

INSTITUTE FOR
INTERNATIONAL



ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

IIWR-Manitoba is founded to:

- generate education,**
- awareness, and**
- action**

to promote women's human rights

LOCAL TO GLOBAL

The Institute for International Women's Rights - Manitoba is a corporation without share capital founded to deliver public education and information-sharing among members and their respective networks to support educational, economic, social, legal and health opportunities, to increase respect for and implementation of the human rights of women locally and globally, in consultation and cooperation with other organizations dedicated to promoting women's human rights, global women's health, women's peace and security in conflict zones and post conflict reconstruction areas.

AGENDA

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS - MANITOBA OCTOBER 8TH, 2014

1. Welcome: Mary Scott & Marilou McPhedran Co Chairs
2. Opening Prayer: Pahan Pte San Win
3. Business Meeting: *Those who purchased 2014 memberships on or before September 18, 2014 are eligible to vote. Others are welcome to ask questions or make comment.*
 - Annual Report (copies distributed)
 - Questions and Discussion
 - Financial Report (acceptance and appointment of reviewer)
 - Nominations

4. Key Note Speaker: Noelle DePape

Noëlle DePape is the Director of Training and Development at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba. She is also a part-time lecturer at the University of Winnipeg's Global College. Noëlle holds an Advanced Masters in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia where she studied on a Rotary World Peace Fellowship. She earned her 4-year BA at the University of Winnipeg in International Development Studies and Conflict Resolution. During her undergraduate, Noëlle spent a semester studying Human Rights at l'Université National du Bénin in West Africa. Noëlle has worked in the areas of community mobilization, capacity building and youth programming with the Canadian Red Cross (Bosnia/Croatia/Canada), UNICEF, the Brisbane City Council (Australia) and in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

5. Community Announcements
6. Adjournment

- Special Report to Members, Institute for International Women's Rights—Manitoba

by Mary Scott

Well, it's been quite the year, actually more like a year and a half. IIWR-Manitoba is a new organization, incorporated in the Province of Manitoba as of February 26th, 2013. Building on the history of a previous organization, the Winnipeg Chapter for the Canadian Committee, UN Women, has accomplished a great deal, and looking forward to meeting the challenges ahead.

Many have been part of this success – those that joined at our inaugural meeting April 8th – a membership of 63 in our first year, including 5 organizations. The volunteers who worked to make the Local to Global 2014, with Sally Armstrong, such a success were amazing. The programs IIWR-Manitoba, some in partnership with other organizations, organized during the year, created awareness, and mobilized actions. The Advocacy Committee supported important initiatives, locally and globally, to advance women's human rights. We even did a petition on line through facebook!

This couldn't have been possible without the initial investment of time and resources to get IIWR-Manitoba launched. Marilou McPhedran, Co Chair - drafted our bylaws and incorporation papers, which described an organization with a mission to advance women's human rights, locally and globally, in cooperation with other organizations with a similar mandate – a network committed to advancing women's equality. Also there was a commitment to promote global women's health and women's peace and security in conflict zones and post conflict reconstruction areas. Much appreciation to Marilou McPhedran, who has stood by the fledgling organization with support and encouragement, and guidance.

Board Members for the initial year:

Co Chairs: Mary Scott and Marilou McPhedran

Treasurer: LeAmber Kensley

Secretary: Hilary Taylor

Anita Neville; Donna Marion; Judy Wasylycia-Leis; Ariana Yaftali; Zulfiya Tursunova; Chelsea Caldwell; Wilma Sotas; Elaine Stevenson; Jacqueline Nobiss; Leona MacDonald; Alanna Gray; Florence Okwudili; Ellen Judd; Muriel Smith; Allison Fenske board member and pro bono lawyer.

Special thanks to *Alyssa Priestley*, who as an IIWR-Manitoba member chaired the Advocacy Committee.

Special thanks to *Nancy Cosway*, who as an Organization Representative for Grands 'n' More, supported the Major Event and Fundraiser, and did an outstanding job chairing the Raffle Table.

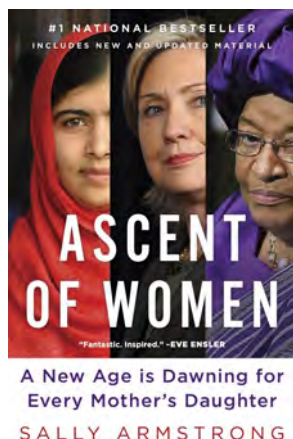
Special thanks to *Maddie Pearlman*, who has helped us with social media.



Florence Okwudili, Wilma Sotas, Judy Wasylycia-Leis, Mary Scott, LeAmber Kensley, Hilary Taylor, Marilou McPhedran, Leona Macdonald, Ariana Yaftali, Muriel Smith and Chelsea Caldwell. Missing: Anita Neville, Donna Marion, Zulfiya Tursunova, Elaine Stevenson, Jacqueline Nobiss, Alanna Gray, Ellen Judd, Muriel Smith and Allison Fenske

IIWR-Manitoba looks forward to increasing respect for and implementation of the human rights of women locally and globally, in consultation and cooperation with other organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting women's human rights.

THANK YOU WINNIPEG!



The Institute for International Women's Rights – Manitoba would like to thank those who attended and supported Local to Global 2014, A New Age is Dawning for Every Mother's Daughter on May 9th at the Viscount Gort.

What an amazing evening! Nadia Kidwai, Emcee did a masterful job in keeping the evening running smoothly and on time. There were close to 400 in attendance who heard Sally Armstrong speak passionately about women changing their communities, and indeed their countries, working together and taking on established systems to combat gender based violence. "Now, at last, is the time for women," she says.



Katarina Vermette read several of her poems from the Governor General Award winning book – North End Love Songs, and Keith and Renee gave a resounding musical ending to an inspiring evening. Shawarma Khan and the Viscount Gort Hotel did an excellent job with the food and beverage.

There were 36 beautiful baskets raffled, and silent auction items – all beautifully displayed. Grands N More had a table of crafts made by the grandmothers, and there were displays by IIWR Global College and IIWR-Manitoba which included information on Canadian Women 4 Afghan Women, CUPE, Canadian Council of Muslim Women (Manitoba) and a petition to Bring Our Girls Home. Over 200 signatures were received and the petition was sent to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Secretary General of the United Nations. As well, an electronic version of the petition was put on-line – urging government to do more to bring back the school girls who were kidnapped in Nigeria.

The proceeds from Local to Global 2014 amounted to \$14, 079, which will now be shared with The Equality Effect; Global Citizenship Scholarships at the University of Winnipeg; the Stephen Lewis Foundation (Grands n More) and The Institute for International Women's Rights – Manitoba.

Special thanks to our Champion donors: Thompson Dorfman Sweatman, LLP; Hill Sokalski Walsh Trippier LLP; and Gail Asper. Major Supporters included: Assiniboine Credit Union, Karen Kochen (BMO Nesbitt Burns), Manitoba Status of Women, Brenlee Carrington, Investor's Group, Val Clancy, Jean Gigurere, Gail and John Guy, David and Brenda Newman, Leona MacDonald, Mary and Richard Scott and the Viscount Gort Hotel.



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Advocacy Committee Report to International Institute for Women's Rights—Manitoba **by Alyssa Priestly**

About the Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee was formed in October 2013 and currently consists of 11 members, including:

Alyssa Priestley	Carolyn Garlich
Muriel Smith	Gabrielle Giroday
Hilary Taylor	Ellen Judd
Sally Thomas	Gertrude Hambira
Judy Wasylycia Leis	Pamela Nordin
	Maddie Pearlman

The role of the Advocacy Committee has been to review various petitions, sign-on letters, commentary, and potential pieces of legislation respecting women's rights issues both locally and globally. The Committee reviews each initiative and advises the IIWR-MB board as to whether or not it would recommend the IIWR-MB sign on as a supporter, create its own letter, or host a discussion on the topic.

The Year in Review

We are pleased to report that since October 2013, we have considered the following advocacy initiatives on behalf of the IIWR-MB.

We have recommended the IIWR-MB's support in the following:

- Signed onto a letter to Kerri Irvin-Ross, Kevin Chief, and Deanne Crothers (leaders in Manitoba's Child Care Consultation) recommending the establishment of a Commission on Integrated Early Learning on Child Care for Manitoba;
- Signed a petition to include women at Geneva II Peace talks regarding conflict in Syria;
- Listed as a supporting organization for the Women's Health Clinic 'Choice Event' held on January 28, 2014;
- Supported the Amnesty International public talk by a delegation from Colombia regarding the survival of Colombia's Indigenous peoples;
- Signed onto a letter to Manitoba Senators encouraging support of Bill C-279: *An Act to Amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code (Gender Identity)*;
- Signed onto a letter to the Prime Minister encouraging Canada to prioritize gender equality and women's human rights as stand-alone goals post-2015 when the Millennium Development Goals expire; and
- Signed onto a letter to the Friends of 1325, advocating the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals include stand-alone peace and gender equality goals.

We have recommended against the following action items:

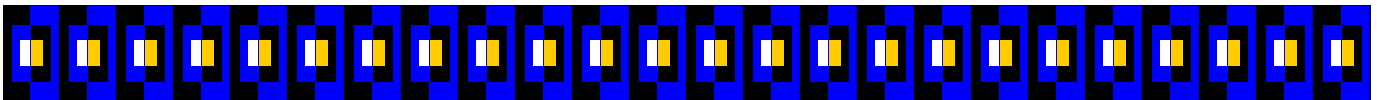
- Participation in a rally against Bill 60 – Quebec Charter of Values;
- Participation in a "Civil Society Red Flag" letter demanding action in relation to the expiry of Millennium Development Goals in 2015;
- Contribution of financial donations to organizations in Nigeria intending to support girls' education, but which were unlikely to actually be received by those who needed the help; and
- Signing on to a campaign to urge the Government of Canada during the Global Summit to stop rape and gender violence in conflict. There were concerns that this campaign did not adequately address peace initiatives.

We have also written our own letters in support of the following:

- Letter to the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Manitoba MPs and Senators calling for the denunciation of Afghan Parliament's passing of a law that silenced women subjected to violence in an effort to urge President Hamid Karzai not to sign it into effect;
- Letter to the Editor of the Winnipeg Free Press encouraging support for the *Conflict Minerals Act*, in conjunction with Dr. Mukwege's visit to Winnipeg; and
- Petition addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, Phumzile Mlambo-Mgcuka of UN Women, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister responsible for Status of Women, calling for action in the rescue of the kidnapped schoolgirls in Nigeria.

Looking Forward to New Challenges

In 2014, the Advocacy Committee is hoping to be more active in drafting and creating its own letters to the editor, commentary pieces, etc.



Board Meetings AGM Report
October 2014

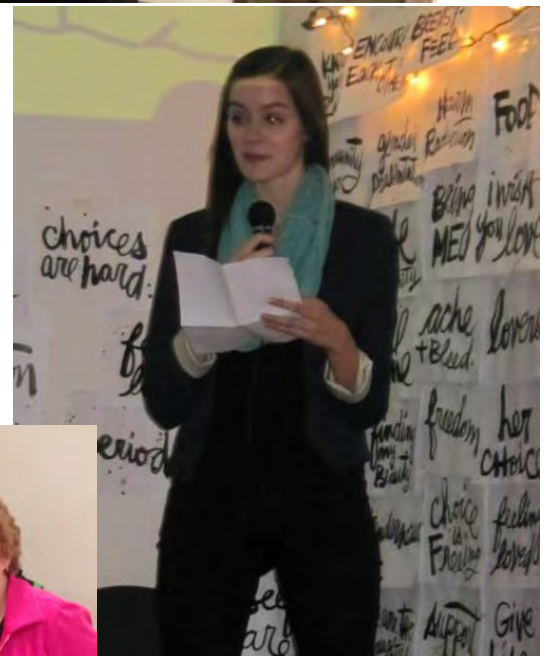
There is an extensive summary of all board meetings available for those interested in the details. The following summary prepared by Hilary Taylor, Secretary

The IIWR-MB board members met eight times between October 2013 and October 2014. Typically, 10-15 members attended. The meetings from January until May focused on the planning of the Local to Global Event, which was held on May 9, 2014. At all the meetings, upcoming community events were shared. Governance, Advocacy, Communications and Event Planning sub-committees were formed. Decisions were made in relation to what events IIWR-MB would support, through the provision of volunteers or financial support. Examples include the UN Safe Cities Initiative, a talk by Dr. Jennifer Selby on "The Niqab, Sex and Secularism," The Annual Winnipeg Walk for Peace Festivals and Peace Days.

Open Meetings and Programs of IIWR-Manitoba (Highlights)

- Several meetings held that included presentation by others on what community groups are doing here in Winnipeg, and Manitoba. Groups included: Sarasvati Productions; National Democratic Institute; Empowering Women of Burma; Canadian Union of Public Employees; National Council of Women of Canada; Canadian Federation of University Women; UNPAC; Grands 'n' More; Canadian Women4 Women in Afghanistan; Soroptomist International; University of Manitoba (various research projects); Interparliamentary Union; Child Protection, Province of Manitoba; Women's Committee of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs; Manitoba Council for International Cooperation; MATCH; Congress of Black Women; Manitoba Women for Women from South Sudan; Voice of Women for Peace; World Association of Girl Guides; Raging Gran-nies; Elizabeth Fry; Amnesty International.
- August, 2013, Supported a Girl's Camp at Sagkeeng First Nations with the purchase of 40 age appropriate books.
- September, 2013, A Panel presentation "Women's Pathways to Peace", moderated by Marilou McPhedran, at the Winnipeg Millennium Library. Panel presenters included Chief Betsy Kennedy; Nadia Mahmood, and Staff Sergeant Gay Jones. Supported the Annual Walk for Peace and Peace Festival, in June, 2013, and 2014.
- November, 2013, Viewed a documentary "Because our Cause is Just", followed by a panel, moderated by Ariana Yaftali.
- February, 2014, Participated on a Panel – Off the Beaten Path – at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. This was a compelling exhibition curated and organized through Art Works for Change, an organization whose mission is to "harness the transformative power of art to promote awareness, provoke dialogue and inspire action."
- Several members volunteered at the Walking With Our Sisters at Urban Shaman Gallery from March 7 to April 12, 2014. Walking With Our Sisters is a commemorative art installation project to honour the lives of missing and murdered indigenous women of Canada and the United States.
- February, 2014, "What Niqab Bans Tell Us About Sex and Secularism" with Dr. Jennifer Selby. An opportunity to understand, with respect to the Niqab, the background of the proposed Quebec Charter, banning religious symbols.

- March 2014, Supported the visit by Dr. Mukwege, and fundraising for the Panzi Hospital.
- April 2014, Shannon Sampert former journalist and Associate Professor University of Winnipeg, spoke - Topic: "Up Close and A Little too Personal? Media Coverage of Women Politicians".
- September, 2014, IIWR-Manitoba members rang bells for peace for a video which was sent to the Global Network of Women's Peacebuilders who edited and combined with others to make a video shown at the United Nations at the opening of the General Assembly on International Peace Day.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2013

2013 Revenue		
Memberships	Amount	Revenue
Regular	41	\$1,025.00
Student	10	\$50.00
Organizational	5	\$250.00
Sub-Total	56	\$1,325.00
Donations		\$600.00
Total Revenue:		\$1,925.00
Expences		
Bank Fees	\$157.84	
Hotel Deposit	\$1,000.00	
Petty Cash	\$10.00	
Total Expences:		\$1,167.84
2014 Balance Forward		\$757.16

Notes:

- IIWR-Manitoba's financial year is from January 1 to December 31st. Report here is for the 2013 calendar year.
- The Budget and Actuals for the Local to Global event held May 5th are provided. \$3,000 was given to each of the Equality Effect; Grands 'n' More, and IIWR Global College.
- We thank the many who had faith in IIWR-Manitoba at the beginning, who donated and who joined. We couldn't have done it without you.



Budget IIWR-MB Local to Global					
Revenue				Actuals	
Item	Cost	Amount	Total	Cost	Total
11					
Tickets-single	\$35.00	250	\$8,750.00	284	\$9,940.00
Student	\$25.00	50	\$1,250.00	53	\$1,325.00
Sub-Total				337	\$11,265.00
Raffle			\$1,000.00		\$3,565.00
seeds					\$60.00
Other					\$50.00
Sponsorship					
University of Winnipeg		\$5,000.00		\$6,580.00	
IIWR-MB					\$1,005.00
			\$16,300.00		\$15,945.00
Expenses				Actuals	
Item	Cost	Taxes	Total		
Hotel					
Function Space	\$500.00	\$85	\$585.00		\$603.75
Food	\$1,500.00	\$300	\$1,800.00		\$2,595.71
Coffee/tea	\$535.00	\$107	\$642.00		\$0.00
AV	\$105.00	\$12.6	\$117.60		\$84.75
Tech support	\$100.00	\$12	\$112.00		\$0.00
Guest Room	\$112.00	\$19.04	\$131.04		\$33.40
Hotel subtotal			\$3,387.64		\$3,317.61
Travel					
Air Canada			\$1,500.00		\$795.86
Guest					
Gift			\$100.00		\$76.84
Outside food					
Swarma Kan					\$315.10
Raffle			\$50.00		\$81.52
Seeds					\$47.01
Printing					
tickets (400)	\$40.00	\$4.8	\$44.80		\$28.25
posters	\$50.00	\$6	\$56.00		\$0.00
Program Book					\$248.36
Signage					\$133.44
Subtotal			\$100.80		\$410.05
Books for sponsors and door					\$104.00
Entertainment			\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Expenses Subtotals			\$6,138.44		\$6,147.99
		Profit/loss	\$10,161.56		\$9,797.01
			IIWR Initial expenses		-\$1,000.00
			Subtotal		\$8,797.01
Combined income with direct donations to University of Winnipeg					\$15,377.01
\$3,000 each to Equality Effect, Stephen Lewis Foundation, IIWR Global College					-\$9,000.00
To IIWR—Manitoba					\$6,377.01

Nominating Slate

Co Chairs

Nadia Kidwai was born and raised in Cardiff, Wales. After graduating from Oxford University with a B.A. and M.A. in History and Politics, she moved to Winnipeg, Canada. For the past decade, Nadia has worked across various sectors, each intersecting with her passion for working around issues to do with diversity, community engagement and development. She has interned with CBC Manitoba, the Human Rights Commission of Manitoba and the Multiculturalism Secretariat, Province of Manitoba. After establishing her own consulting business, Kidwai Consulting, she acted as research consultant for the Dept. of Immigration and Labour on several projects to do with newcomer integration and settlement as well as a speech writer for the various provincial ministers. Nadia has worked with several NGO's and grassroots organisations including the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organisation of Manitoba (IRCOM), Islamic Social Services Association, Canadian Muslim Women's Institute, Canadian Community Economic Development Network and more recently as Program Manager and co-founder of the Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute (CMLI). Nadia has been a council member of the Manitoba Ethnocultural Advisory and Advocacy Council providing counsel to the Minister responsible for Multiculturalism. She has also served as a council member for the Manitoba Community Services Council. Nadia has just begun her term as board member of the Legal Help Centre. Nadia is currently a freelance journalist, writing for the Winnipeg Free Press and as a freelance associate producer for CBC Manitoba Radio. She is the mother of two young boys, Kaleem (7) and Yunus (6) and has just begun a two year course studying Classical Arabic.

Mary Scott with an education in Social Work and Natural Resources Management, worked as a project officer, project manager, and as the Director of Communications for Human Resources Development Canada. Mary attended the 4th World Conference on Women in 1995, and has been active ever since in the community promoting women's human rights. Mary has volunteered with many organizations at the local, national and international level and knows the strength of women's voices to create change, locally and globally.

Treasurer:

LeAmber Kensley is a front line social services worker who has been working with marginalized populations for over 20 years through both employment and volunteer work. Through her volunteer work, she has been involved in the oversight, budgeting and maintenance of various non profit organizations. She is a proud Metis Woman.

Secretary:

Hilary Taylor is a third year law student at the University of Manitoba's Robson Hall. Upon graduation in May 2015, she will article with Legal Aid, practicing family law. Hilary started as a member of UNIFEM in 2009 and later began her role as Secretary with UN Women. She continued to hold this role upon the incorporation of the Institute for International Women's Rights - Manitoba in 2013. Hilary is also the Co-Chair of the Feminist Legal Forum and enjoys facilitating No Means No sessions in middle schools. She is passionate about gender equality and thrilled to be part of IIWR.

Vice President Administration:

Nancy Cosway has a background in public health and community development. She provided public health services for the Manitoba Government in Easterville and many communities in the Interlake region (1976 to 1985). Has worked and lived in several countries in Africa over the past 25 years. Nancy initially began providing sanitation and hygiene programming as a complementary activity to the water supply provision. Then moved into community participation and project management. Her first overseas work was with CUSO in 1968 to 1970. She has also worked in Uganda, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, India, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Malawi and has travelled extensively throughout Africa, including Togo, Burkina Faso, Mali, South Africa, Kenya, Morocco and Egypt. Most recently she has been in Ghana providing short term assistance on a quarterly basis for Project Management of a French Govt funded Rural and small town water and sanitation project. She will continue to provide quarterly inputs to this project until January 2015. She has seen significant changes in the lives of women and girls as water and sanitation facilities have been provided to rural communities in Africa.

Vice President Diversity:

Florence Ngozi Okwudili was originally from Nigeria and moved to Canada in February 2000. Before arriving to Canada,

Florence graduated from Bayero University Kano Nigeria, where she obtained her Post Graduate Diploma in Public Policy and Administration and was an Executive Assistant in one of the Country financial house. Upon arriving in Canada, Florence, continued to involve herself on issues affecting women, children and Africa's development. Florence obtained a B.A in International Development Studies at the University of Winnipeg. She is very passionate about issues affecting women in Africa. Florence is also an active member of the African Community. She is the Coordinator for the Folklorama Africa Pavilion. Florence sits on a number of different Boards, including, IIWR- MB, Manitoba Federation for Non Profit, Direct Support Professionals. She was also a board member of The Citizen Equity Committee and for 4 years and was the Chair for the City of Winnipeg Youth Role Model Award. She is married, has 5 children and 2 grand children.

Vice President Youth:

Angeline Rivard is currently pursuing a double major in Human Rights and Global Studies, as well as Conflict Resolution Studies at the University of Winnipeg. Volunteering has always been an important part of her life. In more recent years she has predominantly volunteered as a tutor for inner city children. Angeline is currently co-chair of the Global College Student Advisory Council which is a student led group that works to promote, raise awareness and funds for local and global social justice issues. Angeline is passionate about women's rights, and values the need for universal education access. Angeline hopes to further her studies in this area, by pursuing either a degree in law or a specialized masters program.

Board Members

Marilou McPhedran is a human rights lawyer who served as the Principal (dean) of Global College in its founding years from 2008-2012 and currently teaches human rights at Global College. In 1997 Marilou founded the International Women's Rights Project (IWRP) when she was at York University, which is now based at the University of Victoria Centre for Global Studies and she currently directs the Institute for International Women's Rights and teaches human rights courses at Global College.

Anita Neville Member of Parliament from 2000 to 2011, where she served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Heritage and Chair of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women. Also a member of several parliamentary standing and special legislative committees including those focusing on community and corporate social responsibility, Aboriginal Affairs, Defence, Justice and Human Rights. Participated as a long serving member and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Winnipeg School Division. Employed with the Government of Manitoba as an Economic Development Consultant, Director of Workforce 2000, and Director of the Winnipeg Core Area initiative Employment and Training program. Served as a Lay Benchers of the Law Society of Manitoba as well as a member of several community boards and task forces.

Muriel Smith is a lifelong volunteer and activist at local, national and global levels; delegate to 5 UN World Conferences and numerous meetings of UN Commission on Status of Women; first provincial Deputy Premier in Canada 1981-88 and Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, Community Services and Corrections, Housing, Labour and Status of Women; mother of four and grandmother of eight; great believer in the power of women working together for peace, justice and equality; holder of OC., OM. and LID.

Donna Marion For more than thirty-five years, Donna Marion has been an advocate for gender equality. Whether acting in a professional capacity as an educator, business owner, or documentary producer, or on a personal level, as a community volunteer, she has worked to create a world where all women are treated with respect.

Leona MacDonald Sixteen years ago, Leona returned to her hometown after 37 years away. She holds a B.Sc (H.Ec) degree from University of Manitoba and a Diploma of Education from McGill. Now retired, she worked as General Manager of professional theatre companies and after 15 years resumed her first career as a teacher and taught in Victoria and at Yukon College, Whitehorse. When she moved to Winnipeg Leona worked at Manitoba Theatre Centre as Director of its consecutive Capital and Endowment Campaigns. Leona has volunteered on various Boards: The Association of Fundraising Professionals Board, co-chairing the Education Program Committee and chairing the Annual Philanthropy Awards Committee, and served three years on the Board of AFP Foundation for Philanthropy –

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Canada. Currently she serves on The Victoria General Hospital Foundation Board, The Westminster Church Foundation Board, and The University Women's Club – Winnipeg Board, as Treasurer.

Gertrude Hambira

Gertrude, a mother of five children, was born in 1961 and joined the Zimbabwe Trade Union as an educator in 1983. She was then seconded to GAPWUZ (General Agricultural & Plantation Workers Union) in 1987 as an organizer and subsequently elected as General Secretary of GAPWUZ in 2000.

Organising farm workers in the 1980s and 1990s was dangerous, colonial farmers were very hostile to trade unions. They threatened anyone who participated in union activities, even sacking workers. When Gertrude visited farms, farmers would set dogs on her, shout abuse, threaten her at gunpoint. She remained resolute; GAPWUZ grew to become the largest in Zimbabwe with 150,000 members.

Gertrude was elected as GAPWUZ's General Secretary one of the few women leaders globally of an agricultural trade union. She led GAPWUZ in its most challenging time. Since 2000, workers have been evicted from farms and lost their livelihoods as Mugabe ran a racially charged land reform programme under the guise of redressing colonial imbalances. Farm workers, often accused of siding with the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, were victims of violence together with the commercial farmers. Gertrude was instrumental in filming a documentary, *House of Justice* and an accompanying report *If Something is Wrong*, which pointed out that farm workers were the main victims of violence under Mugabe's land reform program. The Film and Report have been shown in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, and South Africa and Gertrude brought the film to the Conference of the International Labour Organisation and screened it during several public viewings. It has also been shown in the USA, Canada, UK and Netherlands.

The potential for serious harm to Gertrude was evident, and Gertrude fled into exile to South Africa and her family was allowed to leave, and be reunited here in Canada.

Roxana Obasi was born in Victoria (now Limbe) on the Atlantic coast of south west province of Cameroon, Central Africa. After her primary Education in Victoria, she proceeded to the Queen of the Rosary College, Okoyong Mamfe. A city dwelling girl she was at this time, but an opportunity came during one of the summer holidays to spend time her Aunty's village. It was during this holiday that a flame of feminine consciousness became lighted in her when she brought into contact with the bitter realities of the world of the African Girl especially those in her village, girls who eventually became her friends. Trapped between the clutches of male dominance and socio – cultural traditions some of the girls as young as 14 were already mothers, married and never been to school. At puberty majority were circumcised in rites that ushered them to womanhood. These girls saw nothing wrong in their situations but for Roxana, it was the beginning of an inner combat against the dilemma of the girl child. After her Advanced Level, she took training and specialised in early child education (Kindergarten and Nursery). While teaching in Yaounde from 1990 to 2012, she had the privilege to meet influential women and expatriates and diplomats. In 1992 in the heat of multiparty political turmoil we founded the Yaoundé Roving Sister (ROVERS) - under the heading of a social group but the main agenda was the promotion of women interests. Through TV Talk shows, seminars/conferences, traditional /social meetings, churches village cultural festivals, international days etc we sought avenues to pass our messages. As secretary, she was privileged to attend seminars/workshops on gender related issues in Nigeria, Benin and Ghana. Our impact encouraged the emergence of other Organisations which received international support from agencies like UNIC which through the ministry of women's affairs forced government in 2010 to create the law against FGM.

Furthering her education, Roxana obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Linguistics from the University of Yaoundé ; and the same year she was transferred to Limbe as head of bureau for extra-curricular Activities in the provincial delegation for secondary Education. This position enabled more opportunities to make contact with the rural world where

the problems are more real. Roxana co-founded an NGO, Eyumojock Women's Association, EWA; a Philanthropic, educational, social and activist group for women's rights. For over 20 years Roxana has worked to contribute to the change of mentalities about the girl child not only in her community of origin but in Cameroon as a whole...why not Africa! FGM is now officially a crime, more girls go to school, early marriages discouraged, girls return to school after delivery and poor girls are having avenues to seek cheap and free education. I still keep track of my movements back home to support and encourage them.

In 2013, Roxana and family (husband and three kids) immigrated to Canada under the skilled workers programme and was thrilled to find my activist mission resumed when fate brought my sister and fighter friend Getrude Ham-bira from Zimbabwe through our common employer WINSERV. Our first baptism in Winnipeg, was the Chibock girls saga which thanks to freedoms and administrative support we had a successful protest match. Gertrude and myself are currently volunteers at the Canadian Human Rights Museum (CHRM), here in Winnipeg.

Hazel Perrie is a Mother, Grandmother, daughter, Grand Daughter, Auntie, friend, colleague, and advocate. She has a 30 year career in Justice, and is a proud member of the Metis Nation. Hazel is committed to the advancement of women in non-traditional careers and passionate about the rights of women both locally and globally.

Alyssa Priestley Alyssa has been a member of the IIWR-Mb since its second meeting in early summer of 2013 and Chair of the Advocacy Committee since its inception in October 2013. Alyssa is passionate about women's rights both locally and globally. For example, she has recently written an award-winning paper on the problems associated with Canada's human trafficking laws, specifically with respect to its failures in protecting and assisting women victims. Additionally, in 2012/2013 Alyssa volunteered as a youth facilitator for LEAF's No Means No workshop sessions, during which time she was able to connect with young men and women to discuss the importance of respecting women and the issues of consent. Alyssa is currently in her third year of law school at the University of Manitoba

Ellen Judd has been active in IIWR-MB and its precursors since the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. She is an anthropologist who teaches women in cross-cultural perspective and the anthropology of human rights at the University of Manitoba. Her ethnographic research in contemporary China focuses on political economy and gender, inclusivity, and the anthropology of care.

Allison Fenske is originally from Northern Manitoba. She is a lawyer with the firm Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP, where her practice is primarily focused on Aboriginal Law (with an emphasis on natural resource development and Indian Residential School claims), litigation and administrative law. Allison is also regularly appointed independent counsel to complainants in sexual assault prosecutions where the disclosure of their private records is in issue. Allison is a recent recipient of the Manitoba Bar Association's Pro Bono Award for her work with Winnipeg Harvest on the legal framework for the right to food. Allison has also been pro bono counsel to a number of organizations, including Winnipeg Harvest, Amnesty International and the national branch of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund.

Special thanks to those who have served on the Board of IIWR-Manitoba and are not returning, but we hope will be active as members: Jacqueline Nobiss, Elaine Stevenson, Wilma Sotas, Zulfiya Tur-sunova, Chelsea Caldwell, Judy Wasylycia-Leis, Alanna Gray, and Ariana Yaftali.

UN Safe Cities-Winnipeg Report to International Institute for Women's Rights-Manitoba

by Donna Marion



In November 2013, Winnipeg was officially selected as the first Canadian city to be part of the UN Safe Cities Global Initiative.

Even though less than a year has passed since that time, much important groundwork has been done to ensure the success of this new initiative to reduce sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces in the city.

A steering committee of representatives from the community, the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Police Service, and the Manitoba Government has been formed. IIWR-MB is pleased to be represented on the steering committee along side other community groups concerned with the safety of women and girls. Chaired by Beth Ulrich, Executive Director, Manitoba Status of Women, the committee has focussed on creating partnerships that will support the implementation of community-based scoping studies.

The scoping studies are a requirement of the UN Safe Cities Initiative and consist of compiling all existing data around sexual assaults in selected sites. The committee is preparing to engage in consultations with Aboriginal women and Newcomer and immigrant women to ensure their voices and experience are captured. As well, the committee is working with the University of Winnipeg Student Association to link the Safe Cities Initiative with their Positive Space campaign.

On October 25, a representative from UN Women in New York will be on hand as the Winnipeg Safe Cities steering committee reports its findings to the community. Also on the program will be a commemoration of the Millennium Development Goals and Beijing+20. Note: Mary Scott will be speaking about the upcoming review of the Platform for Action and Beijing +20 on the 25th.

Everyone is invited to attend this event which will be held at Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall at the University of Winnipeg beginning at 1pm. on **Saturday, October 25. RSVP: 204-942-6281 or msw@gov.mb.ca.**

From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World

Co Sponsored by Institute for International Women's Rights – Manitoba &
Institute for International Women's Rights Global College

November 26th

Time: 7:00 Doors open at 6:30

Place: Room 2M 70 University of Winnipeg

Panel: Moderated by Marilou McPhedran

Presenters:

Topic: **Militarism**, presenter - Ellen Judd

Topic: **Charter of Compassion and the Compassionate Games**, presenter – Darcia Senft

Topic: **Female Genital Cutting**, presenter – Roxana Obasi

Topic: **What Makes for Peace**, presenter—Gertrude Hambira

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign that starts on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day. The campaign hopes to raise awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional and international level.