View this email in your browser

cfuw fcfdu
ONTARIO COUNCIL

## Women Leading Change

## Education | Action | Advocacy

# CFUW Ontario Council News

October, 2026



**CFUW Sudbury's Adopt a Family program.** Learn more!

## A Message from Sandra Shaw

### President's Message (It's a long one – hear me out.)

As a feminist and anti-misogyny activist, I never expected to write about how we are failing boys and young men.

It is tempting to ignore the problems boys and young men face in today's society and it is even easier to shift responsibility for solving them to men. As advocates for women's rights, we have enough on our plates. But the consequences of boys and young men falling behind in education underpins increasing misogyny and the rise of the far right and these are issues we must pay attention to.

The trend of boys increasingly falling behind in school has compounding effects that extend far beyond elementary and high school classrooms. When boys lag behind

academically, the consequences persist into adulthood, affecting higher education, labor markets, physical and mental health, family formation, broader economic and social stability, misogyny and violence against women.

Boys who achieve substandard grade levels in primary and secondary school are less likely to attend post secondary schooling, or if they do, they drop out at higher rates. Lower educational attainment limits young men's access to modern knowledge-based economies and professional careers. Men with lower education are more likely to drop out of the labour force entirely. Lower educational achievement directly correlates to lower earnings over a lifetime and increased economic vulnerability.

Academic failure is also strongly linked to higher rates of juvenile delinquency, criminal justice involvement and incarceration. These men often experience higher rates of social isolation, depression, and substance abuse, and since success in formal schooling fosters soft skills, they often have reduced social resilience, crucial for managing adult life and stress.

Importantly, too, is that lower education in men creates an imbalance in marriage and relationships as educated women seek partners with similar educational and socio-economic backgrounds. Men experiencing chronic unemployment or underemployment are less able to establish stable households, increasing family breakdown rates and contributing to intergenerational socio-economic strain.

But why are boys falling behind and earlier on? Experts point to several factors: slower neurological maturation, curriculum and teaching style misalignment (early childhood education heavily emphasizes passive listening and sedentary seatwork, which often collides with boys' higher physical activity levels) and lack of male role models in primary education in the crucial formative years for boys.

Academic failure is the starting point of a pathway marked by economic displacement, social isolation, and grievance, which radical groups and extremist ideologies exploit. The far right capitalizes on male disengagement and economic frustration by providing simple scapegoats (progressive social policies, feminism, immigration, or multiculturalism) and offer an alternative to social alienation and lower self-esteem by creating a community. They champion traditional, patriarchal views of gender. For men feeling disempowered in the modern economy, adopting extreme right-wing positions serves as a way to reclaim authority and a sense of dominance. This, then, solidifies the link from lower educational attainment to misogyny and violence against women.

Why am I writing about this? Because as women’s rights advocates, we must protect the future for girls and women and we can do that by advocating for boys and young men.

How can we, as members of CFUW Ontario Council, concretely help? Here are some suggestions:

- **Make ourselves and the public aware:** we need to start the conversation. Research the data is Canada. Talk to educators. Talk to each other.
- **Direct Policy Advocacy with Ministries of Education:** Lobby education authorities to adapt early learning for boys' development by allowing flexible kindergarten entry ages, expanding active play-based learning over desk work, and integrating engaging reading materials like graphic novels and non-fiction.
- **Supporting Workforce Diversity & Recruitment:** Drive recruitment incentives and tuition subsidies to bring more male educators into early

childhood and primary schooling, while expanding high school vocational and trade pathways for non-academic students.

- **Violence Prevention & Countering Digital Radicalization:** Incorporate boys' academic failure and isolation into gender-based violence strategies by funding digital literacy and healthy masculinity curricula while partnering with positive male mentorship programs to counter online radicalization.
- **Community Awareness & Policy Frameworks:** Mobilize women's networks by passing formal policy resolutions on boys' educational gaps, raising the issue at election candidate debates, and co-publishing policy briefs with health and education coalitions.

## GONE GUYS DOCUMENTARY

Linda Chaim, a CFUW Club member, has taken it upon herself, and therefore not affiliated with CFUW, to provide the venue for the first Canadian screening of ***Gone Guys***, a documentary about how society is failing boys. (Read more in the article below.)

The premier screening is taking place in Perth, Ontario on November 8th at the Studio Theatre, starting at 2:00 pm. If you are nearby or making a trip to the area, please consider attending. We need to start the conversation.

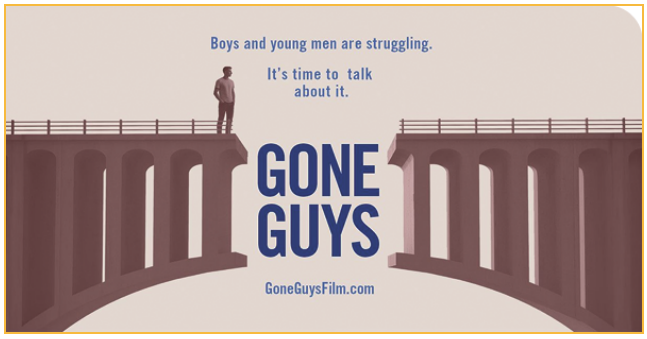
Sandra Shaw, President

WEBSITE | SPEAKER SERIES | ADVOCACY | NEWS

---

## Gone Guys — A Documentary

Addressing the Disengagement of Boys and Young Men




**Canadian Premiere:**
**Sunday, November 8, 2026**
**Studio Theatre, Perth, ON**
**2 p.m.**
Tickets available by donation

Over the past fifty years, boys and young men have been steadily disengaging from school, work, and broader society. They're falling behind academically, struggling with loneliness and isolation, and facing rising rates of substance abuse and suicide. These are the threads pulled together by the documentary Gone Guys, drawing on Richard V. Reeves' influential book Of Boys and Men to explore what its creators call a "quiet crisis" hiding in plain sight. This 45-minute film...

**(Read more...)**

## SPEAKER SERIES #1

## Leading Change Through Legislation

SPEAKER SERIES #1




How does a good idea actually become law? Join us for a two-hour conversation with three people who have worked the legislative process from the inside — as elected members who introduced and sponsored legislation and as the staffer and lobbyist behind the scenes. They'll walk through what it really takes to move an issue from concern to legislation, and where citizens and organizations have the most influence.

Join us for an invigorating talk with two sitting MPPs and a lobbyist and discuss how an idea becomes law.

**WHEN**: Saturday, October 24, 2026
**TIME**: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
**WHERE**: Virtual on ZOOM.

## READ MORE & REGISTER

---

## Defence of Democracy & the Politics of Rage

*Submitted by Sandra Shaw, CFUW OC President*




While supporting my home Club through an All Candidates Meeting (ACM), the Club President and I came face to face with the Politics of Rage (the use of anger and resentment as a political tool to mobilize support and influence public opinion. This approach often exploits societal divisions and grievances.).

The Club President was subjected to threatening emails and defamatory statements by candidates and their supporters...

**READ MORE...**

## Managing the Information Overload

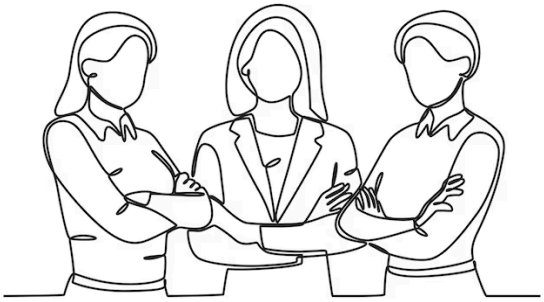
Managing the volume of information coming from CFUW National, Ontario Council, and local Club communications can quickly lead to information overload for executive members and general members who subscribe alike.

Most subscribers actually like to read through the newsletters. But it is important to have a standardised way to get the information out to all Club members, whether they receive the newsletters or not. Additionally, time sensitive material needs to be forwarded to the appropriate person for action.

**READ MORE...**



## Re-engaging Club Leaders - Part 1 of 3



Re-engaging former leaders, women who have "been there, done that" and stepped back, requires a fundamentally different approach than developing emerging or early-career leaders. Traditional incentives like title elevation, basic committee seats, or standard promotional roles often feel like "more of the same" work without new value or inspiration.

**READ MORE...**

---




Are you looking to take your leadership within CFUW to the next level while supporting clubs across Southwestern Ontario?

CFUW Ontario Council is seeking a dedicated and collaborative member to serve as **Regional Director (RD) for Ontario West.**

As Regional Director, you serve as the essential link connecting local CFUW clubs in the Ontario West region with Ontario Council and CFUW National. You will champion club vitality, facilitate cross-club collaboration, and support local executive teams in
furthering CFUW's advocacy, education, and fellowship goals.

LEARN MORE - Email **OC President Sandra Shaw**

## JOIN THE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Your voice matters as we work on the issues our members care about. We invite Ontario club members to attend our next Advocacy meeting, either as an active participant or as an observer.

**Thursday, November 5 at 6:00 pm ET [via Zoom]**

**About the Committee**
The Advocacy Committee develops and communicates Ontario Council's advocacy activities and provides a forum for members engaged in advocacy across the province. Our focus is advancing the status of women, human rights, and the common good. The Committee includes the Advocacy Chair and the Standing Committee Chairs for Education, Status of Women and Human Rights, Legislation, and Environment and Climate Change. The Ontario Council President and Communications Chair serve as ex-officio members.

To attend, email me at advocacy@cfuwontcouncil.org and I'll send a link to the meeting.

Kathy Wosnick
Advocacy Chair, CFUW Ontario Council

## SNIPPETS TO KNOW



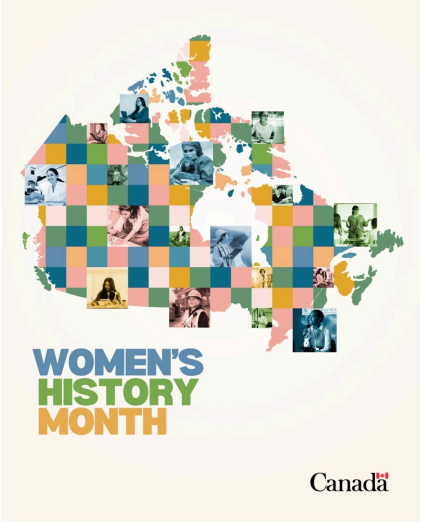

### REMINDER: Resolution Intent Deadline Oct 30

CFUW Ontario Council's voice for change comes straight from our members!

Each year members research and bring forward Resolutions that address issues they are concerned about — and once approved, these become the foundation for our public policy advocacy. **October 30th** is the deadline to let OC know your club plans to write a resolution.

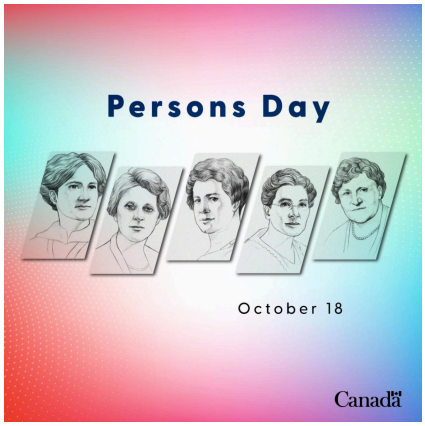
**(READ MORE)....**

## October - Women's History Month




In 1992, the Government of Canada designated October as Women's History Month, marking the beginning of an annual celebration of the outstanding achievements of women and girls throughout Canada's history. It's a time to celebrate women and girls from our past ...

**(READ MORE)....**




## October 18 - Person's Day

It marks the day in 1929 when the historic decision to include women in the legal definition of "persons" was handed down by Canada's highest court of appeal. This gave some women...

**(READ MORE)....**




## October 11 - International Day of the Girl Child

October 11 is International Day of the Girl Child, a day dedicated to celebrating the voices and power of girls, championing their rights worldwide...

**(READ MORE)....**




## The Housing We Need - Questions to Ask your Candidate

*Submitted by CFUW Northumberland*

We face important decisions in the coming municipal election. Our votes for Mayor and Councillors will set the stage for the kind of housing we need in the next four years and beyond. **Here are key issues to discuss with candidates.**

**(READ MORE)....**

# GREETINGS FROM ECC CHAIR



## Fall Preparation...

October is a month to enjoy the seasonal transitions. The array of colour in the trees is a spectacular sight. An autumn hike, complete with the crunch of leaves underfoot, can be uplifting. As we prepare...

**(READ MORE)....**

# SAVE THE DATE!




# Club Sharing

As always, there is a lot going on with Ontario Clubs! Please send your club news & events to Marlene at communications@cfuwontcouncil.org.

CFUW Grimsby & District wearing orange at their September meeting.






CFUW Aurora & Newmarket -- "All hands on deck as this dinner crew rolled up their sleeves to prepare dinner for the **INN From The Cold** community. What a wonderful way to start the Thanksgiving weekend by giving back. Thank you to the teams who shopped and prepped and to the kitchen crew who prepared dinner for 100. We hope to it all again in February."



CFUW Milton & District — "The hiking group visited Crawford Lake boardwalk on September 30th and wearing orange shirts in support of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation!"

---

## READ CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

## Send us your newsletters & events



All newsletters, events and submissions accepted! We want the Ontario Council website to be the hub where everyone goes to find out what
is happening across the province. Share your meetings, your highlights, your news.

Email your material to Marlene, OC Communications, at communications@cfuwontcouncil.org.

**Check out our new CLUB LISTING page and CLUB NEWSLETTER page.**

RESOLUTIONS | EVENTS | FIND A CLUB | CLUB NEWSLETTERS

# Women Leading Change

## CFUW Ontario Council's Vision:

## Action. Community. Education

**Please share your club's social media posts to Ontario Council's Facebook and Instagram accounts!**

CFUW Ontario Council | Communications | Maberly, ON K0H 2B0 CA

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!