

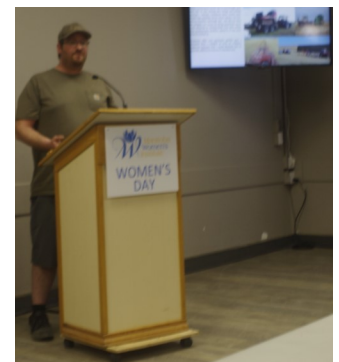
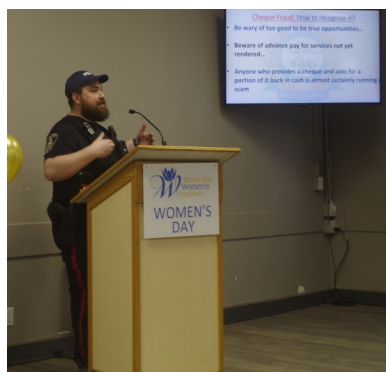


1129 Queens Avenue, Brandon, MB, Canada R7A 1L9

On the morning of April 24th, Angela Pickett, Executive Administrator, along with two volunteer Scrutineers, Stephanie Cruickshanks (L), Manitoba Agriculture Manager, Industry Foundations, and Kelly McCallum (R), 4H Manitoba Fund Development and Marketing, counted the ballots for the 2023 AGM received through Canada Post.



Debra Barrett opening our **Manitoba Women's Day**. Ellen Swistun with Springfield Mayor Patrick Therrien, Diane Burelle, Liz Chongva and Debra during the Member Remembrance, Springfield police constable Jesse Zillman and Joel Weber. Missing are pictures of Ron Schuler (MLA Springfield) and the Springfield COPPS representatives.



Manitoba Women's Institute

Office Administrator: Mallory Makinson
1129 Queens Avenue Brandon MB R7A 1L9
204-726-7135 Fax 204-726-6260 mbwi@mymts.net



Provincial Board 2023-2024

President: Debra Barrett, Box 1311 Stonewall R0C 2Z0 204-467-5777 debramwi@gmail.com

President—Elect: Liz Chongva, Box 73 Dugald R0E 0K0 204-853-2007 chongval@mymts.net

Regional Representatives:

Eastern: Jacqueline Chartrand, Box 996 Beausejour R0E 0C0 204-995-2544
jmchartrand62@hotmail.ca

North: vacant

Southwest: Maria Christine Diores, Box 1344 Russell MB R0J 1W0 204-796-0274
mariachristinediores@yahoo.com

Wpg.-Interlake: Gisela Nolting, Box 87 Rosser R0H 1E0 204-467-5922 hnolting@mymts.net

Manitoba Agriculture: Thelma Blahey, Box 2000 Arborg R0A 0A0 204-641-4133
thelma.blahey@gov.mb.ca

WI Canada/FWIC Provincial Representative: vacant to the end of the term September

Manitoba Gov't Appointed Members: Heather Cummings, Box 522 Neepawa R0J 1H0
204-476-5395 ghcumm1@gmail.com

Michele Gurman, Box 22 Vita MB R0A 2K0 204-380-2988 michele.gurman@xplornet.ca

Acting UofM Home Ec.: Ann Mandziuk, PHEc, Box 264 Minnedosa R0J 1E0 204-966-3829
lamandziuk@gmail.com



Mission Statement

"Manitoba Women's Institute is an organization that focuses on personal development, family agriculture, rural development and community action... locally and globally."

Vision Statement

Manitoba Women's Institute strengthens women, families and communities.



Visit www.acww.org.uk for a new ACWW experience, updated resources, new presentations, more information, easy membership renewals.

Visit the FWIC website
<https://www.fwic.ca/>

President's Report

Hello everyone,

The leaves are out, the Crocuses have bloomed, the Marsh Marigolds are bright spots of sunshine in the ditches, and I no longer have to wait for the Cow-slips and Roses to brighten the roadsides.

For those of you who attended the Domain WI's 75th Anniversary, wasn't it a great day. The speakers were interesting and what an inspiration Catherine Wreford is. The WI hubbies performed their tasks of serving the lunch and clean up with smiles and grace. Well done, men!

MWI has undergone a lot of changes. Firstly, we bid Angela a fond farewell and welcomed Mallory Makinson as our Office Administrator on May 8th. Mallory comes to us with an enthusiastic outlook, bubbling energy and wealth of social media and office skills. Please take a moment to contact the office and welcome Mallory. Angela requested I relay her farewell to all of you, she enjoyed having the opportunity to meet and talk with many of you. I know she will be a huge benefit to those she will assist in the future.

The changes continued with Denise Joss taking a leave of absence of 6 months from her position as the MWI Representative on the FWIC Board. As President, I already attend all FWIC Board meetings and therefore I will assume the role of FWIC rep. for the next 6 months. We will see what happens in November. Jacqueline Chartrand has returned to the Board as the Eastern Region Rep, welcome Jacqueline. We also welcomed Christine Maria Diores as the Southwest Regional rep. Thank you Christine for joining the Board, we look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

The AGM and Women's Day were enjoyed by all in attendance. The speakers were interesting and thought provoking. I thank the committee of Ellen Swistun who is the Springfield WI President, Liz Chongva, Ann Mandziuk and Denise Joss and the ladies of the Springfield WI who generously volunteered their time and energy to make the two events a success.

At the AGM, the majority of women in attendance voted to hold a one day event rather than two days in 2024; the first hour will be the AGM followed by the MWI Women's Day speakers and activities. With the cost of motel rooms and gas the women thought it would be more economical for members to travel for one day only. We thank the Grosse Isle WI for volunteering to hold the 2024 AGM and MWI Women's Day.

Thank you also goes out to our 104 MWI members who took the time to vote on our mail-in AGM ballot. Please read the vote results and answers to your comments/questions. It is impossible to read the minds of members and your vote and comments really help us to determine if we are going in the right direction or if we are lost in the wilderness.

We also have some exciting news for those of you who love to travel. The ACWW Triennial World Conference will be held in Ottawa the last week of April in 2026.

You will also have the opportunity to attend the FWIC Triennial in Nova Scotia in 2024. The event sounds like it will be a great time to meet and greet our fellow WI members from across Canada. We expect to hear more about these gatherings in the near future. Stay Tuned!

Lastly, FWIC's AGM 2023 is being held Tuesday, July 11th. If you would like to attend, you can find the registration form on the FWIC website.

June is always the start of a less busy time for MWI, and the Board and I personally look forward to less paperwork, and more deck and plant time. The Board extends our best wishes for all of you to have a fun, sunny summer filled with love, health and happiness.

Take some time for yourselves, laugh more and we will either see many of you in the fall or you will hear from us in the newsletter.

Take care!
Debra Barrett



A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

I hope all members have been enjoying the warm weather, gardening, and getting out in nature with summer just around the corner! For me, this is my favorite time of year.

I'm thrilled to be joining the Manitoba Women's Institute team! I had previously worked at Child & Family Services of Western Manitoba for almost 15 years. It was a challenging but rewarding career and I learned a lot during my time at the agency. When COVID unfortunately hit, I wanted and needed to be home with my two younger sons, so I set off on creating my own online businesses so I could work from home. I'm so thankful to now be also working part-time for this wonderful community of women!

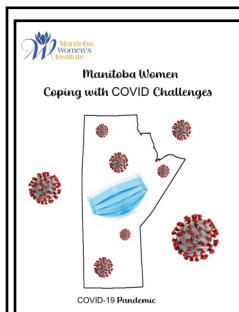


May was a busy month! I had one full day under Angela's wing, taking advantage of her wealth of MWI knowledge!

Please be sure to give us a follow on our social media pages. Each "like" and "follow" pushes our content further out into the worldwide "algorithm". Connecting us with more like-minded women and communities!

Hoping this finds you healthy and well, and that you have a wonderful summer!

Mallory Makinson,
Office Administrator



Looking for additions to your summer reading list –why not download a copy of **Manitoba Women Coping with COVID Challenges**? Under News and Events on <https://mbwi.ca/> you will find a link that will take you to the download page. We hope you enjoy the heart felt stories from our contributors.



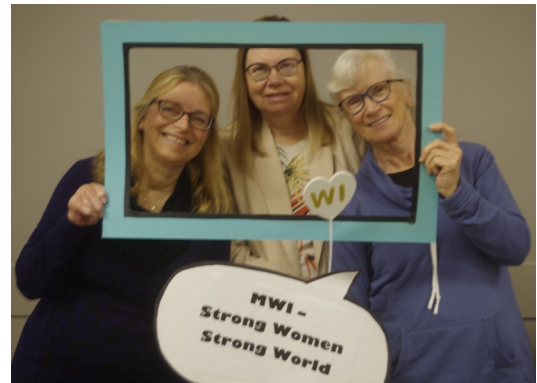
Joyce Schurko (1935 – 2023): Joyce passed away at age 88 on May 20, 2023. She was an active member of the **Woodmore Women's Institute** for 12 years. Joyce enjoyed attending WI events and was a dedicated participant in our monthly lunch group. Her biggest passion in life was her gardening and flowers. She had a very active in the community, and was often at the New Horizons Centre after moving to Emerson. She was involved with the Roseau River Park, 4-H, the Woodmore WI and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We are going to greatly miss having Joyce around.

MWI Women's Day program Dugald April 29, 2023. A day full of learning, fun and friendship

MWI NEWS JUNE/JULY 2023 5



Some of the Fisher Branch Women's Institute members in attendance.



This trio is representing Grosse Isle. They invited us to the 2024 MWI Women's Day in Grosse Isle.



Narcisse Women's Institute members having a good time at the MWI Women's Day.



A happy trio from Woodmore Women's Institute.



Liz Chongva, Valerie Watt, Denise Joss, Ann Mandziuk and Barb Stienwandt have all served as Manitoba's rep to FWIC over the past number of years.

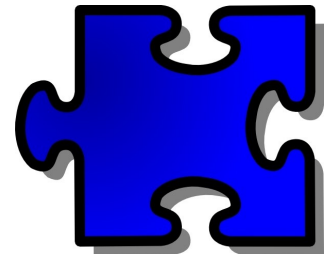
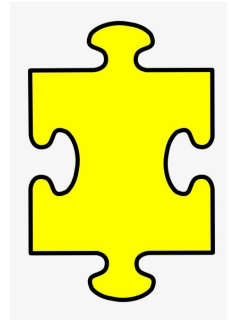


Even Dan, our Media Technician, got in on the act! For those who joined us by Zoom he was the man behind the camera and the technical side for the day.

Bits and Pieces



The AGM and Manitoba Women's Institute Women's Day planning committee had a new banner designed and printed for use at MWI events across the province. It caught the eye of Ron Schuler and he commented on it while bringing greetings to the event in Dugald. I think if you asked any WI members why they joined WI at least one of the thoughts listed would be expressed. That and for many because my mother-in-law, neighbour, friend, etc. brought me!!



Recently I found some WI pins at a second hand store and of course I was curious and purchased them. While sorting and cleaning out the WI storage room in Brandon, Debra and I found other pins. That got us thinking—if members no longer have need of pins, history books or other items and family members do not want them—the WI office would be a good place to send the small items. One suggestion for using the pins is a collage that could be displayed in the office.

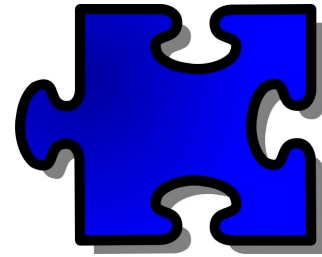
Ann Mandziuk, PHEC.



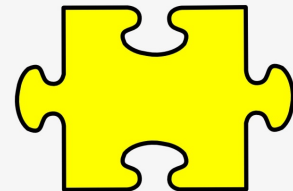
The **Manitoba Women's Institute** office will be closed during **July and August**. Mallory will be checking the emails and voice messages on a regular basis. Contact information for the board members is on page 2 of this newsletter if you need to get in touch with any of us at any time.

Board member **Michele Gurman** is taking on the task of Chair of the Made in Manitoba Project. If you or your group have any thoughts on what organization you think might benefit from our donations this year, please let Michele know. Her contact information is on page 2.

**MADE
in
MANITOBA**



If you follow FWIC on Facebook you may have noticed many different groups across Canada with photos and signs answering the question **WHY WI?** Some of the fun photos from MWI Women's Day had members holding signs as well. If your group would like to participate just snap a photo or two and send them to Mallory and she will forward them to FWIC.



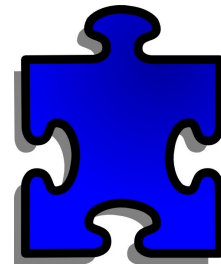
Growing Manitoba Ag

Inform. Influence. Inspire.

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/online-resources/signup-for-growing-manitoba-ag.html>
If you would like this newsletter, please go to the link to receive an email sent directly to your inbox.



Come September the MWI Board is seeking a member to represent us on the FWIC Board as the Manitoba Representative. If you are interested in finding out more about the volunteer position please contact Debra Barrett. Her contact information is on page 2 of the newsletter.



Happy Birthday to members
celebrating in
July and August.

**AROUND
THE
PROVINCE**



Don't forget to share the activities of your local/branch with the MWI office so we can let others in the province know what is happening across the province either in our newsletter or on our social media posts.

MEET A MEMBER

Please be sure to check out our new staff member **Mallory Makinson's** message on page 4 of this newsletter. Welcome aboard, Mallory. Her office contact information is on page 2.

Angela hasn't gone too far—when she left as our employee, she handed in her membership form and has joined our ranks as an individual member of MWI. Welcome, Angela.

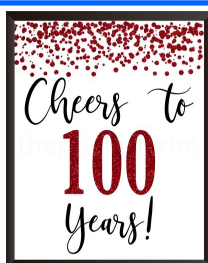
Welcome!

The members of the Marketing and Promotions Committee of MWI organized the **Women in Leadership Zoom** speakers during Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. We had an amazing group of women speak to us and share their stories. Here are some thoughts from one committee member about our first 2 speakers.

Rochelle Squires - I was impressed with the fact that Rochelle took us back in time to when she was homeless for a bit, a single mother, and the struggles that she went through. It is so fitting that she is now the Minister for Families. She definitely has the lived experience to guide her in her current job. She is a powerful and engaging speaker and definitely a Woman in Leadership.

Sheila North - I was really intrigued by all the things that Sheila has accomplished in her life already. She gave us a look into her past and is very proud of the fact that she is an Indigenous woman and her struggles have shaped who she is today. She certainly has a zest for life and some incredible Leadership qualities. I like the fact that she is always looking to do something new and exciting. Very impressive presentation.

I was totally impressed with both ladies and came away from both presentations with a lot of hope and inspiration for my future years.



Let's get ready to celebrate the 100th Anniversary for a Women's Institute Branch—**September 23, 2023** is the date for the **Narcisse WI 100th Anniversary.**

The event will be held at the Inwood Hall. Stay tuned for a registration form in the next newsletter.

70TH YEAR OF THE DUGALD FASHION REVIEW

The 70th Year commemoration of the Dugald Fashion Review was held on May 13, 2023, in the afternoon at the Norwood Hotel in St. Boniface.

The Fashion review was started by the Dugald Women's Institute in 1953 when they decided to hold a fashion show of older costumes belonging to their mothers and grandmothers at a regional event. The fashion show was a hit with people donating older clothing. Before they knew it – it took off.

The commentator mentioned it was the 769th show of the Fashion Review.

The Dugald Costume Museum was later changed to the Costume Museum of Canada.

The costumes modelled were replicas of the original clothing. The oldest costume, a Minuet was from 1765. There were period pieces a red velvet wedding dress 1885 to men's clothing of tailcoat and top hat in the early 1900's. Fashion pieces included coats and hats, young children's clothing, bathing/swimwear, and women's night clothes.

There were dresses for garden parties, several more wedding dresses The newest piece of fashion was a green suit from 1970, along with a 1950 poodle skirt.

The number of clothing pieces is approximately 3000 which are stored in a climate-controlled warehouse. Periodically they display different types of clothing. The office location is #410- 40 Arthur Street, Winnipeg The Fashion Review was put on as a fund raiser as they rely on donations. On their webpage they direct a video link to YouTube, they are looking for members and volunteers to join and help make each exhibit of the Museum a success.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Costume Museum call 204-989-0072 or email costumemuseumcanada@gmail.com.

All in all, an enjoyable event started by a local Women's Institute group.

Submitted by
E (Liz) Chongva





Celebrating at Domain's 75th party, Catherine Wreford, keynote speaker, Debra Barrett, MWI president and Janice Harrison, Domain WI president. A grand day of celebrating, learning, having fun, and meeting with new and old friends. The cake looked lovely and tasted delicious!



Domain WI members with their anniversary cake. It was great to see Gwen Parker, former MWI Executive Secretary and Domain member, at the celebration. She attended with Shirley Bell. Shirley worked as MWI secretary/office person for many years before the office was moved from Winnipeg to Brandon. It was great to see both ladies out to participate in the celebrations.



On April 12 the Woodmore WI held a macramé class for our members. One of our members instructed the class in her home. We all went home with a hand made flower pot hanger. It was a fun afternoon of activity and socializing.



On April 15 the Woodmore WI hosted a Community Pancake Breakfast as a fundraiser. It was a successful event with a shared meal and social time.



April 18 Woodmore WI hosted a Composting Workshop for the community. There were 31 in attendance for a presentation by Master Composter Mick Manfield. After Mick's presentation we had a plant exchange, this was 'bring a plant / take a plant.' This also included a social time with cookies and coffee/tea.

On Friday April 28 the Woodmore Women's Institute participated in the Vita School's Education for Sustainability Day (Earth Day). The Woodmore WI was 1 of 9 groups to host a workshop for the children. We had 3 groups come through our station from Grade 1, 2 and 4 with a total of 64 students. Our workshop included: decorating paper cups to use as a flower pot, planting flower seeds, story time and learning about seeds and germination. This is the second time the Woodmore WI has participated in the school's Earth Day program





Woodmore WI is hosting our Children's Gardening Project again this year. We have 13 participants for 2023, ranging in age from 4 to 12. The kick-off will be held at the Roseau Valley School on May 24, where the participants will receive seeds, plants and planting instructions provided by the Woodmore WI. On May 22 the Food Security committee met to create the packages for the participants.



On May 25 Woodmore WI hosted a Korean cooking evening. There were 18 in attendance at this event, which was sponsored by Southern Health Healthy Together Now. We had a couple who live in Emerson prepare an authentic Korean meal for us. Those in attendance helped with the preparation of the food and then sat down to share the meal. Before sitting down for the meal Minho shared some of his life story with everyone.

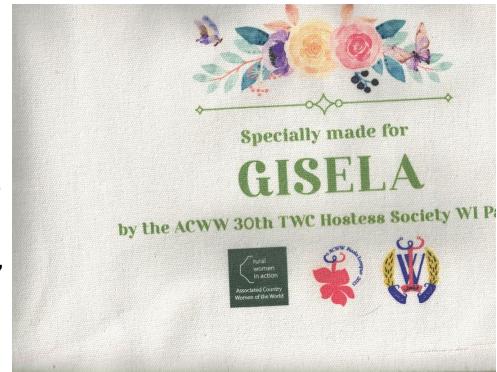


Associated Country Women of the World

On behalf of the Manitoba Women's Institute, I attended the Associated Country Women of the World 30th Triennial World Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia May 17-25, 2023 as a voting delegate. 42 people from Canada attended.

The Hostess Society, the Women's Institute of Pahang, put a lot of time and effort into the conference. In our swag bags we got tea, fabric for a long skirt, a small towel, a shawl, a notebook, candies, balm and mosquito repellent and several pins.

The first day was registration only. The next day we had an introductory session and ACWW Area Meetings. May 19 was the opening ceremony with a live band, flag bearers for all 84 member countries. Present were H.M. The King and H.M. The Queen of Malaysia. On a side note: The King of Malaysia gets elected every 5 years from among 9 sultans who take turns. In the afternoon we had three sessions: "ACWW Revitalized", "Projects for the Future", and "Human Rights, Intergenerational Cooperation, and the Voice of Rural Women". The evening entertainment was a mock Malay wedding.



May 20 Committee reports and resolutions.

May 21 Tour Day, I visited the Forrest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) where they research everything related to rain forests.

In the evening we all attended the Royal Gala Dinner at the National Palace. We went by double decker busses from the hotel to the palace escorted by police to cordon off traffic. Our ride was nonstop from the hotel to the palace in 45 minutes. All enjoyed a Malay dinner and live entertainment (dancing, singing). Afterwards the Queen showed us several rooms that are used to receive dignitaries.

May 22 A short Thanksgiving Ceremony in the morning, and more reports and resolutions in the afternoon.

May 23 Resolutions, most resolutions dealt with amendments to the constitution or by-laws. Announcement of election results, ACWW Canada Area President is Marie Kenny.

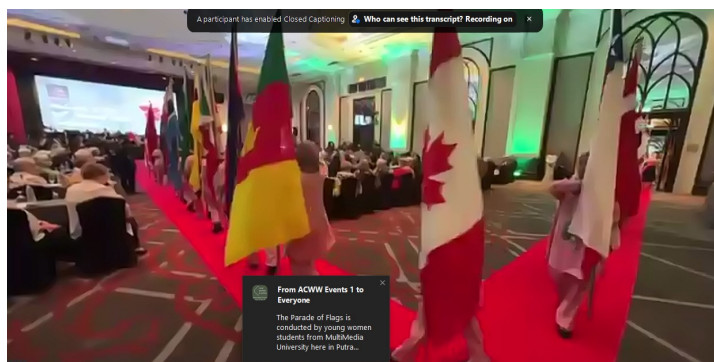
May 24 Closing Ceremony and Area Meetings with the new Area Presidents.

You can google highlights of the conference at: www.acww.org.uk

Submitted by Gisela Nolting

I registered to attend on line and this is a screen shot I took during the opening ceremonies.

Ann Mandziuk



MWI AGM 2023 Voting Results

On the morning of April 24th, Angela Pickett, Executive Administrator, along with two volunteer Scrutineers, Stephanie Cruickshank, Manitoba Agriculture Manager, Industry Foundations, and Kelly McCallum, 4H Manitoba Fund Development and Marketing, counted the ballots for the 2023 AGM via Canada Post.

The process went as follows: The envelopes, the ballots were returned to the office with, had a small code written on them to prevent duplication and ensure all members were accounted for. On the morning of the count, the ballots were split into 3 piles and opened by the three scrutineers. All envelopes at that point were disposed of, therefore not identifiable to which region had sent in the ballot.

The ballots were counted, 104 were received in total. The scrutineers then recorded the votes for each pile and then switched piles and counted the next until all the votes were counted. The numbers were compared and if there were any discrepancies, they were to be re-counted to ensure all three totals matched.

We would like to thank our volunteers Stephanie and Kelly, for being part of this year's vote!

Votes Received on Each Ballot Question

1. *Rescind the MWI Policy regarding Institute executives being able to hold one executive position.*

I accept and approve that an Institute Executive be allowed to hold two executive positions in an Institute when there are not enough members to fill a vacant executive position. The same Institute Executive and/or Director would not be allowed to hold two positions which both act as signatories for financial matters.

Yes 98 No 2

2. *Financial statement for 2021-2022*

I accept and approve the reviewed MWI year-end Financial Statement as presented.

Yes 100 No 0

3. *Hiring of Accountant to review financial statement*

I accept and approve the Sensus Partnership of Chartered Accountants as the Manitoba Women's Institute's reviewer for the year 2023-2024.

Yes 103 No 0 4.

Report (Minutes) of 2022 AGM

I accept and approve the 2022 MWI AGM Report (minutes) of the mail in ballot results as presented.

Yes 102 No 0

5. Appointment of MWI Board of Directors for 2023-2024

I accept and approve the in-coming Directors for the President-elect; Eastern, Northern and Southwest Representative positions for 2023-2024.

Yes 98 No 0

6. Renaming of Northwest to Northern region

I accept and approve renaming of the Northwest region to Northern region.

Yes 97 No 1

MWI Resolutions 2023

7. Resolution 2023-1

Transportation of medically frail and vulnerable patients in non-emergency situations during inclement weather sponsored by the Fisher Branch Women's Institute.

Motion: Moved by Debora Durnin-Richards, the MWI Resolutions Committee chairperson, that the Manitoba Women's urge the Minister of Health direct all Regional Health Authorities to develop a written policy, available to the public, for the transportation of non-emergency medically fragile and vulnerable persons during inclement weather. Seconded by Liz Chongva.

I accept and approve the Resolution as described.

Yes 98 No 0

8. Resolution 2023-2

Topic: Banning the Transport of Live Horses from Canada to Japan for Slaughter sponsored by the Narcisse Women's Institute and Joan Todd.

Motion: Moved by Debora Durnin-Richards, the MWI Resolutions Committee chairperson, that the Manitoba Women's Institute urge the Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food to enforce its government's promise to ban the transport of live horses by air from Canada to Japan for slaughter, and

Manitoba Women's Institute urge Korean Air Cargo and Atlas Air Inc to stop the transport of live horses by their airlines. Seconded by Denise Joss.

I accept and approve the Resolution as described.

Yes 82 No 3

9. Resolution 2023-3

Topic: Prioritize the Social Determinants of Health and Wellness of Diverse Women and Girls sponsored by the MWI Zooming Monarchs.

Motion: Moved by Debora Durnin-Richards, the MWI Resolutions Committee chairperson, that the Manitoba Women's Institute urge the Minister of Health to address and prioritize the impact of social determinants of health and wellness of diverse women and girls. Seconded by Ann Mandziuk.

I accept and approve the Resolution as described.

Yes 93 No 0

10. Resolution 2023-4

Reinstatement of the Mature Women's Centre sponsored by the MWI Zooming Monarchs.

Motion: Moved by Debora Durnin-Richards, the MWI Resolutions Committee chairperson, that the Manitoba Women's Institute urge the Minister of Health to reopen the Mature Women's Centre that operated for twenty three years but was closed in 2017. Seconded by Michele Gurman.

I accept and approve the Resolution as described.

Yes 89 No 3

11. Resolution 2023-5

Creation of a Hybrid Healthcare Employment Training Program sponsored by the MWI Zooming Monarchs.

Motion: Moved by Debora Durnin-Richards, the MWI Resolutions Committee chairperson, that the Manitoba Women's Institute urge the Minister of Health and the Minister of Advanced Education and Training to work together to create a hybrid healthcare employment training program. This program aims to help prioritize social determinants of health and wellness for diverse women and girls in rural and northern Manitoba. The program should include free online learning, paid on-the-job training, mobile classrooms and equipment for specialized hands-on learning, as well as on-site and virtual educators and mentors. Seconded by Heather Cummings.

I accept and approve the Resolution as described.

Yes 83 No 2

Resolutions 2022-1, 2022-2, 2022-3, and 2022-4 were resubmitted to the Manitoba Government and the Honourable Ministers as mentioned.

Resolution 2022-1

Improving Wait Times for Mental Health Services in Manitoba resubmitted by sponsors Denise Joss, Peggy Bradshaw, Jacqueline Chartrand, Trish Masniuk, Rose Chopp.

Motion: Moved by Debora Durnin-Richards, the MWI Resolutions Committee chairperson, that the Manitoba Women's Institute urge the Minister of Mental Health and Community Wellness and the Government of Manitoba to increase availability for timely Mental Health Services in the Province of Manitoba. This may include but is not limited to increasing staffing of existing community mental health service therapists, suicide prevention workers, counselors and specialists; increasing private mental health care services; subsidizing private mental health care services; tracking major outcome statistics (wait times, frequency of follow-up, referral to specialist care) with the aim of reducing delays and increasing timely service. Seconded by Jacqueline Chartrand.

Resolution 2022-2

Compassionate decision-making processes in the placement of family members in a Manitoba health care facility resubmitted by the Domain WI.

Motion: Moved by Debora Durnin-Richards, the MWI Resolutions Committee chairperson, that the Manitoba Women's Institute urge the Ministers of Seniors and Long-term Care, and of Mental Health Community Wellness, and the Government of Manitoba to reconsider its policies and practices related to moving patients/residents to hospital and care home facilities. When a person must be hospitalized or placed in long term care, such decisions used to determine location of placement should include, but not limited to the physical address (community) of the loved one/primary caregiver and the distance to and from the placement location; the primary caregiver's mobility, health and ability to access the placement locations; the financial impact and ability to pay costs associated with accessing the location of the hospitalized/in-care person; the challenges the primary caregiver may face in accessing said location (i.e. other people in their home they are caring for such as children, elderly parents or other dependent persons). Such policies and practices should be implemented without causing harm and hardship to the patient/resident or the caregiver(s). Seconded by Janice Harrison.

Resolution 2022-3

Cell phone coverage in rural Manitoba resubmitted by the Manitoba Women's Institute on behalf of the Fisher Branch WI and Fork River WI due to the inadequacy of implementation of equitable cell service for all rural, northern and agricultural areas.

Motion: Moved by Debora Durnin-Richards, the MWI Resolutions Committee chairperson, recommend that the Manitoba Women's Institute in solidarity with the Fisher River, Peguis and Jackhead First Nations and the Rural Municipalities of Fisher and Armstrong, recommend that the Government of Manitoba and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) require all telecommunications companies operating in Manitoba provide full cell phone service and coverage in all rural, northern, and agricultural areas within six (6) to eighteen (18) months. Seconded by Debra Barrett.

Resolution 2022-4

Internet Coverage in Manitoba resubmitted by the Manitoba Women's Institute on behalf of the Marketing and Promotion Committee, Manitoba Women's Institute.

Motion: Moved by Debora Durnin-Richards, the MWI Resolutions Committee chairperson, that Manitoba Women's Institute request the Government of Canada and Manitoba and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to require all telecommunications companies operating in Manitoba to provide full high-speed internet coverage to all rural and remote areas of Manitoba within six (6) to eighteen (18) months. Seconded by Ann Mandziuk

AGM 2023 Comment Section

The following comments/questions were received from members. Thank you everyone for your comments, questions and suggestions. We truly appreciate members taking the time to submit their feedback and ideas. Please remember you are welcome to contact a board member or the office when you have a concern, comment or question at any time during the year.

When members receive their mail-in ballots, we are always willing to receive questions and provide answers from the resolution writers to help explain an issue if needed. Anytime, you think a resolution is not clear please contact the office so we can get more information for you. If one person needs an answer, there is likely a handful of members who also have the same questions and we would make every effort to put your concerns to rest by providing more information.

I hope my answers help in answering your questions. If anyone would like to discuss a response, please feel free to contact the office by phone or email and I will get back to you.
Debra Barrett, MWI President

The Comments we received were:

1. Comment – *Regarding Resolution 2023-3 Prioritize the Social Determinants of Health and Wellness of Diverse Women and Girls, the resolution was "too fuzzy"*

Answer – *At the 2023 AGM we received a suggestion that the background section of resolution be increased from 250 words to 300-350. With the difficulty in understanding some resolution topics, the Resolutions Committee attached internet links for people who might need more of an explanation on the topic to easily read more information/research to fully understand the topic.*

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2. Comment - *Regarding Resolution Reinstatement of the Mature Women's Centre "not enough facts about the reason for closing. Possibly few knew about it, and it was under used!"*

Answer – *The Mature Women's Clinic was a central location for women, especially rural women, to receive total care for their health issues. As in many cutbacks the rationale is not always explained or understood. Your comments are valuable, and we will attempt to have future resolutions include answers in these types of situations.*

3. Comment – *Regarding Resolution 2023-2: Banning transport of live horses "abstain because if one horse saves 10 hungry people, it's worth it. I love horses"*

Answer – *There were a few members who had exactly the same view. When the internet links which contain more research information were read some of the answers became clear.*

As I understand the issue from my reading of the research, it is not the use of horses for food that is the issue but rather the inhuman way the horses are being transported for slaughter.

4. Comment – *"I think WI is doing a great job of trying to improve the health care situation and helping to improve access to communication in the North. It is so important for all citizens, old and new, to have access to info and treatment. I just feel sad that our membership is falling, and chapters are closing because we have been so successful, and I hope we will continue for years to come."*

Answer – *As a third generation WI member I fully agree that the declining MWI members is sad especially when MWI has proven to be a valuable resource in creating change based on common sense and respect for all.*

I am always amazed and pleased with the high quality of the resolutions brought to the Resolutions Committee each year. I am also equally appreciative of the many resolutions that are adopted by government and result in provincial legislation.

5. Comment – *"would it not be best to have a Western, Interlake and Eastern Region"*

Answer – *Your comment is one of a few we received this year suggesting the same change. When reviewing our MWI history, I found that the regional names have changed many times over the years to represent the agricultural service zones.*

We will add a question to next year's ballot to rename the regions to accurately represent the areas of Manitoba. Making a significant change to the renaming of the regions will involve a change to Bylaw 2021 and therefore, cannot be completed prior to the AGM 2024.

6. Comment – *"the only reason I abstained from the accepting of the Financial Statement is because I do not fully understand it."*

Answer – *Financial Statements are often hard to understand unless a person has a background in reading statements. We are currently looking into the financial reports that other non-profit organizations are using in an attempt to simplify our MWI statement. Please always reach out to the MWI office and we will make every effort to assist in understanding the financial statements.*

7. Comment – *"I commend the Board on all the work they have done during the past year"*

Answer – *Thank you, all we can do is our best as volunteers. Sometimes we are successful and sometimes we wish we had made a different decision, but rest assured that all decisions*

are made with MWI's best interests in mind.

8. Comment – *“Regarding #5: I have never had to vote for a Director's position without the name of the person beside the position. I am sorry that I just don't understand or see any names beside the position”*

Answer – *Unfortunately, voting on a slate of Directors where some positions are vacant is getting to be the norm and not unusual. The slate of officers was full when the ballot went for printing but at the last minute, we had some people remove their names due to health or family issues. I can assure you it was embarrassing for myself but there was no way to fix the problem, we continue to work at speaking with individuals about volunteering to represent their region on the MWI Board. However, like the declining institutes the Board has the same issue with a declining number of members willing to represent their area at a provincial level. Should any member have an interest in becoming a Board member please contact the MWI office and we will work towards getting you involved with attending board meeting to help you decide if you are ready to commit yourself.*

Meetings are all held every second month on Zoom, that way no one is required to travel long distances or be away from home overnight. There is no expectation for you to volunteer to sit on committees unless you want to. I can tell you that Board members are always learning and sharing new ideas with each other.

9. Comment – *“who are the Zooming Monarchs?”*

Answer – *The Zooming Monarchs are a virtual group of members who are unable to attend institute meetings in their area or they may not have an institute close to their home. For example, the Zooming Monarchs have members from Neepawa, Vita, Isle des Chenes, Beausejour, Minnedosa, Winnipeg, and Ontario (affiliate member) plus members from institutes who have recently disbanded. The ideas of a virtual institute allows members to be active like an in-person institute and have the communication and sharing that is usually not provided by an individual membership.*

Should any individual member wish to attend a Zooming Monarch meeting as a guest please contact the office and you will be provided with the zoom link. It is simple and you do not need zoom on your computer you just need the internet on your computer.

10. Comment – *“regarding resolution 1- Curious to know if a restructure other than holding two Executive positions was discussed and/or considered?”*

Answer – *I understand that this issue is becoming more of a problem as people are unable or unwilling to accept volunteer positions in their institutes. I must admit that I prefer all boards have one person for each executive position but as lifestyles change, I suppose we must accept that our organization will also need to adapt despite our best efforts.*

Suggested Resolutions for AGM 2024

Thank you for the great suggestions for future resolutions, please consider taking on the opportunity to write one of these resolution ideas. Our Resolution Committee would be glad to assist.

1- Police body camera to ensure safety of offenders, those being interviewed and police officers

This is an issue that is a necessity in this day and age. People have different memories on how issues/problems occur; therefore, the old saying that there is your truth, my truth and the reality (real truth). With police body cameras the reality could assist all parties in coming to a "just" decision. Should you require a place to start your research you may want to look at cities such as Calgary which have solid research on this topic. The Resolutions Committee could assist in writing a resolution if provided adequate background information.

2- Expand the training and medical staff allowed to gather physical evidence after a sexual assault beyond "doctor" especially for rural and northern communities.

This issue was first raised by the British Columbia WI; they have since developed a bursary to assist medical personnel who meet the criteria to become fully trained and licensed investigators for sexual assault examinations. Could this be a project for Manitoba, let us know? MWI has a healthy scholarship fund and with some additional funds we might be able to provide a training scholarship similar to BC.

3- Provide a team of volunteer drivers to bring families needing assistance/counselling for services in Winnipeg in each RM of Manitoba

Many communities fundraise to provide a vehicle and driver for medical and other necessary transportation needs. Possibly communities could consider fundraising or working with a vehicle sales dealer to establish a volunteer transportation system accessible to all. A resolution on this issue to assist in overcoming the lack of transportation for those unable to drive themselves to appointment/treatments would be a benefit to all.

4- Cell phone coverage is badly needed in the Interlake. Please keep pushing for it

Have no fear cell service throughout Manitoba is not only a priority but a necessity and we plan to continue bringing this issue forward each year. Bringing our resolutions to the media may assist in bringing awareness to all residents of Manitoba.

5- Be it moved that rehabilitation be provided to incarcerated people in Federal, Provincial, Municipal prisons.

This suggestion would certainly make a worthwhile resolution. Please provide any background information you find and request assistance when you begin to write this resolution.

6- The Zooming Monarchs WI wanted to explore how to safeguard food, water, and air from harmful chemicals. More research is needed to determine how to formulate the resolution.

Researching the backgrounds for resolutions is time consuming and often hard to find. Hopefully, your institute will be able to compile enough information to create a resolution for 2024.

7-This year when I bought vegetable garden seed at my local store, I realized it was taxed. I would like to put a resolution forward with the Fisher Branch Women's Institute that vegetable seed isn't taxable as more people need to grow gardens to have food stability.

Vegetable seeds become more of a necessity rather than a luxury each year. The Resolutions Committee would certainly welcome a resolution on this topic.

8- When daylight time changes to central time in the fall of 2023, plead with the Manito-

ba government or whoever is responsible to allow that central time to remain all year round for once and forever! The twice-yearly change hasn't proved that any daylight is saved and is totally unnecessary and unhealthy

There appears to be a movement towards a standardized time, be it daylight savings or not. The Resolutions Committee could assist you in writing a resolution.

9- The bedding companies should include pictures and written instructions on how to properly fold these lovely elastics around fitted sheets or send a little man with every package of bedding to fold those sheets after they have been laundered.

I had to laugh when I read this suggestion. Many evenings as I put sheets on the bed, I wish there was a huge black arrow that said this end down. We could compose a written statement and ask the bedding companies to include it in the bedding packages. I would not suggest a little man arriving with every package of bedding as that might mean one more mouth to feed each day.

10- Cell service is poor or nil in areas south of Riding Mt National Park from Mountain Road, Erickson, Sandy Lake, Elphinstone to Russell.

There are far too many areas of Manitoba with poor to nil service which leads to the lack of timely emergency interventions. Please feel free to use the resolution submitted by Fork River and Fisher Branch WIs to write a resolution specific to this region. The more regions we can identify without adequate cell service the stronger our united voices will be.

11- Re-Assess the need to re-apply for Permanent Resident (PR) cards every 5 years. Renewal, past and effective as renewing Driver License could be implemented.

The present system can take many months and effectively restricts PR's from travel outside Canada as they cannot return by air or sea. Some immigrants are unable to meet the cost of Citizenship for whole families, some may have other reasons.

There are arrangements in place for emergency travel permits but these are expensive and difficult to access. Under the current system, a person whose application has been sent in months before the expiry of their cards does not often receive it before that expiry. In that circumstance they would be unable to travel to a sick relative, family function or simply take a vacation until the new card arrives. This situation has become markedly worse due to COVID but was very inadequate even before hand.

This suggestion would certainly make a worthwhile resolution. We would appreciate more information to assist in writing a resolution on this topic.

12- So many resolutions regarding the state of the nursing homes, very good resolutions, and no comments from our Provincial Depts? This is very unusual. Were they directed to the Provincial Ministers connected to those areas of concern? They should ALL be re-sent; the nursing homes situation is urgent!

Yes, the nursing home resolutions were all sent to the applicable government ministers whether provincial or federal. We are resending the resolutions from 2020 to 2023 to the Minister of MB Agriculture as well as the ministers responsible for resolutions specific to their current portfolios. Due to ministerial changes it is often difficult for ministers to review past resolutions. By resubmitting the 2020 to 2022 with our 2023 resolutions we hope to provide the ministers an way to easily review past resolutions. We will also be sending the MWI Resolutions to the media to ensure that the public are aware of all resolutions.



Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

CONSTITUENT SOCIETY, ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

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Highlights from the FWIC/WI Canada Board Meeting – June 5, 2023

FWIC BOOK CLUB: The Book Club will continue in September. More details will be available in the fall.

EBOOK: Reminded that the FWIC E book is available for purchase from the FWIC online store.

FWIC AGM: to be held as a hybrid event on July 11, 2023. Cost will be a donation to FWIC (donations of \$20 and above will receive a charitable tax receipt). The registration form is attached as well as the credentials form. Lunch will be \$15. Provinces are requested to send in the names of their voting delegates. (Form attached).

FWIC AGM REPORTS: Each province is reminded to send in a report on their past year's activities. These reports are due **June 6, 2023**, and are to be emailed to Lynn MacLean at president-elect@fwic.ca.

ONLINE AUCTION: FWIC will hold its second online auction from Oct 10 to Nov 14th. Auction items are to be a minimum of \$25 and each province is invited to contribute a minimum of three items. A picture and description of the items are to be sent to Lynn by September 18, 2023 at president-elect@fwic.ca.

FWIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: The Communication Committee is looking for three volunteers. One to help with the website, one to liaise with the provinces, and one to work on promoting resolutions. This would be about four hours per month.

NATIONAL CONVENTION PIN 2024: Reminder of the competition that is being held to create a convention pin to commemorate the 23rd national convention. Entries should be emailed to info@fwic.ca or mailed to the National Office. Entries will close on January 1, 2024. The winner of the design will receive free registration for the national conference in Nova Scotia.

DONATIONS: President Margaret Byl would like to receive information on the amount and types of donations that are made by provinces and branches. Please send to info@fwic.ca.

REMINDERS:

WI Connections: Reminder that submissions from branches and members are encouraged from each province. Please submit them by the 20th of each month to angela.beth.scott@fwic.ca.

****Next Meeting of the Board of Directors: Monday, July 10, 2023, at 7 pm ET.**



ADELAIDE
HUNTER
HOODLESS
HOMESTEAD

FWIC Head Office and A National Historic Site of Canada

Coming Events

JUNE

21—National Indigenous Peoples Day

JULY

Office Closed but email and voice mail will be checked regularly

1—Canada Day

30—Deadline for newsletter articles/submissions

AUGUST

Office Closed but email and voice mail will be checked regularly

SEPTEMBER

11—Zooming Monarchs WI Branch meeting

23—**Narcisse 100th Anniversary**, Inwood Hall

30—Deadline for newsletter articles/submissions

OCTOBER

11—International Day of the Girl Child

15—International Day of Rural Women

16—World Food Day

NOVEMBER

11—Remembrance Day

21-23—Manitoba Farm Women's Conference, Winkler, MB

30—Deadline for **RESOLUTIONS**, newsletter articles/submissions

DECEMBER

8—International Peace Garden opening of the Conservatory Expansion (Cactus Garden)

ADVERTISING RATES

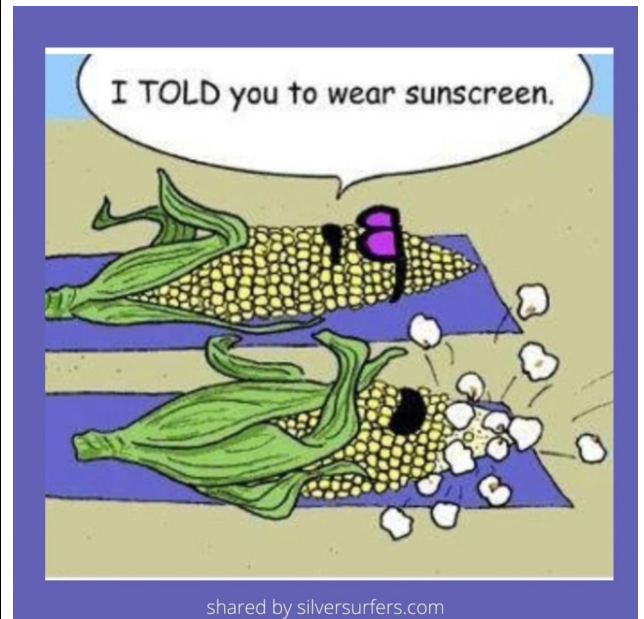
Business Card Size \$15 per issue

Quarter Page \$40 per issue

Half Page \$65 per issue

Full page \$90 per issue

Full information was in the February/March 2022 issue.



shared by silversurfers.com

Domain WI Quiz from their 75th party.

1. In 1947 sugar rations rose from 7 to 8 pounds per person. What is the average sugar consumption today per person?
2. Who was the Prime Minister in 1947?
3. \$1.00 in 1947 would be worth how much today?
4. A famous young couple became engaged?

1. 88 pounds per person.
2. Prime Minister Mackenzie King.
3. A 1947 dollar would be worth \$12.46 in 2022.
4. Princess Elizabeth became engaged to Phillip Mountbatten

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To comment or to make a submission, please send an e-mail to:

mbwi@mymts.net

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