

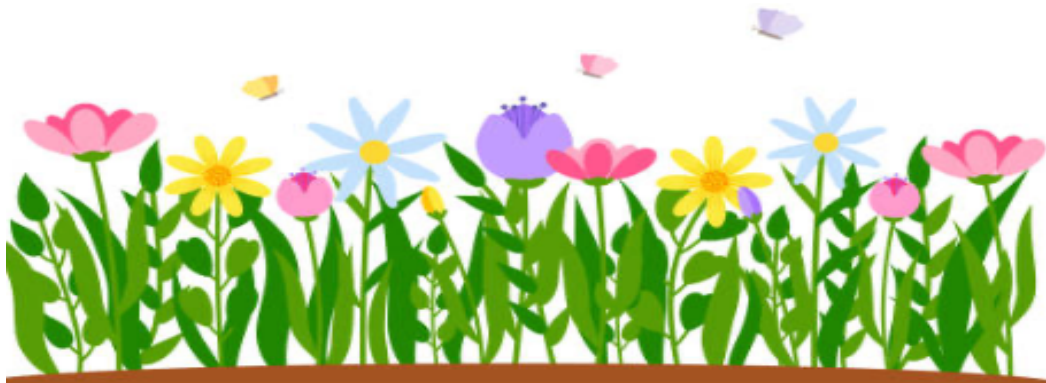


AWHsome

Newsletter of Advancement of Women Halton

April 2023, Issue # 2

AWH is a collaborative of twenty women's groups and social agencies that advocate and amplify the voice of women. The monthly meetings give us an opportunity to hear about the activities and challenges of member organizations. This newsletter is another avenue for readers to learn about AWH member activities.



A Message from the Chair - Anne Douglas

Spring has a special place in my heart. The spring bulbs are awakening. The snow drops are blooming and the daffodil heads are waiting for the warm days of April to reveal their glory.

Spring 2023 also brings budget reveals. Additional funding is available for AWH or member partners' focus areas.

The Federal government provided a grocery rebate and increased dental coverage; a pilot project to create automatic tax filing for non-filing, low-income Canadians, that will give access to benefits; green energy incentives to industry; PSWs access to pensions; safe sport funding to address sexual, mental and physical abuse in sport; additional funding to indigenous people for residential school survivors, supportive housing and Jordan's Principle for medical expenses.

The Federal Canada Health Transfer is reflected in the Provincial government's financial support for home and community care; increased pay for community and home PSWs; additional training opportunities for doctors and nurses to increase the medical human resource supply; support for mental health and addiction services; and increased supportive housing. In addition, there will be continued support for a Dedicated Offload Nurses Program, to enhance paramedic efficiency.

The Province will increase the minimum wage to \$16.50 to reflect the escalator clause. Additional money will be utilized to build and renovate schools to accommodate 86,000 new childcare spaces by December 2026. Unfortunately, the Province also removed the three paid sick days and some COVID funding.

During February and March, AWH members:-
Supported Ontario Nurses Association to protest Bill 24
(1% wage increase cap for the last three years)
Enjoyed the International Women's Day UNDinner Party on March 8, organized by WHAM.

Sent Letters to :-
Justice Minister David Lametti on the review and investigation of the wrongful convictions and establishment of Canadian Registry of Wrongful Convictions;
to HUMA on Federal Bill 35 Early Learning and Child Care;
to HUMA on Federal Bill C-22 Canada Disability Benefit
to Families Minister Karina Gould re post-secondary tuition financial relief for low-income families, and
to NDP leader Jagmeet Singh on support of Bill C-35 Learning and Child Care Act.

The year got off to a great start!

Saluting some great women for Women's History Month



Our love and thanks to New Zealand's 40th Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, who stepped down in January.

"Leadership means never losing sight of the fact that the issues at hand are so much bigger than oneself. Leadership is about working from a principled and ethical place within oneself, model authentically for others, a sense of calm, clarity, and focus. ."

[Home](#)



Congratulations to Thrive Counselling on the \$58,300 Resilient Communities Fund Grant the organization received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

Chondrena Vieira-Martin, executive director for Thrive Counselling, said, "This grant has allowed us to take the necessary steps in fundraising and strategy to meet the increased need for counselling services in the Halton community for years to come."



Sara is a Woman of Distinction

Congratulations to Home Suite Hope Executive Director Sara Cumming, for being nominated in the YWCA Hamilton's 2023 Women of Distinction Awards.



On February 24th at Film.Ca in Oakville **Jean Augustine** attended a gala showing of the documentary about her life “Steadfast: The Messenger and the Message” She came from Happy Hill, Grenada to become the first black woman elected to Canada’s House of Commons and the first Black woman to serve in Canada’s Federal Cabinet. In 1995, she introduced a motion that February be recognized in Canada as the official month of black history. It passed unanimously; another first.



for Black History Month in February MP **Karina Gould** met **Ancilla Ho Young** at One Burlington’s “Night at the Brant Inn”



Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell greeted NDP Opposition leader Marit Stiles



Congratulations to Minister Gould



On March 8, International Women's Day, Lisa La Flamme was the keynote speaker at The UNDinner Party. This virtual event raised \$42,000 for SAVIS of Halton and for CW4WAfghan



"I have learned that people will forget what you said. People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

A large word cloud with 'Democracy' as the central, largest word. Other prominent words include 'government', 'elections', 'people', 'politics', 'power', 'justice', 'law', 'system', 'rights', 'equality', 'citizens', 'voting', 'state', 'republic', 'freedom', 'liberty', 'democratic', 'principles', 'values', 'participation', 'engagement', 'transparency', 'accountability', 'responsibility', 'integrity', 'courage', 'compassion', 'respect', 'tolerance', 'cooperation', 'collaboration', 'solidarity', 'unity', 'peace', 'progress', 'innovation', 'creativity', 'curiosity', 'openness', 'flexibility', 'adaptability', 'resilience', 'perseverance', 'determination', 'commitment', 'dedication', 'hard work', 'effort', 'passion', 'enthusiasm', 'optimism', 'hope', 'faith', 'trust', 'confidence', 'belief', 'conviction', ' conviction', 'belief', 'conviction'. The words are arranged in various sizes and orientations, creating a dense, circular pattern around the central theme.

*Joey Edwardh, Maureen Weinberger, Bev LeFrancois, Teri Shaw
Bonnie Brown, Judy Rivard, Tina Agrell, Elizabeth Rennie*

The Committee is concerned about the growing democratic deficit in our communities and in the province and the need to develop strategies to address it.

- The Committee plans to meet with the Mayors of Oakville and Burlington to address issues of local democracy, and to begin cultivating relationships with local councillors.
- The Ontario Federation of Labour is developing an Enough is Enough campaign which argues for change. Their issues are AWH's issues: decent wages, public education, health care, affordable necessities such as food and gas, rent control and affordable housing, fair taxation. They are rolling out a series of actions developing this campaign. See the OFL's website: <https://wesayenough.ca/>
- The committee hopes to 'penetrate the mind of the general public' through a flyer campaign asking critical questions . This idea needs further research and development to assess how it will successfully encourage people to act.
- The Committee asked: How do we best engage people in a deep conversation to understand the roots of our democratic deficit? How do we move from an understanding of these circumstances to collective action for change? It was noted that a wide range of people are interested in discussing these issues but perhaps need to be organized around a specific topic or event. We hope to start small and build a culture of knowledge that supports a democratic society.
- We are planning a get together soon for AWH members to watch via streaming the Oscar winning movie *Women Talking*."

Health Care



Ann Douglas, Chondrena Viera-Martin, Jody Harbour, Judy Rivard, Teri Shaw, Claudia Stewart, Ancilla Ho-Young, Pat Froio, Daniela Jansson.



Anne Douglas and Maureen Weinberger of AWH were joined by Helen Lee from the Halton branch of OHC at a fun but chilly protest in support of nurses in February.

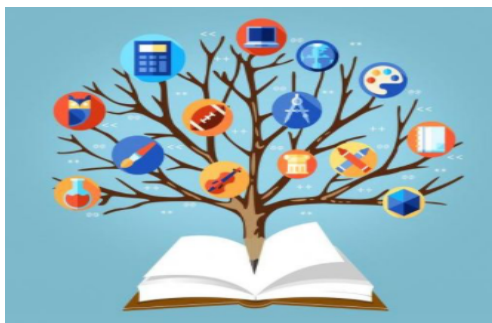
The Ontario Health Coalition, in connection with the Halton group, are planning a May 26 & 27 referendum re public health care vs for-profit health care. Please volunteer to scrutinize ballot boxes in high traffic areas, distribute lawn signs and pamphlets. The goal is to have \$1 million votes and present the results to the provincial government. ohchalton@gmail.com

In March the Health Care team sent a brief to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, regarding Bill 60 Your Health Act (The Integrated Community Health Services Act) and its focus on Community Surgical and Diagnostic Centers. The Bill may potentially expand to a two-tier health care system. This could be construed as a systems 'creep' that could potentially allow for the creation of more private hospitals and will not address the underlying health care inadequacies.

We voiced our concern that Bill 60 does not address:

The lack of spare capacity in public hospitals for seasonal flu; The fact that Bill 124 disrespected staff and hastened resignations, worsening staffing shortages; The existence of extra surgical capacity in public hospitals; The need for regulation compliance; The fact that a for-profit surgical clinic may add additional services without public and legislature approval. There is potential here for a clinic to evolve into a broad service private hospital; The fact that Long Term Care Licenses are issued to corporate equity funds that prioritize profit over care. The for-profit LTC homes had higher COVID deaths and illness compared to not-for-profit and municipal homes. (Orchard Villa had the second highest Ontario COVID death rate and needed the military and the local hospital to stabilize the facility. And yet they were still issued additional bed capacity and another 30-year licence.

Education and Child Care



Peggy Russell, Jody Harbour, Judy Moore, Marianne Waraich, Claudia Stewart, Elizabeth Rennie

This committee is newly formed and is in the process of planning its approach and activities

Income Security



*Tina Agrell, Joey Edwardh, Maureen Weinberger,
Gayle Kabbash, Peggy Russell, Teri Shaw, Angela Chaves*



The team visited Halton MPPs Stephen Crawford and Natalie Pierre in February to present AWH budget priorities. There was a tendency for them to focus on telling us all the wonderful things the Conservatives have done, but MPP Crawford did comment, in relation to Health Care “We have to do more.”

The team also sent briefs to HUMA (The Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities,) relating to both Bill C-22 Canada Disability Benefit and Bill C-35 Childcare and Early Education.

A letter in support of publicly funded Child Care was published in the Hamilton Spectator.

"On Tyranny" by Timothy Snyder

20 Lessons

1. Do Not Obey in Advance-
(if you anticipate and accept loss of freedoms, it teaches dictators what they might do)
2. Defend Institutions
(Things like rule of law, innocent until proven guilty, freedom of the press)
3. Beware the One-Party State
(Do not allow one party to eliminate all forms of opposition or dissent)
4. Take responsibility for the face of the world
(Remove banners, signs, symbols, uniforms that express hate or oppression)
5. Remember professional ethics
(Never sacrifice ethics to the perception that 'everyone is doing it')
6. Be wary of paramilitaries
(Only elected governments should have armed forces)
7. Be reflective if you must be armed
8. **STAND OUT**
9. Be kind to our language
(Avoid using chants, stock phrases, demonizing terms)
10. Believe in Truth
(It is not 'all relative and according to your point of view'. Look for verifiable facts)
11. **INVESTIGATE**
12. Make eye contact and small talk to build trust.
(Social Isolation breeds distrust, contempt, and fear)
13. Practise corporeal politics
(Get out of your comfort zone and mingle physically with others, like minded or not)
14. Establish a private life
(Make sure your private opinions and actions are not open to public abuse)
15. Contribute to good causes
16. Learn from peers in other countries
17. Listen for dangerous words
(Like, this is an exceptional situation, we have a permanent emergency, they are extremists)
18. Be calm when the unthinkable arrives
(Staged terror events or crises can manipulate, limit freedoms, consolidate power)
19. Be a patriot (NOT a nationalist)
20. Be as courageous as you can

Watch out for issue #3 of AWHsome in July 2023



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