

## **THE WINNIPEG MOTION: WHAT YOU ARE VOTING FOR?**

- This email is written to you as an individual member of CFUW as you weigh the pros and cons of the Winnipeg Motion which will be presented, debated and voted on at our CFUW AGM on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The following comments are made within the provisions of the Canada Not for Profit Corporations Act (CNCA) under which CFUW operates.
- In addition to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms which gives us the right to communicate our opinions, the CNCA says we can send information to members of our organization.

## **WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DISCUSS CFUW MATTERS IN A CIVILIZED MANNER.**

- Let us begin that discussion
- **Many questions remain unanswered about the consequences of this vote.**

## **HERE IS WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR:**

### IF the MOTION passes:

- CFUW will STILL BE A MEMBER OF GWI. ARTICLE 4 still holds.
- CFUW will STILL HAVE A FINANCIAL OBLIGATION to pay GWI **PER CAPITA** dues.
  - By the GWI Constitution, CFUW must pay dues for every person who is a member of CFUW, whether they choose to be a member of GWI or not.
- Many CFUW members will not pay the GWI portion of their dues.
- CFUW has voted to support this motion. The board has put itself in the position where it will have to accept the outcome of the vote by the voting delegates representing the Clubs.

## **BUT ASK YOURSELF: WHAT THEN?**

Where does CFUW plan to find the money to pay the total PER CAPITA GWI dues it is obligated to pay?

- Has CFUW negotiated a deal already with GWI? If so, why have we not been informed?
- Does CFUW plan AFTER the vote to tell GWI it won't pay the dues it is required to pay?
- Karen Cooper, the lawyer, wrote to CFUW on December 5, 2017 suggesting 3 options. What are those three options?
- IF CFUW DEFAULTS on its obligation to pay the full PER CAPITA GWI dues for every member of CFUW, will GWI be forced to terminate CFUW as a NFA due to GWI's own Constitution (Article II (10) (2)?
- Would it not be only fair that CFUW answer these questions BEFORE the vote on June 23?

- Should we be making such an important decision without full information and knowledge of the consequences of our actions?
- Would it not be wise for CFUW to treat all of our well-meaning members with the respect we deserve in making such an important decision? Would it not be reasonable to have all of these questions answered openly?

### **THEN ASK YOURSELF:**

- IS IT MORALLY RIGHT for CFUW, the National Federation of one of the world's richest countries, to plan to pay less than the full dues to GWI?
- If GWI does accept this proposition from CFUW, won't all the other NFAs want the same deal?
- Do you want your organization to represent you by not playing fair with its obligations?

### **THINK OF IT THIS WAY**

GW I is almost 100 years old. Our foremothers started it. We were there at the beginning.

- GW I is doing a VERY EFFECTIVE job of representing us at the international level, in UN forums and elsewhere.
- The recent GW I Membership Plan 2017-19, (see graduatewomen.org under Members Corner) is an excellent roadmap showing us **all** of the ideas and support GW I is providing to NFAs to build up our own membership.
- GW I has downsized its office effectively, restructured its work, and even managed a small surplus this year
- GW I is OUR organization. **WE ARE GW I.**

### **THEN CONSIDER THIS:**

- GW I is composed of National Federations and Associations (NFAs)
- It is CFUW, a FEDERATION, that belongs to GW I, not the individual members
- It is CLUBS that belong to CFUW, not the individual members
- Suppose that CLUB members voted to pay their **CFUW** dues ONLY IF THEY WANT TO.
- Would we all then still be members of CFUW as long as 10 members in each club paid CFUW dues?

CONTRARY to what the proposers suggest might be the outcome of a positive vote,

### **THIS MOTION COULD LEAD TO EVEN GREATER DIVISION WITHIN AND AMONG CLUBS.**

- Those who remain members of GW I may become vocal advocates WITHIN Clubs and cause further division and hurt feelings on an ongoing basis.

**THIS MOTION MAY LEAD TO A VERY DIMINISHED CFUW.**

**WE URGE YOU TO ASK QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER THE LONG-RANGE  
RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS MOTION.**