



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
Teleconference Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2021
19:00 - 20:05 hours Eastern DST

Attendance (by teleconference)

Ms. Brintha Sivajohan – Co-Chair, WPS Committee; Student Rep.
Dr. Nahid Azad – Co-chair WPS Committee
Dr. Patricia Warshawski – Member, WPS Committee, who took the minutes
Dr. Shelley Ross – Member, WPS Committee; Past Secretary-General MWIA
Dr. Anne Niec – Member, WPS Committee
Ms. Naycom Kim – Student member, WPS Committee
Dr. Charissa Patricelli – President of FMWC, Member WPS Committee, arrived late

Regrets:

Ms. Celina DeBiasio – Co-chair WPS Committee
Dr. Edith Guilbert – Member, WPS Committee, SOGC Rep.
Dr. Karen Breeck – Member, WPS Committee

1. Introduction and Welcome

The conference started at 19:00 hours and ended at 20:05 hours

Ms. Nayan Kim, an almost third year medical student at McMaster University, was introduced as a new member on our committee.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Land acknowledgement was given by Ms. Sivajohan. She also explained this pertaining to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes of the May 5, 2021 meeting.

The minutes of the May 5, 2021 teleconference meeting were approved.

4. Feedback on Communication

Dr. Azad has been sending out petitions, etc. for us to sign if we wish. Topics have included demilitarization, purchase of fighter jets, and the conflict in Israel and Palestine. Dr. Azad doesn't want to overwhelm us and wanted our feedback about all this information being sent to us. Dr. Niec said she appreciates these emails and finds them educational. They make her



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able to engage in more discussions. She feels we should keep on getting them as long as they fit into our mission and vision. Ms. Sivajohan, Dr. Ross and Dr. Warshawski agreed.

5. Sexual Assault Evidence Kits

This paper was submitted to the CMAJ and was refused. The CMAJ said the statistics were out of date and more current data are required. There should have been more discussion about the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program. The resource search engine was made for the armed forces and the CMAJ said that this should be targeted toward physicians. However Ms. Sivajohan said that this is the only database that exists nationally at the moment and it is relevant to physicians. Ms. DeBiasio will be following up with these criticisms and see if we can do a revision and resubmission. Dr. Niec said a sexual assault network exists in Ontario where people can call and get information verbally. National statistics are uploaded. Dr. Azad said that academic publications often don't accept first drafts for publication so not to worry.

6. Update on Abortion Fact Sheet and Mifegymiso

Dr. Guilbert was not present to give a report on this.

7. Future Webinar

Dr. Niec said that Dr. Costescu was supposed to give a talk on abortion at the IBM about two years ago but was he was ill and couldn't present. He didn't respond to Dr. Niec's emails recently so she suggested that we get a different speaker. Dr. Warshawski said that Dr. Wendy Norman's name had been brought up previously. She will contact Dr. Norman about this.

8. Climate Change and Health Effect/ Bill C-12 Net Zero Emissions Accountability Act



Climate change -
WPS.docx



Targets and
Timeline.docx

Dr. Azad said that our position on climate change should be stated in the next newsletter. The FMWC is in full support to combat the climate emergency. Dr. Azad would like our tone to be more alarming. Climate change trumps every other issue at the moment. Dr. Ross said that over 700 deaths in BC were attributed to the heat dome in June and that the town of Lytton, B.C. was decimated by a wildfire very quickly. On July 29 citizens are to approach their local politicians to do more meaningful action. Dr. Azad said that she planned to go to Catherine McKenna's office on this date. Information on this is at 350.org/ on fire. Bill C-12 was passed on June 29 by the federal Liberal government. Dr. Azad said that when Mr. Chretien was Prime Minister he signed the Kyoto Protocol but didn't follow up. Mr. Harper did nothing. The current government signed the Paris Agreement. Since then Canada has spent over \$23 billion dollars on the oil industry. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) of the UN said that we have only ten years to do real action. No further exploration and funding of oil and gas companies should be done by Canada. Dr. Azad thought that the national office should put up a banner with our concern. Dr. Azad will write to CAPE (Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment) to see if they are planning anything. She encouraged us to go to our politicians' offices on July 29 to join others who will be protesting the lack of action on climate change. She is wondering if the Federation's



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name should be added to the groups who will be protesting. Bill C-12 should have accountability targets.

A You-tube video by Seth Klein was sent to us to watch.

Dr. Patricelli said that we could help with climate change by promoting awareness of it on social media, but by our WPS Committee, not the national office. Dr. Patricelli said that we could send out information to our members about the protest.

Dr. Ross said that with an election probably coming up we need to talk to our MPs re several other issues as well – access to GPs, gender-based violence, and access to abortion.

Dr. Niec said that we need a strategic plan to engage audiences by posting dates and giving links. Gender-based violence had a march against it in the past which medical associations were involved in.

10. MWIA – WPS Special Interest Group Report Summary

Dr. Azad said that she made a two and a half page summary of what our committee has done since its inception. Dr. Niec said that this was too long a report and it needs to be shortened. Dr. Murthy would like a copy of our report.

11. Canadian WPS Network

Dr. Azad said that the WPSN–C has a new website. <https://wpsn-canada.org/>

A Zoom meeting link was given:

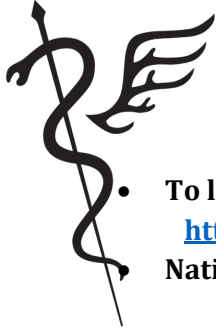
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kicUX7xs8k0UYL2Vs4p85f_gc8iajUW4nGaLKn6EMcl/edit

12. New Initiatives

Dr. Niec said that we should concentrate our committee work on doing one thing well. Dr. Patricelli agreed and said climate change will be part of the AGM in the fall. She suggested that Dr. Azad connect with Lisa Cohen in communications. Our e-blast goes out to over 2,000 people.

13. Resources:

- Global framework for gender sensitive indicators of early warning of violence and conflict <https://www.ifes.org/publications/gender-sensitive-indicators-early-warning-violence-and-conflict-global-framework>
- Why women are still excluded from peace processes <https://rosalux-geneva.org/its-2021-why-are-women-still-excluded-from-peace-processes/?fbclid=IwAR3QTzzbEHI01mp4BDyuu-757zvLWjfXwi7TKCb6xayqU6cNxTr7aY69nbU>
- Canadian physician Dr. Gabor <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdPdsIOTwJU>
- FHT green initiatives: <https://www.hamiltonfht.ca/en/what-we-offer/green-office-initiative.aspx#>



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National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) Reports:

<https://nctr.ca/records/reports>

- NCTR Calls to Action:
- <http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls to Action English2.pdf>
- Truth Before Reconciliation:
- <https://www.russdiabo.com/platform>
- Indian Residential School Survivors Society:
<https://www.irsss.ca>

The meeting ended at 20:05 hours.

14. Action list:

- a. Ms. DeBiasio will see if she can do a revision of the Sexual Assault Evidence Kits report to the CMAJ for resubmission.
- b. Dr. Warshawski will contact Dr. Wendy Norman about speaking about medical abortion on a Zoom webinar.
- c. Dr. Azad will write to CAPE to see if they are planning anything re the July 29 protest.
- d. Dr. Azad will try to shorten her report on our committee to the MWIA. She will send her report to Dr. Murthy.
- e. Dr. Azad will contact Lisa Cohen in communications re our stance on climate change.