



Federated Women's Institutes of Canada
23rd National Convention
Truro, Nova Scotia



September 17-19, 2024
Triennial Report



FWIC MISSION STATEMENT

A national network for women and families to promote leadership and personal development through education and fellowship.

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 the Federation

MEMBERSHIP

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
# Of Members	4698	3990	3910

COMMUNICATION

Since 2019 *WI Connections* has been distributed monthly by email. In addition, information is regularly posted on the website and Facebook page.

FINANCE

FWIC and the Homestead operate on provincial fees, interest earned on investments, donations, and grants sought from government sources. Using Zoom technology, the board has been able to meet regularly.

GOVERNANCE

The FWIC Board has eleven members: the president, the president-elect (selected at each National Convention), the treasurer (non-voting), and nine directors one from each of the provinces. Meetings of the executive, committees, and board were all held using Zoom technology.

Federated Women's Institutes of Canada/Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead
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519-448-3873

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA
Board of Directors
2021-2024

President Margaret Byl

President-Elect Lynn MacLean

Colleen Hooper, BC (July 2021-May 2024)

Brenda Devauld, BC (May 2024-Sept 2024)

Linda Mason, AB (July 2021-June 2023)

Donna Henderson, AB (June 2023-Sep 2024)

Denise Joss, MA (July 2021 – May 2023)

Debra Barrett, MA (May 2023-Sep 2024)

Angela Scott, NB (2021-2024)

Eleanor Lilley, NS (2021-2024)

Elizabeth Young, NF (2021-2022)

Elizabeth Moss, NF (2022-2024)

Mary Shortt, ON (2021-2022)

Anne Innes, ON (2023-2023)

Linda Zelem, ON (2022-2023) (2024)

Doreen Wall, PE (2021-2024)

Judy Page Jones, QC (2021-2024)

Karen Gerwing, SK (2021)



Dear Delegates and Guests,

As hosts for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada FWIC/WI Canada National Convention, we are pleased to welcome you all to Truro, Nova Scotia.

The Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia is honoured to host such an event in our beautiful province. We extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests, speakers, and participants who have travelled from near and far to attend the convention. Our wish is that you will have a successful convention and can leave with fond memories of your visit to Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Melvin, WINS President
Margie Taylor, WINS President-Elect



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

September 17–19, 2023



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 23rd Triennial National Convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC), hosted by the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia.

As a national network for women and families, FWIC works to promote leadership and personal development through education and fellowship. This convention provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your organization's achievements, to reflect upon your many rewarding experiences, and to set goals for the future.

I would like to commend the members of FWIC for advancing women's leadership and promoting responsible citizenship. Your generosity of spirit and contributions to your communities are greatly appreciated.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive meeting in Truro, Nova Scotia.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



Premier's Message

As Premier of Nova Scotia, and on behalf of the province, I want to extend a warm welcome to all attendees of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada's 23rd annual conference. Your dedication to community, education, and empowerment of women is truly inspiring.

Across our country, women have proven that they are strong, resilient leaders who contribute to our vibrant and diverse culture and economy. As you come together over the next two days to share knowledge, insights, and your experiences, let this conference be your inspiration for action and lasting change.

I would like to thank the conference organizers for their dedication and hard work. Your commitment to empowering women is important to ensuring we see more women take on leadership roles in their communities.

To all conference attendees, thank you for your participation and for your commitment to creating a better world for women and girls. I hope your time here in Truro is not only productive, but also enriching and inspiring. I hope you leave this conference with new valuable connections, positive memories and a renewed energy to continue the impactful work that you do.

Best wishes to you all for a successful and inspiring conference.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Houston".

Honourable Tim Houston,
Premier of Nova Scotia





Dear 2024 FWIC/WI Canada Conference Attendees:

On behalf of the Municipality of Colchester, I would like to welcome you to the Triennial Convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC). We are thrilled to have you with us and trust you will enjoy our warm hospitality and be inspired to forge a successful path forward for your organization while here.

I noted your recipe for success includes ingredients like vision, teamwork, trust, ideas, goodwill, imagination, and leadership. I believe these, combined with the many wonderful women you have in attendance, the sky is the limit for what you can all accomplish.

I wish you a productive and rewarding conference and hope you have time to explore our beautiful county and province during your stay with us. I would also like to extend a special thank you to the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia (WINS) and their dedicated volunteers for hosting this inspiring event here in our region.

All the best,

Christine Blair,
Mayor of the Municipality of Colchester



Mayor's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome delegates and guests of The Federated Women's Institute of Canada to Truro. Having been familiar with the works of WINS I am very grateful for the help we had with our 7 Children. (5 girls 2 Boys)
Car seats on Loan from the Institute were an important part of our safe travels. Thank You!

We now have 10 grandchildren (8 girls 2 boys) and the 11th on the way, fortunately they are spread out across the country. (Meaning car seats required are spread out across the country)

I know there are many important issues in our country, urban and rural that your organization play a role in shaping, upholding, and leading us into the future. For that, Canadians owe the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada our thanks and great respect for what YOU do!

You really do make things BETTER!

Sincerely,

Bill Mills,
Mayor of Truro

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PROGRAM NATIONAL CONVENTION

Sailing Into the Future with a Recipe for Success

Tuesday, September 17

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Registration Desk Open

5:30 pm Dinner

7:00 pm **Opening Ceremonies (Elm/Oak downstairs)**

(Please be seated by 6:45 pm)

Parade of Flags

Presiding: Margaret Byl, President

O Canada

Land Acknowledgement

Mary Stewart Collect

God Save the King

Welcome: Margaret Taylor, President WINS

Jacqueline Melvin, Past President WINS

Greetings from Dignitaries

Recognition of Past Presidents in Attendance

Entertainment

Guest Speaker: Carolyn Van Den Heuvel

Award Presentations

Tweedsmuir Competitions

Senator Carine Wilson Competition

Presentation of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year

Announcements

President's Reception

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Agenda Subject to Change

8:30 am	Registration table opens
9:00 am	FIRST PLENARY SESSION (Elm/Oak downstairs) Announcements Presiding: Margaret Byl, President Land Acknowledgment Mary Stewart Collect Parliamentarian Gayle Grills Moment of Silence and acknowledge those who have passed away since 2021 Minutes of 22nd National Convention and Minutes of 2023 AGM Guest Speaker: Starr Cunningham, CEO Mental Health Foundation of NS Presentation of Audited Financial Statements: Whitney Dean, Millard, Rouse, & Rosebrugh Chartered Accountants LLP Budget 2024-2025: Linda Mason, Treasurer Recommendation to appoint the auditor for 2024-2025 Resolutions
10:30 am	Nutrition Break
10:50 am	Resolutions cont'd Video – Lesley Crewe Leadership Modules Certificates
Noon	Lunch
1:15 pm	SECOND PLENARY SESSION President's Report Committee Reports Speaker: The Nova Scotian Cookie Company
2:45 pm	Nutrition Break
3:05 pm	Workshop: What is Success for WI?
4:30 pm	Announcements
5:30 pm	Dinner- wear a bit of tartan or cultural dress
6:30 pm	Bell Ringer Sessions (Upstairs) Gaelic Divert Nova Scotia Cold Stream Sea Glass

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Agenda Subject to Change

8:30 am	Registration table opens
9:00 am	THIRD PLENARY SESSION (Elm/Oak downstairs) Announcements Presiding: Margaret Byl, President Business continues Speaker: Rob Newcombe
10:30 am	Nutrition Break
10:50 am	Business continues PenPal Update Invitation for 2027
Noon	Lunch Speaker FCC Katie Keddy
1:00 pm	Quilt Draw
1:15 pm	FOURTH PLENARY SESSION Speaker: Amy Vanderheide-FCC ACWW Presentation – Marie Kenny, Canada Area President
3:00 pm	Nutrition Break
3:30 pm	Past President's Competition -Winners Installation of board and Presentation of Pins
4:00 pm	Retire Flags Courtesies
6: 00 pm	Reception
7:00 pm	Banquet Guest Speaker: Pam Mood, Motivational speaker

FWIC NATIONAL CONVENTION 2024 Rules of Order

Quorum: Quorum at the National Convention shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the registered voting delegates at the Convention.

Speaking at the Business (Plenary) Sessions:

1. Stand up, proceed to the microphone, and ask to be recognized by the chair, provide your name and registration number.
2. When you are authorized to speak you have the floor until you are finished and sit down.
3. No one is to speak out of turn and/or before being recognized by the chair.

Motions:

1. Main motions must be made and seconded before the business can be debated.
2. Main motions should be written out precisely stating what you want to say and given to the President/Chair and then sit down. Wait until later to give your reasons for the motion.
3. A motion must be seconded before discussion, or a decision is made. To second a motion you call out "Second" and your name and registration number.
4. The chair then states the question on the motion, and it is then open for discussion.
5. You may debate the motion twice (2) on any debatable motion on the same day. Each time you may speak for up to five minutes, with a warning after three minutes.
6. The maker of the motion has a one-time right to speak immediately after the chair has stated the motion.
7. The chair puts forth the question if no further discussion.
8. The chair asks for a count if not a clear majority and announces the results of the vote.
9. Stick to the subject of the motion and debate only the issues of the motion and not the members debating.

Amendments:

1. Simple word changes to insert or add words, strike out or strike out, and insert words are the easiest and should be written out.
2. Amendments should say exactly where in the main motion the change is to be made and precisely what words to use.
3. The vote on the amendment is taken first and does not decide whether the motion will be adopted, only whether the wording in the main motion will be changed.
4. After an amendment is adopted, the main motion may be further debated and further amended.

Voting:

1. A majority vote is required to adopt a motion or to elect to office.
2. A majority vote is defined as "more than half" of the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote excluding blanks or abstentions as a regular/properly called meeting at which a quorum is present.
3. Routine matters, when there seems to be no opposition, a procedure known as "unanimous consent" can be used without the chair having to state the question and put the motion to a vote.
4. Special resolutions require two-thirds of the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote excluding blanks or abstentions.

Resolutions: The Chair moves the resolution and the province/board that made the motion will second the motion and then speak to the motion.

MINUTES FROM CONVENTION 2021 AND AGM 2023

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

22nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

DAY 1, JULY 5, 2021

The 22nd National Convention and Annual General Meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada met on July 5, 2021, via virtual means held by Zoom. The meeting was called to order by President Joan Holthe at 1:00 pm Eastern Time.

ATTENDANCE:

FWIC President:	Joan Holthe
FWIC President-Elect:	Margaret Byl
ACWW World President:	Magdie de Kock
ACWW Canada Area President:	Linda Hoy

FWIC PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Jill Copes, BC	Mary Shortt, ON	Miriam Lank, PE
Linda Mason, AB	Judy Page Jones, QC	Elizabeth Young, NL
Karen Gerwing, SK	Angela Scott, NB	
Denise Joss, MB	Lynn MacLean, NS	

ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS HOMESTEAD STAFF:

Emily Jackson & Roxana Maturana, Archival Assistants
Sally Thorne, Bookkeeper

PROVINCES:

ALBERTA:

Colleen Bianchi	Diane Dammann	Linda Toews
Gloria Coates	Grace Reister	Elizabeth Rushton

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

L. Ruth Davis	Ruth Fenner	Wanda Mason
Lynda Desrocher	Janice (Jan) Hardie	Ruby McBeth
Brenda Devauld	Susan Hoszouski	Marijke Oudshoom
Anne Dunn	Donna Jack	Rochelle (Shelly) Simrose
Faye Eggleston	Linda Martorino	Kimberly-Rorstrom-Wittig

MANITOBA:

Debra Barrett	Ann Mandzuik	Gisela Nolting
Jacqueline Chartrand	Patricia (Trish) Masniuk	Elaine Thomson
Liz Chongva	Marion McNabb	

NEW BRUNSWICK:

Anthea Archer	Carol Egan	Ruth Anne Robinson
Heather Cummings	Holly Hersey	Chandra Smith
Sandra Day	Wendy MacDougall	

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Roxanne Fleming	Delores Jones	Barbara Taylor
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Sheila Ford
Winnifred Hill
NOVA SCOTIA:

Ruth Blenkhorn
Lynn Langille
Eleanor Lilley

Jane Laite
Marion Stratton

Christine MacKenzie
Ellen McLean
Jacqueline Melvin

Mary Winter

Coni Murray
Judy Parks
Margie Taylor

ONTARIO:

Marie Claire Truitt-Alper
Kathleen Beal
Eleanor Berry
Sue Cushing
Cheryl Bunda
Mary Derbyshire
(Alma) Joanne Erickson
Rosemary Evangelista
Kelly Tallon Franklin
Helen Geissinger
Laura Green
Anne Innes
Donna Jebb
Judith Logan Junop
Shannon Lee Mannion
Janet MacDonald

Cecilia Maines
Bernice Marsland
Annemarie MacDonald
Margaret McInroy
Linda Mitchell
Sandy Miller
Nancy Muir
Marg Ogar
Donna Page
Evelyn Peck
Michelle Phillipi
Christine Reaburn
Michelle Rich
Irene Robillard
Donna Russett
Maritta Saharinen

Linda Sims
Glenna Smith
Valerie Smith
Elsie Stephenson
Barbara Stones
Cheryl Sullivan
Ruth Thomas
Donna Thompson
Elaine Tully
Ellen Waye
Barbara Weese
Pauline Weiland
Hania White
Linda Zelem
Linda Ambrose (GS)
Sharon Rusk

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND:

Marie Kenny

Doreen Wall

Glenn Younker

QUEBEC:

Bonita Annett
Edwina Bougie
Michilynn Dubeau

Cynthia Jackson
Linda Hoy
Paulette Mahannah

Elizabeth Milroy
Sheila Needham
Norma Sherrer

SASKATCHEWAN:

Virginia Kreklevich

WELCOME AND OPENING CEREMONIES: President Joan Holthe and Elizabeth Young, President of Newfoundland Labrador jointly welcomed everyone to the 22nd National Convention. President Joan thanked the Newfoundland Labrador WI Planning Committee for all their work as well as the hospitality they showed President Joan when she visited. President Joan gave regrets on behalf of the membership that the National Convention could not be held in Newfoundland due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Elizabeth Young invited everyone to visit when COVID restrictions have been lifted.

NATIVE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Margaret Byl presented the Native Land Acknowledgement and invited the meeting to hold a moment of reflection to acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past.

OFFICIAL GREETINGS: Following the playing of the National Anthem, Margaret Byl brought greetings to the meeting on behalf of the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Greetings from the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford were read by Mary

Shortt and Elizabeth Young brought greetings from Honourable Pam Parsons, Minister Responsible for Women and Gender Equality for Newfoundland and Labrador. President Joan thanked everyone for attending the National Convention and AGM and thanked Angela Scott for her presentation/workshop, "Draw the Circle Wide" which was presented during the morning session. President Joan also thanked the Past Presidents for attending and their years of support. In attendance were Past Presidents Dr. Ellen McLean, Sheila Needham, Ruth Blenkhorn, Marie Kenny, and Linda Hoy.

Linda Hoy, ACWW Canada Area President, congratulated Joan and her Board for their work over the past three years and introduced Maggie de Kock, ACWW World President. President Maggie thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked Angela Scott for her morning presentation. She brought greetings on behalf of the Associated Country Women of the World as well as thanking the WI for their work over the past century.

President Joan thanked Maggie De Kock.

President Joan acknowledged Anne Innes from Ontario who introduced Cara Ausmus, a southern Illinois farmer, who was a guest of FWIO. Cara was part of the Ontario Exchange Programme.

President Joan thanked and acknowledged the work of FWIC during the Pandemic and announced the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year Award winners during the last Triennium: Ruth Fenner 2018; Christine Reaburn 2019; Evelyn Lewis 2020, and this year's winner, Ruth Blenkhorn.

TWEEDSMUIR COMPETITION WINNERS: Miriam Lank of PEI WI announced the winners of the Lady Tweedsmuir competitions for Handicrafts.

Handicraft Competition

- 1st Donna Thompson ON
- 2nd Audrey Farquharson PEI
- 3rd Linda Chesnutt NS
- 4th Karen Gerwing SK

Cultural

- 1st Carol P Brown AB
- 2nd Chandra Smith NB
- 3rd Diane Dammann AB

Community

- 1st Chandra Smith NB

History

- 1st Carol P. Brown AB

Margaret Byl thanked Miriam and the PEI WI for their generosity in donating the competition prize money. Before announcing the winner of the Senator Cairine Wilson Award, Margaret provided a short history of the award. There was only one cash prize for first place in the amount of \$100.00. Although several entries were received, only the 1st to 4th place winners were announced.

Senator Cairine Wilson Award

- 1st Marion G McNabb MB
- 2nd Annemarie MacDonald ON
- 3rd Ruth Fenner BC
- 4th Diane Dammann AB

PAST PRESIDENT'S COMPETITION: Past President Linda Hoy announced the winner of the Convention Pin Design Competition was Jill Copes, British Columbia. The design was a maple Leaf shaped pin outlined in blue and green with the year 2021 at the top. In the centre in green

was the theme “Our Diversity is Our Strength”. The pin also encompassed both WI Canada (FWIC) and Canada Area (ACWW) on the points of the leaf. Linda thanked everyone for their submissions.

IN MEMORIAM: Marie Kenny provided the In Memoriam with the theme, “Strong and Courageous”. Marie began by thanking the frontline workers for their service and Angela Scott for her presentation in the morning. Marie gave a tribute to the members who passed away during the Triennium and noted that the “past Triennium was like no other in the history of FWIC.”

President Joan Holthe read a list of past members that passed away during the Triennium.

PEI -Kay Crabbe (2019)	FWIC PE Exec Officer	1994-1997
NS -Jennie McInnes (2019)	FWIC President	1988-1991
Sheila Richards (2019)	NS Provincial Rep	2018-2019
Marion Newcombe (2020)	President W.I.N.S.	1995-1997
NB - Reta Ferguson (2017)	FWIC NB Exec Officer	2000-2003
Nancy Bannister (2020)	FWIC NB Exec Officer	2006-2009
Dorothy Dunphy (2018)	FWIC NB Exec Officer	1988-1991
QC -Joan Griffith (2020)	President QWI	2007-2009
Pearl Yates (2020)	FWIC QC Exec Officer	1991-1994
MB - Diane Hall (2019)	President MWI	2002-2004
SK - Marian Ogodnick	President SWI	2015-2018
AB - Marie Plaizer	President AWI	1978-1981

Marie invited a minute of silence be held to reflect on all those lost followed by a reading of the poem called “Miss Me but Let Me Go.”

President Joan thanked Marie Kenny for her message.

Following a fifteen-minute break, members turned to the first Business Session at 2:55pm ET.

PLENARY SESSION ONE

1. MARY STEWART COLLECT AND INTRODUCTIONS: Dr. Ellen McLean recited the Mary Stewart Collect.

President Joan thanked Dr. Ellen McLean for her contributions. This was followed by the introduction of the Parliamentarian for the Plenary Sessions, Elizabeth Rushton as well as the FWIC Board and the staff at the Homestead:

FWIC Board: President Elect - Margaret Byl

BC -Jill Copes	QC-Judy Page Jones
AB -Linda Mason	NB-Angela Scott
SK -Karen Gerwing	NS-Lynn MacLean
MB -Denise Joss	PE-Miriam Lank
ON -Mary Shortt	NL-Elizabeth Young

Staff at Homestead: Sally Thorne Roxana Maturana Emily Jackson

2. RULES OF ORDER: President Joan noted that all WI members are invited to attend the Convention and Annual General meeting and reviewed who is eligible to vote.

- Each Provincial WI has ten votes and each FWIC Board Member has one vote.
- Each Provincial WI identified and submitted the names of the voting delegates to FWIC and the names as well as the number of votes each carried were given to Jennifer from Prairie Telegraph.
- Only those who are voting delegates can vote.

Jennifer Gyuricska explained the process the delegates would follow to vote during the virtual meeting.

3. ROLL CALL & VOTING STRENGTH: 113

With 113 delegates in attendance, a quorum was present.

The number of votes for 50%+1 was 57 while the number for 2/3rds votes from registered delegates was 75.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

MOTION: Linda Mason/Denise Joss moved to accept the agenda as it was circulated.
MOTION CARRIED.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 21ST NATIONAL CONVENTION

Lynn MacLean and President Joan provided some corrections.

A few corrections came from the meeting.

MOTION: Karen Gerwing/Bonita Annett moved to accept the minutes of the 21st National Convention as amended. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was no business arising from the Minutes of the 21st National Convention.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for the 2020 AGM.

MOTION: Judy Page Jones/Jill Copes moved to accept the minutes of the 2020 AGM as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was no business arising from the Minutes of the 2020 AGM

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

7.1. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - President Joan presented her President's Report for the Triennium which was found on pages 9 & 10 of the 22nd National Convention Report.

7.2. FINANCIAL REPORT- Linda Mason, FWIC Treasurer, presented the Financial Report as prepared and audited by Millard Chartered Accountants. She thanked the Auditors and Chartered Accountants for all their work and introduced Sally Thorne, the bookkeeper for FWIC. Linda Mason reported that the ledgers have been updated and that they are working to keep expenses down with grants. Work was done to keep the expenses at a minimum which resulted in an excess of revenue. Members were invited to ask any questions.

Karen Gerwing suggested changing the heading of the Summary of Accounts to accurately reflect the year.

MOTION: Linda Mason/Margaret Byl moved to accept the Financial Report as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. AUDITOR FOR FWIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2021-2022

MOTION: Linda Mason/Denise Joss moved to appoint Millard Chartered Professional Accountants as the Auditors for 2021-2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was a discussion of how extra funding will be used after previously mentioned expenses are addressed. Margaret Byl stated that it will be used for digitizing initiatives until the money runs out. If the Homestead is sold, funds go to FWIC.

MOTION: Linda Mason/Linda Hoy moved to use the funds from the Hoodless Foundation bank account for moving expenses and storage. \$13,000 in account. **MOTION CARRIED.**

9. GUEST SPEAKER: Courage for Freedom - Lynn MacLean introduced guest speaker Kelly Tallon Franklin. Kelly is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of "Courage for Freedom" which educates, trains, and certifies community service providers who serve the vulnerable victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Kelly thanked FWIC for inviting her to speak and shared information on human trafficking in Canada. In particular, she noted that there is an increase in human trafficking and many of the girls and boys are coming from the rural areas. Kelly introduced Project Maple Leaf and invited the members to join in the social media campaign scheduled for July 30th. Members were invited to take their picture holding the sign that read "I want to eradicate the buying and selling of girls and boys and children in Canada".

After a discussion where questions were asked and answered, Lynn MacLean & President Joan thanked Kelly for her presentation and for sharing her message.

10. SALE OF THE ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS HOMESTEAD:

President Joan addressed the meeting regarding the motion made by the Board of Directors to sell the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. President Joan then opened the floor for discussion.

The following points were made:

- If the Homestead is sold, hopefully an office space will be found in Ontario
- The Homestead is for sale because there are no funds to operate it.
- It was suggested a Trust could be created from the proceeds of the sale
- There was a general discussion on how the proceeds could be used as well as what were the members willing to do to support the Homestead.
- There was a discussion on the importance and significance of the Homestead.

As there was no further discussion, The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead remained for sale.

11. SPECIAL RESOLUTION 2021-1 MAIL-IN BALLOT

The FWIC Board made the motion to have Resolution 2021 – 1 (FWIC By-Laws) be voted on by a mail-in ballot. A motion was required to ratify the Board's decision to hold a mail-in ballot.

MOTION: Jill Copes/Diane Dammann moved to ratify the decision made by FWIC Board to hold a mail-in vote on Special Resolution 2021-1 FWIC bylaws. **MOTION CARRIED.** President Joan stated a new package will be sent to the provinces.

Jill Copes announced that the mail-in votes were unanimously in favour of the new FWIC By-Laws.

12. SPECIAL RESOLUTION 2021-2 INCREASE IN PROVINCIAL FEES

Jill Copes moved the adoption of the following Special Resolution made on behalf of the Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada:

"The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada has few funding options, and the fees paid by the provinces have not increased since 2002. Over the last nineteen years, costs to operate have continued to grow. Grants have been applied for but are not always successful. The Board is requesting an increase of \$2.50 on a per capita basis from the Provincial and Territorial units."

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada increase the fees on a per capita basis from the Provincial and Territorial Units from \$5.00 to \$7.50 starting February 1, 2023.

MOTION: Jill Copes/Lynn MacLean moved to increase the annual FWIC provincial fees from \$5.00 to \$7.50 starting February 1st, 2023. It was noted that the motion required a 2/3 majority vote. **MOTION DEFEATED.**

President Joan reminded everyone of the presentation. at 6 pm ET by Jill Copes. Margaret Byl will also read the Triennial Tweedsmuir Winning Competitions.

ADJOURNMENT: President Joan adjourned the Plenary One at 4:38 pm ET. Plenary Two continued on July 6, 2021, at 1 pm ET.

DAY 2, JULY 6, 2021

The 22nd National Convention and the Annual General Meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada resumed its meeting on July 6, 2021, by virtual means using Zoom.

FWIC Board Attendance: The Board was in full attendance except for Elizabeth Young who had submitted her regrets.

1. **WELCOME:** President Joan welcomed everyone to the second day of the AGM at 1:00 pm ET.
2. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Mary Shortt introduced Dr. Linda Ambrose, professor, writer, and WI historian.

Dr. Linda Ambrose welcomed the opportunity to have a reunion with WI. She outlined the importance of WI to members and to the community and encouraged the members to consider what was important from the past to carry forward. Dr. Ambrose reflected that WI has a proud past and good bones, but our future is dependent on the decisions we make today. COVID-19 gave us a bumpy road, but it is not the first one that WI experienced. We need to challenge the assumptions from our past and look forward, seeking new partnerships and opportunities.

3. **HOUSEKEEPING:** Jennifer, Prairie Telegraph, called the roll for the voting members. President Joan thanked Parliamentarian Elizabeth Rushton for being present.

Linda Mason recapped the resolutions and votes from Day 1.

Voting Strength for Day 2: 50% +1 is 57 and 2/3rds to be carried is 74

4. **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:**

- a. **PRESIDENT ELECT REPORT** - Margaret Byl gave an update to her report found on page 11. In June of 2018, she attended a Round Table for the National Digital & Data Consultation on Trust and Privacy and noted that there was little time to prepare. She expressed thanks to Irene Robillard and Alyssa Gomori for their valuable input which was the result of the work completed on privacy issues that the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario dealt with on their Virtual Archives and Digitization Project.
- b. **EXECUTIVE REPORT AND PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - President Joan thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their help during her term of Office and her report was found on pages 12 & 13.
- c. **ADVOCACY AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT** - Jill Copes thanked Lynn MacLean for her assistance and thanked Joan Holthe for having her on her Executive Committee. Her report was found on pages 13 & 14.
- d. **COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT** - Angela Scott thanked her committee members, Karen Gerwing and Mary Shortt for their help with WI Connections. Angela requested that those present make submissions for WI Connections. Report found on page 16.
- e. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & HERITAGE COMMITTEE REPORT** - Margaret Byl gave the report on Community, Culture & Heritage and apologized for missing Chandra Smith's submission "What's Next for WI" during the Tweedsmuir Community Competition. Margaret Byl read Chandra's winning poem and confirmed that the poem will be included in the Tweedsmuir Competition Booklet that will be mailed out to all registrants. She thanked the Committee members, Miriam Lank, Glenna Smith, and Diane Dammann. She also thanked Holly Hersey and Donna Russett for keeping the Tweedsmuir alive. Margaret Byl spoke about the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead and provided updates on its situation involving renovations, impact of COVID-19, staff changes, and the sale of the Homestead. Margaret thanked everyone for their time and effort. The report was found on pages 17, 18 & 19.
- f. **OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT** - Judy Page Jones thanked committee members Angela Scott and Elizabeth Young for their work and referred to the Committee Report on page 19.
- g. **100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE** - Liz Chongva gave her report on the 100th Anniversary Committee which was found on page 20. She thanked President Joan and President Elect Margaret Byl for attending the different celebrations in Manitoba. She spoke about the Anniversary rose and the many locations that they had been planted across Canada. President Joan thanked Liz for her work and taking over the minutes when there was no longer administration staff.
- h. **NATIONAL PEN PAL PROJECT** - Judy Parks reported on the Pen Pal Project and the surprising number of requests both in Canada and abroad. Judy thanked everyone who worked on the project. She noted her report was found on page 23.
- i. **NATIONAL PROJECT COMMITTEE** - Lynn MacLean thanked the committee members Margaret Byl, Justina Hop, Denise Joss, Judy Page Jones, and Joan

Holthe for their work on the Committee and referred to the Committee Report on page 22.

President Joan requested approval of reports as they have been presented.

MOTION: Karen Gerwing/Lynn MacLean moved to accept the reports as they were presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **PROVINCIAL REPORTS:** President Joan called on the Provincial Presidents to give their provincial reports which were found on pages 25 – 35.

- 5.1- Brenda Devauld of British Columbia gave her report and spoke about the wildfires in Lytton BC and how people can help.
- 5.2- Diane Dammann of Alberta gave her report found on page 25.
- 5.3- Karen Gerwing of Saskatchewan gave the report for President Virginia as she was not in attendance. Margaret and Roxana held up the quilt made by President Virginia Kreklevich which she donated to FWIC to be used as a fundraiser.
- 5.4- Debra Barrett of Manitoba gave her report and mentioned that she neglected to add that Manitoba WI was the recipient of the 150 Trailblazer Award.
- 5.5- Mary Shortt of Ontario gave her report.
- 5.6- Elizabeth Milroy of Quebec gave her report.
- 5.7- Sandra Day of New Brunswick gave her report.
- 5.8- Eleanor Lilley of Nova Scotia gave her report.
- 5.9- Miriam Lank of PEI gave the report and thanked Joan for her work during the Triennium.
- 5.10- Elizabeth Young of Newfoundland was unavailable to give her report which is found on pages 28 & 29.

President Joan thanked all the Presidents for their reports.

6. **INVITATION TO THE 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION:** President Joan invited W.I.N.S. President Eleanor Lilley to speak. On behalf of the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, Eleanor Lilley issued an invitation to hold the National Convention in Nova Scotia in 2024. After viewing a short video, President Joan and President Elect Margaret Byl accepted the invitation on behalf of the membership.

7. **NOMINATIONS REPORT:** Jill Copes presented the Nomination Report found on page 21. Lynn MacLean was the only nominee for President Elect.

MOTION: Jill Copes/Margaret Byl moved to accept the Nomination Committee's Report for President Elect. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION: Jill Copes/Margaret Byl moved to accept the nomination of Lynn MacLean as President Elect. **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. **ELECTION OF PRESIDENT ELECT** – as the new By-Laws do not come into effect until after the National Convention, a vote for President Elect was held. Vote was in favour of Lynn MacLean for the position of FWIC President Elect.

President Joan congratulated Lynn MacLean on her election as President Elect.

9. INSTALLATION OF THE FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

Past President and ACWW Canada Area President, Linda Hoy, performed the installation ceremony of the FWIC Board for 2021-2024.

President Margaret Byl
President Elect Lynn MacLean
Colleen Hooper, BC
Linda Mason, Alberta
Karen Gerwing, Saskatchewan
Mary Shortt, Ontario
Doreen Wall, PEI
Eleanor Lilley, Nova Scotia
Angela Scott, New Brunswick
Judy Page-Jones, Quebec
Denise Joss, Manitoba
Elizabeth Young, Newfoundland & Labrador

Linda Hoy congratulated everyone on their new positions.

10. NEW FWIC PRESIDENT ADDRESS:

President Margaret Byl addressed the membership and thanked her family for their support; Joan for her mentorship, and the FWIC/WI Canada Board and Staff. She remembered those that had passed from COVID 19, the front-line workers and the community for facing the challenges of the pandemic. She recalled her words at the 21st National Convention in Winnipeg when she spoke of Climate Change and the current effects that are being felt across the nation from forest fires, extreme temperatures, increased tornadoes, high water levels, tropical storms, and the fact that Canada is warming at twice the global rate and that the North is warming at three times the global rate. She asked what can we do now to help keep the planet safe for our children and grandchildren? She spoke of Modern Slavery, Human trafficking, Mental Health Awareness and asked what issues would the provinces and territories wish FWIC to focus on and reminded the meeting that Our Diversity is Our Strength?

President Margaret Byl virtually presented Joan Holthe with a gift from the Board as well as the FWIC Life Membership Award and pin.

President Margaret Byl also presented Joan with a personal gift (a golden rose representing their friendship and the 100th Anniversary Rose).

Past President Joan gave the courtesies.

11. CLOSING CEREMONY:

Past President Joan invited Past President Ruth Blenkhorn to read the Institute Ode which was followed by "God Save the Queen".

Linda Hoy invited everyone to the Kitchen Party/ Meet and Greet for ACWW Canada Area Conference.

Past President Joan declared the 22nd National Convention closed. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 PM ET.

**FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JULY 11, 2023**

1. OPENING: President Margaret Byl

Margaret Byl called the meeting of the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada at 2:03 pm EST.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, President Margaret thanked all in attendance and the fifteen who were attending for the first time either in person or virtually.

2. NATIVE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT was read by Michelle Phillipi, President of FWIO. Thank you, Michelle.

This was followed by Oh Canada and a video presentation of Canada.

3. INTRODUCTION OF FWIC WI CANADA BOARD and Provincial Presidents (IP = in person)

Directors:

Colleen Hooper
Linda Mason
Debra Barrett
Anne Innes (IP)
Judy Page Jones
Angela Scott (regrets)
Eleanor Lilley
Doreen Wall
Elizabeth Moss
Lynn MacLean

Presidents:

Shelly Simrose (BC)
Linda Toews (AB)
Debra Barrett (MB)
Michelle Phillipi (IP) (ON)
Linda Janes (QC)
Sharron Adams (NB)
Jacqueline Melvin (NS)
Sheila Gallant (IP) (PEI)
Elizabeth Moss (NFLD)

4. OFFICIAL GREETINGS: President Margaret shared greetings from the following:

Larry Brock, MP Brantford-Brant, sent written best wishes and congratulations on FWIC's vision and leadership in Brant County.

Will Bouma, MPP Brantford- Brant, also sent written best wishes and congratulations.

Mayor of Brant County, David Bailey (in person) welcomed everyone on behalf of the three councillors present and himself and presented a certificate on behalf of the County of Brant commemorating today's meeting.

Deputy Mayor of Brantford, Dan McCreary (in person) provided best wishes and congratulations on behalf of Mayor Kevin Davis.

ACWW Canada Area President: ACWW Canada Area President Marie shared that ACWW wants to make sure that every woman's voice matters across the globe. As a former FWIC President she knows the work that has been done and continues to be done by FWIC. She noted that FWIC-WI Canada continues to ensure women's voices are carried forward and to ensure change happens to achieve a better future for women and families everywhere. It is

important that ACWW knows of the work of FWIC and that the two work together for home and country.

Canada Area President Marie closed with an inspirational thought from Sharon Alder. Her father taught her that we can read and write 100 books on wisdom but unless you apply what you've learned, they are only words on a page. Life is not about living with intentions but with actions. She thanked FWIC for the invitation to attend the meeting and looked forward to the discussions.

5. **RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTS:** President Margaret recognized past FWIC presidents who were in attendance either virtually or in person: Sheila Needham, Ruth Blenkhorn, Linda Hoy, Joan Holthe, and Marie Kenny. She also recognized past ACWW Canada Area President Elizabeth Rushton.
6. **MARY STEWART COLLECT:** Linda Janes, Quebec WI repeated the Mary Stewart Collect.
7. **PRESENTATION OF ERLAND LEE CERTIFICATE**
President Margaret presented this prestigious award to Mayor David Bailey for his ongoing support of the Women's Institutes and the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead.
8. **PARLIAMENTARIAN:** President Margaret introduced Donna Russett as the parliamentarian for the AGM.
9. **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.
10. **ROLL CALL & VOTING STRENGTH:** Jennifer called the roll which determined their votes. A quorum was therefore achieved.
The number of votes required for 50%+1 majority would be 51.
11. **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:**
MOTION: Colleen Hooper, BC/Doreen Wall, PEI moved to approve the agenda with changes as required. **MOTION CARRIED.**
12. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM 2023**
MOTION: Judy Page Jones, QC/ Elizabeth Moss, NFLD moved to accept the minutes of the 2022 AGM. **MOTION CARRIED**

Business arising from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022.
None to report online or in person.
13. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Margaret presented the President's report for the year which was found on page nine of the Annual Report. She noted that in June she attended the BCWI Triennial Convention.
14. **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. (Whitney took questions from the audience and online).

MOTION: Linda Mason, AB/ Michelle Phillipi, ON moved to accept the Financial Statements as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

15. **BUDGET:** Linda Mason presented the Budget for 2023-2024 which was found on page 31 in the Annual Report.
MOTION: Linda Mason, AB/ Lynn MacLean, NS moved the acceptance of the FWIC budget for 2022-2023. **MOTION CARRIED.**
16. **AUDITOR FOR FWIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2023-2024:**
MOTION: Linda Mason, AB/ Eleanor Lilley, NS moved to appoint Millards Chartered Professional Accountants as the Auditors for 2023-2024. **MOTION CARRIED.**
17. **INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:** Lynn MacLean introduced the guest speaker Stacey Bester. She noted that the guest speaker owns her own full-service bakery in Brantford and hosts TV baking shows. A cookbook author, Stacey Bester is also a successful Brantford businesswoman.
18. **GUEST SPEAKER PROFESSOR Stacey Bester** with the theme Sailing into the Future with A Recipe for Success.
Stacey gave an inspiring talk about entrepreneurship as a woman in Brantford. Her story showed her triumph over the initial difficulty in securing financing and sponsorship. Through her tenacity, it all came together, and Stacey's bakery business has been a Brantford success.
19. **THANK YOU:** Anne Innes thanked Stacey Bester for her talk.
20. **REFRESHMENT BREAK.**
21. **INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:** Colleen Hooper introduced Kim Coy who is a member of the Colwood WI Branch as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the BCWI. 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.
22. **GUEST SPEAKER:** Kim shared of an ongoing issue that she is hearing of and experiencing herself. It includes a shortage of family physicians and the increased use of walk-in clinics. This has resulted in missed diagnosis and incorrect diagnosis because of a lack of continuity of care. She related her unaddressed health issues and that of her sister. Kim recommended that this issue be the focus of our investigation across provinces, with an eye to this topic being a potential resolution that could be brought forward at the triennial meeting in September 2024.
23. **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:** President Margaret stated that at last night's board meeting, she informed the board that a resolutions committee would be created. Anyone interested in being on the committee is to contact President Margaret.
24. **THANK YOU:** Due to technical issues, Judy Jones was unable to offer an official thank you to Kim. President Margaret asked Colleen to contact Kim and invite her to send her written report to the office.

25. **PROMOTION OF CONVENTION 2024:** WINS President, Jacqueline Melvin, extended an invitation to attend the FWIC National Convention in Truro, Nova Scotia from September 17th-19th, 2024. The theme is "Sailing into the Future with a Recipe for Success." After the showing of a short video, Eleanor Lilley, Board Director, shared that the Convention will be held at Inn on Prince and early bird registration of \$375.00 will open on January 1st and will increase to \$425 on May 1st, 2024. Final registration is July 15th. Accommodation costs for a double room with breakfast will be \$164 plus tax.

Members were reminded of the competition to design a pin for the conference.

26. **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:**

- a. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Eleanor Lilley (in Angela's absence) presented the Communications Committee Report which was found on page 34 in the Annual Report. Eleanor invited members to join the committee, either for social media or the WI Connections.
- b. **OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT:** Lynn MacLean noted the Outreach Report was found on page 36. She encouraged those in attendance to reach out if they would like to join the committee. It is not necessary to be a member.
- c. **HOMESTEAD REPORT:** President Margaret noted there have been lots of changes at the Homestead. She introduced Nancy Carubba, Museum Manager and shared the most recent physical changes. President Margaret recognized the donation by Anne and Grant Innes and the work done by Linda Zelem. She encouraged those in attendance to visit and see the changes.

President Margaret requested approval of reports as they have been presented.

MOTION: Colleen Hooper, BC/Kim DeBruyne, ON moved the adoption of the committee reports. **MOTION CARRIED.**

27. **PROVINICIAL REPORTS-** President Margaret called on the Provincial Presidents to provide an update from their province.

- a. **Alberta:** Linda Toews noted Alberta's report is on page 44 and she shared that AWI has several new members on their Board.
- b. **British Columbia:** Shelley Simrose noted that the BCWI Report is on page 45. She became president in June 2023.
- c. **New Brunswick:** NBWI President Sharon Adams noted that NB doubled their attendance at their annual convention.
- d. **Manitoba:** President Debra Barrett noted that MWI's report is found on page 46 of the Annual Report. President Debra shared MWI has had a modest increase in membership and there is interest in the virtual branch.
- e. **Newfoundland and Labrador:** Marion Stratton for Elizabeth Moss noted that NFLD's report is found on page 48 of the Annual Report. She shared that NFLD is hoping to send a bus to the National Convention in NS.
- f. **Ontario:** President Michelle Phillipi noted FWIO's report is on page 50 of the Annual report, and she shared that there is now a wheelchair accessible picnic table at the Erland Lee Museum.
- g. **Quebec:** Linda Janes, Quebec's president-elect, noted the Quebec Report is on page 53. She shared that the Quebec tartan hopefully will be officially adopted in the fall.
- h. **Nova Scotia:** WINS President Jacqueline Melvin shared that WINS would hold a hybrid AGM on August 3rd. She noted that the highlight of the year for her was attending the ACWW World Conference in Malaysia.

- i. **Prince Edward Island:** PEI President Sheila Gallant shared that she became president in June 2023. PEIWI has a new scholarship for Arts and Culture and this year welcomed fifty-four new members.
- 28. **CANADIAN WOMAN OF THE YEAR:** President Margaret announced the winner of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year who is Miriam Lank from PEI. Miriam thanked everyone and was humbled to receive this award. PEI President Sheila Gallant accepted the award on behalf of Miriam. President Margaret also congratulated Pearl Homick, a 95-year-old member from Manitoba on the honour of being nominated.
- 29. **INSTALLATION OF NEW DIRECTORS TO THE BOARD:** FWIC Past President and ACWW Canada Area President, Marie Kenny, installed the two new directors and treasurer to the FWIC Board for 2023-2024. The new directors are Anne Innes, FWIO and Donna Henderson, AWI and the Treasurer is Linda Mason, AWI.
- 30. **INSTITUTE ODE-** President Margaret invited Joan Holthe to lead in the singing of the Institute Ode.
- 31. **GOD SAVE THE KING:** A video with God Save the King was played.
- 32. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Linda Zelem expressed concern about representation on the FWIC Board per province. She will send an email about her concern and members can email respond.
Entries for the National Convention Pin are to be mailed to the National Office.
- 33. **ADJOURNMENT-** Donna Henderson, AB/Lynn MacLean, NS moved the meeting to be adjourned at approx. 5:15 pm.

Recording Secretary,

Nancy Carubba

RESOLUTIONS

SPECIAL RESOLUTION 2024

INCREASE FEES FROM PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL UNITS

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada has few funding options, and the fees paid by the provinces have not increased since 2002. Over the last twenty-two years, costs to operate have continued to grow. Grants have been applied for but are not always successful. The Board is requesting the provincial and territorial fees be increased by 25%, making them \$6.25 on a per capita basis.

THEREFORE:

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

Submitted by the Board of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

RESOLUTIONS 2024

LICENSING OF DOCTORS CANADA-WIDE

We are having a massive shortfall for families being able to have access to a family doctor in Canada. Visiting a doctor now consists of attending a walk-in clinic, an emergency room, or a virtual appointment. This severely impacts our ability to have consistency of care for ourselves. When visiting several different physicians there is no tracking of overall health, resulting in many chronic or underlying issues not being discovered or treated soon enough. It is recognized by all professionals in the medical field that family physicians are vital for proper continuity of care and for the prevention of serious healthcare issues for patients. Resolving these issues in a more preventative framework also saves thousands in healthcare costs,

THEREFORE:

Resolution 2024-01

"Be it resolved the Federated Women's Institute of Canada request that the Government of Canada establish a federal accreditation program which will certify and make Canadian trained Family Doctors eligible to work in any province across Canada to practice medicine under one national license to practice."

Submitted by: Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

Resolution 2024-02

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

Submitted by: Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

Canadian students studying abroad have limited access to return to Canada to work through the CaRMS process. In order to ensure that Canadians remain in Canada to practice, thus protecting future human resource needs for family doctors, a more realistic and streamlined approach with greater access to residency training programs in Canada be provided to Canadians studying abroad. Therefore, we are putting forward this resolution,

THEREFORE:

Resolution 2024-03

“Be it resolved the Federated Women’s Institute of Canada request that Canada establish a federal accreditation program and Canadian students studying abroad be granted greater access to residency training programs in Canada to encourage them to return to Canada to practice medicine.”

Submitted by Federated Women’s Institutes of Canada

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In Canada, 1 in 3 women will experience sexual violence in their lifetime, with 80% of all sexual assaults being perpetrated by someone the person knows and only 10% of these incidents are ever reported. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a Public Health Crisis in need of a proportional response and the widespread prevalence of Sexual Violence Against Women (SVAW) has far-ranging immediate and long-term consequences for victims, their families, and for communities. Women and girls are at high risk of GBV and some are at even higher risk due to additional discrimination and barriers they face; this includes BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) and women forced into the sex trade, disabled women, as well as marginalized women who are homeless or under-housed. Unfortunately, Violence Against Women (VAW) is increasing while other violent crimes are decreasing across Canada and resulting injuries are a socially prohibited topic of conversation that remain 90% unreported. Only a fraction of the victims reporting SVAW can be seen by a Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) as often there are no specialized staff on duty, even in larger centres, forcing victims to return later, which they most often do not, and if they do, it requires them to remain unwashed and untreated until they can be properly examined,

THEREFORE:

Resolution 2024-04

“Be it resolved that Federated Women’s Institutes of Canada initiate a Women’s Advocacy & Awareness Campaign to increase the knowledge of this Public Health Crisis across Canada and foster the development of a National Forensic Nursing Bursary,”

Submitted by: British Columbia Women’s Institutes

Resolution 2024-05

“Be it resolved that Federated Women’s Institutes of Canada call on the Provincial Governments to standardize the Forensic Nurse Examiner/Sexual Assault Forensic Nurse Examiner training across Canada and call on the Federal Government to provide a funding mechanism to support Forensic nurses throughout Canada for the safety of all victims of sexual violence, their children and families.”

Submitted by: British Columbia Women’s Institutes

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Following my virtual installation, the new Board of Directors and I immediately began addressing the challenges we faced. “Sailing into the Future with a Recipe for Success!” was selected as our theme—a fitting choice for this Triennium. In light of the overwhelming support for the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, the Board decided to take the property off the market and give it another opportunity. Over the last three years, I have been blessed to be a part of this amazing organization. In each of the consecutive years grant applications for student hires from Young Canada Works and Canada Summer Jobs were accepted. A wreath has been donated on behalf of FWIC/WI Canada each year to be laid at the National Memorial in Ottawa.

2021-2024

- Collaborated with Conestoga College and welcomed an online intern, Ramanjeet, a student from India.
- I was honored to represent the Federated Women’s Institutes of Canada at the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Gala in Toronto on June 17th, hosted by The Royal Commonwealth Society of Toronto.
- Regrettably, on June 13, 2022, during the 111th Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Women’s Institutes, a motion was passed to disband SWI.
- On July 12th, FWIC held a Hybrid AGM at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. A grant from the County of Brant for \$5,000 enabled us to celebrate 125 years of Women’s Institutes with a tree planting ceremony, guest speakers, and a reception honoring HRM, Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee. We also recognized Mr. Hollie Archer for his generous donation to replace the roof of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. County of Brant Mayor David Bailey extended greetings and participated in planting four trees on the Homestead grounds.
- Spoke as the keynote speaker at the Niagara District Council of Women’s virtual Christmas event, discussing the history of Women’s Institutes.
- February 9, 2023, I attended a Town Hall meeting held by my local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), Wayne Gates, concerning the state of our medical system.
- On February 15th, at the invitation of Kelly Franklin, founder of Courage for Freedom, I joined FWIO President Michelle Phillipi and delegates from various organizations at Parliament Hill in Ottawa. We addressed Parliamentarians on the critical issue of human trafficking, alongside notable representatives from several organizations.
- Southern Ontario Tourism Conference from March 6 to 8 at the Sheraton Hamilton, Ontario, and returned just in time for our International Women’s Day event.
- On March 9, Nancy Carubba was hired as our new Museum Manager. Nancy Carubba.
- Attended the 30th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World held in Malaysia from May 17th to 25th.
- June was busy with Provincial AGMs either in person or via zoom
- The FWIC 2023 AGM was a hybrid event held on July 11th, attracting 51 members online and 43 members and guests. Attended Provincial AGMs in person (FWIO, BCWI & WINS)
- Mayor David Bailey received the Erland Lee Award, and the Adelaide Hunter Woman of the Year award was presented to Miriam Lank of PEI WI

- Reviewed the FWIC Governance Manual & Strategic Plan
- The FWIC Resolutions Committee was formed
- The "Project WI Cares" initiative aims to support schools from February 2024 onward.

President Jacqueline Melvin, Eleanor Lilley, and the WINS Planning Committee, who have actively participated in virtual meetings throughout the year, have done an exceptional job ensuring the 23rd National Convention will be an enjoyable and memorable event.

In conclusion, I am exceedingly thankful for the support of the Executive, Board of Directors, Communication & Outreach Committees, Resolution Committee, and the dedicated volunteers who have contributed their time and energy, enabling us to achieve so much progress.

I would like to extend special thanks to my right-hand lady, Lynn MacLean, for her unwavering support of both myself and FWIC, as well as to Angela Scott, editor of WI Connections. I am confident that with Lynn as the incoming president and Angela as the incoming president-elect, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada will continue to "Sail into the Future with a Recipe for Success!"

Finally, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to my husband, Lane, for his ongoing love and support.

Yours for Home & Country,

Margaret Byl,
President

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Three Year Financial Comparison

Revenue	FWC			Adelaide Hunter Hoodless		
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Donations and admissions	\$ 6,711	\$ 7,117	\$ 11,568	\$ 35,635	\$ 53,946	\$ 10,784
GST/HST rebates	5,842					
Interest and investment income	8,941	6,063	4,295	27	92	119
Unrealized investment gain	10,902		4,956			
Provincial fees	20,115	15,108	9,674		4,598	4,146
Grant - County of Brant		5,000	5,215	29,025	16,250	10,502
Grant - other	30,000	2,983	4,340	33,959	119,578	840
Other income	3,500	3,266	3,787			
Museum tours and other income				3,666	1,995	11,681
Events and rentals				440	5,781	6,346
Lottery			200			
Triennial convention						
Total	\$ 86,011	\$ 39,537	\$ 44,035	\$ 102,752	\$ 202,240	\$ 44,418
Expenses						
Office and administration	\$ 5,481	\$ 9,449	\$ 10,479	\$ 1,245	\$ 871	\$ 2,479
Insurance	2,215	2,317	2,316	7,329	8,393	8,577
Professional fees	514	604	4,065	4,630	5,437	4,065
Event expenses	476	4,364	8,078			
Salaries and contract services	38,438	7,501	3,821	12,912	26,103	39,256
Telephone, computer and internet	2,265	1,588	322	3,374	3,607	5,016
Utilities	915	1,049	597	6,502	6,897	4,544
Advertising and promotion	1,156	3,534	2,579			
Travel, meals and accommodation	418	528	255	1,653	278	245
Repairs and maintenance	4,931	1,016	542	27,404	160,385	5,209
New Horizon	2,174					
Sundry	169	187	248			464
Unrealized investment losses		15,566				
Triennial convention	3,001					
Total	\$ 62,153	\$ 47,703	\$ 33,302	\$ 65,049	\$ 211,971	\$ 69,855
Excess expenses over revenue	\$ 23,858	-\$ 8,166	\$ 10,733	\$ 37,703	-\$ 9,731	-\$ 25,437

Mrs Alfred Watt Memorial Trust

Revenue	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Investment income	\$ 726	\$ 764	\$ 881
Expenses			
ACWW	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300
ACWW Convention Expenditure		\$ 3,047	
Excess expenses over revenue	\$ 426	-\$ 2,583	\$ 581

FWIC - Three Year Financial Comparison		2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Cash Flow From Operating Activities				
Excess expenses over revenue (Sum of FWIC, AHH, Mrs A Watts)	\$ 61,987	-\$ 20,480	-\$ 14,123	
Unrealized (gains)/loss on Investments	-10,902	15,566	-4,956	
Accounts receivable	-7,500	7,500	0	
Government receivable	259	-11,949	13,799	
Inventory	-1,728	-259	464	
Prepaid expense and other assets	-5,430	1,728	1,874	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	-3,420	1,572	6,292	
Government payables	2,107	-1,647	1,251	
	\$ 35,373	-\$ 7,969	\$ 4,601	
Cash Flows From Financing Activities				
Operating Loan	-20,000			
Cash Flows From Financing Activities				
Net investment activity	-7,902	-5,104	-3,398	
Deferred revenue	2,611	-6,636	24,137	
	-\$ 5,291	-\$ 11,740	\$ 20,739	
NetDecrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	10,082	-19,709	25,340	
Opening Cash and Cash Equivalents	77,024	87,106	67,397	
Closing Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 87,106	\$ 67,397	\$ 92,737	

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Restricted and unrestricted cash and bank	\$ 87,106	\$ 67,397	\$ 92,737
Accounts receivable	7,500		
Government receivable	1,850	13,799	0
Inventory	3,038	3,297	2,833
Prepaid expenses and other assets	8,437	6,709	4,835
	\$ 107,931	\$ 91,202	\$ 100,405
Long Term			
Investments	\$ 129,085	\$ 118,623	\$ 126,977
Capital assets	1	1	1
	\$ 129,086	\$ 118,624	\$ 126,978
Total Assets	\$ 237,017	\$ 209,826	\$ 227,383
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 5,472	\$ 7,044	\$ 13,336
Government payables	2,107	460	1,711
Deferred revenue	6,636		24,137
	\$ 14,215	\$ 7,504	\$ 39,184
Net Assets	\$ 222,802	\$ 202,322	\$ 188,199
	\$ 237,017	\$ 209,826	\$ 227,383

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended March 31, 2024



**FEDERATED WOMEN'S
INSTITUTES OF CANADA**

For the year ended March 31, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of
Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (the 'Entity'), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024, and the statements of operations, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes and schedules to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at March 31, 2024, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many charitable organizations, the Entity derives part of its revenue from bequests, contributions and fundraising, the completeness of which are not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification 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 revenues, excess of revenue over expenses and cash flows from operations for the year ended March 31, 2024, current assets as at March 31, 2024 and net assets as at April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Other Matter - Corresponding Figures

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the fact that the prior year's figures, for the year ended March 31, 2023 were not audited. We issued a Review Engagement Report on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2023 on July 2, 2023.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we may identify during our audit.



July 22, 2024
Brantford, Ontario

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS
Licensed Public Accountants

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at March 31	2024	2023 (unaudited)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Restricted and unrestricted cash and bank (Note 3)	92,737	67,397
Government receivable	-	13,799
Inventory	2,833	3,297
Prepaid expenses and other assets	4,835	6,709
	100,405	91,202
Long Term		
Investments (Note 4)	126,977	118,623
Capital assets (Note 2h)	1	1
	126,978	118,624
	227,383	209,826
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	13,336	7,044
Government payables	1,711	460
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	24,137	-
	39,184	7,504
Net Assets (Page 5)	188,199	202,322
	227,383	209,826

See accompanying notes

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FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended March 31	2024	2023 (unaudited)
Revenue		
Operating Fund - FWIC (Page 6)	44,035	39,537
Operating Fund - Hoodless Homestead (Page 7)	44,418	202,240
Endowment Fund (Mrs. Alfred Watt Trust) (Page 8)	881	764
	89,334	242,541
Expenses		
Operating Fund - FWIC (Page 6)	33,302	47,703
Operating Fund - Hoodless Homestead (Page 7)	69,855	211,971
Endowment Fund (Mrs. Alfred Watt Trust) (Page 8)	300	3,347
	103,457	263,021
Excess of Expenses over Revenue	(14,123)	(20,480)

See accompanying notes

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FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

For the year ended March 31	2023 (unaudited)	Excess / Deficiency) for the year	2024
Operating Funds			
General	152,742	10,733	163,475
Hoodless Homestead	27,972	(25,437)	2,535
	180,714	(14,704)	166,010
Endowment Fund (Mrs. Alfred Watt Memorial Trust)			
	21,608	581	22,189
Grand Total	202,322	(14,123)	188,199

See accompanying notes

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FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS - FWIC OPERATING FUND

For the year ended March 31	2024	2023 (unaudited)
Revenue		
Donations	11,568	7,117
Interest and investment income	4,295	6,063
Unrealized investment gains	4,956	-
Provincial fees	9,674	15,108
Grant - County of Brant	5,215	5,000
Grants - other	4,340	2,983
Other income	3,787	3,266
Lottery	200	-
	44,035	39,537
Expenses		
Administrative and office expenses	10,479	9,449
Insurance	2,316	2,317
Professional fees	4,065	604
Salaries and contract services	3,821	7,501
Utilities	597	1,049
Event expenses	8,078	4,364
Sundry	248	187
Telephone, computer and internet	322	1,588
Advertising and promotion	2,579	3,534
Travel, meals and accommodation	255	528
Repairs and maintenance	542	1,016
Unrealized investment losses	-	15,566
	33,302	47,703
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	10,733	(8,166)

See accompanying notes

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FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA
SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS - HOODLESS HOMESTEAD OPERATING FUND

For the year ended March 31	2024	2023 (unaudited)
Revenue		
Donations and admissions	10,784	53,946
Museum tours and other income	11,681	1,995
Event income and rentals	6,346	5,781
Grant revenue - Emergency museum funding	-	19,806
Grant revenue - Brant community foundation	840	-
Grant revenue - County of Brant	10,502	16,250
Grant revenue - Hamilton Halton grant	-	99,772
Provincial fees	4,146	4,598
Interest	119	92
	44,418	202,240
Expenses		
Insurance	8,577	8,393
Professional fees	4,065	5,437
Repairs and maintenance	5,209	160,385
Salaries and contract services	39,256	26,103
Utilities	4,544	6,897
Inventory expense	464	-
Telephone, computer and internet	5,016	3,607
Office and administration	2,479	871
Travel and meals expenses	245	278
	69,855	211,971
Excess of Expenses over Revenue	(25,437)	(9,731)

See accompanying notes

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FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA**SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS - ENDOWMENT FUND
(MRS. ALFRED WATT MEMORIAL TRUST)**

For the year ended March 31	2024	2023 (unaudited)
Revenue		
Investment income	881	764
Expenses		
Convention expenditures	-	3,047
Sundry	300	300
	300	3,347
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	581	(2,583)

See accompanying notes

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FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended March 31	2024	2023 (unaudited)
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Excess of expenses over revenue	(14,123)	(20,480)
Charges (credits) to income not involving cash:		
Unrealized (gains) / loss on investments	(4,956)	15,566
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(19,079)	(4,914)
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations		
Accounts receivable	-	7,500
Government receivable	13,799	(11,949)
Inventory	464	(259)
Prepaid expense and other asset	1,874	1,728
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,292	1,572
Government payables	1,251	(1,647)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,601	(7,969)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities		
Net investment activity	(3,398)	(5,104)
Deferred revenue	24,137	(6,636)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20,739	(11,740)
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		
	25,340	(19,709)
Opening Cash and Cash Equivalents		
	67,397	87,106
Closing Cash and Cash Equivalents		
	92,737	67,397
	<hr/>	<hr/>

See accompanying notes

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FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended March 31, 2024

1. PURPOSE OF THE ENTITY

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

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

For the year ended March 31, 2024

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

(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

The entity's policy is to present bank balances under cash and cash equivalents including bank overdrafts with balances that fluctuate frequently from being positive to overdrawn.

(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 \$2,139 (2023 - \$115,677). \$839 of this total was expensed as office and administration in the Hoodless Homestead Operating Fund and \$1,300 was expensed in administrative and office expense in the FWIC Operating Fund.

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended March 31, 2024

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

(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.

(ii) 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.

	2024	2023
Cash and bank consist of:		
Unrestricted operating	65,913	43,759
Unrestricted Homestead	22,227	17,002
Total Unrestricted Funds	88,140	60,761
Endowment	1,364	769
Restricted Cash/Bank		
Hoodless Homestead Fund	3,233	5,867
Total Cash and Bank	92,737	67,397

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended March 31, 2024

4. LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS	2024	2023
Held by FWIC operating fund	106,152	97,798
Held by Mrs. Alfred Watt Memorial Endowment Fund	20,825	20,825
	126,977	118,623

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 \$2,535 (2023 - \$27,972) of unrestricted net assets to be held for:

(a) The Hoodless Homestead Fund

The fund is 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.

(b) 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.

(c) Unrestricted FWIC Operating Fund

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

6. DEFERRED REVENUE	2024	2023
Opening deferred revenue	-	6,636
Add: Funding received during the year	45,034	184,007
Less: Revenue recognized	20,897	190,643
Ending deferred revenue	24,137	-

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

For the year ended March 31, 2024

7. GENERAL OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND PROCESSES

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 \$Nil (2023 - \$13,799). 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 decreased from the prior year as there were no receivables outstanding at year end..

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 \$92,737 (2023 - \$67,397) 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 \$14,789 (2023 - \$7,504). 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

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

For the year ended March 31, 2024

9. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the prior 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. There were no similar transactions in the current year.

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

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

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.

BUDGET 2024-2025

Federated Womens Institutes of Canada			
Budget April 1 2024 to Mar 31 2025			
	Total	FWIC	AHH
REVENUE			
Provincial Membership Fees** (assumes 4000 mbrs)	\$ 20,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 6,000
AGM - Convention - Triennium	60,000	60,000	
Pavillion Rent	10,000		10,000
Museum Tours, Events & Programs	20,000		20,000
Interest/Investment Income	1,000	900	100
Fund Raising - FWIC	3,000	3,000	
Communications & Marketing (Branding-Inventory & Consignment)	550	250	300
Sundry/Miscellaneous (International Peace Gardens)	450	450	
GRANTS AND DONATIONS :			
Donations: FWIC	1,500	1,500	
Museum AHH	8,000		8,000
Grants			
County of Brant - Operating	9,000		9,000
HODG Grant	1,500		1,500
Brant County - Operating	4,000		4,000
Brant County Museum - Events	4,000		4,000
Brant County - Capital	7,000		7,000
Brant County Museum Event Grant	4,000		4,000
(Secretary/Receptionist Grant)	5,400	5,400	
Assistant Grant)	6,600		6,600
TOTAL REVENUE	\$166,000	\$ 85,500	\$ 80,500
EXPENDITURES :			
Young Canada's Works Grant (Students)	\$ 7,000		\$ 7,000
Canada Summer Student Grant (Students)	7,500	7,500	-
Employee's Payroll: Museum Manager	30,000		30,000
Bookkeeper/Receptionist	10,000	5,000	5,000
ACWW Dues & Donations	500	500	
Professional fees: (Review /Audit Fees)	10,000	5,000	5,000
National Convention	60,000	60,000	
Event Expenses (FWIC & Museum Events)	6,000		6,000
Advertising/Promotional	3,000	200	2,800
Canada Wide Project(s)	10,000	10,000	
FWIC Board Meetings	15,000	15,000	
Office Expenses	3,000	1,300	1,700
FWIC President's Allowance & Expenses	3,000	3,000	
FWIC President Elect's Allowance & Expenses	1,000	1,000	
FWIC Treasurer Allowance	1,000	1,000	
Yard maintenance	2,500	200	2,300
Travel, Meals, Accommodation	2,500	1,700	800
Building/Property Insurance	9,100	900	8,200
Directors Liability Insurance	2,500	2,500	
Fund Raising - FWIC	100	100	
Repairs and Maintenance	1,500	200	1,300
Utilities	7,000	700	6,300
Security system	650	50	600
Telephone	3,250	325	2,925
Communications/Internet & Website	2,650	650	2,000
Bank and Visa Fees	375	150	225
Miscellaneous (International Peace Gardens)	450	450	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$199,575	\$117,425	\$ 82,150
BALANCE (REVENUE MINUS EXPENSES)	-\$ 33,575	-\$ 31,925	-\$ 1,650
**If fees increase, the balance could be	-\$ 27,575	-\$ 25,925	

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 2021-2024

Over the three-year term, we have accomplished some interesting projects that we hope enriched our members across Canada. We are certain that there was participation from across the country for several initiatives and that is most gratifying, especially when we consider busy lifestyles and time zones.

Projects included...

Membership Round Table, Social Media Workshop, and Membership Rally

Leadership Modules 1-9

International Women's Day 2023-Raising Strong Girls and Youth

WI Day 2021-2024

Remembrance Day Events 2021-2022

Climate Change Day 2021-2024

AGM 2022 & 2023

Auction Support 2022 & 2023

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 the Board Members, Executive, and Committee Members offer in the way of their time & talents.

Social Media	Eleanor Lilley & Angela Scott
WI Connections	Angela Scott
FWIC Website	Margaret Byl
FWIC Email Communications	Lynn MacLean
YouTube	Lynn MacLean

Weekly Content for Social Media

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Convenors	Gardening	Membership	Wellness	Try this...	Foodies	Her Story
WI Connections Submission	Adult Learning	Environment	Health Care & Resolutions	Women	Entertaining	Women

In closing of this three-year report, we were delighted as a team to see just where our efforts would take us in the social media world. Organization and flexibility have shown a definite

appetite for WI online and we have an extremely enthusiastic group of followers. For the first time ever, we have been able to publicize the Triennium Conference to be held in Truro, NS, and uptake has been very promising.

Our mission...

To be a national network for women and families to promote leadership and personal development opportunities through education and fellowship.

Our objectives...

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

Have we accomplished the mission and objectives?

We have and thanks to social media, we are getting new members which brings another challenge for our combined committees. How can we familiarize awareness of simple tasks and procedures to be done in monthly get-together settings? No doubt social media will be a part of the answer. YouTube shorts and other notices will support the tasks that teams are now looking after in branches. And the monthly WI Connections will continue to share stories about WI.

Where do we go from here?

That is a strong question and together we will create a vision strategy and planning sessions to support WI in Canada for the next generation. Issues that affected families 100 years ago, such as safe and secure food, water, and adequate housing conditions are just as pertinent today as they ever were. While we have a smaller membership base to work from, we are just as committed as Adelaide Hoodless was 128 years ago. Onward and upward as the old saying goes! We look forward to continuing into 2025 and beyond.

Submitted by,
Angela Scott
Eleanor Lilley

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT 2021-2024

Committee Members: Sue Hoszouski, Debra Barrett (2023-2024), Brenda Devauld (2021-2022), Colleen Hooper (2021-2022), Denise Joss (2021-2022), Judy Page Jones, Angela Scott, Doreen Wall, Lynn MacLean, ex-officio President Margaret Byl

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

In the first year of the Triennium, the e-book, *Hearth is Where the Home Is* began during the Pandemic, was finalized. The e-book chronicled how WI members, their families, and society coped during the Pandemic and is available on the FWIC online store.

FWIC supported Courage with Freedom and shared information on human trafficking in Canada. A list of contacts who can provide education and support for each province was gathered and posted on the FWIC website.

2022 marked the 125th anniversary of the Women's Institute in Canada. To acknowledge this milestone, the provinces were encouraged to gain 125 new members and plant 125 trees or shrubs across Canada. Information gathered indicated that both those goals were reached. FWIC planted four trees at the Adelaide Hunter Homestead at the AGM.

During COVID, FWIC observed Remembrance Day with online events and continued this practice in 2022 and 2023. The Remembrance Day theme in 2022 was telling the story of the war from several women's perspectives while in 2023 Sergeant Edith Scott, a retired service person, shared about her time in the Forces. Because of the low numbers attending the event, a decision was made not to hold a Remembrance Day event in 2024.

Finding ways to promote WI and attract new members continued to be a topic of interest. To support the provincial units and WI branches FWIC hosted an online event on membership where each province shared their views and experiences. In 2022 an online event on social media was held where presenters provided suggestions on how to set up a Facebook page and the type of pictures and events branches could post. From that event, the "Why WI" was born. This activity invited WI members to share why they joined WI and posted on the FWIC Facebook page. Later in the fall, another event on membership was held using a combination of skits and presentations. Many good ideas and practical suggestions were shared.

FWIC marked WI Day each year with a different theme. In 2022 FWIC and the provinces celebrated how Women's Institutes began in each province and their proudest achievements. In 2023 new members were invited to share why they joined WI and in 2024 branches shared ideas on how they gained new members.

In March 2022, a roundtable on Food Security and Food Waste was held while in 2023 Lindsay Sealey presented "Bridging the Gap". Lindsay provided great suggestions on working with youth and, in particular, girls. For International Women's Day 2024, the FWIC President posted a message on the Facebook page.

Each April online events were held close to Earth Day. In 2022 the provinces shared how climate change was affecting their province and some of the steps being taken to address the issue while in 2023 the topic was on Forestry and Climate Change where NBWI member, Megan Whyte, shared her experiences working in the forestry sector in New Brunswick. In 2024 the focus was Agriculture in the Classroom and Food Waste. Pat Tonn, Executive Director of BC's Agriculture in the Classroom shared strategies to promote agriculture. Julie Dickson Olmstead, strategy leader in the grocery world, and Marie Kenny, ACWW Canada Area President shared information and ideas on reducing food waste.

All the online events are excellent resources and are posted on the FWIC WI Canada YouTube channel.

Past FWIC resolutions have been posted on the website for research and historical purposes.

FWIC held two online auctions bringing in \$700 in year one and approximately \$1300 in year two. In 2024 the auction will be held as part of the national convention in Truro, NS. Thank you to the provinces and members for donating items to the auctions and making purchases.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank the provinces and their branches for contributing to the online events. They would also like to thank the Communication Committee for promoting the work and events that FWIC WI Canada hosted throughout the triennium. Your support is much appreciated.

Submitted by,
Lynn MacLean

ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS HOMESTEAD REPORT

Here is a summary, background and frank account of the Homestead progress over the past three years. This summary paints the picture of our current scenario and includes the really positive story we are proud to tell.

2023 was the first “post COVID” year that we were able to engage the community in regularly scheduled activities at the Homestead. In the last 18 months we have hosted more than 50 community events with increasing attendance. We formed valuable new partnerships with several other “not for profit” community groups by hosting events and exhibits together. We have developed a robust schedule of activities that we publish quarterly.

We apply for grants that we believe (if won) can help tremendously. The grants have an objective of their own, when our vision aligns with the grant objective, we apply with what we believe will be a high scoring application and then hope for the best.

The Homestead had been silent for some time 2020 - 2023 and now there is a hum of community activity that feels like progress. We are encouraged and excited about what opportunities lie ahead. We have had tremendous support from members of the WI and from members of our local community and local government. (MPP Wil Bouma, Mayor Bailey, Councilor McAlpine) Our possibilities seem limitless.

We are slowly moving in the right direction with intention.

The current challenging scenario:

Funding challenges for the AHHH occur due to a lack of stable continuous financial support.

We see a trend that grant amounts awarded have been reduced from that of previous years. A long-time private donator is in a senior care facility and donations from him have not been made as they had in previous years.

The AHHH is open to the public and is therefore required to maintain a security system, a water filtration system, monitored fire safety program, a pest control system and property maintenance. There are associated costs that occur regularly to ensure the site is a healthy and safe place for the public to be.

A part time manager was hired March 16th, 2023, with the intention to engage the community in events and activities at the Homestead. We are working under the assumption that if the community comes, the revenue will follow.

Here's what we've been up to:

- Since May 2023 (post COVID) we have offered community event programming and have held over 50 events.
- Our Easter event has brought in over 500 participants. It is our biggest fundraiser and has generated approx. 4k\$
- Other smaller events are:
 - Kids day camp, summer concerts, guiding campfires, outdoor theater in the pavilion, rentals for parties and even a wedding. We plan to build capacity to have large events that will bring in more revenue. There was a Culture Day music /dance event held at the AHHH that brought in 300 people.
 - Our outdoor pavilion seats 60 and rentals are up by 20% .
 - On site, free parking, a modest fire pit, an accessible washroom accessed from outdoors and an accessible washroom indoors all within three acres laid to lawn in a beautiful rustic rural setting. We have hosted three small weddings and are poised to expand that capability.

We continue to host approximately three events per month. We conduct approx. 12 - 25 museum tours a month and manage rentals as requested.

Our Commitment:

We will continue to apply for grants, seek donations, hold events (events that are educational and enriching for families, seniors and youth), we will continue to expand the wedding business and host an Arts program with activities that highlight historical courageous Canadian women celebrated through theater plays, music, historical exhibits and story- telling events. We want every Canadian to know the AHHH is the place to come to celebrate Canadian women.

Thank you for your continued support.

Submitted by,
Nancy Carubba, Museum Manager

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominations Committee has received a nomination for the President-Elect position for the upcoming triennium. Angela Scott, nominated by the New Brunswick Women's Institutes, is the sole candidate for this role.

Angela has been a dedicated member of the New Brunswick Women's Institutes since 1996 and has served on the provincial board since 2011, including a term as provincial president from 2014 to 2017.

At the national level, Angela has represented New Brunswick on the FWIC Board since 2019 and has taken on the role of designer and editor for the FWIC e-newsletter. In 2020, she assumed the position of Chair of the Communications Committee and currently manages the FWIC Facebook page. Additionally, she developed and led the Leadership Modules provided by FWIC in 2022.

In her professional career, Angela has executed social media and marketing campaigns, conducted data analysis, prepared reports, and managed payroll and various administrative duties.

A lifelong learner, Angela has enhanced her skills in conflict resolution, accounting, branding, and marketing. She resides on an active beef and crop farm, providing her with practical insights into the challenges faced in the agriculture industry.

Angela brings a diverse range of skills and expertise to the FWIC Board.

Submitted by,
Judy Page Jones
Linda Mason

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 2023-2024

In July 2023, President Margaret Byl invited anyone interested in working on resolutions to send her their name.

In October 2023, the Resolutions Committee was formed with the following as members Margaret Byl, President FWIC; Sheila Gallant, President (PE); Donna Henderson, FWIC Director (AB); Angela Scott, FWIC Director (NB); Jill Copes, BC; Judy Page Jones, FWIC Director (QC); Shelly Simrose, President (BC); Linda Janes, President (QC); Kimberly Rorstrom-Wittig, BC; Kim Coy, BC; and Lynn MacLean, FWIC President-Elect.

Committee members identified several possible issues for possible resolutions but felt working on the lack of doctors was a concern across the country. Kim Coy and Sheila Gallant gathered research and provided drafts to the committee. In addition, Kimberly Rorstrom-Wittig shared the work done by British Columbia WI on Forensic nursing and their work with sexual assault victims. The FWIC Board approved the five resolutions be considered at the 23rd National Convention and added a resolution on raising the provincial dues.

In April, the six resolutions were distributed to the provincial units for consideration by the members and to be voted on at the 23rd National Convention.

FWIC ACWW COORDINATOR REPORT

In 2022 the ACWW Board issued a call to all ACWW Member Societies to nominate an ACWW Coordinator to ensure their society stayed up to date with the latest ACWW news and activities, to give feedback on issues of local importance, and to raise local voices to an international level. The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada appointed Lynn MacLean to the position in 2022.

The ACWW Board also outlined the responsibilities of the coordinator to include distributing information about ACWW to their society, attending online monthly meetings with Area Presidents, ACWW Board members, and Central Office staff; organizing an event for Women Walk the World; coordinating responses from their society to ACWW surveys and requests for information; encouraging fundraising and donations; encouraging individual memberships; facilitating participation in ACWW events and attending online training and information sessions.

In 2023, the FWIC coordinator attended the Triennial World Conference in Kuala Lumpur and the theme for the next triennium was announced, "Sustainable Growth for the Future".

For the past year and a half, the FWIC coordinator participated in the online meetings on the third Saturday of each month. Information from the ACWW online meetings and information from Canada's Area President were shared at each FWIC Board meeting. The written reports from the monthly online meetings were also distributed at each board meeting. FWIC Directors and Provincial Presidents were encouraged to hold Women Walk the World events, to virtually attend the Consultation on the Status of Women (CSW) events and the ACWW parallel events in New York, and to listen to the ACWW/UNESCO podcasts.

Each October, ACWW promotes 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Information is shared on the ACWW Facebook page and resources are provided for the societies to educate their communities. FWIC shared the ACWW info on their Facebook page.

In April 2024, FWIC organized an online event on Agriculture in the Classroom and Food Waste. The Food Waste section included a presentation by Canada Area President who shared how the ACWW resolution was being actioned in Canada. This event was recorded and uploaded to the FWIC WI Canada YouTube Channel. In addition, articles on Take Ten Tips to Reduce, Reuse, and Rethink Food Waste are provided by the Canada Area President for the FWIC newsletter, *WI Connections*.

In addition to the above, in January 2024 the FWIC Coordinator virtually attended the 15th International Forum of NGO's "Transforming Mentalities".

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada does a collection for Rural Women in Canada at the National Convention.

More information on ACWW can be found at www.acww.org.uk.

Submitted by
Lynn MacLean

FWIC 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Committee Members- Jacqueline Melvin, Margie Taylor, Eleanor Lilley, Angela Scott, Ann Munro, Judy Parks, Yvonne Kennedy, Linda Mason, Donna Henderson, Lynn MacLean, and Margaret Byl
- The committee held approximately ten meetings, via zoom, in preparation for the 23rd FWIC National Convention.
- Convention to be held in Truro, Nova Scotia at Inn on Prince Hotel and Conference Centre with meeting rooms, meals and accommodation being provided by same.
- Theme - "Sailing into the Future with a Recipe for Success". Date-September 17-19, 2024.
- Financial responsibilities were established, and local sponsorships obtained.
- Donation letters were created and submitted to local businesses.
- Fundraising established with Quilt Ticket Sales as well as Auction items to be provided; three in total per province, minimum \$20 value.
- Registration packages were created with local information and attractions listed.
- Various forms were created and distributed to delegates.
- 150 delegate bags created, and bag items obtained from local businesses.
- Selection of dignitaries, guests and keynote speakers, entertainment, and bell ringer sessions confirmed.
- A trip to local farms for companions was organized by the NS Federation of Agriculture as well as a tour of Dalhousie Agriculture College.

Submitted by,
Jacqueline Melvin WINS President
Margie Taylor, WINS President-Elect

QUILT FUNDRAISER



Virginia Kreklevich
February 17, 1936 – October 5, 2021
SWI President 2002-2005
FWIC Board member 2006-2009
SWI President 2018-2021

Virginia made and donated the quilt to be used as a fundraiser for FWIC

Virginia Kreklevich- The first recipient of the Colleen Kearns Memorial Volunteer Wards! In 2018, Foam Lake lost an integral and long serving volunteer, Colleen Kearns. In her memory, the Colleem Kearns Memorial Volunteer Award was created. This award celebrates one local volunteer each year who demonstrates a strong commitment to volunteerism in and around their community and displays leadership and dedication. From January 2-31, applications were

submitted with nominee information and letters of support and in early April, the applications were reviewed by the appointed Awards Committee.

After careful consideration, the Committee chose Virginia Kreklevich as the very first recipient of the Colleen Kearns Memorial Volunteer Award!

Virginia Dedicated her time for well over 50 years to so many areas of the community through her work with her church, TOPS, Foam Lake Museum, Foam Lake Water Park (operations and fundraising committees), Foam, Lake Leisure Services Board, Briar Mound Women's Institute, Saskatchewan Women's Institute and many more areas of the community where she lends a helping hand. Virginia has acted as Chair or Vice Chair in most of these committees and is a leader when it come to "getting things done"! You can often find her leading the pie making activity for the annual Water Park Fundraiser or catering for 100 hungry cadets with the help of her recruits. She organizes and works at summer barbeques at the pool- even making the buns for the hot dogs and hamburgers- we are so spoiled with Virginia around. She is always looking for ways to use her talent and skill in baking, quilting, sewing to benefit the community in some way- even donating vegetables from her own garden to a fowl supper or two.

She is a friend to so many and someone who is highly respected in the community, which makes her the perfect recipient of this award in namesake and honour of her lifelong friend and fellow volunteer, Colleen.

The above was printed in the Saskatchewan WI Newsletter Spring 2020.

ERLAND LEE AWARDS

2022

Jonathan Young – Newfoundland and Labrador WI

2023

Jamie Fetch – Manitoba WI

Roger McKay – FWIO

Sandy McKay – FWIO

John Uren – FWIO

David Arthur – FWIO

Steven Arthur – FWIO

2024

Mayor David Bailey – FWIC/WI Canada

ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS CANADIAN WOMAN OF THE YEAR



2021 Ruth Blenkhorn
Nova Scotia



2022 Faye Mayberry
Alberta



2023 Miriam Lank
Prince Edward Island

PROVINCIAL REPORTS

ALBERTA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Alberta Women's Institutes' branches are, for the most part, continuing as they were prior to the pandemic. A few branches have had to change some of their events, and how they do things, but most have been able to make that transition. Some branches continue to attract new members and grow their membership. Sadly, we have lost some smaller branches which were not able to continue with their low numbers, although some of these members did go on to become associate members and so continue to be involved.

Our branches and associate members continue to support our local community groups and causes by donating time, money or items in kind. Our members have remained active, vibrant members of their communities.

AWI was delighted to be successful in our application for the New Horizons Grant for Seniors through which we will provide information sessions and craft sessions which would not otherwise be available to many.

Our 2024 Convention which was held in June featured a great combination of interesting speakers and fun participatory events. Our fashion shows and other fun events were certainly a highlight with attendees. Our speakers garnered great responsiveness. Much attention was paid to the practical presentation of what to keep for historical items and the means of preserving them. Another topic that was very thought-provoking was regarding the needle exchange program instituted by the federal government in federal prisons. The issue was of great concern to

attendees, so much so that emergency resolutions were passed regarding this issue which should be of concern across the country.

We have a good-sized contingent of AWI members registered to attend the FWIC Convention in Nova Scotia, and we are all greatly looking forward to it.

For Home and Country,
Linda Toews,
President Alberta Women's Institutes

BRITISH COLUMBIA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

The British Columbia Women's Institutes has gone up in small numbers for the year 2024. We now have 391 members.

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

We continue with the Forensic Nursing Bursary. It has been well received within BC. We have set up a three-person committee to administer the Forensic Nursing Bursary on a first come first served basis with intakes twice per year. Contributions coming from our branches enable us to continue this much-needed service. A Big Thank You to Kimberly Rorstrom-Wittig and Kim Coy for their hard work of getting this up and running, with many many hours being used.

BCWI was very honoured to nominate Ruth Fenner for the King Charles III Coronation Medal. Ruth is a long-time member of the BCWI working at the federal, provincial, and local levels of the organization. She is currently a member of the Somenos WI located on Vancouver Island and is also the Provincial Historian for the Province. We did receive the exciting news that Ruth was chosen to be awarded a Coronation Medal, a Canadian honour created to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. She will be accepting this medal at either one of two ceremonies. Congratulations Ruth.

I am very proud of being a member of the Women's Institute, and to be working with the ladies on the BCWI Board. Repeating what Brenda has said before, I commend them for their hard work and belief in what we can accomplish as WI members.

For Home and Country,
Shelly Simrose
President BCWI

MANITOBA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Our year of November 1, 2022, to October 31, 2023, sure flew by again and made me remember my Great Uncle saying how the years fly by but as a child I thought the comment was silly. Now I know he spoke the truth, one moment a new year starts and then poof it's gone!

The MWI Board's workload lessened this past year as we seemed to have successfully worked through the updating of MWI policies, strategies, committee terms of reference, and other business matters. Although the year was positive and productive there were a few challenges that came our way. I truly appreciate the hard-working ethic of the MWI Board and their willingness to work together to further the mission and vision of MWI. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the privilege of being the MWI President to work with and lead a Board who not only shared their diversity of experiences, knowledge, and common sense, but did it while ensuring we enjoyed the process with humour and grace.

This year was the last for Liz Chongva to be our President-elect as she has chosen to step down from the role. She will continue to share her historical knowledge of MWI and FWIC but not by sitting on the Board, so she says now. I will miss her attention to detail, willingness to edit documents, and travel with me to wherever MWI takes us. Liz has a gift of entering a room where she knows absolutely no one and then goes home with the contact information of many new acquaintances she will enjoy as friends.

We also bid farewell to our Resolutions Chair Debora Durnin-Richards. It has been a pleasure to work with Debora. Her ability to provide leadership and focus the committee on working towards creating the strongest documents possible was greatly appreciated.

We also bid adieu to Denise Joss in May 2023. Denise was ready for new adventures and left the Board to follow her other interests. Her departure left a vacancy on the FWIC Board of Directors which I assumed. This role was a bit like sinking in quicksand for the first couple of months but slowly I found my footing and now enjoy the meetings.

Resignations always create new opportunities for members and organizations and our Board was no different. The Board welcomed Jacqueline Chartrand as the Eastern Regional Rep. and Mallory Makinson as our Office Administrator. Jacqueline brought her gifts of thoughtful thinking to our decision processes and her editing skills to ensure our documents are grammatically accurate. Mallory's willingness to share her organizational skills and social media 'know-how' helped our website to be more user friendly. She also revamped our Facebook page, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram into vibrant tools for sharing the MWI mission and vision.

In addition to new Board members, Canada was welcomed to participate in the workings of ACWW through the creation of ACWW Coordinators in each province. Our Manitoba Coordinator is Gisela Nolting. Gisela's experience with ACWW Triennial World Conferences made her the logical choice to bring Manitoba's aspirations to the global stage while relaying ACWW's focus and plans to MWI.

We were also thankful for the dedication of our membership as they continued to volunteer to sit on committees. We have certainly been blessed with a mixture of board and non-board members gifting MWI with their ideas and energy to create strong committees that will steer MWI forward.

In 2022-23, the Board continued to partner with like-minded organizations to amplify the mission and vision of MWI as we promoted our message and made certain our message was heard far and wide. We recognized that the more organizations voicing the same message as MWI, the more our good works will be acknowledged, and valued, and our resolutions implemented.

Again, this year, we received requests for information on how to conduct a mail-in AGM ballot system from as far away as the United Kingdom. Organizations continue to work towards the development of a process that will give their full membership equal access to voting.

As a Board, we continued to work towards providing every MWI member with an equal opportunity to vote on MWI business. Therefore, MWI decided to once again use a mail-in ballot to achieve our AGM 2024 vote. The ballot was constructed a bit differently, from past years, as we wanted to elicit a vote from members on the resolutions presented to the provinces by FWIC and ACWW. These opinions were valuable and will guide MWI when voting on Manitoba members' behalf at the FWIC and ACWW Triennials.

In conclusion, Manitoba members must continue to be congratulated for the dedication and work they put into their communities and province. They are truly a gift to not only their communities and province but also to Canada and our world.

For Home and Country,
Debra Barrett,
President Manitoba Women's Institute

NEW BRUNSWICK WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Since July 2021 the New Brunswick Women's Institute has changed executive officers (in the spring of 2022). We had two face-to-face provincial conventions and are now working on two large-scale, province-wide projects.

Aging and Mentoring: Let's Do This! ...is a New Horizons for Seniors Project slated for preparation in the summer of 2024 and implementation in Fall and Winter 2024-2025. With the aid of a comprehensive guide...***Aging in New Brunswick; A User's Guide***, prepared by St. Thomas University, information sessions and community WI Mentors will be organized to act as resources for rural families with aging members requiring any sort of support(s).

The second large project started as ***Bring Back Home Ec*** ten years ago. Today it is known as the ***NB Culture and Basic Life Skills Modules***. Ideally, the Modules will be used for pedagogical and andragogical learning in NB for Grade 6s and Branch meetings. The six areas of concentration include:

1. Food and Hospitality
2. Gardening and Preserving
3. Care of Home and Self

4. Sewing
5. Child and Elder Care
6. Personal and Home Finance

New Brunswick WI is optimistic about future change and direction within the FWIC and ACWW organizations. At Branch levels the greatest challenge is communication. Due to the bombardment of e-mails and lack of concise direction, we hope to support simpler communication within Branches and the province.

Fond wishes go out to all participants of the 2024 Triennial Conference in Truro Nova Scotia. Have a fun and productive week along with safe travels as you enjoy our famous East Coast Fall Colours 2024.

For Home and Country,
Sharron Adams,
President NBWI

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

I became the President of NLWI in June 2022 during the aftermath of COVID-19. We had lost many members and even whole branches during the pandemic mainly because they could not meet. However, many members did their own “thing” catching up with unfinished projects, making crafts, quilts, and more knowing that this would come to an end.

One positive outcome of our time apart was making use of technology. We participated in the NLWI 2022 Triennial Convention via Zoom. Since then, we have used Zoom almost exclusively for our Board meetings allowing us to meet more often. We can address many issues and save money to boot! The Board members are spread across the Island, and it is difficult and expensive to meet face to face.

Our theme for this Triennium ending in 2025 is “Ride the Waves with Optimism and Determination” and our members are doing just that. We are getting our stride back. Everyone has resumed their meetings, worked on projects, and gathered for District meetings. Members have observed bee-keeping, life-sized mammal models, participated in various quizzes, attended plays, and participated in virtual events. Some members have learned to make Heritage products such as bowls from rope, braided and hooked rugs, and beaded moccasins. Others have made quilted products and bags along with a wide assortment of other things. There have been presentations about Fraud, setting up a home business, wellness, gardening, and more.

Women from all over the Island produced knitted and crocheted squares that were used to create the backdrop for the play “Come from Away.”

All members donate time and products they have made to various charities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

The highlight of this year was attending a reception at Government House hosted by Lieutenant Governor Joan Marie Alyward, our new Patron, to celebrate NLWI members and present our annual scholarship.

I thank all NLWI members for their dedication and FWIC/WI Canada for their support and news from across the country in "WI Connections." We have also enjoyed publications from other provinces.

Our ACWW Coordinator keeps us involved with ACWW projects and presentations.

We are all looking forward to the FWIC Convention in Truro, NS.

For Home and Country,
Elizabeth Moss,
President, NLWI

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF NOVA SCOTIA

The 2023-2024 year marks the final year of my term as Provincial President. The first two years were very challenging as we were facing many shutdowns with COVID, making it very difficult for me to get to know our membership. This year I attended several regional rallies, and it was wonderful to connect to a good number of the provincial membership.

The 2024 Convention for WINS was held in Truro with a totally in-person convention. We had a good turnout of our membership.

Coming together is beneficial for our social and mental health and well-being. I hope we can keep our membership moving forward, connecting with other members and branches as that is so important to us as human beings. Even though this is my last year as WINS President I still feel that there is so much to learn, and I hope to keep learning from my fellow members.

We were happy to recognize our past presidents again this year though we were sad to report that we lost yet another, Coni Murray. Those recognized included Dr. Ellen McLean, Lynn MacLean, Ruth Blenkhorn, and Eleanor Lilley. Unfortunately, again this year we lost some branches but have gained about nineteen new members.

We continue to do many of our meetings via Zoom. This has become the new norm for communicating and keeping connected with the membership throughout the province and the country. I'm not sure how we managed before the days of Zoom meetings. It has opened a whole new way of staying in touch with one another.

Thank you to FWIC for allowing me to attend the monthly board meetings via Zoom. It has been a great experience.

As we move forward here, we hope to continue to support one another and keep our organization alive and connected. We are changing and adapting to a future of many challenges. We are supportive, resilient, and inventive so let's keep moving forward.

For Home and Country,
Jacqueline Melvin,
President W.I.N.S

Quote: "We have to find ways to continue to lift other women up in our world and in our lives as much as possible." Michelle Obama

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO

Excitement is building for the 23rd Triennial FWIC Convention as we are "Sailing into the Future, with a Recipe for Success". Members from Ontario are ecstatic to be travelling to Truro, Nova Scotia. Some of our FWIO attendees will enjoy preconvention fun as they catch the train in Montreal to complete the final leg of the journey to Truro. A bus will take them on a day tour of Nova Scotia, bringing them back to the hotel in time for the opening ceremonies.

FWIO continues to focus on Lyme disease and the call for the end of Human trafficking. In keeping with ACWW's 2023-2026 theme: Sustainable Growth for the Future we have added the reduction of food waste.

FWIO has seen some changes since we last met. Last fall we launched our new website with the hope of enticing potential new members with the ability to join online. We have a new logo inspired by the WI Canada logo, introduced at the 21st Triennial in 2018. The WI Ontario logo trades the red maple leaf with a gold trillium; Ontario's provincial flower and Canada is replaced with Ontario's. Keep an eye out for FWIO members sporting T-shirts with the new WI Ontario logo.

2024 has been another year of celebration in Ontario. The FWIO car has been touring our expansive province, popping up at events, attending District and Area meetings, plaque unveilings, strawberry socials, Branch anniversaries, and individual milestones of members with over 60, 65, and 80 years of service.

On behalf of FWIO, I extend Congratulations to Margaret Byl on the completion of a successful term as FWIC President. It has been a privilege working with you and the FWIC Board for the past three years.

Lynn MacLean, welcome to the position of FWIC President. Lynn, we look forward to seeing the direction you will sail us in for the 2024-2027 Term.

Thank you to the WINS Triennial Convention Committee Members and the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia for hosting the 23rd Triennial FWIC Convention. It takes a lot of hard work to put

on a convention of this magnitude and you all are important ingredients in this recipe for success.

For Home and Country,
Michelle Phillippi,
President FWIO

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

It has been my pleasure to represent such a prestigious, well-respected, vital organization in Prince Edward Island over the past year. The experience has been a delight, a wonderful learning opportunity, and an opportunity to meet so many of the women who contribute unselfishly every day for the good of their community, province, and country.

Some activities that Prince Edward Island has been able to achieve over the past year:

- The Recruitment of fifty-one new members.
- The development of a new branch in Charlottetown, the Confederation Branch.
- The Creation of a new book entitled "WI Resilience – The Untold Stories"
- Held a series of fall workshops in October 2023, with an attendance level at an all-time high. Partnered with a local farmer and sold bagged cranberries, raising funds for a new scholarship.
- Hosted the Country Festive Christmas Gala Dinner and Yuletide Auction with the greatest attendance for some time, raising \$10,000 which was donated to Hillsborough Hospital to be used for equipment for patients.
- Members made donations to the "White Cross Campaign" for Canadian Mental Health in December.
- Members continue to show their generosity by knitting mittens for children in grades one to six.
- Members continue to knit purple hats to support "Period of Purple Crying" for the Queen Elizabeth and Prince County Hospitals.
- In January and February 2024, WI promoted a challenge to branches and to the public to support food banks and Island pantries during the long cold winter months.
- In February 2024, the 28 days Campaign was successful, with branches and the public donating over \$5000 in sanitary products to be placed in food banks across the Island.
- In February, Founders Day was held at the Farm Centre. This year's theme was Celebrating WI History.
- The WI Roadside Cleanup was held on May 11th. This was the 51st Anniversary for this project which keeps our roadways, ditches, and properties free from garbage. There were almost twenty-seven tonnes of garbage collected in 2023 by Island Waste Watch.
- For the past 3 years, WI has featured many Island farms from east to west in our monthly "Heard it through the Grapevine" feature.

- There were many scholarships awarded over the past year. Marie Kenny Community Builders Scholarship, Education Scholarship, Dr. Helen Herring Scholarship, and WI Agriculture Scholarship.
- Held the 10th Annual Island Products Cooking Contest in the school system. Awarded several prizes.
- Promoted Junior Women's Institute in January of 2024. Students in grades ten to twelve were encouraged to volunteer with the WI, earning hours towards their hours required to receive the George Coles Bursary upon graduation. To date, there are two branches on PEI with junior members.
- A partnership was created with the Charlottetown Public Library in January 2023 to enable WI members to have teaching opportunities. Sessions have been held on Food Waste, Biscuit Making, and Basics of Bread Making.
- New artwork has been selected for the sale of items by the WI Board.
- Partnership was developed with West Prince 4H in providing workshops on Clothing care, Housekeeping, and Etiquette.
- The annual WI conference was held in May 2024, with 125 registrations. The Adelaide Hoodless Award of Honor, Golden Book of Recognition, and Friend of WI Award were presented. Jackie Irwin Paynter made a great presentation on the challenges facing women farmers today.
- I have visited branches all across the province, attending their annual conventions, presenting life membership pins and attending other special events.
- WI has partnered with the PEI symphony, purchasing one year-round seat for all performances, promoting music and diversity among our members.
- Participated in the "Coldest Night of the Year" walk event, volunteering time to make and serve food to those participating in the walk to raise funds for the food banks.
- At each Board meeting, one of our Board members provides a formal presentation about their convenorship to promote education and presentation skills.
- Agriculture Convenor participates in the Rural Beautification Board and Agriculture Awareness Board representing Women's Institute. The Health and Safety Convenor participates in the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence. Regular monthly meetings are held for these representations.
- The Board is currently working on an Adult Cooking Contest which will be a partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Island Food, Island Farmers, Chef Michael Smith, and the radio.

For Home and Country,
 Sheila Gallant,
 President PEIWI

QUEBEC WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Well, it seems we are finally getting back to a form of normalcy following Covid.

We are back to working on our community projects such as food banks, homeless shelters, women's shelters, writing competitions, pen pal projects, scholarships and bursaries, and working with 4-H to name just a few.

We are getting used to doing business by email and holding meetings via Zoom, sometimes a challenge. The bright side of all this is that we are learning a new skill, although I'm sure there are many computers that have almost ended up in the trash and I know there has been a lot of colourful language involved. However, most are back to holding in-person meetings, especially for their AGM's.

In May QWI held its first in-person AGM since 2019 and it was a huge success. I must admit that it was sometimes hard to get the group to focus on business and not socialize as we had been apart for so long, but we did accomplish a lot. On the morning of the AGM, we went to Dunham where the first meeting of QWI was held in 1911 and we had a dedication ceremony of our new "QWI Historical Site", formerly known as "The Cairn". We had perfect weather to unveil our three new granite monuments and bench followed by some brief speeches and lots of pictures.

Sadly, two weeks after our meeting our beloved Past President Elizabeth Milroy passed away after a brief illness. Elizabeth was a dedicated, hardworking WI member, always willing to help out and accept a challenge. Because of her Presidential project with the international organization Days for Girls, QWI is responsible for the only branch of Days for Girls in Quebec, and we are still working closely with this organization. I as well as all our members will miss Elizabeth's guidance greatly.

Our membership has been staying stable. Sadly, we have lost members, but we have also gained some new ones. Unfortunately, we had one Branch close but on the brighter side we had two celebrate their 100th anniversary, Abercorn and Aubrey-Riverfield, and Dewittville turned 65. We also have a number of members with 60-plus years of service. Our goal for the next three years is to focus on our Branches and their needs, as they are the ones supporting us and their communities. Hopefully, if we become more visible in the community we will gain new members.

For Home and Country,
Linda Janes,
President QWI

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



Carolyn Van Den Heuvel is the Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. Good, bad, or indifferent, Carolyn has never left the industry! She grew up on a farm outside Antigonish and followed her passion at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College before working on dairy farms and then finding herself at the Federation. With business diversification critical to the success of a rural family business, Carolyn's family was also involved in forestry – giving her a diverse perspective on Nova Scotia's resource industries.

During her time at the Federation, Carolyn supported the delivery of farm safety programming, led the development of the farm & workforce development strategy, and developed the Blueprint for a Mental Health Action Plan for Nova Scotia Farmers. Now the Executive Director, Carolyn leads the organization in realizing its vision of a prosperous and sustainable future for Nova Scotia farms and farmers. This work includes representing the voice of its members to the government and delivering a wide variety of programming to support the industry.

Supported by an amazing team, Carolyn can realize her passion for working in the agriculture industry, at the farm level, in a capacity that supports the industry moving forward.



Starr Cunningham is the President & CEO of the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia. She is a 2024 *Atlantic Top 50 CEO Award* winner, a graduate of the Institute of Corporate Directors, and a National Recipient of a *Difference Makers - 150 Canadians Leading for Mental Health Award*. Starr serves on the *Atlantic Bell Let's Talk Community Fund Advisory Committee* and the *International Women's Forum Atlantic Executive*. A Director of the Board for St. John Ambulance Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island, Starr is invested in the Order of St. John and is a member of the *National Honours & Awards Committee* of the Priory of Canada. Starr is a *Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal* recipient for her work in mental health. A best-selling children's author and multiple journalism award winner, Starr is a strong voice and recognized personality across the Atlantic region.



Video: Lesley Crewe is the *Globe and Mail* best-selling author of fourteen novels, including the *Globe and Mail*'s best-selling novel *Recipe of A Good Life*, *Nosy Parker*, which was one of Indigo's Top 100 Books of 2022, *The Spoon Stealer*, long listed for Canada Reads 2022, *Beholden*, *Mary, Mary, Amazing Grace*, *Kin*, *Relative Happiness*, which was adapted into an award-winning feature film. She also published two collections of essays, the Leacock long-listed *Are You Kidding Me?!* and *I Kid You Not!* Lesley lives in Homeville, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Visit her at lesleycrewe.com.



Jenna Ross is the founder and president of The Nova Scotian Cookie Company. She is on a mission to create as much social impact as possible while sharing the love of Nova Scotia with the world through adorable packaging filled with delicious lighthouse-shaped shortbread cookies. When Jenna is not following her passion and working on her businesses, she spends time with her husband Greg and daughters Katelyn and Julia. They enjoy traveling, boating, skiing, and spending time with their 2 dogs together.

Donna Smith-Major is the Business Development Manager for the Nova Scotian Cookie Company. She has been actively involved in the company since the beginning. Donna has four grown children, and she sold Tupperware for many years. She enjoys baking and going on adventures with her large social network of friends.



Robert Newcombe, P.Eng., has helped organizations in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors improve processes, increase productivity, and leverage artificial intelligence. He is a thought leader in applying generative AI in the workplace and has spoken about AI at events such as the AISC WorkForward Conference, CME LeanCon, Exchange NS, Atlantic Poultry Inc. AGM, and Canada's National Engineering Month.

Discover how generative artificial intelligence (AI) can transform the way you work. When used effectively, AI can enhance productivity, spur creativity, and free up time to allow for more valuable activities. This presentation will cover the basics of generative AI, including how it works, its strengths, weaknesses, and risks. It will include a live demonstration to show precisely how it can assist you in your daily activities.



Katie Keddy works with FCC as a Relationship Manager. She also farms with her husband in the Annapolis Valley. A dynamic speaker who would do a really good job. Katie Keddy graduated from the NSAC with a B.Sc. in Agriculture. She now lives in Woodville, working alongside her husband and in-laws on their farm growing sweet potatoes, inspected strawberry plants, raspberry and blackberry canes. Katie sits on various agriculture boards and committees all while taking an active role in her sons' elementary school. This includes implementing the Farm to School snack program and helping with the school garden. Katie and her husband, Phil, have two young sons, ages 4 and 6. Katie also serves as the Vice President for Farm Safety

Nova Scotia.



Amy VanderHeide was born and raised on a beef farm in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia. With her husband James they are raising the next generation on our family farm raising broiler chickens, crops and a small cow-calf herd. Their 3 sons are 12, 8 and 6 and live and breathe farm life. Off the farm, Amy is involved in 4-H Clubs, two local Agriculture boards, including President of the Chicken Producers Association of Nova Scotia and also as a director for a daycare in our area. In 2015 Amy cofounded the Maritime Ag Women's Network with Katie Keddy, a sweet potato farmer who also farms in the Annapolis

Valley. Today, the network now has over 1000 members and has brought together women in ag from all 4 Atlantic Provinces and beyond who provide each other with support, advice and encourage each other every single day.



Pam Mood comes to us from the beautiful seaside town of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, which she refers to as the "best piece of real estate on earth". Upon graduating with a Political Science Degree from Acadia University, she spent the first 18 years of her career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. She retired in 2001 and began her company, Pam Mood Consulting, speaking internationally on topics including leadership, wellness, engagement, strategic planning and more. Pam's tell-it-like-it-is approach has served her well - she lays it all on the table, with a side of humour, opening our hearts to the message at hand. Pam is a community builder who believes in the power of coming together to solve our issues and understands firsthand, of course, the power women have to influence everyone and everything around them, if we but step into it with intention. She is the mother of three brilliant, fun, independent children, habitual positive thinker, leadership expert, lover of travel and great food, seeker of meaningful conversations and appreciator of a good belly laugh - not necessarily in that order!

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The Nova Scotian Cookie Company
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Her Majesty the Queen

Her Majesty, Queen Camilla, has agreed to take on the Patronage of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada May 3, 2024

Her Excellency, the Governor General of Canada

Her Excellency, The Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada is pleased to inform the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada that their request for patronage has been accepted by the Governor General. December 1, 2022



MARY STEWART COLLECT

Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word and deed;
Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face, without self
pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses straight forward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences;
that in the big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great human heart common to us
all, and O God, let us not forget to be kind.

THE INSTITUTE ODE

A goodly thing it is to meet,

In Friendship's circle bright

Where nothing strains the pleasure sweet.

Nor dims the radiant light.

No unkind word our lips shall pass,

No envy sour the mind.

But each shall seek the common weal,

The good of all mankind.