

## **FMWC's WPS Committee Meeting Minutes:**

### **Attendance (by telecon):**

Dr. Azad, Chair FMWC WPS Committee  
Dr. Breeck, FMWC WPS Committee Member  
Dr. Johnson, FMWC President and WPS Committee Member  
Ms Kathryn, representing Society Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC)  
Dr. Mathews, National Abortion Federation Member, Quebec  
Dr. Niec, FMWC MWIA Rep and WPS Committee Member

### **Regrets:**

Ms. Gerber, FMWC WPS Committee Student Member  
Dr. Kalay, representing Society Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC)  
Ms. Kennell representing Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights (ACSHR)  
Dr. Ross, MWIA Secretary General and FMWC WPS Committee Member

### **1. Introduction and Welcome**

Meeting opened at 7pm EST  
Roundtable introductions  
Agenda accepted as circulated

### **2. Minutes of the Jul 6, 2018 meeting**

Version 2.0 of the meeting notes circulated and accepted

Review of Action List:

- ACSHR rep has sent the Global Network of Abortion Providers list
- FMWC's WPS Committee poster for MWIA has been submitted by Ms Gerber
- FMWC's WPS Committee poster for MWIA has been submitted by Dr Azad.
- Letter sent to Dr. Moineau regarding abortion curriculum in Canadian medical schools. No response to date.
- Updated list at end of the minutes

### **3. Updates**

a. FMWC WPS Committee TOR - Approved Sept. 3, 2018

b. MWIA 100<sup>th</sup> Centennial Conference, Jul 25-29, 2019 in NY.  
[emedevents.com/c/medical-conferences-2019/mwia-centennial-congress-2019-1](http://emedevents.com/c/medical-conferences-2019/mwia-centennial-congress-2019-1)

FMWC WPS Committee abstract of abortion submitted with committee members names added to the abstract.

c. WPSN-Canada petitions, and letter writing campaigns

-The FMWC has sign onto several of the petitions relating to Saudi Arabia, Palestine, South Korea and Canadian foreign policy. If interested to learn more follow the FMWC WPS or WPSN-Canada blogs. An overview blog about WPSN issues is found at

<https://fmwc.ca/participation-protection-prevention-the-united-nations-security-council-women-peace-and-security-agenda/>

**4. WPSN-Canada** - <https://wpsn-canada.org/> Latest committee meeting Sep 6. Minutes available for review to anyone interested please contact Dr Azad. There was agreement that WPSN should highlight “domestic” issues within the CNAP that would include GBV of Indigenous women and women in security roles (RCMP/CAF). Access to comprehensive reproductive care for these Canadian women is uniquely challenging at times due to lack of access and geographic challenges.

**5. C-NAP Progress Report** as written by WPSN-Canada. Canada’s second national action report was released in Nov 2017 and has an implementation plan for the next five years. [http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues\\_development-enjeux\\_developpement/gender\\_equality-egalite\\_sexes/women\\_peace\\_security-femmes\\_paix\\_securite.aspx?lang=eng](http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_sexes/women_peace_security-femmes_paix_securite.aspx?lang=eng)

As we rapidly move towards the end of year 1, WPSN-Canada wrote a “reflections” review of the CNAP progress made so far. <https://wpsn-canada.org/2018/09/06/wpsn-c-releases-latest-publication/>

FMWC has written an executive summary of this 36 page document soon to be added to the FMWC blog.

## **6. Access and Capacity building: comprehensive sexual services**

a. Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights (global and domestic)

b. Medical education

- Much discussion was had in this area of the agenda. What is it that FMWC wants to achieve by working on this topic area? Where can FMWC leverage its strengths the best for the “biggest bang for its buck”?

- If the desired end goal is “equitable access to medical and/or surgical abortion to all women in Canada regardless of their geographic location or financial circumstances” then one of the key barriers to achieving that goal is “lack of service capacity in Canada for the provision of abortion related health care services”. One of the key identified causes for that specific barrier is “lack of appropriate, consistent academic and practical skill sets for Canadian physicians in training.”

- If that is the agreed to problem – “lack of provider services due to lack of training” how to best address that?

1. Write letters to CFPC to support improved exposures to MA training?
2. Ask CMA for help to develop advocacy plan ?

3. Complete an environmental scan. What other organizations are working towards this same goal? What projects/activities/research are they already doing in this area? What is SOGC /National Abortion Federation/CAPS/ ACSHR/FSQN already doing ? Domestic but also international ? include the global dept of SOGC. MWIA.
  4. Attend the National Abortion Federation meeting in Toronto Sep 29-30. Dr. Mathews is attending. Are there any other FMWC WPS members able to attend? This is another opportunity to gather situational awareness of who else is doing what in this topic area. <http://www.cvent.com/events/naf-toronto-regional-meeting/event-summary-6377d76a20d349c8b026bca7929659da.aspx>
- It was noted that there are other barriers as there was a sentiment that there were more trained health care providers then spots available for them to work – both at free standing clinics and in hospital settings.
  - Dr. Johnson offered to work with some local medical students to write an awareness blog for the FWMC website
  - There was discussion about many other FMWC members that might be interested to get involved in this work. There was agreement that it is a topic that should be discussed at the FMWC AGM. However until the scope of the work for the committee was clearly elucidated it wasn't clear yet what exactly we would be asking other FMWC members to get involved with.
  - There was discussion about completing a survey of medical students but also acknowledgement that several articles have recently been printed that overlap with this idea. There is recognition that there likely are still gaps in knowledge and experience that are worth documenting within the training system. It was acknowledged that what question is being asked is also important. How do students feel about this topic ? Do they want to learn more about it?
  - Dr. Azad used the analogy of a cultural sensitivity questionnaire she did early in her career to all the deans of all the medical schools. "what are you teaching in this area?" so as to document the current state of curriculum
  - Dr. Breeck wondered if the best attack is from top down. Define the gold standard desired for education curriculum then ask each school how they compare to it and if they are interested/willing to meet it ? If not, why not. What is their barrier to meeting the expert agreed standard of education on this topic area?
  - There was discussion of if SOGC has already done some of this work. Is there an agreed to minimum standard of training in comprehensive reproductive care issues for all Canadian learners? Ob/Gyn? Family Practice? Other fields of medicine?
  - Other practioners ? NP? Midwives?

## 7. Next step

some immediate action items in preparation for the FMWC AGM.

Followup again in October after the AGM and the National Abortion Federation Conference.

## **FMWC WPS COMMITTEE ACTION LIST**

**Dr. Ross:** Keep this WG updated regarding related AMWA work/projects .

### **SOGC Rep:**

1. Consider becoming FMWC member/associate member.  
<https://fmwc.ca/membership/become-a-member/>
2. Consider joining WPSN-C as an individual or as SOGC. <https://wpsn-canada.org/become-a-member/>
3. Advise this committee on any overlapping/related WPS work within SOGC (especially related to domestic/international abortion access)
4. Decide on who the best SOGC rep(s) would be to continue this work with FMWC
5. Provide any suggested Quebec specific resources to liaise with

### **ACSHR Rep:**

1. Consider joining FMWC as an "associate" member. [fmwc.ca/membership/become-a-member/](https://fmwc.ca/membership/become-a-member/)
2. Advise this committee on any overlapping/related WPS work within AHSR (especially related to domestic/international abortion access)
3. Decide on who the best ACSHR rep(s) would be to continue this work with

### **Ms. Gerber:**

1. Recruit other student FMWC students to help create the survey. In the survey: test knowledge about abortion management, get an idea of how competent students feel with this topic and if they would want more training and/or exposure.

### **Dr Azad**

1. Followup with ACSHR
2. Determine best date for next meeting and provide email addresses for new members on call Sep 11.

**Drs. Azad and Johnson:**

1. Determine role/opportunity to speak/educate membership about WPS at FMWC AGM
2. To followup if no response to letter sent to Dr. Moineau by Oct 1. (May want to re-send asking for a response before Sep 22 so it can be reported to the FMWC AGM)

**Dr. Mathew**

1. Attend the National Abortion Federation conference and pass back any relevant resource groups/names/overlapping work being done in this area
2. The FMWC AGM is in Toronto the Sep 22 weekend. Please consider e-introducing any Toronto based groups/people of interest for the FMWC executive to meet with from the National Abortion Federation while in Toronto.
3. Consider becoming (if not already) a FWMC member and/or attending FMWC AGM.

**Everyone:**

1. Share the FREE SOGC abortion module. Note that this program has been accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada for 6 M1 credits and the Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP) for 3 CEU credits. 2. All available SOGC courses here: <https://sogc.org/online-courses/courses.html>