celebrated the founding of Women's Institutes. This year new members were invited to share why they joined WI. Nancy Wu, PEI; Evelyne Daupeux Hery, Quebec WI; and Susan Hoszouski, BCWI, shared Toni Cisco's reasons for joining WI. To conclude, Dr. Ellen McLean, WINS, shared her WI story which has taken her from her branch in NS to ACWW World President.

On March 8, Lindsay Sealey presented on "Bridging the Gap" and provided suggestions on working with youth and in particular girls.

To celebrate Earth Day, FWIC focused on Forestry and Climate Change on April 19. NBWI member, Megan Whyte, shared her experience working in the forestry sector in New Brunswick.

If you missed any of these events, they can be found on the FWIC WI Canada YouTube channel.

For research and historical purposes, the Committee is also working on posting past FWIC resolutions on the website. To complement that work, the Committee is also gathering the resolutions from the last few years from the provinces.

FWIC held its first Online Auction in the fall of 2022 which brought in about \$700 in revenue. Thank you to the provinces and members for both donating items to auction and for making purchases.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the Communication Committee for their work in promoting the work and events that FWIC WI Canada hosted this past year.

## HOMESTEAD REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: ANNE INNES, LINDA ZELEM,  
MARGARET BYL 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

July & August 2022 - Special thanks to Linda Mason, Lynn MacLean, Linda Zelem, Sally Thorne, Lauren Marco, and Jaiden Walters for their hard work in preparing for the events held at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead for the celebration of 125 Years of WI, the tree planting, luncheon, and reception to toast the Platinum Jubilee of HRM Queen Elizabeth II. A contract had been signed to replace the roof in the fall. Thank you once again to Hollie Archer for his generous donation and to the County of Brant for their continued support. A volunteer gathering was held on July 13<sup>th</sup> to provide information about the Homestead. Tours and pavilion rentals continued to be booked. Lauren Marco, our Museum Assistant created displays for the 125 Years of WI Canada and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were available for viewing. Thank you to Margaret Lang for donating the Royal Family memorabilia for the displays and to FWIO for loaning us the original constitution and minute book for display during the AGM and reception. The Queen's cut-out currently still on loan and is available for photos with the Queen.

The Homestead Committee continues to seek for Volunteers at the Homestead and wish to thank Mrs. Marco for taking care of the gardens. Lauren and Jaiden were kept busy with watering the new trees.

September 2022 - We were pleased to have Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston; Chief of Clan Hunter visit us at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. She is one of only 8 women Clan Chiefs out of 400! Madam Pauline was shown the Hunter Family Tree and Family Bible and she shared some of the history of Clan Hunter. She scanned the Family Tree and has sent the scan off to her genealogy team to find a link to our Adelaide.

We welcomed Amanda Weber to our team as Museum Manager. Lauren Marco, Museum Assistant has finished her extended time with us. Lauren is an entrepreneur and will be moving to St. Catharines to develop with her digital illustrations business, Lauqart.

Amanda and Volunteers at the Homestead helped with the annual St. George Applefest held on September 17 & 18. Improvements continue to be made at the Homestead and Tours and Pavilion Rentals continue to be booked.

October 2022 - Our **Haunted Willows** event featured the stories which only get told once a year. Running on Saturday, October 22nd and Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Both days were well attended.

November 2022 - Addie's Kitchen has received certification from the County of Brant Health Department to be used for low-risk food preparations! Sincere thanks to everyone that helped make this happen. Amanda is making plans for onsite and online events! The work on the roof is scheduled to start the second week of November. The steel roof looks amazing!

December 2022 – During the holiday season, an open house was held on Saturday, December 10th from 11am-4pm. **Ho Ho Holidays**. This event featured tours of the fully decorated Homestead with treats to enjoy in the education centre after the visit! Whisking Memories was an opportunity to teach baking from one generation to the next. Grandparents, parents, and children were invited to create a take-home Victorian dessert and tour the Homestead learning about Christmas traditions while the treats baked away in the oven. This event ran on Sunday, December 4th and Sunday, December 18th from 10am-4pm. Tickets for all these events were found on Eventbrite and linked on the website. These events were well attended.

January 2023 - As the museum was closed for the month of January, while some behind-the-scenes work was accomplished. This included tasks like artifact accessioning, creating plans for new programs and developing our 2023 feature exhibit.

The exhibit, **From Our Kitchens to Yours**, featured lessons on nutrition from Adelaide, the WI, and current scientific research. This was in addition to tasty and treasured recipes shared from the public and WI members. Amanda handed in her resignation, for personal reasons. We would like to thank her for the wonderful work that she did at the Homestead and wish her well in her future endeavours. A call for resumes took place and Interviews are scheduled for Jan 31 and Feb 6.

February 2023 Grant announcement – “Government of Canada supports Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead through Tourism Relief Fund.”

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead receives \$99,772.00 from Hamilton Halton Brant Regional Tourism Association through FedDev Ontario to attract visitors and support future growth.

The Tourism sector is vital to the economy and jobs in the County of Brant. This project will improve exterior infrastructure elements at the museum. These improvements will enhance the visitor experience at the site, and will see upgrades to site signage, upgrades to the pavilion, including heaters, stage equipment, outdoor seating & storage, as well as expanding the parking lot and adding bike racks. It will help the Homestead be a major contributor to the economic and social welfare of the County of Brant; increase tourist and

visitor visitation to the National Historic Site and create a sustainable revenue stream for the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead and allow means to provide more educational programs.

“We are grateful to the Government of Canada, the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario and the Hamilton, Halton, Brant Regional Tourism Association for their support through the Tourism Relief Fund. On June 6, 2022, we began the planning and process of upgrading the exterior infrastructure of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, a National Historic site of Canada, owned and operated by the Federated Women’s Institutes of Canada (FWIC/WI Canada). These improvements, completed at the end of December, will allow us to offer better access to this historic gem, located in the Heart of Ontario. It is our goal to become a major contributor to the economic and social welfare of the County of Brant and surrounding areas by increasing tourism. This funding will allow a means to provide additional, year-round, educational programs for both young and old alike. It will help to generate a sustainable revenue stream for the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead and provide a must-see tourist destination. We are looking forward to an exciting new season of programs and events where everyone can enjoy our certified kitchen, new roof, all season pavilion, and renovated outdoor washroom! The new storage shed will make it easier for outdoor events, and the enlarged driveway will make way for bus tours! And let’s not forget the bike rack for the summer tours. Volunteers are always welcome. Please contact us at [info@adelaidehoodless.ca](mailto:info@adelaidehoodless.ca) for more information”.

On February 27, 2023, two applications were submitted to the County of Brant for their Community Grants. If accepted the following categories will receive funding totalling \$35,000.00

1. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Operating Grant - \$5,000 to supplement maintenance & Insurance/Utilities; Events Grant \$5,000 for the Easter Event; Capital Grant \$10,000.00 replace the well and supplement museum manager wages.
2. FWIC/WI Canada Operating Grant - \$5,000.00 internet/social media and secretarial services; Events Grant \$5,000.00 FWIC/WI Canada Celebrates 1265 Years of WI in Canada (AGM \$2,500 for speaker, \$2,000.00 reception, \$500.00 advertising) Capital Grant \$5,000.00 office equipment and FWIC property sign for National Office

March 2023- The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead welcomed Brianne as the new Museum Manager on February 8<sup>th</sup> and unfortunately, Brianne has moved on to another position. We wish her well with her future endeavours. March 6, 7 & 8, 2023 Margaret Byl

attended Southern Ontario Tourism Conference being held in Hamilton and as was recommended by the Hamilton, Halton Brant Tourism Association. We were pleased to welcome Nancy Carubba, PMP who was hired in the role of Museum Manager and began work on Monday March 13th, 2023. She will work 25 hrs per week. Nancy has an extensive background in healthcare management. She is a professional project manager and has been active in the local community on the executive of the St George Garden Club and the St George proposed Cultural Arts Center. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, a volunteer meet & greet was planned.

April 2023 - The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead has been bustling with activity! The Pysanky Egg Decorating event was sold out! Thank you to Luba Waplak for the wonderful workshop! Half of the net proceeds as well as donations totalling \$1,349.53 were forwarded to the London Ukraine Centre which will be forwarded to the Ukraine for the Relief Effort where it is most needed. Special thanks to Luba Waplak, workshop facilitator and Anne Innes, Linda Zelem (AHH Homestead Committee members) and Nancy Carubba, Museum Manager for helping to make this event a sold-out event!

The Easter at Addie's was a success with more than 500 people in attendance. Attendees enjoyed the egg hunt, scavenger hunt, face painting by Ella Bauma, children's crafts including colouring, rock painting and word search, petting zoo, food truck, silent auction, and a vendor's hall in the pavilion. The Easter Bunny and two dinosaurs roamed the grounds bringing smiles and laughter to all the children. Thank you to our supporters & volunteers and special thanks to our Museum Manager, Nancy Carubba; Anne & Grant Innes and Linda Zelem, our AHHH Committee members, and our grandchildren for making this an awesome event for all ages. Thank you to our supporters: Settlers Feed Supplies, Sharpes, Freshmart, **and Pilkington** Acres and to Tanya and children from Pilkington Acres for the Petting Zoo.

On April 11<sup>th</sup> - 26 members of the 23rd Ember, Guides group from Brantford came for a tour. When they arrived, they did not know who Adelaide Hunter Hoodless was. They listened with interest about the story of her life and after the tour they all knew who she was, why she made such a big impact and they left inspired about how they could be the next girl from Brant County who could also make a difference. #lovemyjob - Nancy Carubba

April 30 - tours booked.

**May 2023** - Mother's Day Market Place took place on May 6<sup>th</sup> with Unique and creative Mothers Day gifts by local Artisans. No Admission Charge

Wed. May 17 – Italian Cooking Class - a cooking demonstration, and delicious lunch. \$35.00 per person for restaurant quality Italian food and a take home recipe.

**June 2023** - Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> - A narrated, visual tour of Wild Costa Rica. A photographic journey of Wild Costa Rica with award winning nature photographer Mark Williams. \$25.00 pp

Tues. June 6<sup>th</sup> - A narrated, visual tour of Iceland. A photographic journey of Iceland: Realm of Ice and Fire with award winning nature photographer Mark Williams \$25.00 pp

Thurs. June 22<sup>nd</sup>- Song and Sunset - Bring a lawn chair and enjoy an outdoor folk concert till sunset. All Welcome. Performing Artist Gord Hall. \$20 /couple or \$25 family of 4.

Wed. June 28<sup>th</sup> – Flower Power (bouquets with vibrant colour) Bring a small vase, learn about flowers from the Big B Flower Farm. Arrange a bouquet and take it home with you. \$20.00 pp

#### Other Activities:

1. Steve Schmitt electrician is doing some creative solution thinking about how we can most cost efficiently keep the pavilion warm enough to rent this spring.
2. We are pleased to announce that we have received funding for a summer student through the Canada Summer Jobs Program and have hired Elissa Jarrett to start on July 5<sup>th</sup>. We are also doing the groundwork for some summer youth activity programming.

In addition to the schedule of events in its entirety being delivered by mail to homes in St. George, each event is individually posted on Facebook: on The Women of St. George fb page, Adelaide Hunter Hoodless fb page, Nancy's personal fb page, Glen Morris page and events in Paris page. Last months posts were shared 12 times. The individual events are also advertised on Kijiji events, in the B Scene paper, and Adverts are posted at the local post office, bank, library, and grocery store. The response to our events has been slow and so far, attendance is lower than desired, but we know that awareness is building and that it will take some time.

Other Activities in June: . Nancy met with community leader Joni Bouma (Wil Bouma MP for Brant) and a garden club member, Barb Vlasov. Both families are hosting Ukrainian women in their homes as part of the Ukrainian relocation project. The Ukrainian women are seeking ways to raise funds to start their new life in a new country. They asked the

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead to partner with them to plan a fund-raising event. We decided on a Ukrainian lunch with an authentic Ukrainian menu. The food will be prepared by our Ukrainian friends with the help of the host families and the AHHH. We will invite the community to join us in the Pavilion for a Saturday Ukrainian lunch on July 22nd. There will be a \$xx cost to attend. The profits will be shared between both the Ukrainian women and the AHHH. A planning meeting will be held June 21 st to finalize the menu / translate the menu and make a grocery list then another meeting will take place as a taste testing prior to the July event.

Nancy also met with two community members to raise awareness that the AHHH is back and better than ever and to discover ways we can potentially work together. David R Simpson who is a lawyer in Hamilton and has worked on historical events in this community and has an avid interest in the AHHH. They talked about forming a committee of people with an interest to help and plan community awareness and events. This effort is in progress.

Gary Jermy Director, of Innovation for the County of Brant Library. They discussed seniors programming and the intended inclusion of a visit and event at the AHHH for their seniors' program. Follow up with a date on Sept.3.

The Paris Women Inspiring Women's WI group met here on June 8th. Approx 30 members attended. They rented the pavilion, and 5 members toured the museum. Nancy requested 5 min of their agenda to review the schedule of events with them, share excitement about what we have planned and to ask for their support. The information was well received. Someone who attended this meeting booked a tour and lunch for the New Dundee Women's Institute which is scheduled for August.

Nancy attended a Brant County virtual information conference on Brant Celebrate Culture Days. This is a 3-week Arts, Culture and Heritage festival from Sept 22 nd to Oct 15 th the deadline to register an event is July 31st. There is an opportunity to receive a \$1,000.00 grant towards your event. The deadline to apply for that grant is June 29 h. Nancy is working on programming that meets the inclusion criteria and will work on a grant application before the deadline.

Update on Project Proposal (now named Project Addie): On June 8 th Nancy met with

## GUEST SPEAKER

### KIM COY

Kim Coy is a member of the Board of Directors of the BCWI and is a member of the Colwood WI Branch. She is also the BCWI Executive Resolutions member. An Early Childhood Educator Kim has operated childcare programs in her local community for the past 30 years. In her spare time Kim is a coach of youth baseball in her community. She is the mother of two teenage boys and enjoys spending time with her family.

## ALBERTA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

### LINDA TOWES, PRESIDENT

Like most other organizations, Alberta Women's Institutes is still contending with the fallout from the pandemic and everything surrounding it. We had to make adjustments to deal with the reluctance of members to attend in-person events, as well as the major changes to our lives.

Our Council continues to meet online, which is a great benefit as we are able to meet more often without the associated cost of travel and accommodation for an in-person meeting. We are able to get more done in a timelier fashion but can keep each meeting shorter than if we were meeting in-person and had more to discuss at one time. This is one good thing that has come from restrictions.

We were fortunate to partner with the University of Athabasca to run several "Sip & Stitch" sessions in different parts of the province. The sessions featured a fascinating speaker brought in through Zoom followed by our in-person instructors leading the participants in learning – or reacquainting themselves with - crochet. We picked crochet as being something relatively easy-to-learn that people could take away with them. The events gave us some social media coverage and some much-needed visibility, and we hope that this will lead to additional members.

Like many other WI groups, we have been struggling with gaining and retaining members. Sadly, we lost one of our branches but many of their members became associate members, so we did not lose all the members. However, some of our branches have been successful in gaining new members; a number of our branches gained one or two members, two of our branches Argyle WI & Wild Rose Go Getters WI each gained five new members.

Our branches have been meeting in person once again, although it was a struggle for some of them to restart after such a long absence. Branches are getting back to their regular routines of meetings, speakers, and events they attend or use for fundraising. Some events have changed or no longer exist due to the pandemic, so branches are working on filling in the gaps in those areas. Our members continue to be active, vibrant members of their communities and continue to support important causes by donating time, money, or items in-kind. In 2022, even with many restrictions still in place, branches donated \$3228 and volunteered 5000 hours. Those volunteer hours represent a “cash” value of \$124,500!

Some of our districts have been able to hold District Conferences in the past year, so hopefully this is the beginning of a return to our formerly well-attended events. Several of our branches celebrated significant anniversaries this past year. Verdant Valley & Dorcas WI Branch celebrated their 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Ridgewood WI celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup>, and Round Hill WI will be celebrating their 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We just held our 2023 Convention – in-person – and it was so good to see and converse with members and to enjoy the discussions, speakers, and camaraderie. We elected new members on Council and look forward to the upcoming triennium.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

### BRENDA DEVAULD, PRESIDENT

The British Columbia Women's Institutes is preparing at this time for its AGM where it will have a change in president and some other board members. Our membership has declined this year from about 400 members to 387.

We contributed to the BC Children's Hospital and the Children's Health Foundation on Vancouver Island as we have been doing for many years. Our contributions come from the branches and enable us to help the different health authorities by contributing funds towards much-needed equipment or going to general funding. We applied for a Grant and received it. This grant is going towards the process of digitization of our WI records to help preserve our history.

We are also in the first year of our Forensic Nursing Bursary and look forward to how this evolves. The BC Branches have been instrumental in supporting this bursary and it has been very much of a success. We are happy to be part of the ongoing training for nurses which is so badly needed in this area of medicine.

The board and members have all contributed to our newsletter to help keep it interesting and up to date. It has been an interesting and busy year.

## MANITOBA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

### DEBRA BARRETT, PRESIDENT

I am again struck with awe that another year has flown by. The Manitoba board underwent a year of hardship because of illness, death and family concerns. The result was that three regional representative positions were left vacant. Thankfully, the remaining Board members and many of our MWI membership stepped up to support each other and worked hard to ensure the stability and continuation of the board's work. I am pleased to be able to say MWI's strong board members continued to work tirelessly to invigorate and enhance the organization. I considered myself very fortunate to have had a second term as President to focus on working with and leading a board who not only shared their diversity of experiences, knowledge, and common sense, but did it while ensuring we enjoyed the process and had a few laughs.

During 2021 – 2022, the Board continued its focus to seek out and include more representation from the MWI membership on board committees. Numerous committees have enjoyed a mixture of board and non-board members gifting MWI with their ideas and energy. This focus shall continue into the future.

Coping with the COVID-19 pandemic for a second year greatly impacted MWI but in the positive. The Board used their positive thinking to overcome the COVID impacts. MWI switched all Board meetings to Zoom (a virtual meeting program), advertised more using many different social media platforms to reach our computer loving members, and continued to use mail and emails for those who preferred more traditional means of communication.

We continued to explore creative methods of communication not only with our members but as well as our national and international partners. For example, Board members attended virtual FWIC, ACWW and affiliated organizations' meetings. This Board continued to seek like-minded organizations to partner with to ensure the mission and vision of MWI was heard far and wide. We believed the more organizations voicing the same message as MWI, the more our resolutions and good works will be recognized and fulfilled.

Our mail-in AGM ballot system for voting has been the example that many organizations have used to fine tune their voting procedures to ensure their full membership have equal access to voting. MWI will again use a mail-in ballot to accomplish our future AGM voting.

The Finance Committee continued to adapt and fine tune our business focuses to streamline our operations while maintaining our communication and services to the membership.

Due to the COVID-19 health protocols and limitations on in-person meetings, the Marketing & Promotions Committee sought to provide educational and fellowship opportunities for members via Zoom and social media. In 2021-2022, our Zoom presenters spoke on the topics of Growing and Using Herbs, Pulses: Recipes, Climate and Food Costs, Creating an Outdoor Fall Container, Household Money Saving Tips, Celebrating Manitoba Women's Institute Day and 125 Years of WI in Canada, Christmas décor ideas, initiated a Women in Leadership Series, and collected stories from women across Manitoba about how they coped with and survived the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Furthermore, the Made in Manitoba Committee once again assisted those in need with another two hugely successful projects. This past year (2021-2022), MWI partnered with the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS) and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. The response by MWI members was absolutely incredible.

In addition, the resolutions this past year were reviewed by our dedicated Resolutions Committee who spent many days working with the writers to fine tune and create resolutions which will be well received by the membership and inform the governmental and corporate bodies, we are submitting the resolutions to, that MWI continues to strive towards empowering and strengthening our communities.

Another initiative the Board undertook was to collect previously written and unwritten MWI policies, and created some new polices to meet the demand of this technological age.

WI membership across Canada and the globe continues to rapidly decline due to changes in family lifestyles, women's employment, and aging populations. Please help WI continue to be a strong voice for women, families, and communities within Canada and globally.

## NEW BRUNSWICK

### ANGELA SCOTT, FWIC DIRECTOR

As we prepare for our own AGM in New Brunswick and the FWIC AGM at the same time, it is a perfect time to reflect on the past year's endeavors and adventures.

One such success was the District Convention Schedule that reconvened in person around the province. President Sharron Adams and other Provincial Board Members attended most, if not all these functions. And what a welcome event it was to share company and catch up from our last visits in 2019. The crowds were down in places,

having lost about 25% of our members, but the enthusiasm was high, especially for sponsoring the shelter and program that Community of Hope in Moncton supports for the human trafficking and sex worker trade. Elaine Jackman, social worker, and activist continues to inform and include NBWI in this worthy cause.

During the fall of 2022 we also put together a 2023 calendar showing who and what the WI is all about in NB. Another will be prepared for 2024 we think, with plenty of awesome pictures to share our story. In addition, many branches participated in the Why WI? project, and sent their results in to the WI Canada Facebook page. Thanks goes to our admin officer Rose D'Amour, Secretary Helen Clarke, and Hillsborough Branch President, Chandra Smith for posting and sharing to the point where we now have several Branches with their own Facebook pages. This sounds simple, but it takes consistent work to post each activity and ask/attract new members. The good news is it works!

Since 2023 started, NBWI has been searching for a project and a grant to achieve it. Unfortunately, we have not finalized anything concrete as of our Provincial Convention in June, but we are looking forward to learning more about helping foster children in our province as they come into emergency care. We will also hear from Holly Hersey and Sandra Day, who will tell about the ACWW Conference held in May 2023 from Malaysia.

And as a final note, we are excited to plan for fall of 2024 when FWIC will hold their triennial event in Truro, Nova Scotia. We will be happy to pick up any travelers flying into Moncton on our way to NS and expect to liaise with NS in that aspect of the event. Since the last event in 2021 was held virtually, we are especially looking forward to the in person sharing and caring that makes WI an important part of our lives.

## NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

ELIZABETH MOSS, PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR

This year seems to have flown by. We have fourteen branches reporting with 235 members, so we are getting our stride back! Everyone has resumed their meetings, worked on projects, and gathered together face to face for their District Meetings. They have observed life sized mammal models, participated in various quizzes, attended plays, and participated in virtual events. Some members learned to make bowls from cotton rope while others made braided rugs using panty hose that was dyed different colours. Quilts, runners, mixer covers, trivets, mug matts, cord holders, bookmarks and bags are just a few of the items that members created.

Members are always up for learning new skills whether it be those that could save a life during an emergency or those that can be used to embellish their handiwork such as

beading or painting. In addition to all this, branches and members continue to create and donate quilts, chemo caps, and adult clothing protectors, and more in addition to their monetary gifts to those in need.

Although we have been unable to fill the position in the office, we have been receiving the mail and taking care of business. We have an awesome board of 14 members always thinking of our members and keeping us on the go. We even have our own ACWW Coordinator which strengthens our ties with our international body.

Even though Covid brought us to our knees, there was one positive outcome. We have learned to embrace technology and put it to good use. The board has met once a month via Zoom and are managing to keep up.

We are hoping to have more communication with individual members using technology.

## NOVA SCOTIA

### JACQUELINE MELVIN, PRESIDENT

The 2022-23 year has been a year of new challenges as we are still faced with family and friends suffering from COVID. The province has opened to having in person gatherings but at times those still had to be postponed or canceled due to COVID and weather.

Our 2023 AGM is going to be held as a hybrid event with Pictou County hosting it. It is my hope that many of our members will feel comfortable enough to join us in person, but we realize there will still be a number on zoom.

Some of our regions were able to hold Spring Rallies in person and I was able to attend two of these as COVID in my household prevented me from attending one that I had hoped to attend.

Unfortunately, we have had a few more branches disband but have at least one new branch that has started.

Connecting with fellow WI members is important. I am hoping that once we get through this year and moving forward, we can come together more and reconnect. I am still struggling with my role as President as I have not been able to meet even half of our province's membership.

I would like to thank the FWIC group for allowing me to attend their monthly zoom meetings. Having had the privilege of attending the ACWW Triennial Convention in Malaysia in May I was able to meet many of these members in person which was a wonderful experience.

Here's to a great 2023-2024 year and hopefully we can come together in person more and stay connected.

Quote "There is no limits to what we as women can accomplish." Michelle Obama

## ONTARIO

### MICHELLE PHILLIPPI, PRESIDENT

Hello everyone,

Something new we are trying this year is having monthly zoom meetings for the Coordinators and the Area voting delegates (AVD's). This gives the Coordinators and the AVD's an opportunity to support each other, offer ideas, suggestions and feedback on events happening across the province.

The winning team of the Women's Institute Scavenger Hunt (WISH) was announced in December, culminating a year of celebration in Ontario. The WISH committee asked members from across the province to form teams of four with at least one non-member. These teams cruised around Ontario looking to solve the clues given out bi-monthly throughout the year. This hunt was a very successful endeavor to recruit new members and gave current members a reason to get back out in their local communities, shaking off the isolation endured during the pandemic lockdown.

In February, Kelly Tallon Franklyn of Courage for Freedom invited FWIO Board members to travel to Parliament Hill in Ottawa and to Queens Park in Toronto in a collaborate effort working toward the end of the buying and selling of girls and boys and people in Ontario, Canada, and the world beyond as this is one of the ACWW goals.

FWIO was well represented at the 30<sup>th</sup> triennial conference of ACWW held in Malaysia with approximately 20 members in attendance. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet in person with ACWW members from all over the world, including our current ACWW President, Magdie de Kock, the retiring and incoming members of the ACWW Board and the ACWW staff. Our days were spent discussing proposed resolutions and governance to be compliant with ever-changing laws. Each night we were entertained and treated to a

feast of their local culinary cuisine. One of the highlights of the conference was the invitation to attend the Gala hosted by Her Majesty, Queen Azizah Iskandar at the Royal Palace in Kuala Lumpur.

Many of our Branches, Districts and Areas host a variety of events from educational programs to Arts & Craft sales to raise thousands of dollars for local Charities. I am so proud to be the FWIO Provincial President as Women's Institute members are amazing!

Looking forward to seeing you all in July at the FWIC AGM!

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

### MIRIAM LANK, PRESIDENT

Women's Institutes have actively worked together for family, home, community, and country for 126 years. The Women's Institute movement and all the efforts of WI members are known throughout the world. Through our affiliation with the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), we belong to a global sisterhood of women to improve the quality of life for all women, their families, and their communities. Today there are approximately 5295 members in 450 branches across Canada.

In September, many WI's resumed meeting. It was so wonderful to meet in person for the Fall Workshops. The workshops were held at St. Eleanor's Lions Club, St. Joachim's Hall, and at Milton Hall. What a treat to be able to meet in person and visit with friends. For many in attendance it had been quite some time since meeting face to face. All sessions were well attended.

I would also like to congratulate the recipients of the many scholarships that were awarded over the past year. It was pleasing to have so many applicants apply. Also, congratulations to the winners of the Ninth Annual Island Products Contest. Although we had fewer entries than anticipated, the recipes were very creative and supported the use of island-grow products. This contest is open annually to all students from grade seven to twelve.

On November 25th, the Festive Country Christmas Gala Dinner and Yuletide Auction was held at the Delta Marriott Hotel. It was a huge success, and all tickets were sold. The funds raised were given to the Alberton and O'Leary Hospitals for purchasing patient equipment.

WI members contributed to Christmas Stockings for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hillsborough Hospital, and the Prince Edward Home. Donations were also given to the

White Cross Campaign for Canadian Mental Health. WI members further demonstrated their generosity by knitting mittens for children in grades one to six. This is another of our annual projects.

February was a busy month. Founder's Day was held on February 14th at the Farm Centre. This year's theme was "Mental Health—Taking Care of Yourself in Trying Times." There was a Valentine Greeting Card exchange and Helen Nicholson led a card craft-making session. There was also a game of Valentine Bingo led by Louise Weeks. The Founder's Day event was most enjoyable and very well attended.

February's "Taking Care of Women's Business. Period. 28-Day Campaign" was a tremendous success with approximately \$7,000 in products collected and distributed to Food Banks across PEI. Since this project began, we have collected approximately \$40,000 in feminine hygiene products.

April 28th was ACWW "Walk the World Day". Many WI members walked in groups to celebrate this day. The WI Roadside Cleanup was held on May 13th. This was the 50th Anniversary for this project which keeps our roadways, ditches and properties free from garbage. A variety of prizes were awarded. Many islanders and visitors to PEI comment on how clean our ditches are. Keep up the great work!

For the past two years we have featured many Island farms from east to west in our monthly "Heard it through the Grapevine" feature. This excellent initiative showcases our farm families and the many items they produce.

For many months we advertised for individuals to take a leading role in the organization of WI's presence at "Old Home Week". We were disappointed that no one expressed interest. We were hoping that two or three would volunteer to organize this event.

As this is my final President's Report, I want to express my thanks to all members of the Board. Also, thanks to Ellen MacPhail, Executive Director, and Carolyn Prime, Administrative Assistant. You are both a wonderful asset to WI and so great to work with.

WI members, I have visited branches from east to west and in-between. It's been a great pleasure meeting all of you and I thank you for your warm welcome and friendship. Although being WI President was not something that ever occurred to me, I am so grateful that I had the privilege to do so. Your friendship has meant so much to me.

I want to wish the incoming Board the very best of luck as they continue to support the outstanding initiatives of our WI branches across PEI and welcome you to the annual provincial convention.

## QUEBEC

### LINDA JANES, PRESIDENT-ELECT

In 2022 our members have rallied after COVID restrictions were lifted and have started in-person meetings and gatherings and it's great to be back together again. Our Branches kept up monthly check-ins with their members during the shutdown and I, for one, didn't realize how much I would miss seeing my fellow members in person.

Sadly, we lost quite a few members, but the good news is that we have about 20 new members. Counties have been attending functions to let people know about the W.I. and what we do.

A number of counties and branches participated in the FWIC 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations by planting trees.

The adoption of the Quebec Tartan project is in its final stages and the vote to accept it is expected to be held in the fall. I have done many interviews with the media, Global News, CBC radio and various newspapers as well as group talks about the Tartan and the W.I.

Finally, our latest upcoming project is to get restaurants to offer seniors smaller portion meals to help cut down on waste.