



AWHsome

Newsletter of Advancement of Women Halton



July 2024 Issue # 7

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

June is a month of celebration. Historically it was a time to celebrate graduations and the end of the school year. In more recent years, June is also Pride Month, Seniors' Month and Indigenous History Month. Pride Month celebrates the LGBTQ+ community's resilience, diversity, and ongoing fight for equality. Seniors' Month is a time to recognize the knowledge and contributions to Ontario life. Indigenous History Month invites us to learn about and celebrate the rich cultures, histories, and contributions of Indigenous peoples in Canada and work towards reconciliation and justice.

AWH members who represent the nonprofit community are encouraged to participate in the ONN (Ontario Non-profit Network) annual state of the sector survey: [2024 realities for Ontario's nonprofit sector](#). Current provincial data is necessary for evidence-based decisions.

June is also a month to reflect on what has been accomplished in the past year and the awareness that there is much more to do.

Advocacy Action April to June 2024

1. Meeting with Minister Karina Gould, topic childcare implementation.
2. Sent a letter of thanks to Halton MPs re the Pharmacare Bill introduced in Parliament
3. Sent a letter of thanks to MP Jagmeet Singh and NDP health critic MP Peter Julian re the Pharmacare Bill and Dental Care introduced in Federal April 2024 budget.
4. Sent a letter of support to MP Pam Damoff, who announced she will not be running in the next election. She cited misogyny, harassment, threats and hyper partisan presentations and lack of civility in parliament.
5. Meeting with MP Pam Damoff to discuss women in politics.

I hope everyone will follow Indigenous knowledge and get out on the land this summer and enjoy the healing properties of nature. See you in September.

Anne Douglas, Past Chair

What happened this Spring?

APRIL

An Open Letter entitled “**For the Sake of the Country’s Future**” appeared in the Globe and Mail. It was signed by a wide variety of Canadians, including Ed Burtynsky, Jean Charest, Art Eggleton, Deepa Mehta, Bill Morneau and John Tory. It called on the Government to address urgently the rise of incivility, public aggression and overt hatred that are undermining the peace and security of Canadian life. It urged Government to:

- Partner with academic and civil society to research the causes, scale and impact of issue-driven tensions and conflict in Canada.
- Jointly support national and local initiatives to confront hate and reaffirm the commitment of Canadians to mutual respect and peaceful engagement.
- Work to instill in all generations of Canadians respect for and the ability to engage in constructive intercommunity dialogue.
- Fund the development and delivery of curricula in primary, secondary and postsecondary institutions across the country designed to foster greater intercultural competency, increase community-level empathy and encourage a commitment to bridging differences at home and abroad.
- Protect and defend the right of every Canadian to the lawful and free expression of strong viewpoints and unpopular positions about even the most challenging and divisive of topics.
- Enforce any laws that prohibit and/or penalize harassment, threats or intimidation against people because of their identity, beliefs or opinions.
- Strengthen awareness and clarify the public’s understanding of what constitutes hate speech and what does not. Decry its use. Recommit to the consistent *application* of laws against it. Do all you can to address hate at its origins.
- Speak out wherever and whenever you can about the values that bind us together as a country. Remember and remind all of us of the real danger that the fabric of Canadian life and society could be torn apart, perhaps irreparably, if we continue without intervention down the current path of public hate, violence and vitriol.



Women in Politics

MP Pam Damoff announced that she would not be seeking re-election. She wrote: “The current tone of politics, the drive for social media clips and likes, and the lack of respectful dialogue, have drastically changed how we interact in parliament and in public. The tone and tenor of public discourse has deteriorated significantly, and I fear the loss of trust in public institutions we are seeing that is driven by misinformation and lies being spread by politicians and on social media.

The threats and misogyny I have experienced as a Member of Parliament are such that I often fear going out in public, and that is not a sustainable or healthy way to live. However, I believe Canada can represent the best in each of us. If we focus on what unites us, always taking the high road with a focus on moving forward, we will leave this great country better than we found it.”

Pam later spoke at the House Affairs Committee. This was her [opening statement](#), and you can learn more on and follow the Committee’s study on MP harassment [here](#).

Ms Damoff was instrumental in: Passing Keira’s Law, to educate judges about domestic violence and coercive control; Securing \$150 million for the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres ; Securing \$35 million to create the Canadian Medical Isotope System; Securing \$30 million for childhood cancer research; Addressing gun violence and strengthening gun control through Bill C-71 and Bill C-21, Standing up for women’s sexual and reproductive rights; Raising awareness and understanding of mental health; Creating the National Day Against Gun Violence with the partnership of the Toronto Raptors; Updating and implementing the National Security Framework; Ending solitary confinement in Bill C-83 along with measures that improve our corrections system and make Canadians safer; Taking action to protect women and end Gender Based Violence.

Thank you, Pam.

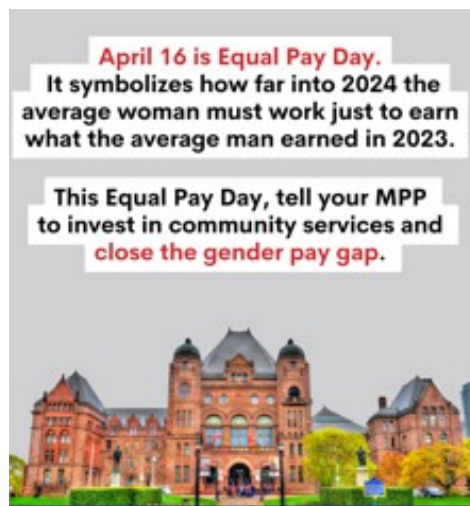
On June 19 the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians launched a pledge to end harassment and toxicity faced by women in Parliament. Burlington Mayor Mariann Meed-Ward spearheaded the initiative with the HER Halton pledge used as a model.



Dr. Jane Philpott

Long wait times and the never-ending battle to connect with a healthcare professional is a reality most people know all too well. This is especially true for the 6.5 million Canadian residents who do not have a family doctor. It's a problem that has existed for years because it isn't easy to solve. Dr. Jane Philpott is the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen's University. She is a family doctor, the former Minister of Health and on April 9 she published a new book, **Health for All: A Doctor's Prescription for a Healthier Canada.**

Equal Pay Day 2024



- **April 16, NDP MPP Jill Andrew** spoke at Queen's Park about how closing the gender pay gap to key to enabling women's liberation; **NDP MPP Lisa Gretzky** spoke about how women make up the majority of workers in under-funded community services; **Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner, NDP MPP Bhutla Karpoche, and Green Party MPP Aislinn Clancy** also sent supportive replies.

Intimate Partner Violence



The Progressive Conservatives said they would support an NDP bill to declare intimate partner violence an epidemic in Ontario — marking a change from the Ford government's opposition to doing so last year.

"Indeed, the government and this caucus will be supporting the private member's bill that comes before the house later today," Government House Leader Paul Calandra said in the chamber on Wednesday morning, adding that the government would go further.

NDP Leader Marit Stiles, whose question prompted the response from Calandra, took a moment to acknowledge the government's shift. "Well, there's not many days when we do something like that, so I want to thank the government for agreeing today," Stiles said.

Bill 173, the Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act, was up for second reading debate at Queen's Park on Wednesday evening (April 10). It was referred to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy for review. The bill — co-sponsored by NDP MPPs Peggy Sattler, Lisa Gretzky, Jill Andrew and Kristyn Wong-Tam — was first introduced on March 7.



Thrive Counselling

Chondrena Veira-Martin wrote: Thrive Counselling, formed by the merger of Halton Family Services and Access Counselling and Family services, continues our varied work serving individuals and families. One of the agency's main focuses is gender-based violence, and the growing need for this work presents a significant challenge. Thrive offers free counselling services for women and children who require therapy related to violence and abuse within their partner and family relationships. Both individual and groups counselling are offered.

Additionally, Thrive is now a lead agency on a new service hub for intimate partner violence, sexual violence and human trafficking. This newly launched service is designed to bring together our local agencies providing for the needs of survivor/victims in an integrated setting so that services are easier to navigate and the burden in finding the right help at the right time is reduced. We are very excited to be piloting this model with our amazing partners to better serve those who might benefit from more wrap around care.

Thrive knows that the response to violence in relationships will remain inadequate unless it involves the individuals who are committing the abuse and provides them an opportunity to address and change their behaviours. We are a provider of the Partner Assault Response program, a mandated program for men and women who have come in conflict with the legal system as a response to intimate partner violence. The PAR program is a 12-week group program designed to encourage accountability and to assist people in beginning to change their unhealthy patterns. Thrive runs 5 PAR groups a week and we currently struggle to keep up with demand.

Thrive also runs the Caring Dads program, a 14-week group program for fathers who have been abusive in their relationships and/or to their children. This group is available as a mandated or voluntary program. Fathers learn about the impact of abuse on their children and learn to focus on child-centred parenting. Thrive also operates two Family Visitation centres in Burlington and Milton which allow for children to have supervised visits with their parent/caregiver in a neutral environment.



The other main focus of Thrive is our Individual, Couple and Family counselling. We offer subsidized counselling/psychotherapy to our community for a wide range of issues, and concerns, including mental health counselling. Thrive sees a wide age spectrum spanning youth through seniors, dealing with issues that include relationships, stress, anxiety, depression, trauma, grief, caregiving, separation and divorce.

We have physical offices in Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Georgetown and offer both in-person and virtual services. Our free Walk-in Counselling program is available Thursday for all issues out of our Burlington office.

With the support of our funders, MCCSS, MAG, WAGE, CSRF, OCF and many others, Thrive works to provide our community with the support, skills and resilience they need to navigate life's challenges.

MAY

GASP at the RBC AGM

Royal Bank of Canada faced questions on climate and Indigenous rights at their annual general meeting in May. RBC lacks a robust plan to reduce investment in fossil fuel projects, including a plan to divest from fossil fuels.



Kathleen Moleski of GASP wrote to remind us:

On March 24, 2022, Senator Rosa Galvez introduced Bill S-243 the Climate Aligned Finance Act to the Senate. She wrote: "It's no surprise that a Bloomberg NEF analysis found that Canadian banks rank in the bottom third in financing clean energy relative to their international peers, but they lead in fossil fuel investment. We need Canada's financial institutions to be at the front of the pack, not the rear." Canada needs such legislation in its toolbox to fight climate change and keep our economy strong. Let's hope CAFA doesn't sit for another two years before becoming **law**.



Hot Docs May 5, 2024

On the morning of October 24, 1975, 90 per cent of Iceland's women walked off their jobs and out of their homes. Fed up with the gaping inequity between the value of women's labour and women's wages, female employees, wives and mothers just stopped—stopped working, cooking, cleaning and looking after their children—together on that fall morning. The country came to an abrupt standstill, but a revolution had begun. Fascinating archives and inspiring animation accompany new interviews with the women and activists who were there that day. Nearly 50 years later, director Pamela Hogan and producer Hrafnhildur Gunnarsdóttir reconstruct the dramatic 12 hours that reimagined what was possible for women in Iceland—and, in fact, the world. Relive the moment—or cheer along for the first time—as these gender-equity heroes share what it was like to throw one of the most effective and dramatic protest wrenches into the patriarchal machine.

Food4Kids



Tim Hortons locations throughout Halton geared up for the annual Smile Cookie charitable campaign. The tasty treats were available for \$1.50 plus tax, with 100 per cent of the proceeds going to various local causes that are handpicked by Tim Hortons restaurant owners. In Oakville, those who purchased cookies from the dozens of local Tim Hortons stores benefited [Food4Kids Halton](#), a local charity that feeds children before and after school, in the summer, during holidays, on weekends- whenever schools are closed. Their programs are in place at over 100 schools across Halton. *You can read more about the new School Food program to ensure access healthy meals to help kids learn, grow and reach their full potential here: <https://budget.canada.ca/2024/report-rapport/chap2-en.html#s2-2>*

BUDGET Impact



[podcast: Alright, Now What? >>](#)

An interview with PM Justin Trudeau on gender equality and the Budget

The Canada Disability Benefit was a rather underwhelming item in the Budget. After months of campaigning, educating and consulting, members of the community had high hopes. But the budget announcement was that the benefit would amount to a maximum of \$2400 per year. Much work remains to be done, in shaping the Regulations. The advocacy group Disability Without Poverty has 7 priorities.:-

Urgency: no more delay, with people living in extreme poverty considering MAID, there are lives at stake.

Eligibility - needs to be broader and include invisible and intermittent disabilities.

Application Process -needs to be simpler, with an application mechanism that is accessible to all, not just those with taxable income.

Dignity – Any benefit should be adequate to lift people out of poverty and permit them to lead a reasonable life.

Cover added costs- living with a disability can be expensive. It is said most in the disabled community live \$1000 below the poverty line, but their expenses are \$1000 above the poverty line.

Fairness – There are vast differences in disability payments across the country. Any federal benefit should be fair and equitable.

Keep disabled people involved every step of the way .

You can read more about our government's next steps on advancing and funding the Canada Disability Benefit here: <https://budget.canada.ca/2024/report-rapport/chap2-en.html#s2-1>

RED DRESS DAY



on Red Dress Day In Winnipeg the NDP announced a new \$15M endowment fund will help support MMIWG2S+ families.

May 5th marked [National Awareness Day for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#), also known as Red Dress Day. Alarminglly, despite comprising only 4.3% of the population, Indigenous women are four times more likely than non-Indigenous women to be victims of violence , making up 16% of all female homicide victims and 11% of missing women.

Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree [announced](#) a partnership with the Government of Manitoba to pilot a National Red Dress Alert System with Indigenous partners. This follows the funding announced in [Budget 2024](#) aimed at ensuring a fair future for Indigenous Peoples, including the plan to advance the National Red Dress Alert through a co-developed regional model.



Progress on Child Care

[The ELCC workforce policy summary report,](#)



Canada's childcare advocates say the Federal budget will make \$10 a day childcare much more available across Canada.

"The federal government's new \$1 billion federal childcare expansion loan program, and \$60 million in grants will give public and not-for-profit licensed childcare operators much-needed direct financial support to build new spaces," says Morna Ballantyne, Executive Director of Child Care Now, Canada's national childcare advocacy association. "And it's really good news that the program will get up and running quickly, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation."

Budget 2024 promises \$10 million over two years for training initiatives, and a student loan forgiveness for graduates of early childhood education programs who choose to work in rural and remote communities.

Meanwhile in Ontario the road has been quite bumpy...

MPP Teresa Armstrong introduced legislation to convene a childcare worker's task force. She brought forward legislation today that would create an advisory committee solely dedicated to supporting workers in the childcare sector.

"Parents want accessible and affordable childcare," said Armstrong. "Providing childcare workers with the support they need will go a long way to solving our critical retention and recruitment problem. This task force will help make their concerns and voices heard." Armstrong's legislation would create a dedicated advisory committee that would immediately get to work on addressing some of the biggest challenges facing workers in the sector, including increased wages, minimum work standards, career advancement opportunities, recruitment strategies, immigrant considerations and enhanced collective bargaining.



In a bid to address mounting concerns from child care operators, Ontario has [unveiled](#) a timeline for a revamped funding formula under the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program. The move comes after multiple delays by the government and persistent warnings from operators about the program's sustainability without adequate funding approaches.

The government's current revenue replacement model, based on outdated fee rates, has fallen short of meeting the evolving needs of child-care providers, with concerns raised about rising expenses such as staffing, rent, and supplies.

The new funding model, now expected to take effect in 2025, aims to address these concerns by transitioning to a cost-based approach with further details coming soon.

"It has certainly been a long time in coming, which, again, I hope means that they've taken the time to get it right, because I think that's what's really important at this point, that we have a solid funding scheme for child-care programs so that we do see some stability in the sector," said Carolyn Ferns, policy coordinator for the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care.

The call for stability and reliability in funding remains a priority for operators and advocates alike. They emphasize the need for a solid funding framework that not only covers legitimate costs to keep programs operational but also incentivizes the provision of high-quality services, particularly in underserved areas, and facilitates future expansion to meet growing demand.

CCAH May Soiree



On Saturday May 11, guests immersed themselves in the vibes of the Caribbean and were swept up in its history, culture, music, and flavours. The CCAH Steel Band opened the elegant evening. The Keynote speaker was the Honourable [Greg Fergus](#), Speaker of the House of Commons. There was a musical performance by two-time Juno award winner [Sonia Collymore](#), and of course the food was delicious! The event raised money for children and youth programs, to help the future generation to engage positively in the community and find a sense of belonging.

Marny Bruce wrote, “The CCAH sincerely appreciates the support of the community in fundraising for its child and youth programming at our May Soiree, which was also a celebration of 47 years in operation. Because of the community's generosity, CCAH was successful in triggering an anonymous \$20,000 matching donation.”



HELLO FRIENDS! GRAN NATIONAL GATHERING TORONTO
MAY 13 – 15 | 2024

Tina wrote: At *Hello Friends! 2024* we took time to honour our past and celebrate the many successes GRAN has achieved as a remarkable movement of older women. We also looked to the future to envision how we can continue to make a difference.



Who better to inspire us than the keynote speaker at our opening banquet, award-winning author, journalist, and human rights activist Sally Armstrong?

Guest Speaker Ama Deawuo, Executive Director of SeedChange, introduced us to her Ghanaian Grandmother and spoke about how older women in Sub-Saharan Africa are leading the way in agro ecology with their knowledge, experience and skills



Past GRAN leaders – Kathleen Wallace-Deering, Pat Evans, and Peggy Edwards gave us this good advice: Be proud of stepping outside your comfort zone. Many of us were taught to be “seen, not heard”. However, we also grew up with a tradition of caring; when we see injustice, we have the moral courage to say, “What you are doing is not okay.”

- Being grandmothers gives us power, and we must be open to telling our stories.
- Working together in a group gives us strength, where every person’s unique gifts can be celebrated.
- Believe our work is making a difference.
- We are a movement; let’s keep bureaucracy and hierarchy to a minimum.
- Be wary of “mission drift”. We need to focus on our priority issues.
- Learning opportunities sustain us but be sure they are not overwhelming.
- No guilt, ever. Step away if life gets in the way and reengage when you can.
- Most important of all: ***Have fun!***

The group also brainstormed some useful ideas for recruiting new younger members, including: Make a 2–3-minute video of the organization’s work to circulate to potential pre-retirement groups, including teachers, nurses, CFUW, 55+ magazines; Meet with MPs and Senators; Organise more public events.

The very same day Minister of International Development Ahmed Hussen met with Ottawa GRANS (who had just got home!) Afterwards he posted: “The Grandmothers Advocacy network volunteers are an important voice for the rights of older women and other vulnerable persons in the Global South. We spoke about how Canada is supporting food security and climate change solutions across Africa and empowering more women farmers.”



published a report, “25 Years of Impact”

Here is a very brief synopsis.

In 1996 the Taliban seized power in Kabul and imposed a series of edicts restricting women's and girls' freedoms. In **1999** Canadian writer Deborah Ellis created an informal group called Women for Women in Afghanistan. Groups enjoyed Breaking Bread dinners, to raise funds to build and staff schools for girls. In **2003**, President Bush declared that major combat operations in Afghanistan were at an end and it was now a period of 'stability, stabilisation and reconstruction activities'. In **2004** a new Constitution was created for Afghanistan that included non-discrimination on the basis of sex and the right to free, public education from primary through to tertiary levels. CW4WAfghan began the Excel-erate Teacher Training project, with funding from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Over the next fifteen years CW4WAfghan funded schools and libraries and collaborated in a million-dollar project to deliver The Afghanistan Women's Empowerment Program, a project of the Aga Khan Foundation Canada.

By **2021**, through various programs and initiatives, CW4WAfghan had trained over 10,000 teachers, translated texts into local languages, and established over 300 libraries and science labs. In **2021** there had to be Program Adaptation in response to new Taliban Restrictions. In **2022** the Taliban banned women from attending higher education in Afghanistan. Undeterred, CW4WA launched The Remote Communication Assistance Program, & Safe Harbour Resettlement Program. In **2024+** we are Looking Toward the Future. For a quarter of a century, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan has been a beacon of hope, championing education programs for Afghan women and girls

Basic Income



Quotes from 3 fascinating days

Being poor is a full-time job.

BIG allows us to de-commodify our labour and shift the power balance.

Is BI a silver bullet? No, it's a Swiss Army Knife!

Poverty is the thief of time.

We know what to do. We have the mechanisms to do it.

Before the next election, we must support champions of BI, form coalitions, expand the GST credit, appeal to the Conservative moral framework and make Basic Income the COOL change for society.

Senator Kim Pate pointed out,

“Poverty is at the intersection of all forms of discrimination”



GASP members Kathy Mason and Karen Thompson with Senator Kim Pate (centre)



Supporting women's health is the key to advancing women's economic power

By Marie Ba *Director, Ouagadougou Partnership Coordination Unit*

This connection may seem obvious—it's no surprise that a healthy person is more able to work and contribute economically—but this issue is much more complicated for women. Right now, in too many countries, gender inequality leaves women and girls at greater risk of poverty. Simply being a woman limits her access to education and formal training, her opportunities to enter the workforce and [her ability to access capital](#), which stifles entrepreneurship. It's a double whammy: women are afforded fewer opportunities due to longstanding gender norms that hold them back from tapping into their full potential, while at the same time, they are denied access to the very tools that would enable them to plan their reproductive future, achieve their dreams, and grow the economy exponentially.

It is a proven fact that when a woman has access and options for her health, it's not just better for her and her family, the benefits extend beyond women themselves. And yet, frustratingly, we are still fighting an uphill battle. Gender equality is one of the first things to fall by the wayside when agendas are too crowded. Reproductive health and women's health more broadly are often the last priority when competing for resources against other issues countries face like security, infrastructure, and education.

The simple fact is this: Family planning transforms lives and unlocks economic potential. Women have so much to contribute, they just need the tools and information that enable them to utilize their full power.

At the Women's Rights Conference in Akron Ohio on May 29, 1850, Sojourner Truth gave a powerful speech, since known as, **Ain't I a Woman?**



Well, children, where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter. I think that 'twixt the negroes of the South and the women at the North, all talking about rights, the white men will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all this here talking about?

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?

Then they talk about this thing in the head; what's this they call it? [member of audience whispers, "intellect"] That's it, honey. What's that got to do with women's rights or negroes' rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yours holds a quart, wouldn't you be mean not to let me have my little half measure full?

Then that little man in black there, he says women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him.

If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them.

Obliged to you for hearing me, and now old Sojourner ain't got nothing more to say.

May 30th Ontario Health Coalition Mass Protest at Queens Park



It was a wonderful day for a protest, sunny and warm. Unions members and organisations of all sorts (including GASP and CFUW) turned out to protest the privatisation of Health Care in Ontario.



JUNE



Claudia Sheinbaum will become Mexico's first female president. Sheinbaum, a climate scientist and former mayor of Mexico City, won the presidency with between 58.3 per cent and 60.7 per cent of the vote, according to a rapid sample count by Mexico's electoral authority. That is set to be the highest vote percentage in Mexico's democratic history. **Sheinbaum is the first woman to win a general election in the United States, Mexico or Canada.** The ruling coalition was also on track for a possible two-thirds super majority in both houses of Congress, which would allow the coalition to pass constitutional reforms without opposition support, according to the range of results given by the electoral authority. Her victory represents a major step for Mexico, a country known for its macho culture, with her six-year term beginning Oct. 1 once results are finalized.

Let's all elect women scientists who believe in helping the poor!



June 6 marked the fifth anniversary of the conclusion of the [National Inquiry](#) into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People (MMIWG2S+) and to mark the occasion, Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Gary Anandasangaree [released](#) the [2023-24 Federal Pathway Annual Progress Report](#). <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca>

June 6 was ALSO the 80th anniversary of D Day.



Lucille Lane, 102, spoke about her experiences as a wireless telegraphist in the Royal Canadian Navy in Halifax on D Day. She helped defeat the submarine Wolf Packs that were decimating supply shipments in the Battle of the North Atlantic.



Fair Vote Canada **Représentation équitable au Canada**

A poster for 'Campaign Training for Electoral Reform'. The top half has a blue background with white text. The bottom half shows a group of people at a protest, with one person holding a red flag. A small Fair Vote Canada logo is in the bottom right corner of the poster.

Campaign Training for Electoral Reform

Sunday June 16, 1:30 ET
Sunday June 23, 1:30 ET

- How to **grow a team** in your community
- **Organizing conversations** to nurture new leadership
- Using the **power of storytelling** to talk about electoral reform

Fair Representation
Vote équitable
Canada au Canada

Fair Vote Canada ran two workshops for future leaders on June 16 and 23, with Katie Perfitt. Katie spent 7 years with the 350.org Canada team to build people power to confront the fossil industry and to build public support to tackle the climate crisis. She has trained hundreds of organizers through Olivia Chow's Institute of Change Leaders.



The Credit River Water Walk On June 15 and 16 the community of water walkers and helpers walked the second year of a four year Credit River Waterwalk to honour Nibi (water) and connect all people to creation. They walked the west side of the river from the mouth at Lake Ontario in Port Credit to the headwaters in Orangeville. It was a glorious June morning with the sun rising above the lake, herons and friendly chipmunks nearby. After an open-air breakfast, there was a smudging ceremony and the gift of tobacco was given to the river. Then some water was collected in a copper pot, to be carried, as close as possible to the course of the river, all the way to Orangeville. Once in motion the water does not stop, so marshals, many in their beautiful ribbon skirts, were there to stop the traffic and ensure the uninterrupted progress of the water.



As a part of **National Indigenous History Month** Grandmothers Voice presented Universal Connections at The Meeting House on June 21st, to mark Indigenous Peoples' Day, with speakers elder Allen Sutherland, songwriter Lacey Hill and Grandmother Elaine Kicknosway. There was a full day of influential speakers, performances, food, and activities. It was a chance to learn about Indigenous worldviews and perspectives that can be shared with all people connecting us to the natural world and each other.

June 21st was chosen as National Indigenous Peoples Day because it is also the day of the summer solstice, which is the longest day of the year and holds great spiritual significance for Indigenous communities.



Women's Strike Canada 2024 declared *International Solidarity in Autonomy* on Monday, June 24, 2024

Women and all allies were invited to strike and gather in solidarity on the second anniversary of the US Supreme Court overturning Roe v Wade plunging into peril women's right to choose and women's right to healthcare. Over 30 events were held. Locally, there were rallies in Toronto and in front of Hamilton City Hall.

Women's Strike Canada organizers recognized not everyone had the ability to attend the rallies, so they asked supporters who had to work, or were in school, to: wear RED in solidarity and adopt the following social actions for at least one day: Not spend money at any business that isn't woman-owned: Not do cooking, cleaning, nor childcare/chauffeur if safely able: not perform labour wherever safely possible: sign and share the [Federal Petition](#) to enshrine a woman's right to abortion into Canadian Law in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms: and finally, Share all of these actions on social media

Abortion access in Canada has always been tenuous at best and must never be taken for granted.



On June 27, The Canadian Womens Foundation was pleased to announce Mitzie Hunter as new President and Chief Executive Officer. Mitzie is a dynamic, community-grounded leader, who will play a pivotal role in advancing gender equality in Canada.



June 25, Webinar on Talent's Missing Middle.

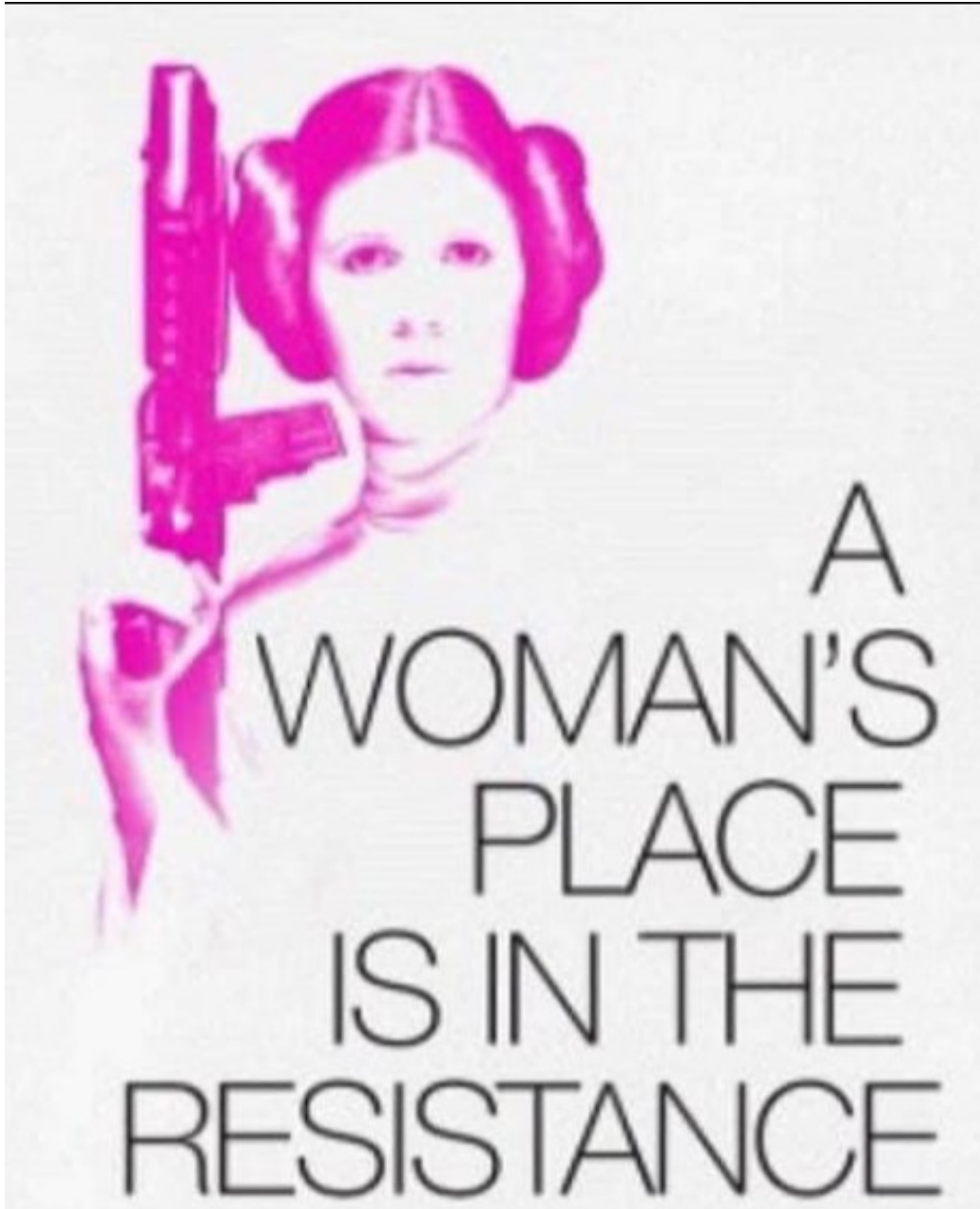
In the past 12 months there has been an 11% drop in the number of women in the development pipeline progressing into senior management. The pipeline leaks and it is important to interview leavers to understand why. Is there a broken rung in the career ladder, stepping from the training pipeline into the C suite?

4 brilliant women from major Canadian companies, offered their insights on overcoming barriers to the advancement of women.

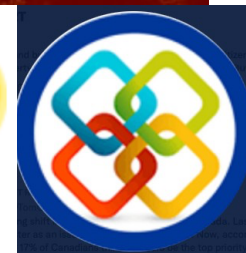


June 29 Stephen Lewis Foundation supported Pride in Canada and in Sub Saharan Africa

We have come a long way, made lots of progress, we should celebrate milestones. But there is still more to do. It is not yet the time to say, we've done that, we can move on.



Watch out for AWHsome in September 2024





ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN HALTON

awhalton.com

awhalton01@gmail.com

I