

Ottawa Regional Women's Committee

Report

April 1 – July 31, 2016

We spent the majority of April, May and June preparing for our Regional Conference, which was held June 11-12 at the Shaw Centre. The conference was a huge success and our joint themes of Violence Against Women and Women in Leadership were timely, informative and well-received. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the conference and to the sisters who gave up their weekend to enthusiastically participate. A special thank you to my co-host, Sister Sandrine Oka, for her commitment and encouragement.

In June we held a special meeting to discuss child care concerns within the public service and the NCR in particular. Guests included Morna Ballantyne, Special Projects Officer at the PSAC, CUPE members working in child care and other community allies. We discussed strategies on saving the Tunney's Pasture daycare. Recently it was announced that the rent of the centre has been frozen, ensuring that the immediate threat of closure has passed.

The committee has taken a break for the summer but looks forward to strengthening its membership and taking on new projects in the future.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the 10th anniversary of the arrival of the Romero family in Canada from Columbia. The move was undertaken by the Ottawa-Columbia Sisters in Solidarity, a joint project of several unions including the PSAC. I first joined the ORWC just after the Romeros arrived and since I speak a little Spanish was called upon to translate at a welcome potluck in their honour. We've been friends ever since.

In solidarity,

Linda Koenders

Chair, ORWC