

**Questions that Victoria Club has posed for a response from CFUW National in light of recent announcements from GWI re dues increase.**

**I. If the CFUW membership decides to stay with GWI, how much will the CFUW dues be increased - C\$20 per person or more or less?**

Our operational budget for 2015-2016 is a deficit one requiring us to use the Reserve Fund monies to make up for the shortfall. The shortfall was due to several factors: decline in membership dues and the free-floating Swiss franc. CFUW must pay its dues to GWI in Swiss francs which became “unpegged” and caused us to pay \$8,700 more than we had forecasted when compounded by the depreciation of the Canadian dollar.

Membership dues to GWI must be paid in Swiss francs. In January 2015, the Swiss franc was unpegged from the Euro and, since that date has fluctuated but generally upwards. The Canadian dollar has also fluctuated but generally downwards. This means an increase in the funds CFUW has to submit to GWI to cover membership dues.

Over the past few years, CFUW has paid the following membership dues to GWI (in Canadian dollars):

- 2013: \$146,257
- 2014: \$152,836
- 2015: \$172,697 (While \$164,019 was allocated in the 2015-2016 budget, it was not enough and an additional \$8,700 more than forecasted was required.) In 2015-2016, GWI dues constituted 22% of our budget.
- 2016 estimate of GWI dues to be paid – \$176,042 (based on 8055 members at 1.41. exchange).
- Should the GWI dues increase of 30 CHF per capita be implemented, CFUW would pay \$338,310 in 2017. (This figure was arrived at by using the exchange rate of 1.40 on February 19, 2016 and the number of 8,055 CFUW degreed members for this year, Based on the CFUW estimated budget for 2016-2017 of \$718,255, the GWI dues would constitute 47% of CFUW’s annual budget).

Preliminary examinations indicate that CFUW will again have a deficit budget for 2016-2017. The CFUW Board of Directors has a fiduciary responsibility to oversee the financial well-being of the organization. CFUW will hold pre-budget consultations in the next few months to look at all alternatives – including a membership dues increase. Dues increases have been associated with a drop in membership so alternatives are being explored and we are asking members to be involved in this exploration. The plan is now being developed and we will circulate it in the near future. The Board will make every effort to ensure the viability of CFUW. The looming potential of a GWI dues increase and the timing of such an increase puts a much more urgent complexion on these discussions. The dues increase resolution indicates that the increased amount would begin in 2017, so we must introduce whatever change is considered appropriate by the members at the AGM this year.

It is fair to assume that, given the proposed dues increase is (roughly) twice what it is now – the dues, should that be the sole source of responding to the increase, would be double the previous amount.

Since the GWI fee for individual CFUW members will be doubled from about \$20 to about \$40 if the

fee increase proposal is accepted at the GWI Triennial this year, the amount paid by each of our CFUW members to National Office would have to increase by about \$20 just to look after the GWI fee increase.

## **II. If the CFUW membership decide to withdraw from GWI:**

### **1. What happens to the A. Vibert Douglas Fellowship/Scholarship?**

The A. Vibert Douglas Fellowship could continue and be administered by the CFUW's fellowships infrastructure. CFUW has always been an outward facing organization. CFUW is committed to education and this scholarship has been an important contribution for CFUW.

### **2. What happens to the Bina Roy Partners in Development?**

No effect. CFUW Clubs contribute and when there is a sufficient amount to warrant sending contributions by wire, as there are administrative costs, it is sent to GWI. Cheques are very costly for GWI to process and CFUW strives to use the most cost effective ways to transmit funds. Clubs could continue this practice should they chose

<http://www.graduatwomen.org/what-we-do/projects/brpid-project/>

### **3. What happens to the Hegg-Hoffett Fund?**

No effect. There are few contributions as of late and CFUW follows the same practice as with Bina Roy. Clubs could continue this practice should they chose.

### **4. What happens to our UN relationship?**

CFUW's membership in GWI has no relationship to our membership in the UN. CFUW has the exact same credentials at the United Nations as IFUW/GWI and AAUW (American Association of University Women). CFUW is not dependent in any way on IFUW/GWI for its credentials nor did AAUW lose theirs or their influence when they withdrew as an NFA. These credentials give CFUW identical rights as GWI whether it is attending meetings, signing onto statements by like-minded non-governmental agencies (NGOs), submitting a written statement, or applying to make an oral statement. NGOs are carefully vetted for outside associations but are accredited on their own merits.

### **5. Will CFUW still have an international liaison type person (VP) on the Board?**

Absolutely – we have many international obligations – including our work with the UN and MANY of our Clubs are involved in International work. We do not believe in isolationism and would seek to connect with other like-minded women and organizations.

### **6. Will the Canadian dues be reduced?**

This decision will be up to the membership.

### **7. Will the dues stay at the current level and the GWI portion put in a fund to:**

- a) build up reserves, and/or
- b) establish a project fund for national or individual club international initiatives – projects or partnerships with other organizations?
- c) or both?

Again – the members would decide. Notionally there would be a mechanism put in place over the next year to explore options and alternatives and members would be asked to decide on the alternative that they wished to pursue.

### **III. Would it be fair to say that IFUW/GWI has been in financial difficulties since 2004 at least?**

From CFUW's perspective, it probably has been an issue for much longer. For you to draw your own conclusions, it would be advisable to look at the IFUW/GWI financial statements which can be found at <http://www.fcfd.org/whoweare/ourstructure/graduatewomeninternational.aspx>

Visit GWI's [website](#) for more information.

With the following links:

View the [GWI's 2014 annual report](#)

View [IFUW's 2013 Annual report](#)

View GWI [Updates](#)

As Edith C. Batho's history of IFUW, *A Lamp of Friendship*, notes, finances have been a recurring issue for the Federation. As early as 1932 the American Association, began to find the payment of dues 'an issue of deferment'. In the later 1970s, they and CFUW had protracted negotiations with IFUW, together withholding dues for the previous triennium, until at the Vancouver AGM in 1980 when it was agreed to alleviate the dues for the two largest federates, AAUW and CFUW, from 18 francs per members to 15.5. With 12,109 members in 1980, CFUW's dues to be paid to IFUW were reduced by \$25,000. In 1997 AAUW and IFUW, reached a further agreement that their dues would be based on a sliding scale rather than a per-member fee and they were capped at 40 percent (CFUW is currently at 40% of the amount IFUW collects in dues) of the total IFUW budget. There was an agreement in 1997 to work on a long-term solution to IFUW's financial situation, however this work between AAUW and IFUW never took place and in 2004, when dues became approximately 5 percent of AAUW's budget, they left IFUW. This departure and loss of dues put more pressure on GWI's finances.

In March of 2015 CFUW asked for a similar process to look at long term solutions on dues and were refused by the GWI Board. CFUW asked for a task force to explore dues and were told that it was not appropriate.

As CFUW understands it, from reading GWI sources, the GWI reserves have been depleted. The 2014 audit said

"Without qualifying our examination conclusion, we refer to note 2 in the notes to the financial statements describing the International Federation of University Women's strategy and expected deficit for the next reporting period. In the event the return on investment from the long-term strategy implemented would take longer to occur than budgeted, it would call into question International Federation of University Women's ability to continue as a going concern. Should the Federation be unable to continue as a going concern, the financial statements would have to be prepared on the basis of liquidation values."

### **IV. There are currently two candidates running for CFUW Vice-President International – how is she chosen?**

The process is outlined in CFUW's Articles and Bylaws. In short, no members of the Board

are elected until the AGM. At the AGM there is a call for nominations from the floor (this process is relatively new – the first time was in 2014). At that time there is a vote by club voting delegates/club proxy.

Currently there are two candidates for VP International – but there could be multiple candidates for any position after the call for nominations from the floor.

The number of votes assigned to each Club is the same as for any other voting conducted at the AGM. Clubs normally instruct their voting delegate on how they wish her to vote on certain issues or they instruct her to vote based on information available at the AGM. As with other AGM business requiring a vote, Clubs with no delegate in attendance are strongly encouraged to continue the process of assigning a proxy and giving that person their instructions as to how they wish their votes to be cast.

Prior to the AGM, CFUW will distribute a circular on how this process works.