



**MANITOBA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (MWI)
Board Meeting Minutes**

November 19th, 2025

PRESENT:

Debra Barrett	President
Marge Knutson	President Elect
Mallory Makinson	Office Administrator
Vacant	MB Government Appointed Member
Michele Gurman	MB Government Appointed Member
Vacant	Absent
Liz Chongva	Southwest Regional Rep
Liz Chongva	Northern Regional Rep
Thelma Blahey	MB Ag Representative
Gisela Nolting	Winnipeg-Interlake Regional Rep
Ann Mandziuk	Home Ec. Rep

Call to Order 9:05 a.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: Moved by Liz Chongva that the agenda be adopted as circulated/amended. Seconded by Gisela Nolting. **CARRIED**

2. Approval of Minutes for September 24th, 2025

Motion: Moved by Michele Gurman that the minutes from the Board Meeting held September 24th, 2025 be approved as circulated/amended. Seconded by Gisela Nolting. **CARRIED**

3. Acceptance of the Financial Reports

Motion: Moved by Liz Chongva that the financial reports for September 2025 and October 2025 be accepted as circulated/amended. Seconded by Gisela Nolting. **CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE

Silverton & Lenore Women's Institute Disbanding 2025 – letters and information have been sent.

Check out the Scottish WI social media pages to use information regarding starting our own information.

4. OA Report

- I attended finance, and board meetings and prepared the board meeting agenda/minutes. A wide variety of tasks completed in result of these meetings. Month end finances completed.
- E-mailed/mailed newsletter.
- Website is continuously updated and monitored to keep it current. Updating current newsletters and zoom presentation advertising. Newsletters and Board Meeting Minutes added to website.
- New 2025/2026 membership forms sent out and processing new memberships.
- Disbanding letters and information to three Women's Institutes.
- Created content for social media, advertisements, etc.
- Many other tasks were done this month; this is just a highlight of my month.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Mrs. Alfred Watt Trust Agreement

Linda Hoy e-transferred \$1,041.65. From the discussions that we had at Mrs. Alfred Watt Memorial Trust Fund, there was a decision to take some money to distribute them. There continues to be discussions about taking the balance of monies that is being held in trust for presidential travel and distribution to the remaining groups. There have been some blunt discussions around how to distribute to the province.

6.2 Location of 2026 AGM

We had decided to really go for Portage, mostly the meals were the issue. Now that we have nobody in the West other than the few individual members, and they tend not to travel anywhere. Do you think we should be looking for accommodation that is closer to home so that we're basically servicing the area where the membership is from. There's Grosse Isle, Dugald. We should go to Dugald because we just had it in Grosse Isle two years ago and then maybe in 2027, we can go to Grosse Isle again.

Action: Liz Chongva will look into booking a location. May 8th the Friday is when we are looking to have the AGM.

6.3 Budget 2025-2026

Our next finance meeting is going to look at. Going through the budget.

Action: Mallory to send the Budget working document to Marge.

6.4 Newsletter Items

Ann mentioned she should be able to give it a shot to do the newsletter.

Action: Debra will send Ann the three newsletter articles that she has already.

6.5 SCAP Grant Application

Through marketing we were looking at how we can use WI to enhance some of our membership branches. Through Fisher Branch they were looking at something to help young farmers in the area, stay young farmers in the area. Some of them were taking on other roles and not taking on farming. Debra sent a SCAP Grant Application thinking even if we received a little bit of farming and could put one or two of these focuses on keeping some of the young people interested in farming, maybe we would come up with one or two programs and put them into the school system. The school is very positive about WI working with them to enhance the student's knowledge base. The majority of the teachers in the area come from farming backgrounds. If by some means we receive some funding, that's where it'll be used and then if our pilot project works, then that could be something we could be looking at for the rest of the province for the future.

DISCUSSION: We should be working with Ag in the Classroom in Manitoba, because they have some great resources to getting into the schools. What we found though is that their programming is lower level, and we are looking at the upper levels for grade 9 and up.

6.6 Direct Deposit

Thelma has been tasked with the Ag societies to get them all set up with direct deposit. There's a form to fill out and Mallory will have to send a void cheque.

Action: Thelma to send the direct deposit form to Mallory.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Executive – Debra Barrett

There were no business matters which required the executive committee to meet during the autumn months.

7.2 AGM 2026 and MWI Women's Day – Debra Barrett

Suggestion – to hold the AGM at the Grosse Isle or Dugald hall due to the disbanding of the MWI southwest branches. There are two suggestions for locations, Herman Prior Center or Dugald Community Center.

7.3 Marketing & Promotion – Ann Mandziuk

No meeting was held in October/November due to unexpected circumstances. Maybe we can try a meeting on January 5th.

7.4 Bylaw & Policy – Debra Barrett

Policies continue to be updated as required. The Bylaw was not updated at AGM 2025 due to the absence of ministerial direction on what constitutes a provincially accepted yearend financial review. The criteria regarding who is acceptable to

perform a reviewed year-end financial statement will be updated in the Bylaw as well as any new or amended policies regarding MWI business matters.

7.5 Resolutions – Debra Barrett

Two resolutions are forth coming by November 30th. The committee will be communicated with to arrange a tentative date to discuss any resolutions that may be submitted.

7.6 Scholarship – Gisela Nolting

Nothing to report at this time.

7.7 Finance – Marge Knutson

The Finance Committee had a meeting on Monday, November 10th. The statements were reviewed and discussed, with only a few memberships renewed for 2026 as deposits, and a debit of an honorarium and postage fees.

A new VISA card was issued to replace the card that was hacked.

Mallory delivered the financial files and the QuickBooks files to Sensus on November 7th, 2025.

7.8 International Peace Gardens – Audrey Clark

No report at this time.

7.9 FWIC – Debra Barrett

Highlights from the FWIC/WI Canada Board Meeting – October 27, 2025

Fundraisers: Pampered Chef Fundraiser: FWIC is currently conducting its second Pampered Chef Fundraiser, and orders are now being accepted. Provinces are encouraged to refer to the attached information sheet for further details and to support the organization.

National Convention 2027: The board held a general discussion on the 2027 National Convention.

Topics included whether tours should be included in registration, the event duration, and considerations regarding the format, such as the inclusion of speakers versus workshops. An official invitation for the Convention is anticipated before the end of 2025.

Homestead Repairs Required: New Furnace for the Homestead: Quotes were received for a new furnace as per insurance requirements. Basic funding is in place, but additional funds will be required to install heat pumps and central air. Central air will help to preserve the artifacts. If you would like to hold a branch fundraiser and donate towards the heat pumps/central air, that would be greatly appreciated. You can transfer to info@fwic.ca or mail a cheque to FWIC National Office, PO Box 209, 359 Blue Lake Road, St. George, ON, N0E 1N0. Thank you to those who have already sent donations.

Reminders:

- Project: Branches and/or provinces that are planning activities such as clothing swaps, mending education sessions, or fashion shows are encouraged to document these events with photographs. These images can be sent to wiconnections@fwic.ca to showcase participation and promote the “Sustainable Style with Mindful Consumption” project.
- The Tweedsmuir and Senior Wilson Guidelines are attached for the 2027 competitions.
- FWIC Upcoming Event: FWIC will celebrate WI Day across Canada on February 19, 2026. The theme for this year is “The Stories that Shape Us.” Each province is invited to contribute a couple of stories highlighting how the Women's Institute has influenced its members. Those interested in sharing their stories should contact their FWIC director.
- Communications & Outreach Committee: Do you have a story to share? Communications is looking for 100 Stories. Send to wiconnections@fwic.ca.
- Pen pals: Judy and Wendy are looking to match WI members with interested members from around the world. If interested, contact pals@fwic.ca.
- ACWW World Conference: Donna Henderson is offering Canadian sashes for the upcoming ACWW World Conference. The cost, including postage, is \$20. Members interested in purchasing a sash or seeking a conference roommate can contact Donna at donna_ross_h@yahoo.ca.

7.10 **MB Agriculture – Thelma Blahey**

The speech from the throne was presented November 18, 2025. Check it out to see some of the promises for rural Manitoba. There is currently an opportunity to share your thoughts on the future of Ag Crown Lands on Engage MB. Have you heard about the upcoming Young Speaker's in Agriculture Competition. Two different age groups with five questions provided as topics. Details can be found on the Ag Days Website.

7.11 **Agriculture & Rural Development – Gisela Nolting**

The Manitoba government banned the possession of wild boars as of September 22, 2025. Wild boars were introduced in 1980s to diversify farm income. Some wild boars escaped farms, and some were let go by farmers. They are a threat to crop production and can also carry deadly diseases.

A Manitoba company from Winkler, Thunderstruck Ag, had one of their innovations featured in Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential new inventions for 2025. The Razors Edge combine concave beat out five other nominations in the agriculture category. The concave is supposed to have lower grain loss during harvest and better flow of material.

Please check out the Young Agrarians Mentorship Program. It is designed for farms in their first ten years of operation. It offers support from experienced farmers, business learning webinars and networking opportunities.

The Manitoba Farm Women's Conference will be held in Brandon November 17-19, 2025.

7.12 Nomination – Liz Chongva

No report at this time.

7.13 Strategic Plan – Debra Barrett

The Committee continues to review the plan to ensure compliance. The committee will review the strategic plan for references to the disbanded southwest branches.

7.14 Made in Manitoba Project – Michele Gurman

Michele has sent a write up to Debra that will go into the Newsletter. Do what you can project – gives members a chance to donate or give to causes that are close to your heart.

7.15 Restructuring Committee – Debra Barrett

The committee will meet pending receipt of the official disbanding documents from the MWI southwest branches.

7.16 ACWW – Gisela Nolting

At our October zoom meeting we met with our area President Marie Kenny to share updates and projects in our societies. During the session with other areas, we discussed feedback from the two webinars on Rural Women's Day. Coordinators have to report to ACWW and the area president about their work, activities and donations raised. On the International Day of Rural Women ACWW President Magdie de Kock launched an appeal for donations to support ACWW projects under the motto "Strengthen Our Future". There will be a virtual auction.

November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. It marks day one of the 16 days of activism. During the 16 days of activism people around the world unite to raise awareness about gender-based violence, challenge discriminatory attitudes and call for improved laws and services to end violence against women for good.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

What is gender-based violence?

The term refers to all forms of violence directed at someone because of their gender. This includes acts that cause or could cause physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering including threats of harm or coercion, in public or in private life. It is most often used to refer to men's violence against women.

What are its drivers?

Research broadly shows that this type of violence happens as a result of gender inequality - a system where women and men do not have equal status, power, resources or opportunities in their society and are not valued or respected in the same way.

As a result, the drivers of this kind of violence are distinctly gendered. According to Our Watch, these are:

- 1. Condoning of violence against women**
When societies, institutions or communities support or condone violence against women, levels of such violence are higher.
- 2. Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public and private life**
This can happen in private relationships - where men who control decision-making, limit women's autonomy and hold rigid ideas on acceptable female behaviour are more likely to be violent - and in the public sphere - where men's greater control over power, resources and decision-making sends a message that women have less value and are therefore less worthy of respect.
- 3. Rigid gender stereotyping and dominant forms of masculinity**
Promoting these has the effect of reproducing the conditions that create gender inequality and underpins gendered violence.
- 4. Male peer relations and masculinity that emphasise aggression, dominance and control**

Statistics on gender-based violence

- In 2022, **60 women** were killed as a result of gender-based violence in Australia
- Globally, **five women or girls** are killed **every hour** by someone in their own family
- An estimated **736 million women** - almost one in three - have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life
- **26% of women aged 15 and older** have been subjected to intimate partner violence
- **24% of adolescent girls** who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner
- **16% of young women aged 15 to 24** have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in the past 12 months
- **Less than 40% of women** who experience violence seek help of any sort

How can I take part in the 16 Days of Activism campaign?

Listen and Learn
Find out more about gender-based violence, gender equality and ways to challenge problematic gender norms in our society.

Use Your Voice
Join in conversations on social media using the hashtag #16Days or #16Days 2023

Donate to a feminist cause
There are countless groups working for gender equality or women's rights. Consider helping their work with a donation.

8 In-Camera Session

Next Board Meeting Date: January 21st, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. with a view to setting meeting dates for the start of the fall session and determining committee chairpersons.

9 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved by Ann Mandziuk. Meeting adjourned by Debra Barrett at 11 a.m.

ACTIONS:

Action: Liz Chongva will look into booking a location. May 8th the Friday is when we are looking to have the AGM.

Action: Mallory to send the Budget working document to Marge.

Action: Debra will send Ann the three newsletter articles that she has already.

Action: Thelma to send the direct deposit form to Mallory.

Action: Mallory to send Debra the institute dissolution forms.