

**Report of the
Regional Committee of Francophone Women of the NCR (CRFF)
for the NCR Regional Council (Nov. 6, 2021)**

Executive

Sandrine Oka: President

Hélène Lapointe: 1st Vice-President

Judith Balthazar: 2nd Vice-President

Goals

The main objectives of the Regional Committee of Francophone Women of the NCR (CRFF) are to promote and defend the rights of women and to fight against all forms of violence, discrimination, marginalization or exclusion against women.

Priorities

- Recruitment
- Education and training of comrades/members
- Violence against women, reproductive rights, socio-economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on women.

Gender Equity Task Force

The Committee played a leading role in PSAC's Gender Equity Task Force (2019 and 2020) <http://psacunion.ca/gender-equity-task-force-report>

Meetings

The pandemic meant no face-to-face activities, created its share of additional daily stresses for our members, and given the lack of a large number of volunteers. As such, the Committee had to suspend its activities for a certain time and hold its meetings virtually, without however having abandoned women's struggles.

The women of the Committee, as the rest of the women our communities, have lived, and continue to live, through very difficult times on several fronts, as they continue to be the primary care-givers of children and elderly parents, in addition to their work outside the home. Recent statistics show an exponential rise in violence against women and femicides during this pandemic, as confinement for sanitary reasons has translated into greater isolation for these women.

In April the REVP asked the regional committees to decide how they planned to spend part of their end-of-cycle budget. Options included purchasing promotional materials for the committee or making donations to community organizations in need.

The members of the CRFF unanimously decided not to purchase promotional material, but rather to help women in the region who are in great need during this time of pandemic. It was therefore decided to make donations to a number of francophone women's organizations in the National Capital Region, in Ottawa and the Outaouais.

Partnerships

We continually seek to create and maintain partnerships with francophone community organizations in the NCR with common objectives (feminism, equity, social justice, violence against women, reproductive rights, etc.), such as the Assemblée des groupes de femmes d'interventions régionales (AGiR).

Multisectoral partnerships and memberships such as: women's centers, support groups and shelters, status of women committees of labour organizations, and community social justice organizations. These partnerships enable us to defend issues that affect the lives of our members, such as popular education, violence, health, family, immigration and working conditions, within the communities we live in.

We aim to organize, support and participate in events/ campaigns which are current and relevant to francophone women in the NCR and to our members.

Ongoing activities and new ones

- Recruitment of members.
- Training` workshops on following themes: 1) resilience in times of pandemic, 2) the impact of the pandemic on women, namely francophone women; and 3) the increase in violence against women and feminicides during this pandemic.
- International Women's Day (March 8): a) participation in International Women's Day activities in-person or virtually depending on the situation, b) the purchase of IWD pins to distribute to members and engage in discussions
- Take Back the Night (September).
- October 4th is the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (Dec. 6).

*Report resented by Sandrine Oka – CRFF President