



Great Ideas Shared by Ontario Council Clubs

Meetings and Programming

- **Café Crew:** To counter poor attendance and weather issues during winter, CFUW Headwaters holds meetings in January and February from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
- **Kitchen Coffee Parties:** CFUW North York hosts small gatherings at members' homes (up to 8 people), mixing experienced members with new ones to build relationships.
- **Themed Resolutions Meeting:** To increase interest in April resolution meetings, CFUW Kitchener-Waterloo hosted a themed tea evening with Afghan treats and small group discussions.
- **Shared Leadership Model:** CFUW Oakville adopted a leadership structure that includes three individuals sharing responsibilities to ease the burden of executive roles.

Community Engagement and Advocacy

- **World Menstrual Hygiene Day:** CFUW Kincardine and District established a "Call to Action" in May to collect menstrual products for local food banks and shelters to raise awareness about period poverty.
- **Tree Canopy Project:** A club launched a project where members identified specific locations in local parks where trees were needed and submitted these to the City of Ottawa.
- **Tech Team Collaboration:** One club meets at a secondary school and works with a student "tech team" who manages AV and room setup in exchange for community hours.
- **Adapting for Seniors:** CFUW North York partnered with a local senior living facility (Del Manor) to make their meeting space easily accessible for older women.

Administrative and Financial Success

- **Community Foundation Partnership:** CFUW Owen Sound and Area recommends having a local Community Foundation manage scholarship funds, a practice they have successfully used since 2015.
- **Direct Activity Documentation:** To preserve institutional memory, one club president requested that all committees and advocacy groups create detailed written reports of their activities for future leaders.
- **Archives Digitization:** A volunteer team was formed to pair, digitize, and consolidate club archives that were previously scattered in various locations.
- **Grant Outreach:** Several clubs recommend actively seeking grants from town councils, local police forces, or Chambers of Commerce to fund room rentals, equipment, or community initiatives.
- **New Member Integration:** To improve retention, CFUW Mississauga suggests involving new members in interest groups early in their membership.

Engagement and Relationship Building

- **Alternative Leadership Committee:** To address executive recruitment challenges, one club established a committee on a one-year trial basis to develop a new leadership role pilot proposal.
- **Shared Leadership Model:** CFUW Oshawa and District utilizes a shared leadership model among its 41 members.
- **Value-Based Community Speakers:** Inviting community members who share similar values to speak at meetings is suggested as a powerful way to share ideas for improving local communities.
- **Wassail Party:** CFUW Leaside-East York held a wassail party to support a local women's shelter.

Operational and Financial Ideas

- **Partnership with Community Foundations:** CFUW Kincardine and District established an Endowment Bursary Fund with the Community Foundation Grey Bruce to award annual bursaries.
- **Giving Plan:** One club used a democratic process to develop a plan that distributed over \$8,500 to six local community programs.
- **Strategic and Operating Plans:** Starting in 2025, one club developed a three-year Strategic Plan and an annual Operating Plan, which they update regularly to track progress.
- **Business Partnerships for Fundraising:** Clubs have partnered with local businesses—such as Vandermeer Nursery for poinsettia sales or a local cinema for a sponsored movie event—to raise funds for scholarships.

- **Managing with Specialized Software:** One club is using "Wild Apricot" to help manage its operations.

Community Service and Outreach

- **Santa's and Valentine's for Seniors:** Through the "CFUW Kincardine and District Connections," members partnered with local senior living facilities for these holiday programs.
- **Gift of Reading Program:** This long-running initiative in North Bay involves donating books to kindergarteners in a rotating selection of local schools; this year, 90 books were donated to three classrooms.
- **Partnership with Mitchell's Soup Company:** One fundraising group had great success partnering with this company for a fall fundraiser.
- **Educational Partnerships:** Creating long-term partnerships with educational institutions, such as Ontario Tech University, has been a key mission for some clubs to promote speakers and collaborative initiatives.