

INSTITUTE FOR
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
RIGHTS MANITOBA

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

INSTITUTE FOR
INTERNATIONAL

Women's
Rights
MANITOBA



AGM AGENDA

9th Annual General Meeting
INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMENS RIGHTS - MANITOBA
March 29th, 2022, 6:30 pm

6:30
PM

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

6:40
PM

SPEAKER: MELISSA CHUNG-MOWAT

7:00
PM

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

7:15
PM

THANK YOU TO SPEAKER

7:20
PM

OFFICIAL MEETINGS

8:00
PM

CLOSING

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Co-Chairs: Teruni Walaliyadde & Christine Williams (acting)

Secretary: Fiona Vowell (acting)

Treasurer: Isabelle Hodgson

VICE-PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE LEADERS

VP of Administration: Fiona Vowell

VPs of Diversity and International Initiatives: Jessica da Silva and Laura Antymniuk

VP of Youth: Shayne Wong

Indigenous Liaison: Renata Meconse

Co-Chairs of Advocacy: Micaela Crighton & Leah Wilson

Chair of Fundraising: Samantha Therrien

Chair of Communications: Angeline Rivard (acting)

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Darci Todoruk

Meara House

Angeline Rivard

Mariam Omar

Sanjida Ahmed

IIWR-MB appreciates the support from Silvia de Sousa, Debbie Yeboah and Chimwemwe Undi (TDS Law), and Jeannine Vandall (Precise Accounting) for their probono work and guidance.

Thank you!

CO-CHAIRS REPORT

Hello and welcome to the Institute for International Women's Rights-Manitoba (IIWR-MB) 9th Annual General Meeting. The IIWR-MB Board of Directors is looking forward to another year of impactful work and meaningful collaboration.

This last year, Sahla Mitchell stepped down as Co-Chair and Jessica Botelho-Urbansk stepped down as Chair of Communications. Christine Williams stepped up as interim Co-Chair, while Fiona Vowell covered both the VP Administration and Secretary portfolios and Angeline Rivard took on the role of interim Communications Chair. Thank you to all those who generously shuffled their portfolios and stepped into new roles to ensure that the IIWR-MB continued to serve its purpose during this transition period.

As many of you know, the IIWR-MB is a non-profit organization that aims to educate, create awareness, and take action to promote gender equity and justice. This year, with these goals in mind, the IIWR-MB volunteers were very busy!

In this annual report, you will read about all the wonderful work the IIWR-MB has done over this past year. A few highlights include: applying for and receiving a grant from Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) which allowed the IIWR-MB to hire a researcher for the first time ever; receiving the Canada Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Youth Award for Social Justice and Inclusivity; hosting a number of webinars, including a Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) panel event titled "Indigenizing Climate Justice: Ancient Wisdom to Tackle Climate Change"; and attending a weekend-long Organizational Planning Meeting where Directors shared and discussed their ideas for how the IIWR-MB can better serve our communities moving forward. We are currently planning for our next Local to Global event which will be announced shortly, so please stay tuned!

You will find more details about the above and other interesting events and initiatives in the following pages. We want to thank all Directors for their hard work and unrelenting enthusiasm over the 2021-22 year. This incredible group of volunteers have superseded their goals and overcome insurmountable challenges. We cannot thank you enough and we look forward to what this next year has in store for you all.

Lastly, we want to take the opportunity to thank all of our members, without whom the IIWR-MB would not be able to do this work. It is thanks to you and your support that the IIWR-MB has been able to have the impact it has had on the communities we all work and live. As always, we invite all members to attend our monthly board meetings, and to join our various committees which are highlighted in the following pages.

Looking forward to a wonderful year ahead,

Christine Williams & Teruni Walaliyadde

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Prepared by Precise Accounting

**INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S RIGHTS - MANITOBA INC.
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021
(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)**

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current assets:		
Cash and bank	\$ 9,314	\$ 12,117
Interest Receivable	93	75
Prepaid	-	-
	<u>9,408</u>	<u>12,192</u>
OTHER ASSETS		
ACU - GIC	5,340	5,340
Global College Bursaries	1,600	1,600
	<u>6,940</u>	<u>6,940</u>
	<u><u>16,347</u></u>	<u><u>19,130</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,008	672
Unearned Revenue	-	-
	<u>1,008</u>	<u>672</u>
SHARE CAPITAL AND EQUITY		
Contributed Surplus (note 4)	15,340	18,459
	<u>15,340</u>	<u>18,459</u>
	<u><u>16,347</u></u>	<u><u>19,130</u></u>

INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL
Statement of Operations and Deficit
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021
(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

	2021	2020
Revenue:		
Membership Fees	710	480
	<u>710</u>	<u>480</u>
Other Income:		
Donations	500	2,992
Interest Income	25	90
Other Revenue	-	5,816
	<u>525</u>	<u>8,898</u>
Gross Revenue	1,235	9,378
Operating Expenses:		
AGM Expense	-	200
Courier and Postage	-	138
Honorarium & gifts	-	(500)
Meeting Expense	268	-
Printing	-	225
Software	-	388
Supplies	-	182
Workshop	3,750	-
	<u>4,018</u>	<u>633</u>
Administrative Expenses:		
Office supplies	-	359
Professional fees	336	336
Website	-	(123)
	<u>336</u>	<u>572</u>
Income (loss) for the year	(3,119)	8,173
Unallocated earnings beginning of year	18,459	10,286
Unallocated earnings end of year	<u>15,340</u>	<u>18,459</u>

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Prepared by the Co-Chairs of
Advocacy, Micaela Crighton &
Leah Wilson

Advocacy Co-Chairs: Micaela Crighton & Leah Wilson

Committee Members*: Angela Zajnyziak*, Chelsea McLeod, Christine Williams, Fiona Vowell, Mary Scott,
Nic Catalano, Sarah Bonner-Proulx, Shayne Wong*, Tyler Andrade

*Denotes that this member did not serve for the entirety of 2021 on the committee.
They either joined or left within the 2021 year.

2021 was an exciting year for the Advocacy Committee as we pursued efforts building on our Feminist Response to COVID-19 in Manitoba campaign. Our annual 16 Days of Activism Campaign included our first safe and socially distanced in-person event since the beginning of the pandemic and it was held in partnership with Women's March Winnipeg! While we were challenged by yet another year of disruption from the ongoing pandemic, the Advocacy Committee took the challenge in stride and persevered with passion and engagement for continued efforts for gender equity and justice. The upcoming year presents even more exciting opportunities as we look towards the 10 year anniversary of IIWR-MB as an organization and we are enthused to share in celebration and community!

Since the 2020 AGM, the Committee has participated in the following advocacy initiatives on behalf of the IIWR-MB.

Endorsements / Initiatives

- Submitted an open letter to (then) Health Minister Heather Stefanson on the portfolio of **Reproductive Health** as constituting Health Care, ccing Minister Cox and Premier Pallister with sign-ons from West Central Women's Resource Center and Social Planning Council of Winnipeg.
- Signed onto the **Polonia Inclusive** campaign to support reproductive justice in Poland.
- Signed onto **Migrants Right Network: Status for All** campaign alongside Canadian feminist and immigrant rights organizations.
- Signed on in support, and sent an independent letter to the government, recognizing the Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic's work for an inclusive **Canada Child Benefit (CCB)**.
- Supported the **Migrant Rights Network** call for support for care workers, including full landed status and clearing the backlog on permanent residency processes that disproportionately affects those in the caring economy.
- Signed on in support of **Action Canada, Wisdom2Action and Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity statement on Trans-Inclusive Feminism**, including supporting and uplifting Trans-Inclusive voices and advocacy.
- Signed on to **An Affirmation of Feminist Principles**, including the inherent and inalienable rights that all feminists have regardless of their gender or sexual identity, and associated **letter**.
- Signed onto **Make Poverty History Manitoba's k(NO)w Poverty** campaign.
- Worked in collaboration with the Indigenous Liaison to develop our **October 4th statement on the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls** and developed the **Progress on the Implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice**.



Campaigns

- Developed, in collaboration with the Fundraising Chair and Co-Chairs, the successful grant application for the Feminist Response and Recovery Call for Proposals, entitled “Bringing GBA+ to Manitoba: Towards an Intersectional Feminist Recovery.” Funded through the Feminist Response and Recovery Fund from Women and Gender Equality Canada, the grant focuses on bringing a GBA+ approach to Manitoba and addressing gaps in provincial response to COVID-19 through education and research. This funding has enabled the hiring of IIWR-MB's first ever staff member who will be working with the Committee on researching and progressing implementation of GBA+ within Manitoba!
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Actions --- The Advocacy Committee successfully ran IIWR-MB's Annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence from November 25 to December 10th. The events and initiatives that we coordinated included:
 - Lighting of the Winnipeg sign at the Forks in recognition of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
 - Joined Stacey Murray on his podcast [Humans, On Rights](#) to recognize and promote 16 Days.
 - Hosted two synchronous live events focused on the theme Rights | Resistance in partnership with Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan and Women's Health Clinic (see more in events section).
 - Hosted an Instagram Live with Rainbow Resource Centre.
 - Hosted the Rally for Remembrance for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6th.
 - Treaty 3 Executive Youth Council [Social Media Takeover](#).
 - [Published 231 Calls for Justice Progress Report](#) reflecting on IIWR-MB internal progress on ensuring the implementation of the 231 Calls for Justice.

Articles for 16 Days Blogs:

- [Right, Regressions, and Resistance in the 16 Days of Activism](#) by Micaela Crighton and Leah Wilson. Published November 25th, 2021.
- [The Fragility of Rights: Reflections on Afghanistan](#) by Mariam Omar, IIWR-MB Board Member and Canadian Women for Women Afghanistan-Manitoba Chapter Co-Founder. Published November 28th, 2021.
- [Silence and Ignored: My Journey with Endometriosis](#) by Alex Marie, LGBTQ+ and Disability Rights Activist. Published December 4th, 2021.
- [Reproductive Justice in Rural and Remote Manitoban Communities](#) by Chris Romaniuk, Sexuality and Reproductive Health Facilitator, Sexual Education Resource Centre Inc. (SERC Manitoba). Published December 5th, 2021.
- [Hold Space for Untold Stories](#) by Kiana Sky & Angela Lavalley, Winnipeg-based community advocates. Published December 8th, 2021.

Events & Meetings --- Committee members attended a number of community demonstrations, protests and events representing IIWR-MB. We have chosen to highlight a few we were more directly involved with.

- Attended the Feminist Foreign Policy Meeting with Minister Garneau. The event included a roundtable with 14 other Civil Society Organizations.
- We hosted a panel celebrating International Women's Day in 2021 titled Reproductive Health in Manitoba: Integrity, Access, and Inclusivity with panelists from Manitoba Health Coalition & Sexual Education Resource Centre MB (SERC MB).
- Advocacy Co-Chairs Facilitated our [2021 Volunteer Drive](#), which included a Volunteer Orientation hosted alongside the V.P.s of Diversity and International Initiatives and V.P. of Youth and Local Initiatives.



16 Days Live Events

- Rights I Resistance Dialogue Series I. We hosted two synchronous, virtual events that focused on themes of human rights, gender equality, rights regression and resistance. The first session was held on November 29th at 7PM with Mariam Omar (IIWR-MB Board Member & Canadian Women for Women Afghanistan-Manitoba Chapter Co-Founder) and Lauryn Oates (CW4WA Executive Director) focused on the situation facing Afghan women, girls and gender-diverse people.
- Rights I Resistance Dialogue Series II. Held on December 4th, 2021 at 1PM, the second Rights I Resistance dialogue series session featured Kemlin Nembhard, Executive Director at Women's Health Clinic. Thematically, the event focused on reproductive rights and justice within the Manitoba context including gaps in services and progress made in recognition of WHCs 40th anniversary.
- Rally for Remembrance. Hosted on December 6th at 5:30 PM, we held a rally in honour of the National Day of Awareness & Action on Violence Against Women and the 32nd Anniversary of the Montréal Massacre hosted on the steps of the Manitoba Legislature. In partnership with Women's March Winnipeg, the rally was also hosted virtually and livestreamed to the IIWR-MB Facebook page. At the event, we heard from Geraldine (Gramma) Shingoose, Vivienne Ho (CUPE Local 2348), Nahanni Fontaine (St. John's Constituency MLA), Alaya McIvor (Community Activist), Debbie Boissonneault (CUPE Local 204 President), Stephanie Swain (Direct Support Worker & VP MGEU). Additionally, online we hosted Luca Gheorghica (Poverty Awareness Practitioner) and Florence Okwudili (Advocate & Former IIWR-MB Co-Chair).

Going Forward

In the spring 2021, the Advocacy Co-Chairs circulated an anonymous survey for response from the Advocacy Committee to learn more about work we hope to continue expanding on. Thematically, areas identified for us to continue working on include:

- Expanding partnerships with local organizations, collaborating for work and additional educational initiatives, including work with Indigenous partners.
- Continuing work on sexual and reproductive justice within remote and rural communities and supporting Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ activism.
- Increase awareness of our Feminist Response to COVID-19 and GBA+ in Manitoba work.
- Working on recruitment and membership engagement, including expanding networks and setting out clear expectations for members.

As we celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th, 2022, we reflected on how the theme #BreakTheBias continues to be applicable in our work for gender equality, equity, and justice. As Elder May Louise Campbell of Grandmothers Healing Lodge said at an event celebrating that day "enough is enough" of the discrimination, prejudice, and gender-based violence for women, girls, and gender-diverse peoplefolks, and we recognize these words as a call to action for our continued work.

2021 has seen regression and push back against human rights, gender equity included. Despite this we continue to be encouraged in our activism and energized by the engagement of our Advocacy Committee, members, and the broader community. 2021 inspired many partnerships with community organizations and we look forward to continuing expanding our work to be inclusive of all communities that work for gender equity and justice. We would not pursue our work if we did not believe achieving it was possible.

DIVERSITY & INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Prepared by the Vice Presidents
of Diversity & International
Initiatives, Jessica da Silva &
Laura Antymniuk

Co-Chairs: Jessica da Silva & Laura Antymniuk
Committee Members: Mary Scott

Since the 2021 Annual General Meeting, the Diversity & International Initiatives committee has continued to dedicate their energy to amplifying the diverse voices of our community and providing a platform for conversations about gender equity, intersectionality, and inclusion. Most notably, this occurred through the creation of our three-part webinar series, “Intersectionality: Building a Radical Future.”

The first installment of our webinar series, “Solidarity & Sisterhood: Decolonizing the Women’s Movement,” took place in November and saw meaningful conversations about how we can work toward decolonization of and solidarity within the women’s movement. In this forum, we were privileged to host several distinguished speakers including Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie, Maysoun Darweesh, Marianne Cerilli, Heather Symbalisty, Vanessa Tait, and Elder Albert MacLeod.

In January, we hosted the second segment of our webinar series in partnership with the Manitoba Association of Women’s Shelters (MAWS), “Truth Before Reconciliation: Sisterhood, Healing, Inclusion and Love.” In this webinar, speakers Vanessa Tait, Jeannie Red Eagle, and Elder Mae Louise Campbell discussed community-based solutions to violence, sisterhood, healing, inclusion and love with the aim of increasing social change and gender justice advocacy.

The third and final installment of our webinar series, “Indigenizing Climate Justice: Ancient Wisdom to Tackle Climate Change,” functioned as our official parallel event for the Commission on the Status of Women-66 and occurred in partnership with the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC). In accordance with the priority theme for CSW-66, this webinar sought to elevate the traditional wisdom and voices of Indigenous peoples and draw upon their unique ancestral knowledge systems of healing, community care, climate action and justice. In our event, we heard from local Indigenous leaders and activists Mary Maytwayashing, Melissa Hotain, Chantel Henderson, and Sadie-Phoneix Lavoie, who reinforced their place as leaders in climate change discourse and provided solutions on how to protect the future of our planet.

Beyond our webinar series, the Diversity & International Initiatives Committee had a delegation of six dedicated, energetic individuals virtually attend CSW-66 between March 14th and March 25th, 2022. The priority theme for this year was achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes. Over the coming months, we look forward to reporting back to the community with respect to the events we attended and continuing to elevate the diverse voices of our community on a local and global scale.

YOUTH & LOCAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Prepared by the Vice President
of Youth, Shayne Wong

In 2021, the Institute for International Women's Rights – Manitoba Youth Council expanded to **16 youth members!**

The Youth Council was designed as a safe space for members of IIWR-MB between the ages of 16 and 30 to engage in current human and women's rights topics. It is also a space where young people who may be new to advocacy and human rights spaces to begin to explore how, as a young person, they can engage in these areas and have their voice heard.

In 2021 the Youth Council:

- Participated in the virtual 65th Commission on the Status of Women, with the priority theme of women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
- The Chair of the Youth Council, Shayne Wong, authored the piece A Responsibility to Lead: A Domestic Lens to Women, Peace and Security Includes Indigenous experiences which was included in the report Reflections on Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security: Gains, Gaps & Goals published by the Women, Peace and Security Network – Canada (WPSN-C)
- Participated in the Generation Equality Forum in both Mexico and France. GEF is a forum that focused on the advancement of gender equality around the world taking place in Mexico City from the 29 – 30 March, 2021 and in Paris from 30 June – 2 July, 2021.
- Expanded our social media reach and following through the continued engagement of the Youth Council members.
Twitter: @iiwrmb_youth
Instagram: @iiwrmb.youth
- Continued to offer and promote opportunities for Youth Council members to continue to expand their understanding and engagement with human and women's rights topics.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022 SLATE

OFFICERS

Co-Chairs: Teruni Walaliyadde & Christine Williams

Secretary: Fiona Vowell

Treasurer: Camila Navarro

VICE-PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE LEADERS

VP of Administration: Angeline Rivard

VPs of Diversity and International Initiatives: Jessica da Silva and Laura Antymniuk

VP of Youth & Local Initiatives: Sarah Bonner-Proulx

Indigenous Liaison: Renata Meconse

Co-Chairs of Advocacy: Micaela Crighton & Leah Wilson

Chair of Fundraising: Samantha Therrien

Co-Chairs of Communications: Marley Peters & Molly Karp

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Meara House

Angela Dawn Earl

Isabelle Hodgson