

CEIU Ontario Regional Women's Committee Report



Over the past 12 months since the last CEIU President's Conference, our CEIU Ontario Regional Women's Committee has been very active as a committee and we have made it our mandate to increase member involvement. We are a committee with a united vision and we work tirelessly to provide as many opportunities as we can to our members. We have grown to be a family and we work so well together; this is truly the key to our successful events.

Our committee has seen some changes over the past 12 months and the current makeup of our committee is as follows:

- Corrina Gavan, Chair (Local 534 North)
- Karen Spencer-Cousins, Secretary (Local 633 GTA)
- Sarah Rylett (Local 647 Southwest)
- Susannah Johnny (Local 622 East)
- Michelle Tsang (Local 566 GTA)

Along with CEIU National Vice President for Women Western Region - Lynda MacLellan (Local 638 GTA) and our CEIU Ontario Council Women's Representative, Julie Nanquill (Local 613, GTA).

Our committee is so fortunate to have the opportunity to work closely with and be supported by CEIU Ontario National Vice President (NVP) AM KuarSingh.

Last December we had our virtual Women's conference: **Nevertheless She Persisted**, held over three days. November 29, 2021 had the sub theme: Nevertheless She Persisted Through

Workplace Barriers, where we were fortunate to have an amazing panel of women speakers from both the union and the employer in the morning and a Collective Agreement overview for women's priorities in the afternoon. We reconvened on December 5th: Nevertheless She Persisted Through Diversity/Racism: for more amazing workshops on Anti-Racism Training led by Samantha Moonsammy, a Body Positivity discussion with Pure Ivory, a discussion with Leon Tsai and a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls art workshop facilitated by Jessica Somers. We had one more amazing day of conference on December 6th: Nevertheless She Persisted Through Violence Against All Women. We invited our male allies to attend a White Ribbon Campaign keynote with Dr. Kaufman. We then watched the movie Polytechnique with the delegates and had a discussion. We ended the conference by encouraging participants to attend a local or virtual vigil in honour of the women who lost their lives in the Polytechnique massacre and the women who had lost their lives to violence in the last year.

We successfully launched two new initiatives this year: Women's Wellness Wednesdays and three separate Instagram campaigns.

As a committee we saw a need in the membership to connect with other women and take some time for ourselves and Women's Wellness Wednesdays (WWW) was launched starting in January 2022. The first Wednesday of each month that has our payday is designated as the set day to meet. Each month saw a different theme, January: Pushing Through the Season of Depression, February: Lift Every Voice: Celebrating Black History, March: Mindfulness and Meditative Art, April: Resilience and Thriving in the Face of Uncertainty, May: encouraged members to attend the PSAC event being held for Asian Heritage Month, June: Art Facilitation in honor of Indigenous History month. We took a small summer pause and relaunched WWW this past September where we reviewed what has transpired and a sneak peak to the months ahead. October: We will have a session for Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day and November: Art Hive.

For the entire month of February, each day on our Instagram Page, @CEIU.ON.WOMEN, we featured inspirational Black Canadian women to celebrate Black History Month. We continued this momentum in May, by featuring inspirational Asian Canadian women each day of the month to commemorate Asian Heritage Month. Our third campaign followed in June to highlight Indigenous Canadian Women for Indigenous History Month. These campaigns were well received and we will continue to engage our members through our page.

In March 2022, the committee held a virtual one day training for International Women's Day and held two half-day sessions. In the morning we had an Indigenous Feminism Empowerment Workshop facilitated by Candace Linklater and in the afternoon Luna Matatas led us through a Busting Bias and Building Community workshop. The day was complemented by a virtual pop in visit by MPP Dr. Jill Andrew. It was an amazing day and generated great conversation amongst the group.

The committee is currently planning our in person event, which is taking place October 28-30, 2022 at Bayview Wildwood Resort with the theme "She Believed She Could, So She Did!" We

are so excited to provide this in person opportunity for our members to learn and grow in sisterhood and solidarity. We have some amazing facilitators and activities planned and we can't wait to share this experience with our delegates. We are so looking forward to having this opportunity to build connections with our members at the beautiful Baywood Wildwood Resort.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to all our union friends and allies who have always been so supportive and available when called on. We are looking ahead to 2023 and additional opportunities to empower women and bring all our ideas to fruition.