

Community Connections & Endorsements for Ontario Clubs

CFUW Ontario Clubs create change in our province, often by partnering with other groups. Any partnership, connection, or endorsement must be approved by the Club's Board or Executive — and by the Members too, if it involves a budget — following the Club's Constitution or Bylaws.

The goal is to work toward shared goals while raising CFUW's profile in a positive, productive way.

Overriding Principles

- Partners or connections endorsed by CFUW at all levels must be clearly non-partisan, not endorsing a political party.
- There needs to be a clear win-win for the Clubs and Members.
- Any community connections must be approved by the Club's Board of Directors or Executive, with the approval process based within governing documents (bylaws or constitution).

Questions to Ask

Questions to ask when considering an endorsement, connection, or partnership (see the form below):

- Are the values of the organization compatible with CFUW?
- Are the values and goals of the organization in line with the Club's Mission/Vision/Values and Club bylaws or constitution?
- Who manages and reviews the partnership?
- Who is the ongoing contact person?

- Is the partnership for a single event or is it a long-term commitment?
- Is there a financial commitment? Are grants or donations required/expected?
- How are Club members involved?
- What is the time commitment for members/executive?
- Will the partnership be casual or formal?
- Are there Terms of Reference or a written contract, or is it a verbal understanding?
- How and how often do the Club representatives or volunteers report to the Board?
To members?
- How will success or failure be judged?
- What are the criteria for continuation or termination?
- How will activities be showcased on social media by the organization and/or the Club?
- Are there privacy implications for members?

Examples of Partnerships, Connections & Endorsements

- Coalitions with other like-minded organizations, women's advisory groups, or councils for a cause (e.g., poverty reduction, gender equity, elimination of gender-based violence or support for victims, health care, education support).
- Sponsoring or hosting local community awareness events.
- Fundraising for scholarships.
- Volunteering and providing support for local organizations (e.g., food banks, shelters, library programs, school breakfast or lunch programs).
- Fundraising for local, provincial, national, or international organizations.
- Sitting on local advisory councils or councils for a cause (e.g., anti-poverty, climate and environmental change, childcare, gender equality, healthcare).

About the Form Below

The form below is for Ontario Clubs to use locally when considering community connections and endorsements. **It is for club use only and is not meant to be sent to Ontario Council.**

Community Connections & Endorsements Form

Questions to Be Considered

1. Are the values of the organization compatible with CFUW Ontario Council and the Club?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Are there implications for the Club's by-laws/constitution?

☐ No ☐ Yes — explain:

3. Who is the ongoing club contact person?

4. Who manages and reviews the partnership?

5. Is the partnership for a single event or is it a long-term commitment?

☐ Single Event ☐ Long-Term Commitment

6. Is there a financial commitment? Are grants or donations required/expected?

☐ No ☐ Yes —describe:

7. How are Board or Club members involved?

8. What is the time commitment for members/executive?

9. Are there Terms of Reference or a written contract? Or is it an informal relationship?

☐ Terms of Reference ☐ Written Contract ☐ Informal Relationship

10. How often do the representatives report to the Board? To members?

11. How will success or failure be judged?

12. What are the criteria for continuation or termination?

13. How will social media be used by the organization and/or the Club?

14. Are there privacy implications for members?