



## NEWSLETTER

### TASK FORCE COMPLETES ITS WORK WITH REPORT

A big thank you to Task Force members for their faithful dedication to the task of trying to discover how Mennonite Women Canada (MW Canada) can ***Bridge the Gap and Enlarge the Tent***. And 1131 of you took time to complete the Survey. Thank you very much.

This Report represents a milestone in our journey to discern the future of our sisterhood. As an Executive we are encouraged by the many positive comments of respondents and Task Force members. We appreciate the recommendations and recognize the challenges. To read a summary of the Report, the Recommendations and an Executive response including motions, please visit <http://www.mennonitechurch.ca/mwc/>.

### NOTICE OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

At our March Executive meetings we identified two main actions that should be addressed. One is the definition of membership. The second is how to ensure regional representation on the Executive. Recommendations on both are provided below.

**Definition of membership.** At present Membership is defined in the Constitution (2002) as follows: "All groups affiliated with a Provincial Women's Conference are members". Two points. First, Provincial Women's Conferences in British Columbia (BC) and Manitoba (MB) have been dissolved, though in BC a 'women's ministry' has been established by Mennonite Church BC. Second, the definition assumes women need to be part of a "women's group" to be a member. We honour all existing and future "women's groups", but we also want to be open to the participation of women whether or not connected to a formal group.

**Representation on Executive.** At present we are missing provincial/regional representatives on the



**Task Force Members:** (l-r) Mylene Melancon, Liz Koop, Justina Heese, Waltrude Gortzen, Marguerite Jack, Irene Bartel, Ruby Harder. Not pictured: Pamela Klassen.

Executive. We recommend that the Executive be empowered to appoint representatives from areas when there are no regional women's organizations or Women's Ministries.

*Please encourage women who you know will be at the Mennonite Church Canada Assembly in Calgary, Alberta (June 29 - July 3) to register for our **Annual Meeting and Workshop on July 1**. At that time we will discuss Task Force findings and new initiatives. We invite all women to be a part of this exciting time of creative discernment.*

### PENNIES & PRAYER INHERITANCE FUND

This Fund is revolving in that it is a home for donations in memory/honour of women who were/are important to you and in turn each year a donation of \$5000 helps support the work of women working in MC Canada's ministries.

Recent donations were made in memory of Edith Kool and Fern Zehr. Regular donations were made by Goodwill Club, Coaldale, Alberta, New Life Church, Toronto, Ontario, Sherbrooke Mennonite church Women's Ministry, Vancouver, British Columbia and Saskatchewan Women in Mission.

## Lois Mierau, Secretary-Treasurer Nominee for MW Canada

Lois and husband Gaylord live on the farm where Gaylord grew up near Langham, Saskatchewan (SK). Two adult children, Brendan and Chantel work/study in Winnipeg. Lois is a member of the Langham Mennonite church where they attend. Presently she serves on the Worship Committee and as a pianist. Lois has been church secretary, Sunday school superintendent, president, secretary and treasurer of their women's group. She has served as secretary of Mennonite Church SK and the Nominating Committee. Lois attended Swift Current Bible Institute (72-74) and Saskatoon Business College. She retired from full-time work in June 2009 and is presently volunteering for Mennonite Central Committee (Saskatoon) at the reception desk. Lois enjoys gardening, walking, biking, reading and sewing.



*Ev Buhr, Chair, Nominations Committee*

## Other News And Updates

- Your donations are helping Kara Carter, Milverton, ON and Virginia Gerbrandt, Leamington, ON in their theological studies.
- A **Communications Committee** is being created to assist with Newsletters, website and blog. Barb Draper, Ontario is our first member. We are looking for 3 or 4 other women from across Canada to serve. If you have an interest in communications please contact any of the provincial/regional presidents or neufeldte@yahoo.com.
- The 2010 Bible Study Guide *Seek Peace and Pursue It: Women, Faith and Family Care* by Elizabeth Soto, USA is in print. Copies available at Faith & Life Press, Kitchener, ON. Call 1 800 631-6535.
- This April we say goodbye to Shirley Redekop. Shirley's enthusiasm and deep faith contributed to the richness of our interactions for the past 6 years. Thank you very much. All the best to you in your next endeavors.

## Spring Enrichment Days

### SASKATCHEWAN

#### *In The Midst of Change*

Saskatchewan Women in Mission Enrichment Day  
Saturday April 10, 2010  
Zoar Mennonite Church, Langham  
Speaker: Jeanette Hanson, Mennonite Church Canada  
Witness worker in China  
Registration and coffee at 10:00 am  
Bring a sack lunch; beverages and fasma (light food) provided.  
Contact: Ruby Harder at [tryharder@sasktel.net](mailto:tryharder@sasktel.net)

### EASTERN CANADA

#### *Bolivian Mennonite Women – A Vision for the Future*

Women of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada  
Enrichment Day  
Saturday April 17, 2010  
Leamington United Mennonite Church, Leamington  
Speaker: Liz Koop, St. Catherines, ON  
Coffee and muffins at 10:00 am  
Registration of \$22 (includes lunch) to Florence Jantzi, 14 Nightingale Cres., Elmira, ON  
Contact: Shirley Redekop at [shirleyr@cyg.net](mailto:shirleyr@cyg.net)

### ALBERTA

#### *Be Salt and Light to the World*

Alberta Women in Mission Enrichment Days  
April 30 – May 1, 2010  
Lethbridge Mennonite Church, Lethbridge  
Speaker: Janet Plenert, Executive Secretary,  
Mennonite Church Canada Witness Council  
Contact: Ev Buhr at [pebuhr@telus.net](mailto:pebuhr@telus.net) or  
[office@edmonton1st.Mennonitechurch.ab.ca](mailto:office@edmonton1st.Mennonitechurch.ab.ca)

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### *Garbed in God's Grace*

Mennonite Church British Columbia  
Women's Ministry  
Saturday May 1, 2010  
Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Abbotsford  
Speaker: Jeanette Hanson, Mennonite Church Canada  
Witness worker in China  
Cost: \$10. Registration at 1:00 pm, dinner at 5:15 pm  
Contact: Waltrude Gortzen at [waltrude@shaw.ca](mailto:waltrude@shaw.ca)