

Newsletter September 2025—October 2025

Vol 108. No. 4



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

One may ask, What is a Manitoba Women's Institute (MWI)?

To WI women across Manitoba the answer is "A Women's Institute is a local, provincial, national and international organization that promotes women, families and communities. The goal is to empower women to make a difference."

Did You Know?

Manitoba WI members sit on an average of 3 to 6 community boards, committees and organizations within their communities/regions; both as representatives of their WI branches or as independent community volunteers.

WI members also fundraise and donate to:

- ♦ Community events - Winter Carnivals, Homecomings, Memorial Monuments, Parks
- ♦ Community people in need - fire victims, children and youth requiring specialized services due to severe illness, food hampers, & feminine hygiene products for schools
- ♦ Specialized equipment for community venues - AED machines, playground structures
- ♦ Community Resource Support - fire departments, palliative care units, emergency services support programs, school & recreation
- ♦ Charities - Terry Fox, Never Alone Foundation, Food Banks, STARS, Women's Shelters, Canadian Mental Health Assoc., United Way, Kidney Foundation, Alzheimer's Society, Cancer Foundation, Heart & Stroke Foundation, Meals on Wheels, Manitoba Possible, Central Plains Cancer Services, Personal Care Foundations
- ♦ Construction of community buildings - halls, rinks, personal care homes, assisted living facilities, agricultural facilities, hospitals & clinics
- ♦ Maintenance and repair of community buildings
- ♦ MWI Made in Manitoba Projects (2017 to 2025)- Port in a Storm, Brandon Bear Clan, Street Youth Backpacks with School supplies, Domestic Abuse Shelters, Ukrainian Refugee/Immigrant Household Supplies Drive, Food Bank Restocking Drive/Harvest Manitoba Supplies Drive, Lap Blankets for PCHs & Palliative Care Units, Acts of Kindness, and The Power of Positivity

And the list goes on and on

Manitoba Women's Institute Celebrating 115 years

Manitoba Women's Institute

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Provincial Board 2024-2025

President: Debra Barrett

President—Elect: Marge Knutson

Regional Representatives:

Eastern: Vacant

Southwest/North: Liz Chongva

Wpg.-Interlake: Gisela Nolting

Manitoba Agriculture: Thelma Blahey

WI Canada/FWIC Provincial Representative: Debra Barrett

Manitoba Gov't Appointed Members: Michele Gurman

Acting UofM Home Ec.: Ann Mandziuk, PHEc,



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.

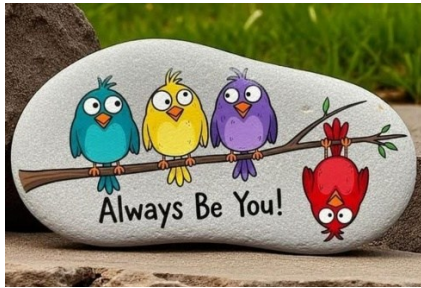


Visit www.acww.org.uk for a new ACWW experience, updated resources, new presentations, more information, easy membership renewals.

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



President's Report



President's Report

Hello everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you all enjoying the beauty of autumn without the wonder of what type of winter we will have. What I do know, is with the winds we are having the weather will likely change many times before autumn comes to a close. The winds have been my friend and my foe lately. The wind cleared off the leaves from my deck but at the same time they blew the empty pots off my deck, that I had drying before storing them away, and the blanket off my beautiful co-leus. It is now a lumpy black frozen monster, perfect for Halloween. Guess I will be begging for a slip again this spring.

I hope your fall preparations are mostly complete and you are enjoying the fruits of your harvest, or someone else's.

This newsletter is very different from what you are used to. Our editor is unwell right now and I have taken on the job of putting together this newsletter. I have told Ann that all the WI members will be grateful to have her return to her editorial job in the new year.

We have also had our Eastern Rep., Jacqueline Chartrand make the difficult decision to resign from the MWI Board. We will miss her sharp mind and strong editing skills. She has been MWI's Resolutions Committee Chair and generously shared her talents and knowledge to strengthen our Resolutions process. We wish her health and happiness as she strives to move forward and overcome her health concerns.

If you have a minute or two please send Ann and Jacqueline a quick email or phone call to wish them well.

The 2025-2026 MWI Committees are included in this newsletter (page 14) and it would be wonderful to have new members join a committee to bring new ideas and change, while working collaboratively with members you may have never met before. Zoom allows for participation and discussions without ever leaving the comfort of your home. Zoom is very simple and our board can easily walk you through the process. Change is not always easy but it is frequently beneficial and can bring positive growth.

For those of you concerned with Human Trafficking, FWIC has supported 3 evening presentations with a variety of speakers on Human Trafficking. This issue is increasingly becoming more dangerous and a growing threat to our young people. Rural children and youth are especially vulnerable when they venture outside of their communities or become involved in online chats with strangers. Read the article on page 13 of this newsletter for more information and how to participate in the presentations. The presentations will be held on October 27, 28 and 30th from 6 pm to 7 pm Manitoba time.

(Continued on page 5)

OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Mallory Makinson
Office Administrator

Happy Fall to all!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and spent some time outdoors. I spent most of my summer camping with my boys, it'll likely be our last weekend camping for the season coming up which is always bittersweet. Let's hope for a long fall, and a short winter.



It has been a busy fall as we prepare for the end of this financial year and into the next. You can look forward to your 2025-26 membership yearly forms being received in the coming weeks. A reminder to please ensure that the information on the forms is current, **particularly the e-mail addresses**. A timely response to these forms would be much appreciated.

I am truly grateful for all the positive feedback we have been receiving from our daily social media posts! Please send me any photos you may have of your events. Any pictures, even if it is of the food, the activity, the decorations, etc. are appreciated. We can also post a story about your Institute's activities without a photo if you prefer! Social media is such a great way to connect with like minded women, not just in Manitoba, but across the world!

The fiscal year end is wrapping up and the office is a busy place, so I better get back to work!!



The Board sends condolences to those locals/members who have lost a member over the past couple of months. It has been a difficult time for many families and friends. If you wish to have a member recognized in the newsletter please send a brief notice to the office and it will be kept for the next newsletter.

Continued from page 3

Before I sign off I would ask you to **Save the Date for our 2026 AGM**. The date we have chosen is **Friday, May 8th**. Some WI members suggested MWI try a Friday for our AGM to allow for a greater selection of speakers who are frequently unable to speak on weekends due to family and homelife requirements.

Take care everyone and enjoy the glimmering colours of autumn.
Debra Barrett

Bits and Pieces



Ever Thought of a Clothing Boutique?

Your WI could Rethink Textile Sustainability by holding a used clothing boutique. Gather your gently used clothing and offer the clothing to your community and surrounding area by holding a used clothing sale. For tips on how to structure and hold a boutique contact Mallory at the MWI's Office by email mbwi@mymts.net or by phone 204-726-7135 and we will email you out a "How To".



FWIC National Project Sustainable Style: Mindful Consumption

Sustainable Style: Mindful Consumption is a comprehensive three-year project that acts as a framework for WIs to delve into and include in their monthly meetings and activities. It is meant to unify and focus the target audience while organically achieving the project objectives. As a framework, it includes multiple 'moving' parts which are not yet identified. Participants at all levels are co-creating the project parameters and content. Communication through monthly newsletter (WI Connections), Facebook, E-Mails, and Virtual events will support uptake of the national project. In order to put project ideas into hands on activities all FWIC 2027 Triennial Competitions are focused on Sustainability. Now is the time to see how you can join the competitions.

[2027 Tweedsmuir & Senator Wilson Competitions](#)

Tweedsmuir Competitions

Tweedsmuir Handicraft Competition

Make a throw 45 x 60 inches
Using recycled materials and trims.
Throws will be donated to homeless shelters or food banks in the location where the 2027 Convention is held.

Tweedsmuir History Competition

History of a garment
Written story with photos.

Tweedsmuir Community Competition

Clothing Swap or Secondhand Boutique/ Rummage Sale
Held at a WI Branch.
Write up on the roles and responsibilities of WI workers, where the clothing came from, and what types of clothing were available.
Include individual stories and pictures of successful shoppers.

Tweedsmuir Cultural Competition

Pictorial and narrative documentation of a Fashion Show featuring remade, repurposed, or vintage selections of clothing
Clothing can be worn at various stages in women's lives, such as school, workplace, wedding, maternity, casual, or workout garments.

Senator Cairine Wilson Empowered Women Competition

Branch Competition: All you can create "Repurpose & Reuse" Project.

Create as many useful items as possible from a minimum of three or more different, pre-owned garments.
Include a writeup describing how the women in the branch felt empowered to create the designs,
Include photos outlining the group participation, design, creation, uniqueness, and finishing steps
Photos should show all stages of the project, from start to finish.



Fisher Branch WI Celebrates Members 476 Years of Volunteer Service

One may ask, What is a Manitoba Women's Institute (MWI)?

To WI women across the Interlake the answer is "A Women's Institute is a local, provincial, national and international organization that promotes women, families and communities. The goal is to empower women to make a difference."

For 77 years, Fisher Branch WI members have been recognized by the community and throughout Manitoba as women who make a difference. They are identified as a provider of education and skills development opportunities for women, advocating for issues which strengthen women and families thereby making their community a better place.

September 3rd, the WI members and distinguished guests: Shannon Pyziak, Reeve; James Bezan, MP; Derek Johnson, MLA; Gisela Nolting, ACWW Manitoba Coordinator; Debra Barrett, MWI President gathered to honour and celebrate 12 amazing members who have volunteered 25 to 70 years in their community, for a grant total of 476 years. These dedicated women were presented certificates of recognition and words of appreciation from the dignitaries. Congratulations were read from FWIC President Lynn MacLean, and ACWW Canada Area President Marie Kenny.

The WI is truly grateful for the dedication of:

Darcy Truthwaite – 25 yrs	Patti Witzke – 27 yrs	Lori Smith – 28 yrs
Agnes Mawejje – 29 yrs	Ida Draper – 35 yrs	June Kopys – 35 yrs
Nellie Smith – 40 yrs	Elenor Nowosad – 41 yrs	Pat Cancers – 47 yrs
Bernice Enstrom – 48 yrs	Dianne Magnusson – 51 yrs	Rosie Barrett – 70 yrs

The WI members not only enjoyed time together but the company of many people from the community who have contributed their energy and talents over the years to assist the Fisher Branch WI in achieving their mission and goals. As well as some fine tunes to close off the evening.

The goals of the WI have been varied and always successful whether it was participating in the funding of a new hospital and necessary medical equipment (decades ago); advocating for white lines on the highway; reflective lines on all railcars; cellular and internet coverage throughout the Interlake; and facilitating a Drug Awareness presentation for the community in 2024.

These many undertakings and hundreds more were captured on a scroll which was unfurled at the celebration to the admiration of all. The most recent project the WI is undertaking will be presentations by the Joy Smith Foundation on Human Trafficking to the students and community on October 15th.



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Back row June Kopys, James Bezan (MP), Ida Draper, Darcy Truthwaite, Pat Caners, Lori Smith, Elenor Nowosad, Nellie Smith, Shannon Pyziak (Reeve), Derek Johnson (MLA)
Front row Bernice Enstrom, Rosie Barrett, Agnes Mawejje

Rosie Barrett receiving a certificate and plaque for her 70 years of volunteering in her community.

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TWC Scholarship



Dear Society President,

I hope this email finds you well.

Central Office has launch the TWC Sponsorship Fund. Following the Board's approval of £20,000 from the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund, we are excited to support as many delegates as possible within the allocated budget.

We are looking forward to receive applications from around the world and kindly request your assistance in identifying and recommending individuals from your Area who may meet the following criteria:

- Aged between 18–35 (please note this is not a strict requirement as applicants of all ages are welcome, however we will be prioritising applicants within these ages)
- First-time attendees of the Triennial World Conference
- Members of an active ACWW Member Society

The deadline for submissions will be **30 September 2025**, and we aim to notify applicants within two weeks of the closing date.

Each sponsorship will cover:

- Full conference registration and Accommodation (twin share rate)
 - We encourage applications from two delegates within the same society to attend together as this will ensure they are in attendance with someone they know.
 - Travel to and from the Westin Hotel in Ottawa, Canada (including visa, travel insurance, and airport transfer)

Our aim is to minimise out-of-pocket expenses for sponsored delegates.

For visa support, we will provide a letter confirming ACWW's support and sponsorship and that this is a bona fide international conference registered with Canada's IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada).

If you are aware of any individuals who meet the above criteria and may be interested in attending TWC 2026, we would greatly appreciate your recommendations. As we begin to receive applications.

All the best,
Marie

Marie Kenny

Trustee and Canada Area President

Associated Country Women of the World

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ACWW Report

The 31st ACWW Triennial World Conference is in Ottawa April 26 – May 1, 2026. Early Bird Registration ends Sept. 30, 2025. For more info and to register visit the ACWW website. So far 5 W.I. members from Manitoba are registered.

I was honored to be invited by the Fisher Branch Women's Institute to read a letter from Marie Kenny, our ACWW Canada Area President, on the occasion to honor and celebrate several longtime Fisher Branch W.I. members. You will read more about the event in the Institute News.

On September 20, 2025 we had a Zoom coordinators meeting about the upcoming campaigns for International Day of Rural Women.

International Day of Rural Women is on October 15, 2025. To celebrate there are two online events:

Rural Women's Health at 1:30 pm UK time
ACWW Celebrates at 3 pm UK time
To register go to the ACWW website.
There is a survey about Rural Women. I will email the link to the board members.

Submitted by Gisela Nolting
ACWW Coordinator for Manitoba Women's Institute

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.



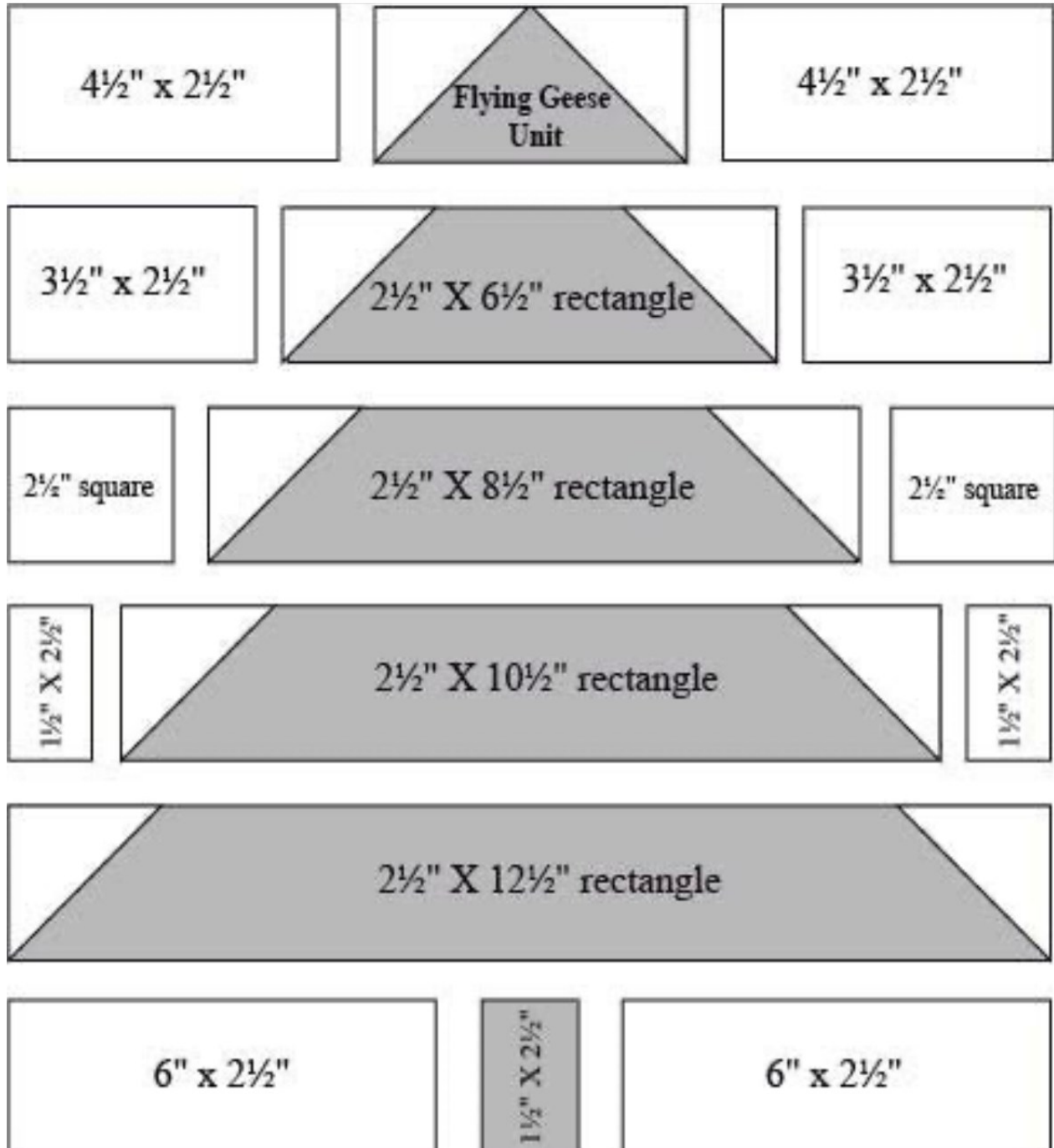
Happy Birthday to members
celebrating in
October and November.



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 in our social media posts.

Dress Up Your Kitchen Window for Winter

Not a quilter then why not try a paper collage to bring a pop of colour and interest to a window.



How to: Cut out a piece of wax paper one inch larger than the size of the finished tree. Place a completed drawing, using the pattern pieces, behind the wax paper. Cut out shapes/squares of tissue paper in the colours you want for your picture, following the pattern pieces and sizes. Use white school glue (Elmers) glue your tissue pieces to the wax paper following the pattern. Make sure your tissue paper is saturated in glue. Let dry overnight. When fully dry peel off the wax paper and create a paper frame to display your work. Hang from your window frame on a colourful ribbon.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Virtual Series Confronts the Hidden Crisis of Human Trafficking in Our Communities

October 27, 28 & 30 | 7:00–8:00 PM ET | Online via Zoom | Free Registration on Eventbrite

Endorsed by the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

Toronto, ON — Human trafficking is happening in our neighborhoods to people we pass every day — and too often, we don't see it. This October, a powerful three-part virtual series invites everyday people to open their eyes, raise awareness, and take meaningful action.

Uprooting Trafficking: A 3-Part Series on Understanding, Healing & Action runs October 27, 28, and 30 from 7:00–8:00 PM ET on Zoom. Endorsed by the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (WI Canada), this free event brings together 14 survivors and advocates from 13 organizations across Canada and beyond. Each evening is uniquely themed, exploring the realities of trafficking, pathways of healing and reintegration, and how communities can recognize, respond, and take action.

Featured speakers and panelists include:

Katlin Bick – Anti-Human Trafficking Advocate, Victim Services Toronto

Jovana Blagovcanin – Anti-Human Trafficking Manager, FCJ Refugee Centre

Inspector Colleen Bowers – Youth Services Section, Calgary Police Service

Julia Drydyk – Executive Director, Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking

Ashley Gaudry – Survivor and Advocate, Fight4Freedom

Jenea Gomez – Director of Anti-Human Trafficking Programs, Salvation Army Illuminate

Cheryl Hotchkiss – Acting CEO and Vice President, Advancement and Strategy, International Justice Mission (IJM) Canada

Shae Invidiata – Founder, Free-Them

Staff Sgt. Gordon MacDonald – Human Trafficking and Counter Exploitation Unit, Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT)

Monica McIntyre – Founder and Director, Lifeline Mental Health and Aftercare International

Timea Nagy – Advocate, Author, Speaker, Producer

Jessica Ortiz – International Associate Director, Fight4Freedom

Ishani Slocombe – Aftercare International and Consider the Lily

Peter Slocombe – Rescue Operations

"This is about breaking the silence, unlearning myths, and discovering the role we all have to play — because human trafficking isn't far away. It's often hidden in plain sight," says Tamara Doerksen, series co-creator and facilitator.

Sessions will be streamed live and recorded, with replays available to registrants and through a new online resource hub to promote ongoing learning and long-term impact.

📄 Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/UT-Series>

📄 Learn more: <https://uprootingtrafficking.com/>

About WI Canada

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (WI Canada) supports this series because it aligns with our commitment to protecting human dignity, promoting justice, and fostering safe, healthy communities. We believe that every individual has the right to live free from exploitation, and we stand united in the fight to end this grave violation of human rights.

MWI Committees **MWI Members Come Share Your Ideas and Talents**

Committee Structures 2025 - 2026 (November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026)

Executive: Debra Barrett (Chair), Marge Knutson, Gisela Nolting, Thelma Blahey (MB Ag. Liaison), Ann Mandziuk (Home Ec.), Mallory Makinson (OA)

Finance: Marge Knutson (Chair), Debra Barrett, Liz Chongva, Gisela Nolting, Ann Mandziuk, Mallory Makinson (OA)

Nomination: Liz Chongva, **Spot waiting for you (Maximum of 8 volunteer hours for the year)**

Marketing & Promotion: Ann Mandziuk (Chair), Liz Chongva, Michele Gurman, Debra Barrett, Mallory Makinson (OA),

Resolutions: Trish Masniuk, Valerie Watt, Diane MacDonald, Barb Steinwandt, **Spot waiting for you** Debra Barrett (Board Rep.) **(Maximum of 15 volunteer hours during November to January)**

Scholarship: Gisela Nolting (Chair), Dorothy Braun, Sheena Letexier

AGM 2026 Virtual/Hybrid & MWI Women's Day: Debra Barrett (Chair), Marge Knutson, Gisela Nolting, Liz Chongva, Mallory Makinson (OA) **Spot waiting for you (Maximum of 6 volunteer hours for the year)**

Agriculture & Rural Development: Gisela Nolting (Chair), Michele Gurman, **Spot waiting for you (Maximum of 6 volunteer hours for the year)**

Strategic Plan: Debra Barrett (Chair), Marge Knutson, Liz Chongva, Thelma Blahey

Made in Manitoba Project: Michele Gurman (Chair), Marge Knutson, Debra Barrett, **Spot waiting for you (Maximum of 6 volunteer hours for the year)**

Restructuring Committee: Debra Barrett (Chair), Liz Chongva (committee on hiatus)

Repeal of MWI Act Committee: Debora Durnin-Richards (lead), Marge Knutson, Gail Watson, Gisela Nolting, Liz Chongva, Ann Mandziuk, Debra Barrett

MWI Memberships with External Organizations for 2024 – 2025

Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC): Debra Barrett (2024-2027)

FWIC Outreach & Communication Committee (2024-2027): Debra Barrett

International Peace Gardens (IPG): Audrey Clark

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC): Gisela Nolting

Costume Museum of Canada: Liz Chongva

ACWW Coordinator for Manitoba: Gisela Nolting

MWI Board Positions Available

Board Representative for Eastern: **Spot waiting for you (Maximum of 20 volunteer hours for the year or more depending on your communication with the Eastern branches)**

Board Representative for Individual Members (new position): **Spot waiting for you (Maximum of 20 volunteer hours for the year or more depending on your communication with the Individu-**

UPCOMING Events

OCTOBER

1 to 31- Breast Cancer Awareness month
24- United Nations Day
31- Halloween (let your ghoulish side loose)

NOVEMBER

1-Start of the MWI 2025-2026 year
11- Remembrance Day
13-World Kindness Day
25-International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
30- Deadline for **RESOLUTIONS**, newsletter articles/submissions

DECEMBER

3-International Day of Person's with Disabilities
6-National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
10-Human Rights Day

ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card Size \$15 per issue

Quarter Page \$40 per issue

Half Page \$65 per issue

Full page \$90 per issue

For further information please contact
Mallory at mbwi@mymts.net



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