



JANUARY 2022

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Is it too late to wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR! I heard somewhere that you should only do that for the first two weeks of each new year, well, I guess this is the first time, this year that a new issue of the Banner is being published, so I think we qualify.

I do hope that this is going to be a better year for all, and especially for our UCW ladies. I have a friend who regularly comes to check on me, as I only leave home for appointments and food. During one of our discussions, we decided that the longer you stay in the house, the less likely you are to leave and just "go out". This is not good, as many of us are living alone, and you can only live with yourself for so long. Loneliness affects our mental and physical health, and the companionship and friendship of meeting with other UCW ladies is a great loss! I would hope that a phone call to keep in touch with our members, is at least one way we can eliminate that feeling of loneliness. It seems to me, that at the beginning of the pandemic, people, regardless of gender, spent more time contacting the housebound and those living alone. We often hear people say "come and have a cup of either tea or coffee", but unless a specific invitation is given, many of us will just stay at home, "to protect ourselves and others".

Many of our meetings have been cancelled or postponed again, and hopefully by the end of the year we could be back to a new normal.

Sharon Prenevost has written a history of the Child Wellbeing Initiative, and the Full Executive of our Regions, asked that it be printed in the Banner. It is quite long, but I think it is worth reading, and remembering all the hard work done by our UCW's to get this project going. This was done with lots of companionship and friendship. Please don't let us lose that most precious feeling of "doing something worthwhile"

Barbara.



**LETTER  
FROM  
YOUR  
Interim  
PRESIDENT**

President's letter for the January 2022 Issue of The Banner

Greetings Everyone:

As we move forward into 2022, I pray that the year will be filled with Hope, Peace, and Love for ourselves and others. I pray a prayer of Thankfulness and Gratitude for all the positives we do have in our lives and that we can move forward knowing We Are Not Alone.

“The weeks are moving forward, as every year they must, and many resolutions lie forgotten in the dust.

But as we seek the road ahead, Lord show us you are near, to light the way and smooth the path, and wipe away each tear.

The snowdrops peeping through the earth remind us life goes on,

and we can find new hope and strength when doubt and fear are gone,

Now as we watch the seasons change, Lord teach us how to live,

and how to share the joy of life, and all the gifts you give.

( Iris Hesselden; 2012 Friendship Book,)

Women of the United Church: Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit:

Our AGM will be held via Zoom on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. The sessions will be from 10 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Our Theme will be “Getting to Know You: All God’s People”. Our guest speaker will be Claire McMordie, Barrister and Solicitor; Counsel, West End Legal Centre, Calgary. Claire is a member of Scarboro United, Calgary. She will be speaking on the process of sponsoring a refugee. Scarboro United is presently going through that process. Claire would appreciate knowing what aspects of sponsoring a refugee we would be most interested in so she can plan her presentation around any questions we may have. Therefore, participants will have an opportunity to send in questions to Claire prior to the meeting. More detailed information regarding the AGM will be circulated in the next several weeks.

Presidents letter—continued.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Sydney NS (Membertou Trade & Convention Centre 11 – 15 July 2022)

Just a reminder that the registration deadline of 31 Dec has past. You can still register, but as of the 1 Jan 2022, registration for all regions is on a ‘first come-first serve’ basis. Planning for the meeting is going ahead for the event to happen. If, for some reason, the event has to be cancelled, arrangements will be made for refunds.

As 11 January 2022 – Five members from Chinook Winds have registered.(22 spaces were available to Chinook Winds – 17 spaces remain). Six members from Northern Spirit have registered. (22 spaces were also available to Northern Spirit – 16 spaces remain).

M&S Contributions:

We can Congratulate ourselves! – The United Church Women across the whole of the Church, contributed \$686,686 in 2020. Women of the United Church: Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit contributed \$40,255. in 2020.

Blessings, Eleanore.

**HOW IS YOUR GROUP COPING WITH THE PANDEMIC?**

There is an interest in hearing how groups are coping. Do you meet in open areas,? Do you meet via computer, Write to us and let us know how things are going with you and your group. Let the rest of the ladies know what you are doing about fundraising, and keeping in contact with others.

This is YOUR newsletter, and we would like it to spread the word of your accomplishments.

**Banners for 60th Anniversary of UCW**

Banners are being requested from all the Regions to Parade into the Main area of the Conference in Sydney Nova Scotia. . Asking if there is a person or a group in Regions 2 & 3, hopefully one from each Region, who would be prepared to design and create a Banner for presentation. Please contact me at 403 934 2659 or at the.davisons@shaw.ca See page 4 for information or contact me.

## **Updated Info Banners for 60th Anniversary.**

Important information regarding Banners.

All banners should be 3 feet wide by 4 feet long.

All banners should have 3 tabs along the top (one on each end and one at the center 18 inches in from the end).

All tabs should be cut 12 inches long so that when folded in half to make a loop and sewn on your banner there will be room to hang down from the tube system. The longer loop is necessary because the tube is 3 inches in diameter.

Banners will be paraded in at the opening ceremony on Monday evening, July 11<sup>th</sup> by 2 people from each Region. All banner carriers will be directed to a place to line up. You will be following the drummers and dancers.

Please have a short write up (4-5 lines) printed about your banner which includes the name of your Region and brief description of the banner. These will be given to the emcee who will read them as you are walking up.

After all banner carriers are lined up on the floor in front of the stage, on a given signal, you will divide in the middle and lay your banner on the table by your side of the stage.

Banner carriers will then walk down the same side of the room that your banner was laid and back to your seat

All banners will be hung from the tube system

Banners will have to be taken down after the banquet on Thursday evening, July 14<sup>th</sup> to be ready for the banner carriers to walk out.

Banners will be piped out from the front sides of the stage towards the centre and down the middle aisle (a reverse of the way you entered on Monday)

Stay safe and God bless,  
Audrey

60TH Anniversary for UCW - applications are still being accepted for this Conference, but now spots are filled on a first come, basis. We had 5 registrants from Region 3 & 7 from Region 2. We were allotted 22 spots per Region. If interested, please apply .

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN  
60th ANNIVERSARY  
SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA  
JULY, 2022

The United Church Women of Canada, have been around for many years, and in 2022 will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary. As you can see from the above, the Celebrations in 2022 are being hosted in Sydney, Nova Scotia. This is a time when women from across the country and Bermuda Conference, join together to celebrate all the wonderful things have been accomplished in the past 60 years.

Information will be coming soon, but I wanted to give you information on the Grants that are available to help the women, who need it, to be able to make the trip.

There are two Grants available.

The Agatha Kaasa Fund and the Dorothy Amos Fund.

Application forms for both Funds are available from the Secretary of the Women of the United Church, Northern Spirit and Chinook Winds, or by contacting me and I will forward either or both applications. They are also available on the United Church of Canada Website, in the section on the UCW.

These Grants are available to members of the UCW or recognized Women's Groups in the Church, but any woman in the Church can attend this wonderful celebration and meeting in Nova Scotia.

The speaker/s are from the WOMEN FOR CHANGE , National UCW Project, and there will, hopefully be at least two representatives in attendance.

The deadline for applications are very early, - October 15th or April 15th for the Agatha Kaasa Fund and July 2nd for the Dorothy Amos Fund.

Barbara Davison (National UCW Grant Committee Member)

## **Report from our Advocacy Chair:**

### **Sharon Prenevost.**

## **The ANWConference UCW Child Wellbeing Initiative (CWBI) Story**

The United Church Mission theme for 2001-2003 was Children: Is Anybody Listening which followed the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001 and that came out of the landmark UN Convention of the Rights of the Child in 1989 as well as the 1990 World Summit for Children.

Canada was not faring well in implementing children's rights as laid out in the 53 articles of the Convention, which all provinces had signed. Our child poverty rate had not declined and budgets for children's service organizations had been drastically reduced.

As a result, organizations like Save the Children and UNICEF, in Canada and around the world, pledged a Global Movement for Children affirming and standing in solidarity with children by engaging in concrete action for change in local communities around the world.

Ten key actions and principles came out of the Global Movement for Children. One of those actions was addressing poverty by investing in the wellbeing of our children and in services that benefit poor children and their families.

At the 2006 ANWConference UCW Annual meeting, a proposal was drafted to the 39<sup>th</sup> General Council held in Thunder Bay. Let's Make Child Poverty History resolved to make our concerns about child poverty known and to bring to the attention of all Canadians that responsibility for eliminating child poverty lies in provincial and federal purview.

In July of 2007 at Ponoka United, Mary Jones hosted the first meeting of the child poverty interest group: Janet Walter, Sharon Gillespie, Marilyn Thomas, Emmy Henry, Lillian Stewart, Sharon Prenevost. The group chose a name, set goals and developed a position statement premised on the question: What if Alberta government policies were measured by the wellbeing of Alberta's children?

By October 2007 the CWBI action plan was to build presbyterial and/ or presbytery working committees to: collect and summarize child poverty data, share (anonymously) information in dialogue with MLAs, write letters to elected officials and to circulate the CWBI petition for public signatures. Relevant data from sources like: Public Interest Alberta, Edmonton Social Planning Council, Statistics Canada, and Campaign 2000 were used as talking points during presentations. Letter writing blitzes were held in many communities with hundreds of letters sent to government officials. Child Honoring: Turn this World Around workshops were hosted by faith groups about this time.

In April of 2008, the first of 4 rallies was held at the Alberta Legislature and the CWBI petition was tabled by Liberal MLA for Lethbridge East, Brigitte Pastoor. The petition resolved that: "we the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to use the present conditions of the lives of Alberta's children as a lens to view and revise government policies to eliminate child poverty and its many manifestations in Alberta." In all, about 6000 Albertans from 94 communities signed the CWBI petition. MLAs from all parties tabled the petition including Rachel Notley, Raj Sherman and Greg Weadick. The last MLA to table in April of 2013 was NDP for Edmonton/Beverley/Clearview -Deron Bilous.

In May of 2008 at ANWConference held in Edmonton, Janet Walter and Sharon Prenevost presented the UCW report which included a CWBI 12minute DVD. Over the next two years, the DVD was shared with many faith groups, politicians, NGOs, and other interested groups across the country from the Yukon to the Maritimes. A copy was sent to UC General Council headquarters in Toronto, and it was shown at GC40 in Kelowna. The work of the CWBI was featured in the UC Observer and the Mandate in late 2008.

At the October 2009 ANWConference UCW executive meeting held in Lamont, Carolyn Pogue, who became CWBI strategist, presented samples of an ambassador rag doll (pattern from a 1991 Canadian Living Magazine) and a brightly painted birdhouse. The

tag on the birdhouse read, "Every bird but not every child can find a home."

In addition, Alberta's children Grades 4-12, were invited to respond in writing or drawing to the question "What if ...every child in Alberta had a safe home and enough to eat?" About 800 schools across the province were invited to take part in the project and over the next four years some remarkably creative work was submitted." Tears, sadness and anger overwhelmed the judges at times as they read and experienced the feelings of injustice and frustration that the students were expressing in their work" (Marilyn Penfound, ANWConference chair 2008-2010) but in the end six of the adjudicated pieces were chosen each year to receive a certificate of merit, an autographed copy of Carolyn Pogue's book *Gwen* and \$50.00 to be donated to a charity of the winners' choice. A select copy of submissions was presented to Premier Stelmach. The premier responded, "I was touched by the thoughts and suggestions of the children who responded to their poster and writing contest and very impressed that the prizes consisted of donations to the charities of the winners' choice. The hand-made dolls presented to me, and other MLAs are also a poignant reminder of the vulnerable children among us."

(From a Basis for Action for Socially Inclusion Communities 2010 Report Card) Hope is identified as a "fundamental root cause of wellbeing related to control of destiny and social participation." In part, this is where the naming of the Hope doll came.

"Hope" caught the imagination of many dedicated and talented UCW Unit members, friends and family across the province so that hundreds of meticulously, creative dolls were sewn, each with prayers, for our children. Among people of influence in politics, media and the arts to receive a Hope doll were: Governor General Michaëlle Jean, PM Justin Trudeau, activist Maude Barlow, lawyer Maureen McTeer, Calgary Mayor Nenshi, politician Flora MacDonald, singer Jan Arden, the CBC's Peter Mansbridge and Rick Mercer as well as troubadour and founder of Child Honoring, Raffi Cavoukian.

The Hope dolls were presented to each of Alberta's 83 MLAs on the floor of the legislative assembly during the fall sitting of the Legislature in 2010 nearly on November 20<sup>th</sup> (International Day of the Child.) Along with Jesus' parable in the Luke 18 story of the persistent widow, each doll wore a tag with a message asking MLAs to use their power and influence to end child poverty in Alberta. We asked our elected representatives to lead the way in implementing a bold, cooperative, well-resourced, accountable poverty reduction strategy with firm timelines and attainable targets. We asked that all of Alberta's children have enough nutritious food, affordable, accessible, quality childcare, adequate low-cost housing, and a living wage for parents. People from many faiths were praying for the initiative that day as was Mardi Tindal, Moderator of the UC of Canada. During her remarks at the Western Women's Conference at

Naramata in September 2011, Moderator Tindal held her doll, Emma Jesse James, up saying, "CWBI work is an example of the faithfulness of the women of Alberta. Our mission is to stand at the gates of Hope to tell the truth about our own souls."

Dolls were also presented to each of Alberta's 29 MPs prior to the G8/G20 Summit held in Toronto/ Huntsville- their tags including the Millennium Development Goals.

We are grateful to Anna Garleff for creating the Hope doll logo. Often, there was a special dedication of the dolls. The blessing offered up by Ed Chynoweth, ANWConference President, at the 2010 UCW AGM in Lacombe was particularly memorable.

ANWConference UCW took a child poverty proposal to General Council #41 (2012) The General Council executive was directed to develop strategies to enable: "all members and adherents of the UC of Canada take action to collaborate with all levels of government, the business community and the community of non-profit organizations and partners in addressing the fact that there are far too many children living in poverty in Canada." Bread Not Stones: Taking Action to End Child Poverty grew out of that action. The last pages in the resource came from the ANWConference CWBI materials.

On a very chilly, windy International Day of the Child November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the CWBI with prayers and supporters from: Women Together Ending Poverty, the Edmonton Social Planning Council, the Alberta College of Social Workers, Canadian Federation of University Women, the ATA, Public Interest Alberta and the Raging Grannies were at the Legislature for the paper doll banner rally. Each paper doll, representing one of the 91 000 children living in poverty in Alberta, was hand cut by men, women, youth, and children from all over Alberta and beyond. Some were decorated and some bore stories and prayers. The small paper dolls, glued to large banners, made an impressive display that covered the steps of the legislative building. After the event, banners were given to MLAs for display in their offices, while some were returned to places of worship and others to public places as a reminder of the work ahead.

At the press conference, eleven-year-old Sapna Humar, a winner of our invitation to write or draw about child poverty issues, read her poem, *Alone in the Streets*. Leader of the Liberal Party, Dr. David Swann, introduced the CWBI group in the house that day. CWBI supporters were asked not to wear their End Child Poverty T-shirts into the visitors' gallery. MLAs were each given a hand-made End Child Poverty pin as they entered the floor of the house. In subsequent years, hundreds of the End Child Poverty pins were shared across the country. The first lot of 100 handcrafted pins was sent to Bread Not Stones workshop organizers, Linda Woods and Laurel Kenney from London, Ontario Conference in 2015. Smaller End Child Poverty stick pins were available for a time.

In 2013 the focus was a variation on a letter writing campaign with the paper lunch bag project, another brilliant Carolyn Pogue idea! The Dear Hungry Child letter attached to the paper bag was mockingly from the Alberta Government full of tongue in cheek and ludicrous excuses about why our elected officials couldn't possibly eliminate child poverty in our province! Many Albertans sent the paper bags to their MLAs, Premier Redford and Minister Hancock.

On October 17<sup>th</sup> the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Dignity for All campaign organizers, on the suggestion of the Rt. Rev. Bill Phipps, used the empty paper lunch bag idea to draw attention to poverty issues nationally. Several food outlets near Parliament Hill in Ottawa displayed the empty lunch bags with the line CHEW ON THIS!! Citizens for Public Justice handed the empty lunch bags out on the streets in front of the Parliament buildings.

In 2013, Lillian Stewart, ANWConference Chair 2006-2008, starred in a third Child Wellbeing Initiative DVD and Violet Flowers (aka Carolyn Pogue) "Read the (hilarious and poignant) Alberta News!"

Beverley Green, ANWConference chair 2010-2012, shared the work of the CWBI nationally when she visited Newfoundland and the Maritimes as National UCW President. The Bread Not Stones: Taking Action to End Child Poverty project from the United Church of Canada, a five-year initiative to End Child Poverty, was inspired in part through Beverley's efforts. Jesus said: "Would anyone among you offer your child a stone instead of bread, or a snake instead of fish? If you know how to give your children what is good for them, how much more will our loving God give good things to those who ask!" (Matthew 7:9-11 paraphrased)

In 2014 we developed CWBI Handouts Kits which included: a copy of the Child Honoring Covenant, sample of position statement and letter writing suggestions, sample copy of the CWBI Petition, pattern for making Hope dolls, sample of poverty doll tag, background and sample of the What If...student invitation to write or draw, paper lunch bag letter to Government of Alberta, copy of CWBI brochure, greeting card, calling card, bookmark and Hope doll coloring page for younger children. The kits were sent to groups interested in acting on the child poverty issue in Alberta and across the country.

Feed the Children: Ending Student Hunger in Alberta Classrooms strategy conference was held at Gaetz United in Red Deer on October 4, 2014. About eighty concerned Albertans attended the all-day conference including: anti-poverty activists, teachers, trustees, political leaders, Aboriginal leaders, social workers, volunteers, nurses, and policy

analysts. There were representatives from groups like Brown Bagging It for Calgary Kids, Alberta Food Matters, Alberta Health Services, United Way, E4C and Public Interest Alberta. Seven presenters during the morning session shared facts about hunger among Alberta school children. Our keynote speaker was Julie van Rosendahl, CBC food commentator and blogger. During the afternoon breakout sessions participants created a Statement to the People of Alberta about Ending Student Hunger in Alberta Classrooms.

Another round of letters to politicians: this time to our MLAs, Premier Prentice and Minister Klimchuk. In the Fall sitting on November 24<sup>th</sup> Rachel Notley promised if elected, to institute school lunches for hungry Albertan children. Tom Mulcair, NDP leader of the Official Opposition in a CBWI email said, "Rest assured that the New Democrats will continue to push for a food security system Canadians deserve: improving access to safe, healthy, affordable food-in all areas of the country."

Poverty Costs 2: Investing in Albertans -Blueprint for Reducing Poverty in Alberta published by Vibrant Communities Calgary and Action to End Poverty in Alberta came out in June of 2013. Joe Ceci, who was coordinator for the Action to End Poverty in Alberta and longtime CWBI supporter, asked for CWBI feedback specifically about a Child Specific Deprivation Index included in the document. The Daily Bread Food Bank and the Caledon Institute of Social Policy defined a deprivation index as the



new standard in measuring poverty.

With the deprivation index concept in mind and the comment from a government official that, “ we need a consistent definition of poverty.” CWBI members in cooperation with the Lethbridge Chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) developed the Child Wellbeing Index in 2014/15. All Children have the right to: 1) three meals a day based on the most recent Canada Food Guide 2) safe, accessible water 3) adequate, affordable, safe housing 4) enough clothing for different seasons (some new and some used) two pairs of well-fitting shoes and a pair of winter boots. 5) preventative and curative physical and mental health services 6) relationships which nurture each child’s spirit ( for safety & consistent and predictable love and support) 7) safe, high-quality, affordable daycare and drop in care 8) age appropriate books, internet connection, quiet bright place to study 9) quality education where children are encouraged to reach their potential 10) regular involvement in physical activity, the fine arts and wilderness experiences. ( And an add on of free public transportation in urban areas )

Sharon Prenevost presented the Child Well-being Index at ANWConference meeting held in Slave Lake. In August, the Child Well-being Index was forwarded to the forty-second United Church General Council in Corner Brook, Nfld. “ Of the 324 resolutions before the General Council, the CWB Index ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in order of those requiring a response from the church and it passed with a 98% to 2% approval by voting delegates,” reported Alberta Commissioner, Ed Bardock who also wrote, “ be proud ladies, your work has received national recognition!”.

Our fourth and last CWBI rally at the Alberta Legislature was on May 5, 2016. Hope dolls were sewn for MLAs again because of the number of new members with the change in government. Lethbridge East NDP MLA Maria Fitzpatrick presented the CWBI group in the house and personally delivered a CWBI thank you card and an End Child Poverty pin to each of the 87 MLAs. On the steps of the rotunda for picture taking that day, 25 CWBI supporters from Alliance, Calgary, Delia, Drayton Valley, Drumheller, Edmonton, Lethbridge, St. Albert, Stettler and Strathmore were joined by: MLA Anam Kazim Calgary Glenmore, Hon Richard Freehan, Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Hon Irfan Sabir, Minister of Human Services.

In October of 2016 a group of CWBI/ CFUW supporters met with Hon. Stephanie Maclean, Minister for the Status of Women. Of discussion was the Early Development Instrument (EDI) for measuring early childhood development launched in our province in 2011. The EDI measures development in 5 areas: 1) physical health and wellbeing 2) social competence 3) emotional maturity 4) language and thinking skills 5) communication skills and general knowledge. Observations and interpretations by U of A researchers during a Mapping Project across the province concluded sadly that “Alberta’s children are falling below the Canadian norm for early childhood development. The greatest challenge for Alberta’s children is communication skills, general knowledge, and imaginative play.”

On the cover of the October 2016 issue of the UC Observer, is a picture of Moderator the Rt. Rev. Jordan Cantwell wearing her End Child Poverty pin which was given to her at GC42. At the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of National UCW “Celebrating Spirit” held in Vancouver in 2017, Donna Krucik ANWConference UCW chair 2012-2014 and Margery Wright, ANWConference UCW Chair 2016-2020 presented Moderator Cantwell with an End Child Poverty T-shirt. Nancy Sutherland, National UCW Chair, ANW Conference delegates and others wore their End Child Poverty T-shirts to many of the sessions. Child poverty panel members: Sarah Goodfellow, chair of the Maritime Conference UCW from New Brunswick, Laurel Kenney from the London Conference UCW and Sharon Prenevost from ANWConference spoke about actions and plans taken collectively and in their respective regions of the country.

Hope dolls were presented to speakers and international delegates at the Intercultural and Diverse Ministries event held in Edmonton during the summer of 2016.

Representatives of the Bread not Stones Project to End Child Poverty in Canada were hosted by an All-Party Anti-Poverty Caucus in recognition of the International Day of the Child on November 21, 2017 in a daylong event on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The event was organized by Linda Woods of the London Conference UCW. In attendance that day on the Hill representing women from across the country were Past President Maritime Conference UCW Catherine Maclean from Nfld., Laurel Kenney London Conference UCW, Ontario and Sharon Prenevost ANWConference UCW CWBI.

338 Hope dolls, thirty- five of them from Alberta, were given to Canada’s MPs, senators, and other federal officials. Sen. Art Eglington hosted a panel discussion over breakfast. Joe Gunn, Ex. Director for Citizens for Public Justice was in attendance as was

Sen. Ed Broadbent who shared wise words. Anita Khanna, National Coordinator released Campaign 2000's Annual National Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Canada. There were informative meetings with Parliamentary Secretary Adam Vaughan of Families, Children and Social Development and Ana Fularczuk, Special Assistant, Indigenous Affairs. Liberal MP Kate Young spoke in the House paying tribute to the event. Although official permission for the dolls to be displayed was not given, a good number of MPs took their dolls into the House themselves. Prime Minister Trudeau did a short UTube clip thanking Bread Not Stones for, "hard work to ensure a bright future for our most vulnerable children".

By 2018, the ANWConference UCW Child Wellbeing Initiative was winding down after 10 incredible years of actions taken to improve and enrich the lives of children and their families. Good things had happened over the life of the CWBI with policies and legislation like:

- the Alberta and Canada Child Benefit Plans
- an Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit
- the creation of an Alberta Ministry of Children's Services
- the introduction of Bill #1: An Act to Reduce School Fees
- an increase in the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour
- the conducting of the first rural homeless count
- an investment in building, renovating, and improving affordable housing units
- the supporting of Child Advocacy Centers for abused children
- an announcement of a Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy
- the expansion of the breakfast/lunch programs for school age children.

But that isn't quite the end of the CWBI story for in 2019 Linda Woods from London Conference UCW had taken the Hope doll story internationally when Sesame Street issued a critically important press release about there being 2.5 million homeless American children. Sesame Workshop, which produces Sesame Street, created several powerful videos featuring a Muppet named Lily, representing a seven-year-old whose family has just lost their home. Sesame's focus was on Hope, Help and Healing and a unique video on the word Heart. Linda immediately thought about our Hope dolls with the little red Hearts glued to their chests and decided to send Lilly the Muppet, a special doll called Sunshine.

Linda concluded her email to us by saying, "I want you to know that the yellow skirt Sunshine is wearing came from one of your (Alberta) dolls. I really wanted your work to be included as part of this very special doll. I had kept a couple of your dolls to display with ours, wherever Laurel and I spoke. The response to your dolls has been wonderful. "

And amazingly in November 2021, "Alberta negotiated an agreement with the Federal Government that will support the expansion of accessible, affordable and high-quality childcare. This plan also reduces fees for parents of children not yet in kindergarten by an average of half beginning in January 2022, to an average of \$10 per day childcare by 2026."  
Hallelujah!

In the process of sorting the CBWI collection, I am filled with joy and awe- marvelling at what we were able to accomplish along the way. Relishing in remarkable synergy during exciting times: despairing together during the frustrating ones, as we "felt our way" through 10-years on a CWBI journey. When one door closed (as many did) another would miraculously open to catch our imagination and we would be off again, exploring possibilities.

Thankyou doesn't seem adequate enough to express the deep gratitude CWBI has for the incredibly fearless, visionary, creative and totally supportive leadership of ANWConference UCW Presidents: Mary Jones, Lillian Stewart, Marilyn Penfound, Beverley Green (deceased) Donna Krucik, Barbara Davison and Margery Wright.

CWBI is eternally grateful to all the good and faithful: persistent, and loving Women of the United Church. Together with allies and friends, know that, through your actions and prayers, YOU have made a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable children.

Blessings to you all.

CWBI Co-chair

Sharon Prenevost 18/01/22

## **Why Should We Pay \$1 per Member per Year to National UCW?**

A few years ago, we were asked to pay \$1 per member per year to National UCW. Some have done this, and for this National UCW thanks you. To those who have not paid, here is the reason behind asking for this money.

Each September your Conference President and President Elect travel to the National UCW meeting in Toronto. (Your Past President attends if there is no President Elect]. The General Council have given a grant each year to the NUCW To partly cover the cost of the meeting, and the funds have come from the M & S. If each member of the UCW across the country gave \$1 per member per year, the cost of the meeting would be covered, and no M & S funds would be required. Travel is not cheap and it is only once a year that the Presidents of all Conferences across the United Church UCW's meet to co-ordinate work, mingle and learn the work being done by the other UCW Conferences. Please help send your 2 representatives to this Annual September meeting, as it is where the work of the UCW is discussed and where we join forces to work together on a common project.

Please forward your \$1 per member to Treasurer, Adrine Giles (address below) who will forward the total to the National UCW Treasurer.

### **KEEPING IN TOUCH.**

As you probably know, the INFOPAC used to be sent to every United Church. There was a sheet included in that package, that was entitled "Keeping in Touch". This was the information sheet for the women of the United Church, and came from the National UCW. Since the INFOPAC is no longer being sent out, the National UCW decided that the women of the church needed the information that sheet contained, and so a committee was formed to make sure that the Keeping In Touch information was still being sent to the UCW ladies, and those who were interested. The first issue was sent out earlier this year, and a second issue was sent out in June. The distribution is from National UCW to contacts in the various regions, and those contacts are asked for forward to their contacts in the various areas. It should eventually trickle down to each local UCW group, and from their to each member of the UCW. If you have not seen a copy of Keeping in Touch, please contact your local unit, if they have not received it, contact the area contact, and so on up the line. The committee are hoping that eventually all women of the United Church, will be able to read about all the projects etc., for which the UCW is known, and what is going on around the country.

**WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH: CHINOOK WINDS AND NORTHERN SPIRIT**  
**CHRISTENSEN /DRYBURGH MEMORIAL TRAVEL and EDUCATION FUND**  
**APPLICATION FORM**

Applicant's Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information: Phones: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Faith Community \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of event you plan to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Plans \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Review:**

Course/Event Fee \_\_\_\_\_ Travel Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging \_\_\_\_\_ Meals \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Funds \_\_\_\_\_ Congregational Funds \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

## Christensen/Dryburgh Memorial, Education and Travel fund.

This fund supports travel to an event within Alberta and Northwest Territories, covering both Regions -2 & 3. At the discretion of the Revue Committee, it may also be used to attend at places/events outside the borders of our two Regions – Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit. Events should be of an educational/Leadership quality for use within one's home church; events could be of an ecumenical, mission, interfaith, spiritual, youth or outreach interest. Funding is on a 1/3<sup>rd</sup> basis – 1/3 personnel, 1/3 supporting congregation or committee and 1/3 from the Fund to a maximum of \$500. Application forms maybe obtained only through the Banner or by contacting the administrator.

The new application form (on the previous page) is the new and revised form. It is shorter and simpler. We advise you to use this form when you are seeking financial assistance for an event. I will be more than happy to send you a copy for you to fill and return to me. While we have cut out some of the other documents that you had to send, with the old form, we do need this one for our Records, as an expense form.

If you are planning to attend the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in the summer and you choose to apply, we will assist you with a flat rate of \$150. However, you have to apply prior to the event, and you will receive the cheque after you return. We encourage you to apply. Money is there to assist you.

Applications should be forwarded to the administrator: Adrine Giles, 413-14<sup>th</sup> Street East, Drumheller, Alberta, T0J 0Y5.

Donations to this fund should be made out to: Christensen/Dryburgh Fund and forwarded to: Adrine Giles, (write the address as above)

Respectfully Submitted

Adrine Giles (Administrator)

**Would you like a copy of the Banner or the EBanner sent to someone else in your group or to your friends?**

**Have you missed your copy of our UCW Newsletter?**

Copies of this newsletter are sent by mail to those who have provided us with an address, or emailed to those who would like a paperless copy.

**WE HAVE A PROBLEM!!**

The last two issues have seen a number of copies, both paper and electronic, that have been returned. The return of the paper copy tells the sender that the recipient has moved or is no longer at the address provided. In the case of the electronic copy, either the address is not recognized, or the mailbox is full.

If you move, change your email address or service provider, **could you please inform me, Barbara Davison,** I send out the electronic copy. **You can always send an email to : UCWbanner@gmail.com**

**Cheques for paper copies (\$10 per year) should be made out to : Women of the United Church, Northern Spirit & Chinook Winds. UCWbanner@gmail.com**

The electronic copy of your newsletter is free. It costs ***\$10 per year to receive a printed copy.*** We spent over \$560 on printing and postage in 2019 and received just \$90 for subscriptions. **If your subscription is due this year, please pay the \$10 per year (3 copies).** If you have already paid for this coming year, your increase will show on your renewal. June is the month when these are due.

***Please*** keep sending reports and information about your upcoming events. If you don't send us the information, it cannot be printed and your information will not be circulated.

**Scams : if you receive anything (email or see a "link" entitled "UCW BANNER, - DO NOT OPEN IT—this is a SCAM address and not our Banner address. I do not send a "link" unless included in an article. Barbara.**

This is your Newsletter! We need information from you and your unit or group, to let the rest of Alberta Northwest Conference know that we are still around and will be around for a good many years. If you have any items for your newsletter, please forward them to:-

ucwbanner@gmail.com

## UCW PURPOSE

*To unite women of the congregation, for the total mission of the church, and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.*

## Information on how to obtain this “Newsletter”

**To receive a copy of this electronic newsletter, please send your email address to :**

**ucwbanner@gmail.com**

**If you wish to have a printed copy, the cost is \$10.00 per year, so send your address and your \$10.00 to:-**

**Barbara Davison,  
127 Ranchwood Lane,  
Strathmore, Alberta,  
TIP 1M8**

**Cheques should be made out to :**

**Women of the United Church, Northern Spirit & Chinook Winds (Banner)**

Expiry dates are May of each year, Please renew as soon as your expiry date arrives. This is found on the label of your “paper” copy. Remember this is your newsletter, and if you have anything of interest to share with the rest of Alberta Northwest Conference UCW, please forward that information. Your church group may be having a special celebration?

You may have a special member in your group. This is one way to get to know each other. Telling us the story of your Presbyterial, or the story of your UCW or Ladies group. Reading about groups, makes Us realize just how much we are alike, although we are so far apart sometimes.

No matter what we do, we know that we are all special..

We have had a number of the last edition of the EBanner returned, both in the mail, and emails not delivered. If you or anyone you know has not received the requested Newsletter, please let me know, and I will send it by email People move around and we need to be told of a new address or email address.

Thank you.

Barbara Davison.