

REPORT OF THE OTTAWA REGIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

January to April was a busy period for the ORWC as planning for the NCR Regional Women's Conference was underway. Four regular monthly Committee meetings were held. The following are the two major activities:

March 8, 2013 International Women's Day

ORWC members distributed the green booklet entitled: Women are All Affected. One mass distribution was carried out at Tunney's Pasture. The Committee had ordered 300 of the OFL IWD pins and they were handed out to various groups of sisters. A planned-for staffing of a table at the National Archives was cancelled due to illness.

April 26-28, 2013

Fifty PSAC sisters gathered at the Hilton Lac Leamy in Gatineau from April 26-28, 2013. The Conference was organized to be a learning and skills-building activity as well as a call to action at a time when women's programs and unions are under attack by the majority Conservative government. The theme was ***Our Power: Women Speak Out.***

As it turned out, half of the participants had not previously attended a women's conference and the other half had done so in the past. This provided a good mix in the workshops in terms of experience, new exposure and learning.

There were three workshop groups, all working within the framework entitled "***The Wall***" which was developed and adapted for our Conference by Suzanne Doerge of City for All Women's Initiatives (CAWI). Suzanne was contracted for this conference to train the facilitators and to oversee each workshop as the resource person.

The current austerity climate, the reduction of public services and the attack on women and unions were threads that ran through the workshops.

Conference co-chairs, Chantal Rajotte, chairperson of the Comité régional des femmes francophones and the newly elected interim chairperson of the Ottawa Regional Women's Committee, Amber Miller, opened the Conference and acted as MC's and hosts throughout.

