



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-WPS Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday July 22nd, 2020

18:00 – 1915 hours EDT.

Attendance (by Zoom video conference):

Dr. Nahid Azad – Chair, WPS Committee
Dr. Patricia Warshawski – Member, WPS Committee
Dr. Shelley Ross – Member, WPS Committee; Past Secretary-General MWIA
Dr. Edith Guilbert – Member, WPS Committee, SOGC representative
Dr. Beverly Johnson – Member, WPS Committee
Dr. Anne Niec – Member, WPS Committee, MWIA National Coordinator
Ms. Brintha Sivajohan – medical student, Western University
Ms. Celina DeBiasio – medical student, University of Ottawa
Dr. Karen Breeck – Member, WPS Committee

1. Introduction and Welcome

The conference call started at 18:00 hours and finished at 19:15 hours EDT. Dr. Azad reminded the members that the committee has existed for two years. According to the ToR, the position of the Chair of this committee is up for renewal. Dr. Angel Foster was a member of the WPS Committee but has had to return to the US because of COVID 19 as she is an American citizen. It is thought that she will return to her position at the University of Ottawa when allowed to in the future

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April 21, 2020 Conference Call were accepted by Dr. Niec.

3. Updates on Abortion Fact sheet

The Fact sheet was sent to the CMA but a French translation was needed for consideration. Dr. Guilbert offered that she and Veronique Pronovost could translate it. Dr. Guilbert suggested also sending it to Dr. Jennifer Blake, Chair of the SOGC. It was thought that it should also be sent to nurse-practitioners who do medical abortions. Dr. Niec suggested sending it the Dr. Costescu who is involved with the Canadian Association of Abortion Providers. She also suggested that we should have two different sheets – one for abortion providers and one for patients. Dr. Guilbert suggested that Veronique and she could make a simplified version for patients. Dr. Breeck suggested contacting Action Canada to see if this is needed. Dr. Frederique Chabot is the Interim Director of Action Canada. Dr. Warshawski will contact Dr. Chabot regarding this. Dr. Guilbert suggested that we also send a copy to Dr. Wendy Norman who is involved in an abortion-provider association. Dr. Ross suggested that it should also be on the MWIA website. Dr. Azad will email them to the MWIA. Dr. Ross recommended to send it to Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi, who is the president of the MWIA.



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4. **Canadian WPS Ambassador Jacqueline O'Neill will give an online lecture to female physicians on September 15, 2020. The national office will provide a link to this closer to the date.**

5. Updates:

a. Dr. Azad did send a Concept Note to the MWIA about establishment of a WPS committee at international level. Dr. Nwadinobi reported that this is a work-in-progress.

b. WPS Network Canada

i. This organization holds monthly meetings. Today Drs. Azad and Breeck attended the Zoom meeting. There is an opportunity for grad students at the University of Ottawa to volunteer for 30 hours in a new course called "Gender, Security and Development". All members of the FMWC are members of the Canadian WPS Network because the FMWC is a paid official member.

ii. Proposed analysis of CNAP 2018 – 2019 progress:

<https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/publications/cnap-pnac/index.aspx?lang=eng#progress>)

c. Review of the chair term and mandate:

Dr. Azad mentioned that the two-year term of the chair of our committee is coming to an end. We need to reflect on what our committee has accomplished in the last two years, any lessons that we have learned, and what should our path be going forward. Dr. Azad wondered if any member of our committee was interested in being the chair. Dr. Johnson said that any member of the FMWC should be able to apply for the position and that we should put this out to our membership at the AGM.

d. The Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons:

An event will be held in Ottawa as well as a virtual event. The speakers will include survivors of nuclear bombs. The Canadian government has not yet signed on to abolish nuclear weapons. Further information is available on their website:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/75-years-since-the-nuclear-bombing-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki-we-remember-tickets-111648090444>

There is also a Canadian Voice of Women for Peace Day of Action on July 24

<https://vowpeace.org/nofighterjets/> This organization doesn't want military spending on fighter jets. This organization thinks that we should spend money on conflict resolution and management rather than military weapons and aggression. There are better ways to resolve conflict issues rather than fighting.

e. Members' updates:

i. Dr. Ross suggested that the FMWC should join the UN Department of Global Communications. Dr. Padmini Murthy, Secretary General of MWIA, is a member of a committee of this UN Department. The Australian, American and Nigerian women's medical associations are members of this department. Dr. Niec said that the treasurer of the FMWC didn't want the finances of our organization disclosed if we do apply, but Dr. Ross emphasized that our financial statements are public information. Dr. Niec wondered if there are any additional costs and also any obligations involved in joining. Would membership in this UN Department be helpful to us? Dr. Ross has



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written Dr. Hemans, our FMWC president about this. Dr. Breeck suggested that Dr. Ross could email this request directly to Dr. Azad to bring it up at the FMWC Virtual AGM in the fall. Dr. Breeck said that we could put a proposal about this on our website.

ii. Dr. Guilbert discussed the email that was sent to Dr. Shelley Ross about a woman in Montreal who was raped by a stranger but not able to be tested with a rape kit at the first hospital that she went to and who subsequently had to go to another hospital to get the procedure done. Dr. Guilbert said that in every region in Quebec there is a rape kit available. There is also an organization that can take the victims to the hospital if needed. She said that this procedure takes up too much time to be available in every hospital, but she was not sure about other provinces. Dr. Breeck mentioned that in New Brunswick there is only one person available to do this testing and that this person would have to travel to different hospitals to do the testing where the patient is located and that this model is not sustainable. Dr. Niec said that in Ontario different regions are involved and included special testing for sexual assaults involving children. Dr. Guilbert said that the Ministers of Health of other provinces can be contacted about what is available in their province. Dr. Azad recommended that this would be a good project for our student members. Ms Sivajohan said that she would be able to create a resources list and Celina, the student from Ottawa said that she could help. Dr. Breeck said that this would be a good topic for a national continuing medical education.

Resources:

- 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325

<https://www.ipinst.org/2019/10/focus-on-2020-opportunities-for-the-twentieth-anniversary-of-resolution-1325>

The conference call ended at 19:15 hours

6. Action list:

- Dr. Azad will send the abortion fact sheet to the SOGC, College of Family Physicians, CMA and MWIA
 - Dr. Warshawski will contact Action Canada to see if a patient copy of the Abortion Fact Sheet is needed for patients
 - Dr. Warshawski will send the fact sheet to Dr. Wendy Norman
 - Dr. Guilbert will translate the Abortion Fact Sheet into French and produce a simpler version of it for patients
 - Dr. Ross will send the UN information to Dr. Azad
 - The medical students will research the rape kit availability in different provinces
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- Minutes taken by Dr. Warshawski