

## Communiqué- The Governance Task Force

During this first year of the Biennium, the Board has taken on a number of initiatives to improve the flow of information and to serve Clubs better. The Communications Task Force was the first step in trying to support and improve information flow to the Clubs. It recommended that the governance model for CFUW be streamlined and roles better defined to facilitate improved communications. There is some urgency in expediently making these changes since, given our structure, if changes are not made this year, they cannot be implemented for three years. Our membership has been falling, costs are rising and we need a structure that can meet these challenges.

The Governance Task Group, Elizabeth Haynes, Grace Stapleton, and Doris Mae Oulton have examined a number of models, undertaken a series of teleconferences, web conferences and interviews with stakeholders. A number of issues were raised, however the overall concern was that the strength of CFUW is in the Clubs and that everything needs to be done to ensure that they are strong, supported and growing. We believe that the Board's role is to give leadership to CFUW and to do so in a respectful and accountable way remembering that the roles of the Clubs are key.

**Recommendation One:** That CFUW move to a model of governance referred to as Complementary, where roles of the Board and Staff are more clearly defined, to facilitate healthier Board – Staff relationships and put the Board back in charge of the vision and policies that move CFUW forward using a harmonious and well run decision making process.

**Recommendation Two:** that the structure be amended in the following ways:

- Add an RD for both Ontario and BC where we have many Clubs and the distances are great.
- Establish an RD forum which is resourced to hold quarterly teleconferences and thus build a stronger cross Canada network. The President would participate in these forums and ensure, along with the VPs, that the issues of RDs are prominent for the Board.
- Establish an ongoing Governance Review Committee.
- Establish a strong committee structure where committees have clearly defined tasks.

**Recommendation Three:** that the Board be reduced by three positions

- Establish a VP of Advocacy: combine the three advocacy roles, education, legislation and status of women, where many of the issues overlap and a coordinated approach would be more effective. To ensure that the advocacy areas are well supported, each of these committees will also have a VP on them. (Atlantic, Prairies and Quebec – where the work loads are lighter).
- Move the Strategic Planning responsibility to the President
- Introduce the role of Vice President Communications and Corporate Secretary
- Move membership and resolutions to a committee structure. Membership will report to the VP Finance and Resolutions will report to the VP Advocacy.
- We would then have a ten member Board:

President	International VP
Five Regional VPs	Finance VP
Advocacy VP	Vice President Communications and Corporate Secretary

There will be a fall e mail vote: an on line forum and amendments will be received and considered.

August 22, 2009