

A FIFTEEN-YEAR HISTORY
OF
CFUW
CALGARY NORTH
1988-2003

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Foreword

by Linda Pelton-Duff

Founding Member

It is a great honor to be asked to write a foreword for the booklet on the CFUW Calgary North. I was very excited to learn that it was being done. Congratulations on a marvelous idea!

May the ongoing years bring satisfaction through the various accomplishments that you undertake. May you grow and expand but never lose the love, warmth and laughter upon which our club was based and through which our club flourished. I have no doubt that the dedication, reliability and hard work of the core group who believe in the advancement of women's growth and education will carry the club smoothly through all the unforeseen obstacles and the carefully planned projects that it faces.



MAY 1988 FIRST EXECUTIVE MEETING at the home of Linda Pelton

Front Row (Left to right): Linda Pelton, Neva Poole

Back Row (Left to right): Cheryl Buer, Cartwright, Louise Bailey, Jo Gaetja

CFUW Calgary North

Highlights from the First Fifteen Years

1988-2003

The Calgary North chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women was formed in 1988 by Linda Pelton, a member of the original Calgary club who felt that there was enough interest among women in the suburban northwest to warrant a second club in a more convenient location. She received the charter for the Calgary North chapter at the annual general meeting of CFUW National in Ottawa in August 1988. This was an historic occasion, as it was the first time in the organization's history that a charter had been granted for a second club within the same city.

1988-89 Our first year - Some Interesting Facts

The ten charter members of CFUW Calgary North were:

Louise Bailey	Joan Clark
Ginny Betty	Marge Friesen
Barbara Bramsen	Irma Lerner
Kathie Campbell	Linda Pelton
Cheryl Buer Cartwright	Neva Poole

The first executive members, as presented at the 15th September, 1988 general meeting held at the Hope Lutheran Church, were:

President	Linda Pelton
Vice President	Cheryl Buer Cartwright
Secretary	Neva Poole
Treasurer	Ginny Betty
Membership	Louise Bailey
Interest Groups	Linda Brown
Programs	Irma Lerner

Later in the year the following positions were filled:

Social Convenor	Carmel Sick
Education Representative	Patti Nelson
Publicity	Lorraine Antonello

The initial three aims of the club were:

- a. To have warmth, fun, laughter, involvement and friendship within our membership**
- b. To hold a small fundraiser for a scholarship kitty**
- c. To select and focus upon one aspect of social concern**

The initial membership fees were \$25 but by September 1989, the fees had risen to \$40. Membership rose from an initial 20 members in September 1988 to 45 by March 1989!

The first suggested interest groups were:

gardening, book club, gourmet, bird watching, crafts, hiking and cross-country skiing, bridge, art appreciation, education, moms and tots, conversational French, jaunters, investment, and golf

Some groups such as moms and tots, book club, education (renamed later to issues), and jaunters did quite well from the beginning. In 1989, the craft group undertook the making of the club's banner. By February 1989 bridge, gourmet, hiking, and yoga were doing better in terms of attracting more members.

The education group was a discussion group as well as a lobbying group. Their motto was "Let's talk and then let's act". They wrote letters to protest raising user fees in public libraries; as well, they got involved in recycling programs. They also petitioned against a proposal to use forest lands in Canada to make disposable chop sticks for the Japanese market.

The programs for 1988-89 included such topics as osteoporosis, the history of the Performing Arts Centre, wine tasting, yoga, returning to the work force, and finished with the May dinner presentation "Our Health Our Future, Our Planet - Africa". Overall, taking into account that the club was in existence just over a year, they had achieved a great deal in terms of membership, interest groups and becoming involved in social concerns.

The Club Continues to Grow

Hope Lutheran has continued its friendly relationship with the club over the years, and it is there that the club meets for three to five regular evening meetings per year, including the ever popular Members Night Potluck dinner every February. With interesting monthly speakers and programming, successful interest groups continually evolving to meet changing needs, and an active annual publicity campaign (which now features a popular fall registration tea), membership in the club has climbed steadily throughout the club's history, with an all-time high of fifty-four members reported in 2003.

As part of the wider parent organization, CFUW Calgary North has participated in national and provincial initiatives over the years. Each year, at its March meeting, the club discusses resolutions proposed by clubs from across the country, and votes to endorse, amend or reject them in a report to the national council. Once in its history, the Calgary North club drafted and put forward a resolution of its own. In 1990, Head Office was looking for a club to come up with a Living Will policy to be put forward for the following year's national council. Emily Wilcock, Linda Pelton-Duff, and Jennifer Sick agreed to work on this. Throughout the ensuing year the policy was worked on within our club and then sent ahead to national for approval. The Living Will was ratified in August of 1991 in Etobicoke, Ontario. Alberta was the first province to suggest the Living Will be instituted!

Closer to home, in May 1991 the club hosted a Provincial Council meeting, which had as its theme "A Vision of Canada in Alberta". In 1999, in a joint effort with CFUW Calgary, the Calgary North club assisted in hosting the very successful annual general meeting of CFUW national.

As with all official branches of CFUW, our club has retained regular communications with the provincial council, and with the National Association. In the past few years, e-mail and the web-sites have made interactions easier. Members from our group have attended meetings and conferences at the provincial and federal levels, and have had guests from these levels attend our meetings.

We joined the Calgary Council of Women in the spring of 2003. Pat Michi became our first liaison member for this organization.

Although the club established a "scholarship kitty" and began fundraising almost as soon as it was formed, it took several years for sufficient funds to accumulate. Finally, in June 1991, the membership endorsed the creation of a scholarship of \$500 for a single parent in the sciences at the University of Calgary. As a result of successful fundraising endeavors and sound investments, in 2000 the club was able to raise the value of this scholarship to \$1000.

Fundraising has always been an important activity for the Calgary North club, with the proceeds donated to various worthy causes. Over

the years, fundraising activities have included craft sales, book sales, garage sales, and wine raffles. An enduring favorite with many members is the annual Christmas auction.

In spite of its small membership, for the past 15 years the club has made charitable donations a priority. Starting in 1992, the club has made cash or material donations to a wide variety of worthy causes including Hegg Hoffitt Relief Fund, Project 50, Virginia Gildersleeve, the Jamaican pencil project, Operation Eyesight, Jacket Racket, Servants Anonymous, the Sheriff King Home, Calgary Urban Projects Society (CUPS), and literacy programs in various local schools with disadvantaged populations.

Since 1999 CFUW Calgary North has raised over \$4500 through the sale of Co-op Gift Certificates. The proceeds have been presented to three Calgary elementary schools, namely, Terrace Road Elementary, Rosscarrick Elementary, and Catherine Nicholls-Gunn Elementary for library books.

In 2003, CFUW Calgary North continued its support of the new Child Development Centre in downtown Calgary, a facility set up to provide preparation of 3-5 year old children in need of good entry into the school system, and to give support to their families.

The first year we contributed \$1000 towards the selection and presentation of children's books for the Centre. We joined our sister

club, CFUW Calgary, in November 2001 to select a large number of books. The new building opened in January 2002. In the Fall of 2002, and 2003, we made further donations of \$600 and \$500.

The centre director expressed a desire to introduce the children to plants and gardening. Several raised garden beds and garden areas were incorporated into the outdoor space to be used by the children. Our club helped with the soil preparation and planting of the gardens, leaving space for the children to transplant the seeds they grew indoors. Members weeded throughout the summer, and the garden was deemed a big success in September.

Over the years, CFUW Calgary North has hosted many interesting speakers at its annual dinner meetings in May, most notably in 1996 Calgary Police Chief Christine Silverberg. In 1998, the club celebrated its tenth anniversary with a gala attended by the national president, Mavis Moore. In 2001, the club decided to preserve a public record of its history and accomplishments by donating non-current records to the Glenbow Archives. In permanent storage in the Archives are copies of the club's constitution and bylaws, annual reports, minutes, programs, newsletters, financial statements and other items relating to special events and activities.

Members who Made a Difference

Linda Pelton-Duff

Born in Ottawa, Linda Pelton-Duff later moved to Vancouver where she received a B.Ed. (1980) and M.Ed. (1987) from the University of British Columbia and also raised her children. She moved to Calgary with her family in 1987. Linda had been a member of the Vancouver North CFUW and, on arrival in Calgary, she joined the existing club, located in South Calgary. Linda soon established CFUW Calgary North, which received its charter in August 1988. She was President from 1988-90 and again in 1994-95, filling in for Lorraine Aha for part of the year.

Linda played a leading role in hosting the Alberta Council meeting, in establishing the Scholarship Fund and in working on the Living Will resolution that was presented at the National Council. She was an active member of the book, bridge, jaunters, and gourmet cooking clubs, and an early investment group. She was very involved in fund-raising events such as the garage sale and Christmas auction, and was guest speaker for one of our members' pot-luck suppers.

Linda worked for the Calgary Board of Education for several years and later was a volunteer coordinator at the YWCA. She retired in 2003 and moved with her husband to the Sunshine Coast in British Columbia. The club misses her leadership and enthusiastic support.

Emily Wilcock

A native of Virginia, USA, Emily Wilcock earned an education degree and worked as a teacher in Virginia and New Zealand before becoming a full-time homemaker. In the 1980s, she moved to Canada with her husband and three children. The family lived in Toronto and Winnipeg before arriving in Calgary, and in each of these cities Emily became an active member of the CFUW. She joined CFUW Calgary North in 1990 and that same year became the club's second president.

Emily provided very active leadership during her presidency, which lasted three terms, 1990-93. She organized discussion groups on topics as diverse as the environment and women's issues, and spearheaded letter writing campaigns to MLAs and MPs outlining the club's concerns regarding issues such as gun control, the courts and education. It was with her guidance that the club put forth a resolution in 1991 entitled the Living Will, which was endorsed by other clubs and at the national level.

Emily believed strongly in the power of education and in networking. As president, she attended the CFUW annual general meeting in Saskatoon and provincial meetings in Edmonton, Alberta and in Estevan, Saskatchewan. She was proud to have Calgary North host the Provincial Council meeting in 1991. Closer to home, she actively participated in club interest groups, her particular favorites being the book club and the gourmet dinner group.

In 1995, Emily's husband was transferred once again, this time to Florida. Calgary North was very sorry to lose such an active and enthusiastic leader and, on a personal level, many members regretted the loss of such a gracious and generous friend.

Jennifer Sick

Jennifer Sick, who lives in Calgary with her husband and three children, received a B. Ed from the University of Alberta. She is a full-time homemaker. Jennifer was President from September 1995-March 1996, her presidency being interrupted by the demands of motherhood until 1999 when she completed her term. She initiated a moms and tots group in 1995. Jennifer was heavily involved in the preparation, presentation and adoption of the Living Will resolution at the National CFUW meeting in Toronto in August 1991. Jennifer was instrumental in securing Calgary's new Chief of Police, Christine Silverberg, as the speaker at the Annual General Meeting in 1996. She was also actively involved in organization of the 10th anniversary celebrations of CFUW Calgary North in 1998 and continues her interest in the club.

Sister Maureen Farrell

Sister Maureen Farrell. How could we forget her? She blew in like a spring breeze and shook up all our preconceived ideas about nuns and how they should behave. She was the program organizer and before we knew it, she had us eating out of her hand, enjoying deep lectures by the Alberta Francophone Association and captivating us with tales of life in holy orders. All too soon she was gone - chinooking into some new diocese. We have wonderful memories of Sister Maureen at a Members' Night potluck supper: she and a sister nun attired in long skirts and broad-brimmed hats to celebrate the 75th anniversary of CFUW National. Yes, we remember her well!



February 1995 Members dressed up to celebrate and commemorate the 75th anniversary of the national CFUW

Presidents of CFUW Calgary North 1988-2003

1988-89	Linda Pelton
1989-90	Linda Pelton
1990-91	Emily Wilcock
1991-92	Emily Wilcock
1992-93	Emily Wilcock
1993-94	Lorraine Aha
1994-95	Lorraine Aha/Linda Pelton
1995-96	Jennifer Sick
1996-97	Nancy Dent
1997-98	Nancy Dent
1998-99	Jennifer Sick
1999-0	Sue Gordon
2000-01	Shawna Edworthy
2001-02	Shawna Edworthy
2002-03	Patti McConnell
2003-04	Pat Michi

Many thanks to the following contributors who helped to make this booklet possible in time to celebrate our 15th Anniversary on February 20th, 2004.

Shawna Edworthy

Liz Groves

Jennifer Hamblin

Janet Hansen

Patti McConnell

Pat Michi

Alicia Morgan

Valerie Schumacher

Jennifer Sick

Gardy Vasudevan

Mary Walsh