



FEDERATION OF MEDICAL WOMEN OF CANADA
Women, Peace and Security Committee

FÉDÉRATION DES FEMMES MÉDECINS DU CANADA
Comité sur les femmes, la paix et la sécurité

FMWC Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2019
18:00 – 19:00 hours Central Daylight Savings time

Attendance (by teleconference)

Dr. Nahid Azad – Chair FMWC WPS committee
Dr. Patricia Warshawski – WPS Committee member
Dr. Edith Guilbert- - SOGC, WPS Committee member
Dr. Shelley Ross – Secretary General of MWIA and WPS member
Dr. Anne Niec – Chair, FMWC Membership Committee, WPS Committee member
Dr. Karen Breeck – FMWC WPS Committee member
Dr. Victoria Gerber – FMWC WPS Committee member

Later joined by:

Dr. Charissa Patricelli - National Honourary Secretary; Chair Communications Committee; WPS Committee member

Ms. Susan Dong – FMWC WPS Committee, student rep.

Dr. Kathee Andrews – President, FMWC; WPS Committee member

Regrets:

Dr. Angel Foster – WPS Committee member

Ms. Margaret Shkimba – Social media liaison FMWC

Dr. Beverly Johnson – Past president FMWC and WPS Committee member

Dr. Catherine Savoie – SOGC rep.

Introduction and Welcome

The conference started at 18:00 hours Eastern Daylight Savings time and ended at 19:00 hours

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 27th, 2019 meeting were distributed. Dr. Foster has some corrections which Dr. Azad will forward to Dr. Warshawski. The minutes were otherwise approved.

2. Updates:

a. MWIA centennial July 25 – 28, 2019

- i. Drs. Ross, Azad, Niec, Andrews, Johnson and Patricelli will be attending the MWIA100 conference
- ii. Our poster presentation on “unwanted pregnancy” has been accepted. Dr. Azad will lead preparing the poster. Drs. Guilbert and Niec volunteered to review the poster. Ms. Susan Dong, the medical student involved will be named as co-author of the poster. Dr. Azad will work on it so that it can be reviewed and submitted by July 17.



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iii. We have put forth two resolutions to be brought up at MWIA meeting. Dr. Ross has sent out these resolutions for approval and, if approved, they will be included in the attendees' packages.

b. FMWC AGM September 20 – 22, 2019

Dr. Niec and Warshawski will be at the AGM. Dr. Azad will not be able to attend. Dr. Warshawski will give a presentation at the AGM about the work of our committee.

3. WPS Network meeting held July 8.

a. This meeting was held to discuss advocacy regulations for the upcoming federal election. A webinar will be held July 18th from 12:00 – 14:00. Those who are interested can join by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advocacy-regulations-and-the-election-le-plaidoyer-et-ses-reglements-en-periode-electorale-tickets-64183701178>

<https://ccic.ca/event/advocacy-regulations-and-the-election/>

b. Dr. Breeck mentioned that she knows Jacqueline O'Neill who is the first WPS Ambassador for Canada and is interested in working with her. A meeting will be set up with Dr. O'Neil by the WPS network in August.

4. WPS committee: One year in review:

a. FMWC Advocacy Action Plan to improve Domestic Services for Unwanted Pregnancy:

i. Poster presentation at the upcoming MWIA centennial meeting
ii. In addition to literature review, conducted an Ontario medical student survey on abortion training which showed 102 of 113 responding students strongly support full access to abortion services and 100 of 113 identified that as future providers they did not receive adequate training in this area.

iii. FMWC WPS Advocacy letter was sent to a large number of medical educators including the deans of various medical schools across Canada regarding the need for abortion care on the curriculum. Dr. Azad said that she has not received any responses.

iv. FMWC WPS attendance at a National Abortion Federation meeting in Ottawa on medical abortion 101 and 201

v. Meeting with Dr. Angel Foster who is a National Abortion Federation board member, University of Ottawa endowed Chair in Women's Health Research and a Rhodes Scholar. Dr. Foster was nominated to be a Honourary Member of the FMWC. As the guest speaker, Dr. Foster spoke at the FMWC meeting on International Women's Day in Ottawa and will be speaking at the FMWC AGM in Sept.

b. MWIA Resolutions submitted by our committee:

1. Formation of a MWIA WPS committee to act as a community of practice to collate and coordinate the activities of the various national WPS committees. All national WPS committees contribute, monitor and report to the MWIA WPS



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2. committee on all activities completed in support of the UN Security Council resolution 1325.
 3. Abortion – Medication and aspiration.
Motion: MWIA resolves that the term “abortion” is specifically inclusive of both surgical/aspiration procedure abortion and medication abortion.
- c. **Attendance at the 63rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women** in March, 2019 in New York City. Dr. Ross organized an excellent parallel session at this meeting for the MWIA representatives in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. Dr. Azad made a presentation about our WPS committee.
- d. **A FMWC WPS member, Dr. Karen Breeck, was assigned to specifically address the DND/CAF official review of the federal CNAP progress.**
- e. **Drs. Azad, Breeck, Ross, Johnson, Patricelli and others attended the “Women Deliver” Conference** in June, 2019 in Vancouver at which \$1.4 billion over 10 years was promised by the federal government to go toward reproductive health world-wide. The conference proceedings are available at <https://wd2019.org>
- f. **The WPS Committee is supporting the Canadian Doctors for Protection from Guns.** <http://www.doctorsforprotectionfromguns.ca/position-statement.html>. A letter of support from our committee was sent to Senator McPhedran regarding this.
- g. **A number of blogs from the WPS Committee is on the website :** <https://fmwc.ca/advocacy/women-and-peace-advocacy-group/>. Ms. Margaret Shkimba is helping to update the blogs

5. Updates:

- 1) – Sexual and reproductive health and rights
<https://www.18millionwomen.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/advancing-canadas-global-leadership-on-SRHR.pdf>
- 2) Investment of a minimum of \$500 million/year over 10 years starting in 2020 in the neglected areas of SRHR, as part of a \$1.4 billion commitment to women, adolescents and children’s health and rights starting in 2020;
- 3) <https://www.actioncanadashr.org/about>
- 4) Abortion resources – The College of Family Physician of Canada

<https://www.cfpc.ca/ProjectAssets/Templates/Category.aspx?id=12368&terms=abortion+resources>

- 5) Tele-Health for medical abortion

https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/914463?nlid=130298_2043&src=WNL_mdplsnews_190621_mscpedit_obqy&uac=27832MZ&spon=16&impID=2002801&faf=1



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Discussion on abortion:

Dr. Guilbert reported that there was an article in the journal “Contraception” about a year ago about all of the US sites providing abortion, but some sites had the incorrect formulation about the abortion pill. In Canada, Dr. Wendy Norman is heading a large study on the implementation of the abortion pill. The results of this study will be released soon. The number of abortion providers in English-speaking Canada is increasing but there is not much uptake of medical abortion in Quebec. Dr. Breeck said that Dr. Norman is interested in the work of our WPS Committee. At the AGM we should advocate and send out a press release regarding this.

The movie called “Unplanned” coming out soon which will be shown at some Cineplex Odeon theatres. Dr. Andrews said that the FMWC might be asked to comment on the film. Dr. Guilbert said that Radio Canada had an interview with Veronique Pronovost (Special committee on abortion rights) as they are advocating for abortion service in Quebec. Dr Guilbert also gave an interview for RDI: <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/tele/24-60/site/episodes/438180/desjardins-avortement-acosta-arrima-immigration>

It was suggested that the Federation should put out a facts sheet with “Myths and Truths” about abortion. We should contact Dr. Foster and ask Dr. Norman to help with this facts sheet. We could put it out as a pdf or infographic. At the Women Deliver conference there was a meeting of the international supporters of abortion which supported an international resource on the subject. We could put out a link to this resource from our website. Véronique Pronovost and Dr Guilbert are writing the draft of this fact sheet.

Global Doctors for Choice [globaldoctorsforchoice.org] is Committed to collaboration and action among physicians around the world so all people have the information, access to high quality services and freedom of choice necessary to make their own reproductive health decisions.

6. Discussion about Gender & Climate Change:

Dr. Azad reported that at Women Deliver conference in Vancouver, there were many sessions on climate change. She thinks that the WPS committee should look into this topic. Dr. Andrews said that a physicians’ mom group was looking into this subject. Dr. Niec pointed out an article in the CMAJ regarding this.

Cite as: *CMAJ* 2019 April 1;191:E375-6. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.109-5731

Dr. Niec also mentioned that the military is concerned with environmental toxins such as gas exposures. There are climate refugees coming to Canada which are fleeing the poor environment in their home countries. The CMA is also interested in climate change. Indigenous groups are also pushing the government to act on climate change. Dr. Niec said that there will be a conference in Hamilton in 2020 on water security for Indigenous people. It will be called “Resilience: Equity in Gender, Health and Water” and it will be about the connection between water security, mental wellness and resilience among Indigenous people. There is a book



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called “Drawdown” which has recommendations that we could act on regarding climate change. Dr. Azad recommended setting up a conference on this topic. Dr. Niec said that Sea Courses has been asked to organize conferences on reproductive health, environmental health and climate change.

7. Parliament of Canada committee report on Women Human Rights defenders:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/FAAE/report-29/page-27>

Many women human rights defenders (WHRDs) take up their causes knowing that their work will negatively impact their lives. They face the risk of sexual assault, threats to their family and efforts to smear their reputations, often based on gender stereotypes.

8. Dr. Azad included an article published by the New York Times:

Winners of the Nobel Peace Prize: Here’s How to Stop War With Iran

It is time to bring sanity back to Washington and Tehran and commit to a citizen-centered, maximum-diplomacy approach that protects the fragile equilibrium between our countries. The call for peace in the region has never been more pressing, the stakes never so high. Women and children — would pay the highest cost of this avoidable conflict.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/08/opinion/iran-trump.html>

9. Action list:

- Dr. Azad will work on the poster to be presented at the MWIA meeting. Title: Canadian Advocacy Action Plan to Improve Services for Unwanted Pregnancy. She will send it to Drs. Guilbert and Niec for input. This should be done by July 17, 2019.
- Draft a fact sheet on Myths vs. Facts on abortion advocacy
- Draft a blog on Gender and Climate Change for review by the members.