

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

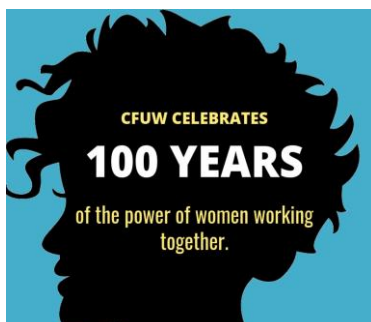
**CFUW-Hamilton celebrates March 8 International Women's Day!!**

**The Canadian Federation of University Women:  
100 Years of Empowering Women**

**March 8, 2019:** On this important day celebrating the accomplishments of women, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) marks a century of service to women across the country!

In 1919, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization became established. In 1925 a CFUW chapter started up in Hamilton. There are now close to 100 CFUW Clubs in every province across Canada.

Since its founding, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women and to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace. Every year, CFUW and its clubs award \$1 million to women to help them pursue post-secondary studies. CFUW also provides funding for libraries and creative arts awards.



**ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY CFUW SINCE ITS  
INCEPTION**

**1925 - Equal Pay for Equal Work of Equal Value:**

An education report done by the Edmonton University Women's Club was presented encouraging women to enter the teaching profession with "an adequate salary schedule" including the principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work!

● **1934 - Legal and Economic Status of Women Committee established:** Worked with the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) to keep clubs informed on questions concerning women's rights.

● **1946 - Reading Stimulation Grant:** Set up to support areas poorly supplied with books to stimulate children's reading skills.

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- **1947 - Committee on Penal Reform:** Presented briefs over the twenty years of its existence; supported work done by the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) on issues affecting women and girls in the justice system.
  - **1967 - Royal Commission on the Status of Women:** CFUW's president, Laura Sabia and a group of Canadian women's organizations put pressure on Lester B. Pearson's government to create the Royal Commission on the Status of Women.
  - **1976 - CFUW Charitable Trust:** Established to receive donations to fund the CFUW fellowships.
  - **1992 - Women in Universities:** A survey of the status of female faculty and students at Canadian universities was prepared by Mary Saunders, Margaret Therrien, and Linda Williams. It included 54 recommendations for a "woman-friendly" university in Canada.
  - **1996 - Gun Control Efforts:** CFUW is represented along with other women's groups in a nationally televised Press Conference on gun control. CFUW worked with the Coalition for Gun Control and Firearms Control Centre.
  - **1998 - Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations -** Motivated by attendance at the Beijing Conference, CFUW applied for and received consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. This consultative status allows access by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to all UN bodies that are open to NGOs. This includes the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.
  - **2006 - CFUW joins The Ad Hoc Coalition for Women's Equality and Human Rights :** This coalition comprised 28 women's groups, unions and human rights organizations, was formed in response to federal funding cuts to Status of Women, defunding of the Court Challenges Program and the abandonment of the Universal Child Care plan.
  - **2016 - Two studies were undertaken:** ■ Women in Universities, A Comparative Study – 25 Years Later, chaired by Margaret Therrien, a member of the original team. ■ Sexual Assault on Campus, chaired by Pam Love and Dr. Sharon Crabb of the Status of Women sub-Committee

CFUW encourages its members to use their expertise to bring about change, with particular reference to women's issues such as violence against women, early learning and child care, education, economic prosperity and the empowerment of women as leaders and decision-makers.

**For more information on CFUW-Hamilton visit our website at: <https://cfuw-hamilton.com>**