

ANNUAL REPORT (2013)

CANADIAN WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN AT A GLANCE

BACKGROUND

Over fifteen years ago, the Taliban ruled Afghanistan with a closed mind and an iron fist. Women and girls lived a harsh reality marked by extreme poverty and oppression. They were chattel, seldom seen and never heard in a society dominated by men, and largely invisible to the outside world.

In 1996 **Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WAfghan)** was formed, bringing together the efforts of Canadians who are passionate about improving the lives of Afghan women and girls. CW4WAfghan is a not-for-profit organization with 13 volunteer chapters across Canada, as well as a non-religious, non-political, federally registered charity.

MEMBERS

Afghan and Canadian – believe that the path to true peace in Afghanistan is through education. To that end, they work to advance education and educational opportunities for Afghan women and their families, and to educate Canadians about human rights in Afghanistan.

MISSION

Canadians taking action, in partnership with Afghan women, towards improving conditions of human rights, ending women's oppression, and providing opportunities for Afghan women to live their lives with dignity, certainty and purpose.

VALUES

CW4WAfghan members believe that individuals, as global citizens, working in solidarity and with integrity of purpose and action, can affect positive change in the world through education and the promotion of social justice and human rights.

GOAL

To ensure effective long-term sustainable education programs for Afghan women and their families and to engage Canadians as global citizens.

STRUCTURE

- · Canadian Board of Directors with cross-Canada representation
- Project Management Team overseeing project and program design and performance, and project management committees
- · Afghanistan Country Office with 17 Afghan staff in Kabul

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Looking for information on the results of our work in Afghanistan? You will find all of that information in our separate **Impact Report** and on our web site at "PROGRAMS".



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 2013



Madeliene Tarasick, CW4WAfghan President

What a year it has been with unrelenting work across this country of the 13 chapters carrying on with a multitude of fund-raisers and activities to raise awareness and keep Afghanistan on the Canadian political and cultural landscape. The Lantern Fund has been launched to raise funds for the teacher-training program with much fanfare and early success. Our collective thanks goes to the leadership of Deborah Alexander and Irene MacDonald, as cochairs on this campaign. Deborah and Irene have spent many volunteer hours each day over this past year researching foundations, corporations and individuals both in Canada and the United States to find financial support. Our goal is to raise \$2



CW4WAfghan Board and Executive L-R: Back Row: Madeliene Tarasick, Lauryn Oates, Penny Christensen, Susan Hartley, Janice Eisenhauer, Janis Rapchuk, Front row: Ryan Aldred, Murwarid Ziayee, Dale Butterill, Marg Stewart (not shown: Irene MacDonald and Deborah Alexander).

million by 2018 for training 1,000 teachers each year.

In spite of the economic challenges in Canada as well as the shift in support due to the gradual withdrawal of troops, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan has prevailed, raising an astonishing cumulative total of over \$5.5 million since our inception--all earned with hard work, generous donors, persistence and love of Afghanistan. This successful fund raising would not have happened without the grassroots' support of the CW4WAfghan chapters and members, the many Breaking Bread dinner hosts and guests, and all of our generous donors who are committed to education for Afghan students.

The most stellar development for the organization this year was the grant of \$625,000 awarded by USAID, in conjunction with the Linda Norgrove Foundation in the UK. This grant is for the Afghanistan Reads! / Afghanistan Lowalee! Community Literacy and Libraries Program, covering program costs to move this program into more rural communities up to mid-2015. We are thrilled and honoured that John and Lorna Norgrove were able to join us for our annual VICTORIA 2013 Symposium in October.

The opportunity for all of us to gather in VICTORIA was such a special gift and an event we so eagerly anticipate each year. A huge thank you to Jill Leslie and her hard-working team from the



CW4WAfghan Delegates gather at the beautiful Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort, October 3-5, 2013

Victoria Chapter for hosting our annual symposium; a year of work by people who are already heavily committed to jobs, family obligations, and other undertakings. We also so much appreciate the generosity of our guest speakers who contributed their time, energy and expertise so willingly.

I can never say enough to acknowledge and thank our Executive Director, Janice Eisenhauer, who continues to be the very heart of our organization - as well as the brains and brawn as she works so relentlessly, and with such skill, on our behalf and on the behalf of the girls and women of Afghanistan. Likewise, we benefit so greatly from the excellence of Programs Director, Lauryn Oates and Country Director Murwarid Ziayee, who

implement our vision and keep us attuned to realities. My thanks to them and my fellow Board of Directors who are indomitable in their work and continue to be an inspiration for all.

Thank you for the efforts of all of our CW4WAfghan members and for those able to join together in Victoria. The annual symposium enables us to reconnect with each other and recommit to our mission in Afghanistan. It is my great privilege and honour to work with our members.

Together, we can, and do, achieve the unachievable. Madeliene Tarasick, President



Janice Eisenhauer, CW4WAfghan Executive Director

Reflecting over the highlights this past twelve months as Executive Director of CW4WAfghan, the word "relationships" is constantly on my mind. It has been a fascinating year of making new relationships and strengthening long term ones, both here at home and around the world. The time that we have invested in sharing and building relationships is at the heart of our effectiveness as a dynamic organization.

My own relationships this year cover a wide gamut of people...including

those key individuals at the core of our organization. They

play a big part in keeping us all focused, motivated and inspired every single day. First is Penny Christensen, our Financial Officer. Without her clarity, ethical and skilled leadership, we could not have the quality level of financial management we enjoy today at CW4WAfghan. Regardless of the daily workload and challenges, she just digs in and gets the job done. We can have great confidence with Penny at the helm of our finances. Thank you Penny!

And half-a-world-away, we have another key relationship with our CW4WAfghan staff, under the leadership of Murwarid CW4WAfghan's director. Thanks to her determined and professional direction in Afghanistan, we have seen a very effective staff team

develop over the past four years. Needless to say, without this pillar of strength in each and every staff member in Kabul, we could not undertake the quality programs we currently enjoy. We all benefit greatly by our seamless teamwork and friendships.

Back here in Canada, there is a remarkable relationship of some 17 years with our Programs Director, Lauryn Oates. It is impossible to sum up the efforts and skills that Lauryn brings to our organization. Lauryn is---in a nutshell---our communication specialist, the author of proposals, program and funding reports, the advocacy strategist, the staff liaison, our media spokesperson, keynote speaker, chapter co-chair and our human resources manager. And all the while, she is kept extremely busy as our main liaison with our Kabul office and in managing, monitoring and overseeing all of our programs. Lauryn jumps in with vigor and skill to tackle any task we set as



Murwarid Ziayee, Country Director with student and Madeliene Tarasick, CW4WAfghan President

a priority. This has been another stellar year and we all share a sense of privilege working together.

I've so enjoyed working with all of our board of directors including Madeliene and Dale on governance work, Marg, Janis and Ryan over many SKYPE calls, and Sue who invited me to Halifax this past May to present to her chapter. All of our board members are forever supportive and readily available to assist our staff and members.

Back across the pond, I'd like to highlight a new important relationship that has been unfolding this past year with John and Lorna Norgrove. We are extremely pleased they would come all the way to Victoria from the Isle of Lewis in Scotland and join us for our annual symposium. How better to understand the core values and key challenges and successes of our efforts than to be

part of our symposium. It sincerely is an honour and a pleasure for our members in Canada and our Afghan staff in Kabul to have this opportunity to work in partnership with the Linda Norgrove Foundation. This relationship rests solidly upon our shared passion, commitment and goals towards universal human rights in Afghanistan.

Together we honour another successful year for CW4WAfghan. I am proud to know each and every chapter member. It is our strong relationships that are the threads binding us together with our Afghan friends and colleagues, and more broadly with the people of Afghanistan with whom we strive to support.

We hope to see you all in MANITOBA in October 2014!

Janice Eisenhauer, Executive Director



Thank you for your **MEMBERSHIP and GENEROUS DONATIONS**

We are very encouraged by the long-term support Canadians have demonstrated towards our volunteer efforts to advance education for Afghan women and girls.

Because Human Rights Are Universal!

Every donation, large and small, collectively contributes to our ability to implement, manage and sustain our quality education programs each year. Due to privacy laws in Canada, we are unable to list all donors without written approval. Please know that your donation is greatly appreciated and at the core of our success and sustainability.

Thank you to all

OUR GENEROUS DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Breaking Bread Dinner Hosts and Guests

Deborah Ellis: Parvana Fund Book Royalties

Linda Norgrove Foundation, UK

Canada Helps, Monthly and Annual Donors

CW4WAfghan Board and Chapter Members

CW4WAfghan Lantern Fund Teacher Training Program Donors

CW4WAfghan Lantern Fund Honorary Chair, Sally Armstrong

CW4WAfghan School Library and Science Kit Donors

Meet an Inspiring CW4WAfghan Volunteer: Belly-Dancing Anne!

Belly Dance FUN and FUNdraising – Hey, it's not what you think!

And that's exactly what I call this awareness workshop for the Teacher's Salary Project, an empowering session through an ancient art form, as it truly is, not-what-you-think!

I was asked to share my fundraising adventure as it has now been five years since starting in March 2008 and \$22,500 in donations raised! What can I say but I'm just as surprised as you at this amount; people, I guess, like to throw money at belly dancers, feminist ones at that! Old ones too. I'm 60! (The henna-coloured hair helps.)

It all started with my belly dance teacher. She organized a "Breaking Bread for Afghan Women" dance workshop with food and donations. I took this idea and made it my own. I ask a flat fee of \$30, that way no one says no because of the money and they get a tax receipt. Then I ask permission to put out a basket for any additional loonies, toonies or more. Almost always, \$100 is donated. I bring all coin belts, veils, and tambourines to workshop sites, most often people's homes. We just dance around the furniture. I bring the CD player too and print info about CW4WAfghan. The workshop is 45 minutes long with 20 minutes of talking, history of belly dance and the story of our CW4WAfghan and 20 minutes of

follow-the-leader dance lesson, with five minutes in between for dress-up!

The pictures pretty much explain it. If you have a share-able interest, like cooking or a fitness activity, think about fundraising in this way yourself. Here's a list I prepared for a social justice workshop.





Birthday celebrations ... with a goal to fundraise for education

TOP TEN HOW-TO IDEAS FOR SUCCESSFUL ON-GOING FUNDRAISING FROM:

"It's-not-what-you-think" Bellydance Fundraiser for Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan

- Think about a particular skill, interest or activity that lends itself to sharing
- Choose the organization that you want to support and let them know
- Start small. "Practice" your event for free with a sympathetic group(s) until you feel comfortable or it feels like a beloved hobby
- Make the fee/donation affordable, such as around \$30.
 Tax receipts are issued for this amount. Put out a basket for any additional donations.
- Talk about the organization and your story how you got to a fundraising place – it interests people and it may inspire someone else
- 6. Book-keeping, keep it simple and up-to-date

- 7. Send thank you notes
- If the fundraiser grows, get business cards, or if "techy", a website
- Distance rule-of-thumb, keep it do-able, i.e., a 40 minute drive
- Remember the words of a Swedish activist: "Don't mourn, [a sad situation in the world] organize! But have some fun doing so!"

What an AGM!

VICTORI-US!

Your S.I.S. (sister in social justice),

Belly D-Anne-cing!

Anne, Waterloo

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

In Canada, our CW4WAfghan members have ongoing public engagement, education and fundraising activities. These activities include organizing public events; supplying expert speakers and making presentations to adult and youth groups; participating in local fundraising initiatives; and networking with social justice groups around the world. Below is a summary of the highlights of this past year's chapter activities:

Atlantic: The highlight of the year for many of our members, was attending the Annual 2012 ATLANTIC Symposium hosted by the Atlantic Chapter in October (see full details in the CW4WAfghan Atlantic Newsletter and Impact Report 2012). The Atlantic chapter members also hosted the four

CW4WAfghan Afghan Master Trainers during their three-week visit to Canada meeting fellow educators and students at local schools, colleges, universities and community centres. The Atlantic team members also supported the Little Women youth in their presentation to Pictou County schools. The Atlantic Chair and Board member, Susan Hartley presented several lectures to International Education students at UPEI. Susan, Carm Bailey, Judy Burton and other chapter volunteer members organized or participated in a number of community events, Breaking Bread dinners and book clubs in PEI and NS throughout the year. Afghan marketplaces are set up as part of the events and imported products are sold throughout the year. It was a very rewarding and successful year for Atlantic members.



Some of the many dedicated Oakville/CSAW members from Ontario attending Victoria 2013



Calgary: Irene MacDonald's team of volunteers hosted their 10th Annual Breaking Bread fundraiser, with guest speaker Sally Armstrong, raising \$80,000! Calgary Chapter members attended several other Breaking Bread dinners as speakers throughout the year. Lorna Dodd looks after all product sales across Canada and she hosted many information booths at Holiday Peace Fairs and community and school events. Calgary Chapter executive team members are Devan Kublik, Chair, Celia Rushford, Secretary and Lorna Dodd, Treasurer. They oversee regular chapter meetings and arrange for guest speakers and community events including the sale of products. Lorna oversees the importing of products for the National Chapter network. A chapter event was a presentation by Wayne Hanan, army reserve officer who had recently returned from Kabul where he oversaw basic literacy training for Afghan recruits. The chapter also held a volunteer appreciation dinner with guest speaker, Ashaque Khan, recipient of the 2012 Champion Award.

Edmonton: Members participated in their fourth "Just Christmas" annual craft sale in Nov 2012. In Mar 2013, they hosted an event with author Sally Armstrong at the University of Alberta. Chapter members were able to contribute \$4,000 to the Lantern Fund as a result of their efforts throughout the year in raising awareness and fundraising. The Edmonton team is looking for new members to join the chapter.

Grande Prairie: The chapter representatives continued to meet monthly and held three events to fundraise and to raise awareness through reaching out to their community over the past year. Members held their annual Christmas sale at the local farmers market in December. They also held an Afghan Canadian evening with Afghan-Canadians speaking to the group, as well as a silent auction featuring Afghan products and books. Members set up a booth and presented at the local library featuring books by Deborah Ellis (Kids in Kabul) as well as the Little Women for Little Women book (*Through Our Eyes*).

Kingston/C4WA: In May 2013, Canadians for Women in Afghanistan hosted its Annual Fundraising Gala, Celebrating Afghanistan, featuring author Dr. Sharifa Sharif. This dinner was a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the chapter and was a very successful event. Also in May, board members Madeliene Tarasick and Marg Stewart travelled to Afghanistan to witness first-hand the benefits of their members' efforts. The Kingston Chapter has raised \$153,000 over the last decade to hire and train teachers in Afghanistan and support many other projects benefitting women and children. The chapter members had another busy year of presenting at schools and community groups, setting up Afghan Marketplaces, and working with diverse groups and individuals who are supporting the chapter. The membership of the chapter fluctuates but currently includes 20 members, male and female, from the education and other sectors. New members are welcome at any time.



Manitoba: The Manitoba Chapter was founded in 2006. This fiscal year members held a very successful fundraising event in October 2012 and raised \$14,000! The event included a silent auction and authentic Afghan cuisine, with a play presented by chapter member, Talia Pura's called 'Cry after Midnight', as well as the documentary film, Boxing Girls of Kabul. In March of 2013, several members representing CW4WAfghan marched in solidarity with other women and women organizations on International Women's Day. In June of 2013, a presentation was made to 190 students at a local school's gala night with \$1300 donation proceeds going to CW4WAfghan. Other chapter activities included participating in Run for Rights, organized by Amnesty International's Winnipeg Chapter, and numerous talks and showings of 'Cry After Midnight' at the Women Playwrights International Conference (WPIC), FemFest, University of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The Manitoba Chapter's success is due to a committed core group of members who are dedicated to universal human rights for Afghan women and girls. They have worked closely with the new Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Members are busy planning to host the 2014 CW4WAfghan Symposium.



Manitoba chapter members – International Women's Day March 2013

Oakville/CSAW: Our affiliated group, Canadians in Support of Afghan Women will become a formal chapter of CW4WAfghan next year. Welcome all! We look forward to continuing our work together with our strong, shared commitment to our goals and objectives. This 2012-2013 fiscal year started with CSAW members Liz Watson, Ann Galioto, Dale Butterill, Susanne Sweatman, and Linda Middaugh attending the CW4WAfghan Atlantic Symposium in Pictou, NS in October 2012. CSAW members met regularly to plan and undertake their many awareness raising and fundraising activities. In addition to giving presentations throughout the year, they set up information tables, and marketplaces to sell books and Afghan goods. Samples of many of the events this past year included: the Eden Mills Writers Festival; St. Mark's Community Festival; Appleby

College "Harvest Colours;" attending an event in Port Elgin/ Southampton; the C.J.'s café Thanksgiving fundraiser; Courtright United Church; Forestview Church; McMaster University Fair Trade; and Unitarian Congregation of Mississauga. Member Liz Watson attended the Brampton BPW dinner representing CSAW and with Bev LeFrancois, she attended and spoke to four Rotary International groups in Brampton. Liz spoke in Toronto at OISE to the Humanist group, and presented at Morden Road School to grade 7 and 8 students. Linda Middaugh spoke at the Daytimes' group of the Unitarian Congregation of Mississauga as well as the ETFO annual women teachers' conference "And Still We Rise." Member Sheila Zanyk held a second fundraiser with her students at Kortright School in Guelph raising \$770 and selling over \$300 in Afghan goods. A CSAW event was held at St. John's Church, Oakville with keynote speaker, journalist Mellissa Fung, raising over \$8,000 with 230 people in attendance. CSAW was part of the WHAM and Zonta Oakville's IWD Dinner Party event raising \$13,500. Members also hosted an informal evening with author, Dr. Sharifa Sharif.

CSAW Member Linda Middaugh went to Afghanistan with other members of CW4WAfghan for 12 days visiting Kabul and Herat. A life changing experience! Upon her return, she spoke to the annual dinner of the Hamilton Wentworth ETFO Status of Women committee including photos, info about her trip to Afghanistan, receiving a \$2,000 donation. Congratulations to Barbara Wood, Bev LeFrancois, Christine Vasilaros, Daniela Jansson, Famia Haidry and Liz Watson who all received Ontario Volunteer Service Awards!

Okanagan/LW4LW: Alaina Podmorow reflects on the past year: "As we come to a close of our 2012/2013 year, it is hard to believe that we are heading into our 7th year as Little Women. This year has been exciting and challenging and the most difficult one for me personally but also a year full of lessons, growth and gifts. September 2012 began with a return from Afghanistan, a trip that has forever changed me. I had the opportunity to see the projects first hand and the incredible and successful work of CW4WAfghan. I came home rejuvenated and driven to continue the work and share what I had seen and experienced with my community both locally and globally". In October, LW4LW member Cassie Hinchliffe and Alaina attended the Atlantic symposium and gave presentations and events at local schools. Alaina travelled to New York and spoke at the UN as ambassador for Canada for Day of the Girl Child. Since then, it has been a challenging year for Alaina dealing with health issues but she is most thankful for the wonderful support of her family and the Little Women members Cassie, Jordan, Hayley, Rachel and Sydney. LW members continue to work with Alaina at community outreach in schools and community events, including the annual Global Citizen Kelowna; the Taste of Home, an International event of foods and performances

from all over the world, and showing their poetry exhibit "Though Our Eyes." Alaina also gave the keynote address for the Annual Millennium Development Goal Challenge. In April, LW4LW hosted a wonderful fundraising event: "A Night with Sally Armstrong" which was very well attended by Kelowna. Thanks to a matched donation offer by Disney Interactive, with the LW4LW members undertook a 50-day challenge and with the help of Banff Chapter spearheaded by LW4LW member, Jemima Maycock, they raised a grand total of \$21,210 in 50 days! Education=Peace, Visit their LW4LW Facebook Page to keep updated: www.facebook.com/LW4LW

Ottawa: The Ottawa chapter has been growing over the past year and is appreciative of the support of all their members, including Elieen Oliuk, former CIDA head of mission in Afghanistan who has provided guidance and support for CW4WAfghan in Ottawa. Members held a successful Breaking Bread event and hosted a public event with CW4WAfghan's Country Director, Murwarid Ziayee as guest speaker in October Members also participated in three fair-trade events and hosted a booth at an Iranian New Year's (Nawruz) celebration fair. Members held a successful IWD event in March, and spoke at two high schools where students were keenly interested in women's rights.



The Ottawa chapter Mahshaz, Najia, Nancy, Helen, Asiyeh, Jennifer and Eileen dance to celebrate a successful fundraising event celebrating Nawrooz. Great energy. Great teamwork. A very special thanks is extended to Eileen for her continued leadership and stewardship to make this event happen

Peterborough: Members of the Peterborough chapter work throughout the year to engage Peterborough residents, nurture involvement, plan activities and seek support from the local community. In October, Daphne Ingram and Soriya Basir attended and participated in the annual symposium in New Glasgow, NS and in November the chapter hosted a community dinner where Soriya spoke about the conference and the teacher training program supported by the Lantern Fund. Peterborough

hosts a three-day documentary film festival (ReFrame) at the end of January and the chapter sponsored a film on Afghanistan and sold Afghan products there. In April, Peterborough members joined in the third annual Red Pashmina Campaign (RPC) Walk, an initiative to "Celebrate, Connect and Inspire." The RPC raises funds to support and share stories of Afghan women and to foster both a local and global community of empowered, successful individuals. It was a beautiful spring day for the short 3 km walk over the river and along the trail in downtown Peterborough. There were approximately 45 walkers including Grade 6 students who had been reading Deborah Ellis' The Breadwinner trilogy. Walkers who had raised pledges of \$70 or more received a free pashmina scarf and \$4977 was sent to CW4WAfghan for their projects. Maryam Monsef talked about plans for the Red Pashmina Campaign and donated a cheque for \$4,500 to the CW4WAfghan Lantern Fund. This was money raised from the sale of pashminas over the winter months.

Saskatchewan: On February 21, 2013, SIAST Kelsey Campus hosted 54 guests for a lunch buffet of wonderful Afghan food to raise money for CW4WAfghan. The students and instructors in the Hotel and Restaurant Management (HRM) Program did a fabulous job of preparing a nice variety of tasty Afghan dishes and luncheon guests were very impressed with the selection and quality of the food. Event organizers, Grace Carney and Laurel Marsh, have hosted a total of seven Breaking Bread events in cooperation with the Food Services Department at SIAST since 2006. This event raised for CW4WA to \$1050 bringing the total amount donated since 2006 to more than \$21,000! Organizers are very grateful to the SIAST community.



Saskatchewan Members annual fundraiser: SIAST Food Services Department

The Saskatchewan Chapter is managed by Rita Priestley. In May, members hosted a conference in conjunction with the provincial chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG). This conference was a vehicle to provide information to members and to

reach a broader audience. The conference attracted more than 90 participants. CW4WAfghan Vancouver member, Qudsia Karimi brought the group to its feet in a standing ovation with the powerful sharing of her personal story. Lauryn Oates, CW4WAfghan Programs Director, inspired those assembled with the story of her journey from rebellious teen to passionate human rights advocate. Feedback has been very positive and 12 attendees took out memberships in CW4WAfghan. As well, a Garden Party Breaking Bread event was organized at the end of August in Regina. The event was well attended and raised some \$2200.

Vancouver: The Vancouver chapter has had another busy year. In September the members set up a booth to share information, raise awareness and sell Afghan products at the Afghan Cultural Heritage Days held at Confederation Park in Burnaby. There were about 400 in attendance and the event included guest speakers, food, a great band, dancing, and a fashion show. Jan Cameron (Chair) and Susan Pinkham (Treasurer) attended the ATLANTIC Symposium in October 2012. The chapter once again had a room at the annual "Christmas at Hycroft" " community event in Vancouver in November, where the chapter has been participating for the past seven years. In March, the chapter organized its second Nawruz event (Afghan new year) and member, Barb McMillan hosted a BB at her lovely home in Horseshoe Bay where chapter members set up a marketplace. Lauryn Oates was invited to give a presentation at a fundraising dinner for CW4WAfghan held at Dunbar United Church in June, and products were sold at the marketplace. The chapter members continue to work together to identify volunteer roles, responsibilities and look at opportunities for succession planning and membership growth and involvement.

Victoria: Members Amanda and Jill attended the Atlantic Symposium in October 2012. The Victoria Chapter then took on the challenge of planning and organizing to host the VICTORIA 2013 symposium. This has been a great experience for the Chapter – everyone has played a constructive part and we received lots of volunteer help for the event. Members were busy with planning but also organized events such as the "Drop In" event and annual Garden Party, both of which were well received and generated over \$1000 each. Afghan products were sold at the VIDEA Fair Trade Fair in November and the Sooke Little Women students sold their own handmade crafts at the Sooke Christmas Fair. This was their third year, so their hard work and persistence is admirable. The Chapter has had some very congenial potlucks and other meetings. Members entertained the Afghan students from Pearson College in Fall 2012, and in July 2013 invited Corey Levine to speak at a meeting about her experience working for the UN in Afghanistan. Lauryn Oates visited Victoria in April to receive an award of Alumni Excellence from Royal Roads University. While in Victoria, Lauryn gave the Chapter a briefing on CW4WAfghan programs that was useful

and inspiring. Victoria members have been working with the Middle Schools to set up a Schools Kit Challenge to raise funds for the CW4WAfghan School Starter Kit project for science and mini libraries. So far three schools have signed on and two have raised \$750 each to purchase a small school library kit. The Chapter is doing well and with lots of positive energy and activities throughout the year.

Congratulations to Lauryn Oates receiving the Royal Roads Alumni Leadership **Award** By Pauline T, Victoria Chapter



Spring 2013 Royal Roads Alumni Leadership Award winner,Lauryn Oates pictured here with President Allan Cahoon

Victoria members in attendance felt it was a perfect event, focusing on the accomplishments of Lauryn as recipient of the Alumni Leadership Award. There was a very considerable turn out of representatives from the community, RRU and other distinguished alumni. It was a great honour for our Victoria members to attend and to support Lauryn. She gave an excellent speech and praised the work of CW4WAfghan and chapter efforts and ongoing contributions over the years.

Lauryn is a human rights activist whose work concentrates on international development, women's rights and education in conflict zones. She has worked throughout the developing world, but particularly in Afghanistan, where she has travelled extensively over the course of about 40 trips since 2003. A colleague writes, "Lauryn Oates is a remarkable and inspiring young woman. We welcome this recognition through the Royal Roads Alumni Award to honour her achievements and to demonstrate the power and importance of one single individual's passion and commitment towards achieving universal human rights." Lauryn earned her MA from Royal Roads in Human Security and Peacebuilding in 2006.

Congratulations to Janice Eisenhauer, recipient of the WUSC Lewis Perinbam **Award 2013**

CW4WAfghan's Executive Director, Janice Eisenhauer was awarded The Lewis Perinbam Award for individuals who make a noteworthy volunteer contribution to international development. Janice received the award at the WUSC Gala and International Forum held in Ottawa November 1, 2013. The award specifically recognizes significant volunteer efforts that improve people's lives in the developing world, actions that engage and inspire Canadians to undertake volunteer action and new ways of thinking and/or addressing development challenges. Lewis Perinbam, O.C. (1925-2007) was admired and appreciated for his vast contributions to Canadian participation in development.



Janice Eisenhauer in Ottawa at the WUSA annual gala to receive the Lewis Perinbam Award 2013

Beautiful BC, well planned sessions and the opportunity to connect with inspiring advocates... What a surreal experience. Thank you all for reminding me that together, we are writing a powerful story of change.

Maryam, Peterborough

Wonderful experience with a feeling of continued tangible progress being made, not only in numbers but in overall confidence in the organization and the Afghan people. Many thanks to the Victoria chapter for a very welcoming and well orchestrated weekend.

Reine, Kingston

Before this Canadian trip our knowledge of CW4WAfghan was limited to a name, hundreds of emails and a skype call to Janice at her office. Now we have met you all, have a much better idea of the dynamics of your organisation and, above all, after attending the conference, can understand better the passion and commitment that you share which turns the indignation that you feel regarding the situation of women in Afghanistan into real programmes which help so many. Lorna was especially touched by all of you who came to support her with her run in support of LNF. Together we will achieve great things. It was an inspiring couple of days and we have returned to the UK weary from travelling but strangely energised. Thank you,

John and Lorna

Constantly trying to understand this complex country, all of us as members of CW4WAfghan recognize that our work together is challenging. But as we heard this weekend, there are so many positive changes. Everyday in Afghanistan another woman learns the beauty of opening a book, sharing a story with her children. A young girl enters her classroom eager for her teacher to start the day's learning I've always enjoyed a quote from author Sally Armstrong our speaker last evening, when she told us, as part of our work, the seeds of human rights have been planted in Afghanistan. It is thanks to these many relationships of caring individuals, who demonstrate through their own ongoing commitment, their strengths, passion, skills and determination ... that these seeds are blossoming today and every day for the women and girls in Afghanistan. Thank you all.

Janice, Calgary

What a beautiful setting provided in Victoria, British Columbia for our Annual Symposium. The energy of approximately 100 delegates and local supporters helps to ignite the resolve of the organization to carry on doing the important work of supporting Afghan girls and women. The following are highlights of the 2 ½ days:

Our annual symposium was not just a great hotel, excellent food, spectacular view, and superb organization. The symposium was a much-needed emotional boost for the year ahead. The speakers all contributed--raising our understanding of rural Afghan

women, making us aware of the power of youth, knowing the truth of why others care. Sally Armstrong and Lauryn Oates were the usual stalwarts telling it like it is and still inspiring us to keep on with what we have started. Of course there were some tears, but also thousands more smiles and even some belly laughs. What an extraordinary group of people coming together once a year to share what works, what doesn't, and what more needs to be done. No wonder I am already looking forward to 2014 Winnipeg.

Janis, Calgary

NOTE ADDRESS: THE EDUCATION WAGER, BY LAURYN OATES, **GRAMS DIRECTOR**





Lauryn Oates did not fail to deliver, once again, a keynote address which left the delegates spellbound and inspired to carry on the important work of educating women and girls in Afghanistan. In her opening, she set the stage by asserting that the work in Afghanistan will be decisive in determining (1) the future security and stability of the planet as a whole, (2) how state building is addressed in the future, and (3) in how changing the status of women contributes to global security. She then unequivocally stated her premise that the solution to many of the world's problems can be resolved with a solution which is "well worth fighting for", "obtainable" and "already underway right now - it's education. And specifically, the education of women and girls." She went on to assert that educating females offers the best hope to build the kind of society we would all want to live in, "This is my wager, the education wager, and I'm ready to bet everything on it".

Lauryn's address then went on to provide a myriad of metrics to support her premise, beginning with the survey of Afghanistan households to monitor progress on the Millennium Development Goals. While there were many regional disparities, one striking indicator emerged - the mother's education level. "The more educated a mother is, the more likely she is:

- · to give birth with medical assistance, and therefore more likely to survive;
- · to register the births of her children, to marry later and give
- · to have children who are attending school, who are vaccinated:
- to have children who are well nourished, and who survive infancy and then childhood;
- · to have children who are less likely to be involved in child labour;







- to have access to water and adequate sanitation facilities;
- · to be wealthier, healthier; and
- to likely live longer and have children who live longer."

These metrics are the foundation for the staggering impact on a nation's unsustainable population growth, and a nation's economic prosperity. Lauryn provided extensive data to support this claim, and quoted one study, which found that "there is a strong and highly significant link between state security and women. In fact, the very best predictor of a state's peacefulness is not its level of wealth, its level of democracy, or its ethnoreligious identity; the best predictor of a state's peacefulness is how well its women are treated."

Lauryn went on to convincingly and passionately affirm the vital importance of the work of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan to be a strong force in helping women and girls in Afghanistan be better educated – not only for their human rights, but for their own futures, the future of their nation, and as a part of a better future for the planet. Delegates were left with no doubt of the veracity of Lauryn's wager---the Education Wager--- and with the passion to help make this wager a reality.

For the full text of Dr. Oates' keynote address to the VICTORIA 2013 Symposium, see the Newsletter section on our website: www:CW4WAfghan.ca

MADELIENE AND MARG: OUR ADVENTURES IN AFGHANISTAN

In May 2013, President, Madeliene Tarasick travelled with other members to Afghanistan for her first time. She writes:

My travel to Kabul with fellow members Marg Stewart, Mariam Omar, and Linda Middaugh, led so skillfully by our Programs Director Lauryn Oates, and Country Director, Murwarid Ziayee, was a highlight of the year, and in fact, a highlight of my life. The trip was accompanied and chronicled by journalist Mellissa Fung providing material for her article in the 10th Anniversary edition of The Walrus, as well as a 20 minute documentary to air on CBC's: The National. The opportunity to meet our Afghan partners, and many of the

children and young women who are our beneficiaries, provided a powerful and poignant impetus to carry on our work with even more passion and resolve.

One special highlight was the opportunity for Marg Stewart and myself to re-connect with our gifted Afghan teacher trainers, hearkening back to our first introduction to them in 2012 at the symposium in Pictou County, NS. While in Kabul, we provided a training session, assisted by Linda Middaugh, and Mariam Omar who helped to translate. It was wonderful to interact with our Afghan teachers and focus on pedagogy and the sharing of ideas and best practices.



Madeliene Tarasick, CW4WAfghan President visiting classrooms



Meeting with Afghan Teacher Trainers

SESSION: SHARING OUR STORIES

"Why do we tell stories? The head does not hear until the heart listens."



Barbara McMillan, left (AllAboutImpact.org) with keynote speaker, Marnie Gustavson

Barbara McMillan facilitated this Storytelling Workshop and helped Delegates understand that we all have important stories to tell. Barbara McMillan is very skillful in putting our Delegates at ease while being able to bring out their 'inner-leader.' Our Delegates gained confidence and understanding of the importance of being strategic and intentional in the use of our storytelling, to better articulate our mandate of advancing education for Afghan women and girls. She encouraged each of us to value our own stories and to develop and use simple techniques and new skills to share them. We hope Barbara will agree to lead a session at every annual symposium. Thank you Barbara.

The stories touch people and humanizes the work by, for example, making us aware that we are more alike than different. The stories take us to our emotional centres and make it clear

why we do this work. The stories can be found in many forms, including: annual reports and newsletters, photos, social media, website, poetry, presentations, song and art forms. Barbara took the Delegates through a number of presentations by our members to showcase examples of our storytelling, why we care, what stories are important, and how to be both specific and general in our storytelling. Using a Pecha Kucha model of presentation where a speaker is given 20 slides at 20 seconds each to present, we heard from:

Mariam Omar (MANITOBA Chapter) as an Afghan-Canadian, Mariam returned to Afghanistan for the first time since she was young and she shared with Delegates her impressions of Kabul, and outlined in her perfectly-managed Pecha Kucha presentation where the stories are (testimonial, comments from people affected, every-day events and activities, heartfelt and imaginative stories, documenting/capturing her experiences, making her story accessible) and when should stories be told (reaching the public; in recognition of donors; to promote dialogue on difficult issues; help people remember, everywhere!....remember 3 foot rule: any person within 3 feet of you, then tell a story).

Linda Middaugh (OAKVILLE Chapter) recently traveled to Afghanistan and shared her experiences. Linda's story helped us make the important connections to the fieldwork, and to our donors and communities. Her presentation modeled for Delegates areas of storytelling, such as: "Who should tell the stories (leaders, all staff, volunteers, donors, clients, members, community partners); What makes a good story (credibility, connection, conviction); How to tell stories (ethically, authentically, relevant, compelling); Why a story is good (strong lead and story line, appropriate context, honest, direct, call to action, defining relationships).

Marg Stewart (KINGSTON Chapter) told of her adventures in Afghanistan on her first trip there in May 2013. Marg shared beautiful images with her presentation to highlight how to select the material and be clear with your objective in telling the story, know what message needs to be given, how to frame the message to be heard and what experiences best illustrate the messages.

Our conference was nothing short of amazing. It was so 'emotional' really, hearing from world class speakers who are there, on the ground in Afghanistan, and telling such a different story than the usual sound bites of total disaster and hopelessness you hear on mainstream news channels. I felt, when I was sitting there, that people like Hillary Clinton could have been in that room, listening to as close and authentic perspectives as you could hope to get, on so many angles of the situation.

Bev, Victoria



Kabul: Kingston Board Members Marg Stewart and Madeliene Tarasick, with CW4WAfghan's Programs Director Lauryn Oates presenting Certificate to Afghan Student who is a recipient of financial assistance for school expenses from the Shafia/Mohammad Memorial Fund

Daphne Ingram (PETERBOROUGH Chapter) explained the work of their local chapter and the successful year of activities and fundraising. Her stories about the Red Pashmina Campaign and local chapter activities helped Delegates to relate to their own experiences, gave them ideas for their own work, showed creative ways to involve volunteers, and her presentation demonstrated where stories can be both found and told ... in schools and communities, during meetings and with members at events. Her stories showed the passion and commitment that is needed to succeed.

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REFLECTIONS ON THE VICTORIA 2013 SYMPOSIUM

What I took away from the Symposium,

by Susan Hartley, Board Member and Atlantic Chapter Chair

The Annual Symposium is our time to reconnect and rediscover the strength that lies in our collective power. For me, personally, it is an opportunity to further shrink the distance between my experience on this globe and that of the Afghan women we stand beside. At this year's symposium in Victoria it became clear to me that the chemistry found in the story telling and the relationships we share is what continues to shrink this distance.

Throughout the weekend we heard stories and told stories; we experienced relationships and we witnessed relationships. These threads ran through Lauryn Oates' keynote address on Friday and Marnie Gustavson's presentations on Saturday. And they were powerfully present when the panel of young women spoke to us from their experiences, wisdom and hope. Having the opportunity to run or walk with Lorna and John Norgrove and to hear their story was both poignant and inspiring.

For me the stories and the relationships were powerful because not only do we hear them and see them, but we experience them emotionally and it is at that level that we move away from abstraction (and distance) to shared compassion, empathy, and understanding. Mariam, Madeliene, Marg, and Linda shared this so well when they spoke of their journey to Afghanistan.

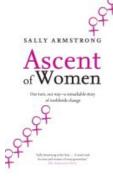
The story of our organization also ran through the weekend as we reflected on the past five years and planned for the next five. What stayed with me most is how CW4WAfghan has matured into an internationally recognized organization with expertise

that brings us global partners such as PARSA and The Norgrove Foundation.

Susan Hartley

VICTORIA 2013 Sally Armstrong, Guest Speaker





Thank you to our dinner speaker, Sally Armstrong. The guests were deeply inspired by the stories shared from Sally's new book Ascent of Women, and how women around the world create change in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Author Sally Armstrong is a three-time Amnesty International Canada award winner, a member of the Order of Canada, the holder of seven honorary degrees, a teacher, journalist and human rights activist. She is the Honorary Chair of CW4WAfghan's Lantern Fund: Teacher Training for Afghanistan. Sally is the bestselling author of Veiled Threat: The Hidden Power of the Women of Afghanistan (2002); Bitter Roots, Tender Shoots: The Uncertain Fate of Afghanistan's Women (2008); and Ascent of Women (2013).

YOUTH CHANGE MAKERS



Youth presenters: Friba Rezayee, Maryam Monsef, Maryam Sahar (not in photo Cassie Hinchcliffe and Noorjahan Akbar)

This was one of the favourite sessions as Delegates were inspired to hear from dynamic youth working to bring to life their visions for an Afghanistan filled with peace, justice and quality education for all. We often speak of how Canadians typically only hear the negative side of the story of Afghanistan via the media, and this session gave us a chance to learn about the many positive changes taking place, and the level of activity of youth. Participants were: Noorjahan Akbar (via SKYPE), Maryam Monsef, Alaina Podmorow, Friba Rezayee, and Maryam Sahar.

Maryam Sahar shared her personal story and her work as a translator beginning at the young age of 15. She grew up in Kandahar during the Taliban regime and did not expect to be educated. However, prior to immigrating to Canada from Afghanistan, Maryam worked for the UNHCR, for the US State Department, as a Legal Interpreter and as a Human Resources Officer for several Afghan women's organizations. Here in Canada she is now interested in studying International Relations, and is currently working as a Learning Advisor.

Noorjahan Akbar joined Delegates from her current base in Pennsylvania via Skype. Noorjahan is the co-founder of Young Women for Change and is currently studying in the USA. She shared some of the statistics and the barriers relating to girls' education in Afghanistan. She spoke about the work of YWC and how members continue to mobilize youth at the grassroots level. They organized protests, opened an internet cafe, a small business for a fashion designer, distributed books in the provinces, talked with girls about going to school, and put up posters to promote their work. She now works with magazines that advocate for women's human rights.

Friba Rezayee was born in Afghanistan and is an outspoken advocate for Afghan women's rights. In 2004, she competed at the Athens Olympic Games as a Judo athlete in the 70 kilogram weight class, making history as Afghanistan's first female Olympic athlete. Friba is currently studying at UBC and is thankful for a progressive and supportive family who have encouraged her. Friba talked about the many positive changes in Afghanistan and how technology is helping. She shared examples of how cell phones and Facebook help to organize youth to gather in street protests and how social media is very important to Afghan youth. There are many young women in Afghanistan who have just as much desire to go to university but do not have the same opportunities as Friba and she wants to do all she can to help more young Afghans get the chance to study.

Cassie Hinchcliffe spoke as a representative of LW4LWAfghan. She talked about the activities of Little Women over the past year and brought greetings from the founder, Alaina Podmorow who was not able to attend this year's symposium. Cassie spoke very eloquently of young Malala Yousufzai and how brave she is to attend school and fight for the right to go to school. She quoted some of Malala's speech to the United Nations. Cassie talked about Alaina having met many inspiring young Afghans during her trip to Afghanistan in 2012, and Cassie talked about the wonderful success stories such as girls going to school.

Maryam Monsef was the final speaker. She fled her native Afghanistan in 1996 with her mother and two sisters to escape the repressive regime of the Taliban. Maryam gave a very engaging presentation by taking us back to the 1970's in Afghanistan where a certain young woman had received

a scholarship to go to medical school, but the war intervened, so this woman became a teacher. She then married, had three children, become a widow at 23 years of age, and then came the Soviet invasion and her family immigrating to Canada. This is the story of her mother, Soriya. Maryam is inspired by her community in Peterborough, ON where she discovered her passion



Symposium Delegates enjoying presentation by Maryam Monsef and the Red Pashmina Campaign

for women's issues and immigrant integration. Maryam and her best friend, Jessica Melnik co-founded the Red Pashmina Campaign, a social venture driven by socially minded, ethically sourced red scarves that empower women and girls in Canada

and in Afghanistan. To date, the Red Pashmina Campaign has raised more than \$100,000 for initiatives benefiting Afghan women and girls.

MCHAIR DISCUSSION: THE AFGHAN EDUCATION LEGACY

Early 20th Century

Queen Soraya Tarzi (1899 -1968) wife of King Amanullah and the queen of Afghanistan in early 20 century. She was a liberal queen and the founder of first girls' school and a magazine for women.



Afghan Women - Historical Perspective

Our speakers, Marnie Gustavson, Lauryn Oates, Murwarid Ziayee joined together in an informal discussion to share with Delegates their insights from a historical perspective. Beautiful slides and stories of female leaders where shown, and Delegates learned of the importance of the legacy from a pioneering women's movement in Afghanistan, which stretched from the ancient times such as the female poet Rabia Balkhi of the 10thcentury, and Queen Soraya, consort and an early champion for women's rights and girls' education, during her and her husband's rule the 1920s. The purpose of this session was to reveal the Afghanistan of times past and some of the positive legacies that can be built on today, such as the long history of women's political participation, girls' education, and modernization drives throughout the 20th century.

I am on my way back to Kabul after spending a week in my own country negotiating family life while experiencing culture shock. My time in Canada and with CW4WAfghan was the highlight of my time back. I am still amazed that a group of women such as you, many who have not been to the country you are so committed to, still sustain your enthusiasm and vision for the work that CW4WAfghan does there.

I was thrilled to be a part of it and to have a chance to share my own stories and relationship with Afghanistan. I cannot emphasize enough the possible impact that a group like CW4WAfghan (and there are not many) can make on the transformation of a country.

I was honored and I have the utmost respect for all of you and I thank you for your service. Warm regards, Marnie

Join us in MANITOBA October 2-5, 2014 for our annual symposium: "Because Human Rights Are Universal!"

EMAIL INFO@CW4WAFGHAN.CA FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR VISIT OUR CALENDAR OF **EVENTS: WWW.CW4WAFGHAN.CA**



T YOU CAN DO – BREAKING BREAD DINNERS

Many of our supporters have found that hosting a pot-luck dinner or similar event in their homes, schools or communities is a fun and rewarding way to raise funds for CW4WAfghan. Breaking Bread for Women in Afghanistan is a volunteer fundraising initiative that provides Canadians with an opportunity to directly support education for Afghan women and girls.

Funds raised from Breaking Bread dinners will cover expenses for many of our on-going education programs in Afghanistan including the LANTERN FUND: Teacher Training in Afghanistan.

CW4WAfghan Breaking Bread Dinners have been ongoing since 2002 with over 1,100 dinners and events being held all across Canada. A total of \$5.5 million has been raised towards our education programs in Afghanistan thanks to CW4WAfghan Donors.

Please consider hosting a dinner in your home or community, or making an annual donation to help us sustain our support for the women and girls in Afghanistan. Visit our website for full details: www.CW4WAfghan.ca

Thank you to ALL OF OUR BREAKING BREAD HOSTS AND GUEST!

In Victoria at the annual symposium dinner, CW4WAfghan members presented the annual Champion of Education in Afghanistan Award to two remarkable women: Seattle native Marnie Gustavson, a long-time resident in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Dr. Lauryn Oates, Vancouver resident and Programs Director of CW4WAfghan. This award is presented annually to recognize an individual or individuals who have given outstanding service to the cause of supporting education for girls or women in Afghanistan.

Marnie Gustavson spent part of her childhood in Afghanistan, where her father had been hired to teach at the university during the 1960s, a time when the country enjoyed peace and when optimism prevailed in the country. Her love for Afghanistan never dissipated and she found herself back in the country after the fall of the Taliban regime. By then, Marnie had a long career as a social worker in the US, where she had raised a family. But Afghanistan called her back, and she eventually came to work with a long-time CW4WAfghan partner organization, PARSA (Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Support for Afghanistan), founded during the Taliban regime. Today, Marnie is PARSA's executive director, and has spent many years working to grow and strengthen the organization into an effective vehicle of social development. PARSA's motto is "supporting communities

as they make their own development solutions, focusing on promoting social change and a healthy and fair society for all people but especially women and children."

Janice Eisenhauer, CW4WAfghan's Executive Director, states, "Marnie has provided outstanding leadership throughout PARSA's growth, and has become a renowned advocate of the Afghan people, dedicating her life to community and social development in her adopted home, Afghanistan. We are honoured to recognize this most worthy recipient of the Champion Award."

Dr. Lauryn Oates is the CW4WAfghan Programs Director. Lauryn's deep passion and commitment to the girls and women of Afghanistan go far past her professional responsibilities. CW4WAfghan President, Madeliene Tarasick, describes her impact, "Lauryn is a truly remarkable individual who has dedicated her life to supporting the girls and women of Afghanistan – with unparalleled energy, intellectual brilliance and astute understanding, courage and industry - an inspiration for all of us lucky enough to work with her." The Champion Award is one small way to recognize her outstanding contribution to the girls and women of Afghanistan.

SESSION WHAT'S AHEAD 2013 – 2018

The session focused on our strategic planning and was expertly facilitated by Dale Butterill, CW4WAfghan board member. Prior to the symposium, chapters were requested to respond to a survey and the results were compiled and assessed as a tool to inform the board of successes and challenges. In Victoria, Dale led Delegates to work together in reviewing the strategic plan results to now establish priorities for our chapter network over the next five years. What became clear in this review is that chapters and the board of directors share the same priorities. Chapters agreed upon three key priorities: Sustainable Membership through retaining, recruiting and appreciating all volunteers by training, educating, communicating, sharing of best practices across Chapters and reaching out to youth; Expanding Partnerships with school boards, faith groups,

other NGOs and organizations; and Fundraising to expand our donor base. Members also looked at the chapter structure and governance and made recommendations for improvements to the committee structure and communication.

It was also discussed how the organization has gradually adopted some changes in its approach to programming in Afghanistan, utilizing several methods for delivering programming, including working as a donor, an implementer, or in co-implementing partnerships. Our chapter network and membership are forever strengthening and evolving therefore it is vital to build on these connections to better inform our work together.

I thought the symposium was very well organized, with great inspirational speakers. Being surrounded by amazing people from Canada, US and Afghanistan affirms one's commitment to this great cause that we are all part of. I left motivated, inspired and honoured to be part of this great global cause. Thank you CW4WAfghan and Victoria chapter for this great opportunity.

Mariam, Manitoba

Keynote Address by Marnie Gustavson, Director PARSA



Marnie Gustavson, Director, PARSA

PARSA works in four main areas including education, women's power, Scouting, economic and psychosocial health. Marnie concentrated her presentation on literacy especially for women in rural Afghanistan. She shared stories about an early journey she took to survey a village in Badakhshan where eight women had died over one winter due to childbirth. Through a participatory exercise, Marnie lead Delegates to envision what their world would be like to live within a walled home and community, with no electricity or

running water... no books, electronics, no transportation except

bikes, and the day revolves around who goes in and out of the gate. Your child may go through that gate with a book of basic math, a merchant from Pakistan may come selling goods.

The availability of literacy starts to change the woman's view of herself and she may begin to argue for educating her daughters. From such visits within remote communities, Marnie began to develop ways to introduce PARSA's Healthy Afghan Communities project, and how to meet villager's needs and negotiate setting up literacy classes. Books help the women grow and literacy expands the villager's worlds without them leaving the community. It allows the women to go outside the wall through the books. Literacy thus has a huge transformational power. The men were concerned about their women being taken away, but they found that their houses were cleaner, their wives were happier, their children were healthier, and the men were healthier and this led to acceptance among the men for women's learning.



John and Lorna Norgrove, Directors Linda Norgrove Foundation, UK

John and Lorna Norgrove attended our VICTORIA 2013 Symposium joining us from Scotland and John gave a heartfelt presentation on the work of the Linda Norgrove Foundation, and his daughter Linda's legacy. Delegates were very moved and honoured to meet the Norgroves and to share in their passions for building and sustaining a legacy for their daughter, Linda. That legacy includes many programs for Afghan women and girls, and a strong partnership with CW4WAfghan resulting in the new community libraries and literacy program.

Lauryn and Murwarid gave a thorough overview of the two



key CW4WAfghan programs Investing in Basic Education and Community Libraries and Literacy. Projects funded by CW4WAfghan's network include:

Afghanistan Reads!

- illiterate Afghan women will have access to homebased literacy classes and library resources
- 20 students per class
- Libraries are in literacy classrooms
- Herat, Mazar-i-sharif, Kabul, Kapisa and Parwan, Badakhshan, Bagrami, and Qarabagh (Kabul)
- High School libraries (Parwan, Panjshir)
- Total literacy student beneficiaries: Min. 420 / year
- Total library beneficiaries: Min. 10,860 / year
- Total teachers and other staff trained: 30

Fatema tul Zahra

- 2 schools, one in Kabul and one in Maimana
- 300 students
- needy children, children begging or working on the streets



Young female students at Fatema Tul Zahra school

- Formal training and additional classes of computers and
 - Lunch provided for both shifts
 - Uniforms provided; Library kit supplied; all teachers
 - Maimana also has 20 orphan children boarding at the school/hostel

Women's literacy and life skills classes

190 beneficiaries taught by 6 teachers; Taught basic women's rights awareness

House of flowers orphanage

53 children in a Montessori-style school program and also attend public school



Literacy requires reading materials, a safe space and ongoing practice

Fanoos Teacher Training

- The Lantern Fund is to sustain this teacher training, we are raising \$2M to train another 1000 teachers per year
- Provide teacher training for government teachers working in classrooms, also provide pedagogy and subject training
- As at October 2013, trained 4,500 teachers from 195 schools in three provinces since 2008; CIDA funded it from 2008 to Aug. 2013
- Best Practices Conference: Teachers register and exhibit their newly learned skills in an open competition; Over 700 have participated and held in Panjshir province.

Schools Starter kits

Small library and large library sets; 139 libraries distributed as at October 2013,, and 109 on the waiting lists; Science kits also supplied to schools where we have trained the teachers distributed 119 and 109 on waiting list.

The Darakht-e Danesh Online Library for Afghan **Educators**

- 1200 resource items for teachers, teacher trainers, school administrators, literacy workers and others involved in furthering education in Afghanistan.
- Lesson plans, pedagogical tools, exercises, experiments, reading texts, work books, curricula and other resources for use in Afghan classrooms.
- New website will be launched in 2014



Darakht Danesh



Community literacy classes are a steppingstone to more formal education opportunities



THE LANTERN FUND

Teacher Training for Afghanistan

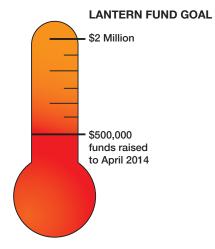
www.CW4WAfghan.ca

The Lantern Fund: Training Teachers for Afghanistan, is Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan's national fundraising campaign. We aim to generate \$2 million to train 5,000 teachers by 2018.

Please make a donation or host a **Breaking Bread Fundraising Dinner** with your friends, family and community to help us achieve our goal.

CONTINUING OUR SUCCESS

- 4,000 teachers have already been trained by CW4WAfghan
- 5,000 more teachers will be trained through the Lantern Fund
- Quality Education will unleash the potential of millions of women and children across Afghanistan



We recognize the inherent power of education to transform lives and communities. Training teachers is critical and we invite you to support this initiative that will create a key force for continuing change: teachers who will educate men and women, girls and boys.

Effective qualified teachers provide the knowledge and skills needed to empower individuals and inspire action.

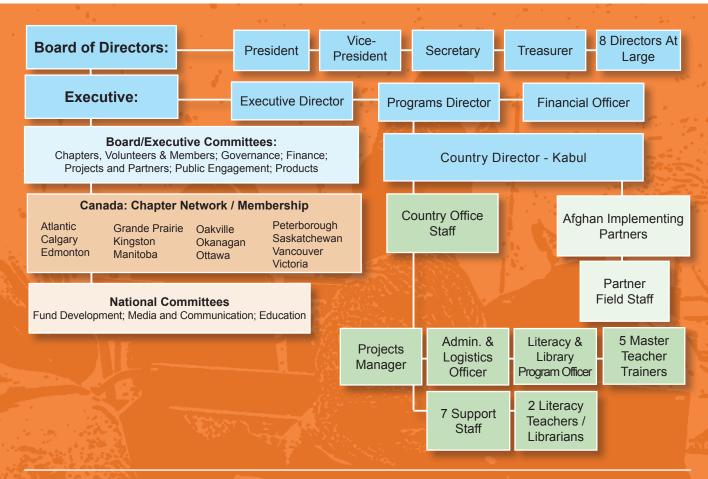
Through your investment in **The Lantern Fund: Training Teachers for Afghanistan**, you will help the people of Afghanistan build on what they have already achieved and continue their forward momentum. You will be building local capacity and skills for a higher quality of life. For further information, contact the cochairs, **Deborah Alexander** and **Irene MacDonald** by email at **LanternFund@CW4WAfghan.ca**.

"A teacher is a candle that burns to enlighten others"

Afghan Proverb



CANADIAN WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOUR DONATIONS CAN FUND FOR OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN:

- \$30 buys notebooks, pencils and paper for a student at a community school for 6 months
- \$75 pays for training materials and books for teacher training
- \$120 pays a monthly salary for a village librarian
- \$250 provides lunches for 70 orphan students for one month
- \$400 provides training and certification for one teacher trainee
- \$500 provides literacy text books for 100 new readers
- \$750 pays a teacher's salary for six months
- \$1,100 provides one school science kit containing over 200 items from a microscope to anatomy models
- \$1,500 covers a teacher's salary for one year
- \$1,800 purchases a 500-book large library kit for a school or village literacy class



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – SEPT 1, 2012 – AUG 31, 2013



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc.

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2013 and the statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

(continues)

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc. (continued)

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc. as at August 31, 2013 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-forprofit organizations.

Comparative Information

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 3 to the financial statements which describes that Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc. adopted Canadian accounting standards for not-forprofit organizations on September 1, 2012 with a transition date of September 1, 2011. These standards were applied retrospectively by management to the comparative information in these financial statements, including the statements of financial position as at August 31, 2012 and September 1, 2011 and the statements of operations and cash flows for the year ended August 31, 2012 and related disclosures. I was not engaged to report on the restated comparative information, and as such, it is unaudited.

Calgary, Alberta February 6, 2014

CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

CANADIAN WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN INC. **Statement of Financial Position** August 31, 2013

| | | 2013 | 2012 | | 2011 |
|---|----|------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ASSETS CURRENT Cash | \$ | 956,313 | \$ | 803,196 | \$ 573,869 |
| Accounts receivable GST recoverable / receivable Inventory Prepaid expenses | _ | 24,468 3,033 27,308 4,244 | | 3,641 25,162 42,902 | 3,233 23,297 645 |
| | | 1,015,366 | | 874,901 | 601,044 |
| EQUIPMENT (Note 6) | _ | 16,592 | | - | - |
| | \$ | 1,031,958 | \$ | 874,901 | \$ 601,044 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS CURRENT | | | | | |
| Accounts payable Income taxes payable | \$ | 9,757 16,588 | \$ | 11,464 - | \$ 17,704 - |
| Deferred contributions (Note 4) | _ | 826,576 | | 710,126 | 444,972 |
| | | 852,921 | | 721,590 | 462,676 |
| NET ASSETS Unrestricted | _ | 179,037 | | 153,311 | 138,368 |
| | \$ | 1,031,958 | \$ | 874,901 | \$ 601,044 |

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

hauce Director

CANADIAN WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN INC. **Statement of Operations** Year Ended August 31, 2013

| | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| REVENUE | | | |
| Donations | \$ 317,716 | \$ 401,143 | \$ 649,169 |
| CIDA Grants | 292,450 | 280,073 | 128,434 |
| Product sales (Note 7) | 17,313 | 49,523 | 30,118 |
| Fundraising activities | 93,018 | 35,945 | 43,303 |
| Afghanistan rental income | 40,122 | 17,393 | - |
| Other Grants | - | 7,821 | 1,560 |
| Investment revenue | 1,513 | 1,809 | 3,194 |
| Membership fees | 750 | 1,251 | 2,300 |
| | 762,882 | 794,958 | 858,078 |
| DIRECT COSTS | | | |
| Overseas projects | 337,818 | 401,449 | 654,581 |
| CIDA Projects | 292,450 | 233,872 | 53,959 |
| Conferences | 76,832 | 67,928 | 31,359 |
| Village Library and Literacy | 10,560 | 27,351 | - |
| Cost of goods sold (Note 7) | 17,313 | 25,920 | 51,243 |
| Printing and Marketing Events | 5,083 | 7,395 | 4,057 |
| Travel | - | 1,028 - | 18,300 570 |
| | 740,056 | 764,943 | 814,069 |
| GROSS PROFIT | 22,826 | 30,015 | 44,009 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Bank charges | 1,683 | 2,485 | 1,727 |
| Office, telephone and postage | 6,089 | 3,454 | 8,610 |
| Professional fees | 9,225 | 9,133 | 8,000 |
| | 16,997 | 15,072 | 18,337 |
| OTHER INCOME | 19,897 | - | - |
| EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES | \$ 25,726 | \$ 14,943 | \$ 25,672 |

CANADIAN WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN INC. **Changes in Net Assets**

Year Ended August 31, 2013

| | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR Excess of Revenue over Expenses | \$ 153,311 25,726 | \$ 138,368 14,943 | \$ 112,696 25,672 |
| | \$ 179,037 | \$ 153,311 | \$ 138,368 |

Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended August 31, 2013

| | | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|----|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | | |
| Excess of revenue over expenses | \$ | 25,726 | \$ 14,943 | \$ 25,672 |
| Items not affecting cash: Amortization of equipment | | 2,522 | _ | _ |
| Amortization of equipment | | - | - | _ |
| | _ | - | - | - |
| | _ | 28,248 | 14,943 | 25,672 |
| Changes in non-cash working capital: | | | | |
| Accounts receivable | | (24,468) | - | - |
| GST recoverable / receivable | | 609 | (413) | (3,233) |
| Inventory | | (2,146) | (1,865) | (23,297) |
| Accounts payable | | (1,713) | (6,235) | 17,702 |
| Income taxes payable Deferred contributions | | 16,588 116,450 | 265,154 | 444,972 |
| Prepaid expenses | _ | 38,658 | (42,257) | (645) |
| | _ | 143,978 | 214,384 | 435,499 |
| Cash flow from operating activities | | 172,226 | 229,327 | 461,171 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITY | | | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | _ | (19,113) | - | - |
| Cash flow used by investing activity | | (19,113) | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| INCREASE IN CASH FLOW | | 153,113 | 229,327 | 461,171 |
| Cash - beginning of year | | 803,200 | 573,869 | 112,698 |
| CASH - END OF YEAR | \$ | 956,313 | \$ 803,196 | \$ 573,869 |

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended August 31, 2013

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (the "organization") is a federally incorporated non-profit entity under Industry Canada as at May 2003, and became a registered charity in February 2009 (Canada Revenue Agency BN # 887718203 RR0001). The stated purposes of the organization are to advance education and educational opportunities for Afghan women and their families, and to increase the understanding of Canadians about human rights in Afghanistan. Its mission statement is: "Canadians taking action, in partnership with Afghan women, towards improving conditions of human rights, ending women's oppression, and providing opportunities for Afghan women to live their lives with dignity, certainty and purpose." As a registered charity, the organization is not subject to the payment of income tax under section 149 of the Income Tax Act.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for notfor-profit organizations (ASNFPO). Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations are part of Canadian GAAP and in management's opinion, have been properly prepared with reasonable limits of materiality and within the framework of the significant accounting policies summarizes below:

Revenue recognition

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan Inc. follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions, including grants, are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Membership fees and other fundraising revenues are recognized as revenue when received or receivable.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents include short term investment that are readily converted to cash and that have initial maturity dates of no more than ninety days.

Equipment

Equipment is stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization. Equipment is amortized over its estimated useful life on a declining balance basis at the following rates and methods:

Motor vehicles (Afghan)

5 years

straight-line method

The organization regularly reviews its equipment to eliminate obsolete items. Government grants are treated as a reduction of equipment cost.

Equipment acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

(continues)

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended August 31, 2013

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Contributed services

Volunteers contribute a significant amount of their time each year. Because of the difficulty in determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

Foreign currency translation

Accounts in foreign currencies have been translated into Canadian dollars using the temporal method. Under this method, monetary assets and liabilities have been translated at the year end exchange rate. Non-monetary assets have been translated at the rate of exchange prevailing at the date of transaction. Revenues and expenses have been translated at the average rates of exchange during the year, except for amortization, which has been translated at the same rate as the related

Foreign exchange gains and losses on monetary assets and liabilities are included in the determination of earnings.

Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value with the cost being determined on a first-in, first-out basis.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for notfor-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

FIRST TIME ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT **ORGANIZATIONS**

During the year the organization adopted Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO). These financial statements are the first prepared in accordance with these standards. The adoption of ASNFPO had no impact on net assets as at September 1, 2011 or operations or cash flows for the year ended August 31, 2012 as previously reported in accordance with pre-changeover Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended August 31, 2013

DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

The deferred contribution amounts relate to a variety of fundraising efforts and grants received for specific purposes as described. As such, these are treated as restricted contributions with the revenues being recognized as the applicable expenses are included.

The deferred contribution balance under the heading "Educational Initiatives" is a combination of the prior year contributions: Breaking Bread, Parvana and Library.

- 1. Breaking Bread contributions come from individual supporters hosting potluck dinners or similar events to raise awareness and funds. These funds are used to pay for teacher's salaries, teacher training and educational resources in Afghanistan.
- 2. Parvana contributions come from the regular donation of the royalties related to sales of the books: "The Breadwinner", "Parvana's Journey" and "My name is Parvana and Kids of Kabul", written by Canadian author Deborah Ellis. These accounts are restricted to education and other related initiatives as designed by the board to advance the goals of the organization.
- 3. Library contributions are from donors who specify that their donations be used to purchase books and other resources for libraries in Afghanistan.
- 4. Other education initiatives represent donations received from various donors. donations are restricted to use towards programs and projects in Afghanistan.

Fanoos is an ongoing teacher training program initially launched as a two year project funded in part by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The CIDA contract of \$499,968 was completed August 31, 2013. The program is designed to increase girls' access to education by focusing on increasing the number of trained secondary school teachers available to educate girls.

ROYA is a project set up to pay for Afghanistan girls who come to Canada to further their education.

Lantern is an ongoing fundraising initiative for the Fanoos teacher training program in Afghanistan.

The deferred contributions balances are represented by:

| | Beginning | | Additions | | Utilizations | | Ending |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|--|--------------|---|---|
| Education Initiatives Fanoos ROYA Public Engagement Lantern Parvana Other | \$ | 558,607 105,820 29,699 10,000 6,000 | \$ | 86,240 186,769 22,842 92,906 276,090 110,500 5,499 | \$ | 274,881 292,589 18,193 77,778 - - 955 | \$ 369,966 - 34,348 25,128 282,090 110,500 4,544 |
| | \$ | 710,126 | \$ | 780,846 | \$ | 664,396 | \$ 826,576 |

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the organization's risk exposure and concentration as of August 31, 2013.

(continues)

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended August 31, 2013

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Market risk

Market Risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices.

Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk to the company's earnings that arise from fluctuations of foreign exchange rates and the degree of volatility of these rates. The organization is exposed to foreign currency exchange risk on cash, accounts receivable, and accounts payable held in U.S. dollars. The company does not use derivative instruments to reduce its exposure to foreign currency risk.

Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market. The organization is exposed to other price risk through its investment in quoted shares.

The organization is mainly exposed to currency risk.

| 6. | EQUIPMENT | 0.1 | | 2013 | 2012 |
|----|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | | Cost | umulated ortization | et book value | et book value |
| | Motor Vehicle (Afghan) | \$ 19,114 | \$ 2,522 | \$ 16,592 | \$ - |

7. NET PRODUCT SALES

The organization also supports the efforts of women in Afghanistan by purchasing hand-crafted products and selected books for resale in Canada. The net amounts on the financial statement are represented as follows:

| | <u></u> : | 2013 | 2012 |
|---|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Product sales Book sales Cost of goods sold | • | 16,663 650 (17,313) | \$ 46,949 2,574 (25,920) |
| Net sales | \$ | - | \$ 23,603 |

Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended August 31, 2013

8. CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Contracts with overseas Implementing Partner organizations are undertaken annually in order to deliver their approved education projects. Each contract will set the terms and dates of advance payments to be remitted by the organization upon receipt and approval of narrative and financial reporting.

Service contract payment schedule:

2014 \$ 12,787

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan

NATIONAL OFFICE

Accounting@CW4WAfghan.ca
BreakingBread@CW4WAfghan.ca
ForEducators@CW4WAfghan.ca
Info@CW4WAfghan.ca
LanternFund@CW4WAfghan.ca
Membership@CW4WAfghan.ca
President@CW4WAfghan.ca

CW4WAFGHAN NETWORK:

Atlantic@CW4WAfghan.ca
Calgary@CW4WAfghan.ca
Edmonton@CW4WAfghan.ca
Grande Prairie@CW4WAfghan.ca
Kingston@CW4WAfghan.ca (C4WA)
Manitoba@CW4WAfghan.ca
Oakville@CW4WAfghan.ca (CSAW)
Okanagan@CW4WAfghan.ca (LW4LW)
Ottawa@CW4WAfghan.ca
Peterborough@CW4WAfghan.ca
Saskatchewan@CW4WAfghan.ca
Vancouver@CW4WAfghan.ca
Victoria@CW4WAfghan.ca

CONTACT US:

Please contact a chapter in your area to learn about local activities and how you can volunteer towards our goal of advancing education in Afghanistan.

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan National Office: PO Box 86016 Marda Loop Calgary, AB T2T 6B7 Tel: 1 403 244-5625 Email: Info@CW4WAfghan.ca

www.CW4WAfghan.ca





Canadians taking action, in partnership with Afghan women towards improving conditions of human rights, ending women's oppression, and providing opportunities for Afghan women to live their lives with dignity, certainly and purpose.

Goal: To ensure effective long-term sustainable education programs for Afghan women and their families, and to engage Canadians as global citizens.

CW4WAfghan Board of Directors and Executive 2012-2013

CW4WAFGHAN - EXECUTIVE



Penny Christensen Financial Officer

Penny Christensen has a BSc. in Biology, previously working in the field of food microbiology. Penny has been a member of CW4WAfghan since 2005, and a board member from 2009-2011. Having completed an accounting certification, Penny is CW4WAfghan's Financial Officer and is responsible for financial management, overseeing our audits and board financial reporting. Penny operates a small business in Calgary, AB.



Janice Eisenhauer Executive Director

Janice Eisenhauer is Executive Director and cofounding member of CW4WAfghan. She holds an Honour's BA in International Development Studies from the UofC. Her 1999 honour's thesis was on the empowerment of women in Afghanistan. She is responsible for the day-to-day management of CW4WAfghan. Janice has received numerous awards in honour ofher long-standing volunteerism in Canada. Janice lives in Calgary, AB.



Lauryn Oates *Programs Director*

Dr. Lauryn Oates is Programs
Director overseeing the program
planning, management,
monitoring and evaluation,
and working closely with the
CW4WAfghan Kabul staff
team. She holds a BA Honours
in International Development
from McGill, an MA in Human
Security and Peacebuilding
from Royal Roads, and a PhD in
Language and Literacy Education
at the UBC. Lauryn is an award
winning human rights activist,
and she lives in Vancouver, BC.



Murwarid Ziayee Country Director

Murwarid Ziayee is Country
Director for CW4WAfghan
responsible for the human
resources, program management,
monitoring and evaluation of
our programs. Murwarid has a
BA in Political Science and Law
from Kabul University. She has
worked for the United Nations
and a number of non-profit
organizations throughout
her career. She is a leader and
advocate for women's rights in
her country.

CW4WAFGHAN - BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ryan Aldred is the President of the Canadian International Learning Foundation, a registered charity promoting employment-oriented education in regions affected by war, illness and poverty. Ryan helped establish the Afghan-Canadian Community Center in Kandahar, providing professional education to over 1,500 mainly female students. Ryan lives in Ottawa, ON.



Deborah Alexander has advanced degrees in Political Science and Psychology. Her work has been as a teacher for learning disabled children and the founder of the Lansdowne Centre for learning disabled children in Montreal, a writer for the National Film Board, and, for almost 30 years, a child clinical psychologist. Deborah lives in Calgary, AB.



Director

Dale joined the Oakville chapter, CSAW, in 2009 and the board of CW4WAfghan in 2011. She has a Masters in Social Work from Simmons College, Boston and a Masters in Public Administration from Queens University. In addition to Dale's career in mental health, she provides leadership in governance for a number of non-profits. Dale works as an independent consultant and lives in Toronto, ON.



Susan is the founder of the Atlantic Chapter. She has a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Waterloo where her research focus was how children learn to read. Over her 25 years of practice she has developed an expertise in advocating for, and treating, children in high risk situations. She works in private practice and has been active in the provincial and national development of her profession. Susan lives in PEI.



Irene MacDonald Director

Irene MacDonald has a BSc. in Textiles and Consumer Studies from St. Francis Xavier University in NS. She has been involved with CW4WAfghan for over a decade, hosting successful annual events and managing the Breaking Bread fundraising initiative. Since 2012, she has been cochairing the Lantern Fund. Irene was appointed to the Hall of Honour at St. Francis for her longstanding public service in 2008. She lives in Calgary, AB.



Janis Rapchuk

Janis Rapchuk is Vice-President of CW4WAfghan. She has a BSc from the University of Saskatchewan and also a Library Information Technology Diploma from SAIT in Calgary, where she is employed as a librarian.. Janis has been a member of CW4WAfghan since 2004 and became interested in helping to rebuild community libraries in Afghanistan during her initial trip there in 2005. Janis lives in Calgary, AB.



Marg Stewart Director/Treasurer

Margaret Stewart is Director and Treasurer of CW4WAfghan. She has many years of experience as an educator at the secondary school and Board levels in Ontario. Since retiring she enjoys travelling, with the highlight of her travels being her May 2013 visit to Afghanistan to visit the schools and projects we support. She is a co-founding member of the Kingston chapter (C4WA), and she lives in Kingston, ON.



Madeliene Tarasick

Madeliene Tarasick is President of CW4WAfghan and the co-founder of the Kingston Chapter, Canadians for Women in Afghanistan, established in 2003. She is a retired school board superintendent whose portfolio included Human Rights Education and global citizenship. Along with co-founder of the Kingston chapter, and CW4WAfghan Treasurer, Marg Stewart, she was greatly inspired by a trip to Afghanistan to visit the Kabul Office and many of the organization's projects. She lives in Parham, ON.

