



**SOROPTIMIST  
FOUNDATION  
OF  
CANADA**

# CORNERSTONE

## Mission Statement

To solicit, attract, and manage charitable donations in order to provide educational funding for the advancement of human rights and the status of women.



[www.soroptimistfoundation.ca](http://www.soroptimistfoundation.ca)

Editor: Aline Chan

Fall 2017

[alinchan@rogers.com](mailto:alinchan@rogers.com)

## 2017 Grants for Women Award Winners

**\$30,000 total was awarded to four recipients.**

<http://www.soroptimistfoundation.ca/grantwinners.html>

**You will find their biographies in this newsletter.**



### Alana Robert

*Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, Juris Doctor, 2019. Bachelor of Arts (Honours), University of Manitoba, 2016. She founded Justice For Women, and is currently studying law and its intersection on women's interests. She is working in The Hague this summer with the United Nations Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals.*

Alana Robert is pursuing her Juris Doctor at Osgoode Hall Law School, where she recently completed her first year of studies. Alana received her Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Political Studies and Economics from the University of Manitoba, where she graduated with First Class Honours. She was awarded the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award throughout her undergraduate studies.

Alana founded *Justice For Women* – a student organization that serves to combat gender-based violence through education, advocacy and support. Through this group, Alana ignited transformational programming to foster a safe and inclusive environment for all students at the University of Manitoba. Alana led the development of *Consent Culture Workshops*, which are 90-minute facilitations that educate student leaders on how to always obtain consent, and ways to design student events that proactively mitigate the risk of sexual violence occurring. She also led the creation of a *Safe Spaces and Safe Socials Policy*, which mandates this training for student leaders across every student organization at the University of Manitoba. Alana designed a *Self Care and Sexual Violence Resource Centre* operated by Justice For Women volunteers, which is accessible to all students at the University of Manitoba. Alana has led fundraising campaigns that have generated over \$21,000 for empowerment and development projects.

She has lead campaigns on missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, including sharing circles and a Red Dress campaign in Winnipeg. Alana has spoken on women's rights and gender-based violence at marches, conferences, and events across Manitoba.

Most recently, Alana has offered testimony to the House of Commons' Standing Committee on the Status of Women on her grassroots organizing with Justice For Women, and the work that can be done together to create safer communities for Indigenous women and women on post-secondary campuses. She is a Daughter of the Vote through Equal Voice, and does ongoing advocacy to increase women's participation in government in Canada.

Within her first year at Osgoode Hall, she volunteered as a Family Law Caseworker with the Community Legal Aid Services Programme, and participated in Pro Bono Students Canada's Family Law Rotation Project. She was a First Year Representative with the Osgoode Indigenous Students' Association, and won First Place Team at Osgoode Hall's Leners Cup Moot.

Alana has spent the summer working for the United Nations Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals. She is conducting legal research on the right to counsel and witness protection rights within the context of international law.





### Minnie Y Teng

*MOT candidate, University of British Columbia, 2018. Minnie founded various community projects to advance the quality of life and mental health for women. As an aquatic therapy consultant and low vision rehabilitation advocate, Minnie strives to provide equitable services and systems for people with disabilities and/or injuries through her non-profit work and research.*

Minnie is entering her second year of a Master's in Occupational Therapy at the University of British Columbia, and will be graduating in July of 2018. Minnie envisions an accessible future where no one is left out due to social, physical or institutional barriers. Minnie is dedicated to enabling those with disabilities or injuries to participate in activities that they want to do. Since 2010, she has spearheaded various community projects such as 'Neater Nails' program as well as the 'Wise Webbie Workshops'. Neater Nails is a volunteer program providing nail hygiene services for elderly women with disabilities who have difficulty caring for their own nails. The program improved many elderly women's self-images and fostered numerous friendships among the seniors. Minnie also trained volunteers on how to recognize signs of depression, so that if the seniors they volunteered with exhibit the signs, they can pass this information onto healthcare professionals in the facility for early intervention.

'Wise Webbie Workshops' are technology sessions for seniors with disabilities so that they can learn about using tablets and connect with their friends or families. Many seniors with disabilities did not have the resources to purchase technology or have families around to teach them on using technology. Minnie liaised with four different Richmond community agencies to initiate a project aimed to educate seniors living in care facilities on technology so they can connect remotely with their families and friends. This project aims to not only increase digital literacy, bridge the inter-generational gap, but the main goal is to improve social connectedness to combat loneliness and mental health issues in seniors. Through different community initiatives, she hopes to address mental health issues in elderly women using a holistic approach.

Minnie is passionate about improving the quality of life for individuals with varying abilities, especially for elderly women, as more than half of the senior population are women. Realizing the many benefits and increased popularity of aquatic exercises, including improved physical fitness and mental health, she developed an innovative, first-of-its-kind aquatic program for people with visual impairments in Canada. This initiative attracted the interest of various other community groups who have approached her to develop programs tailored for other populations. To this end, Minnie founded 'AquaFit for All Association' to provide adapted aquatics for people with different abilities to improve quality of life, and enjoy aquatic rehabilitation at an affordable price.

Aside from aquatic and recreation rehabilitation, as a person with a visual disorder, Minnie is passionate about low vision rehabilitation. Minnie is part of the Occupational Therapy Low Vision Rehab Network in Canada, where she is developing a resource toolkit for occupational therapists so that they can better enable those with visual impairments. Upon completion of the Master of Occupational Therapy program, Minnie plans to stay in British Columbia to continue to advocate for equitable services and systems for elderly women who are battling with mental, physical health challenges.





### Kaziwa Salih Dylan

*Ph.D. Candidate in Cultural Studies, at Queen's University. MA, Humanities/ Genocide and Culture, York University, 2014. BA (Hons), Communication Studies, York University, 2012. Post-graduate Certificate in Migration and Forced Refugee Migration Issues, York University, 2009, graduate Certificate in Journalism, 2008, Sheridan College.*

Kaziwa is a Ph.D. Candidate at Queen's University where she is completing an interdisciplinary doctoral degree in Cultural Studies. Her research combines cultural theory and genocide studies to reconnoitre the compound interconnection between the everyday culture of ordinary people and state policies, and to advance knowledge of power relations within the structure of human behaviour.

Kaziwa is committed to both academic and public spheres in her writing, volunteering, and activism. She writes both fiction and non-fiction. Her non-fiction work focuses primarily on women's and children's issues, genocide, fanatic Islamic terrorism, globalization, culture, social equality, and Kurdish issues. She has published 12 books and co-authored two. To challenge the negative conceptions of women's intellectual ability and create awareness in Kurdish society, Kaziwa launched her two magazines (*Nvar* and *Nwekar*) in Kurdish which are focused on feminism, Islamism, modernism, the Kurdish genocides, civil society, and cultural issues.

In 2010, Kaziwa established the Canada Anti-Genocide Project with a mission to create an umbrella organization for all Canadian communities victimized by genocide in order to project a collective voice against violence and genocide. In addition, the organization seeks to raise awareness of genocide and promotes social equality and global responsibility. With the emergence of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and especially since 2014, she has been tirelessly working on the gendered lens of genocide and women in war. She has been especially focused on the case of the enslavement of Yazidi women and their genocide by ISIS; she has taken their plight to international events and has conducted field studies. All these activities have been achieved with her own funds.

Kaziwa presents her work locally and nationally. To date, she has delivered presentation at international conferences in 12 countries. In addition to several scholarships, grants, and a fellowship, she has also received 14 (fourteen) international awards for her work. Most recently, Kaziwa received the 2017 **David Edney Research Travel Award**, which provides her with an opportunity to study and conduct research in Paris, France, for up to two months this summer.

Kaziwa has actively contributed to Canadian society through her volunteer work. This includes participation in the *YMCA Megathon* Challenge to raise funds to provide memberships for needy people seeking healthy lifestyles. She has also volunteered for immigration centres to help newcomers with resettlement services. Additionally, she has volunteered in several human rights organizations including acting as Vice President of the United Nations Association in Canada, Toronto Branch, and working with Amnesty International in Canada, Syria, and Egypt. In each position, she has prioritized people victimized by war and violence, disadvantaged groups, women, and youth.

Notwithstanding the above-mentioned responsibilities, and the challenges immigrant women face, since moving to Canada in December 2002, Kaziwa became the legal guardian of her two younger brothers, who are now adults.





### Rhea Ashley Hoskin

*Doctoral candidate in Sociology, Queen's University, 2018; MA in Gender Studies, Queen's University, 2013; BAH in Women's Studies and Sociology, Trent University, 2010.*

Rhea Ashley Hoskin is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at Queens University. Her work focuses on perceived femininity and its impact on the experiences of marginalization and oppression among sexual and gender minorities. Within this framework, Rhea applies feminist and femme theory to the study of femme identities, femmephobia, social prejudices, and the links between gender, gender expression, health, and fitness. Her doctoral research examines the role of femmephobia within intersecting experiences of marginalization among sexual and gender minority women.

Rhea has presented her research at conferences across North America, internationally and across disciplines. She is passionate about creating space for interdisciplinary collaborations and is currently working on research projects with researchers across Canada, in the US and the UK. Rhea's work has been published in journals such as *Psychology & Sexuality*, *Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture & Social Justice*, *Fat Studies: an Interdisciplinary Journal of Weight Studies*, and *Interalia: a Journal of Queer Studies*. Her publication record shows a wide variety of methodological approaches, ranging from popular culture analyses and theoretical interjections, to the physiological measures of stress hormones in relation to prejudice and aggression.

Rhea has a long history of community involvement as a volunteer and as a leader. Many of Rhea's volunteer experiences focus on marginalized populations, such as LGBTQ communities, women's centres and HIV resource centres. Since her undergraduate years, Rhea has worked to promote femme inclusivity and visibility, facilitating and organizing numerous projects with this mission. More recently, Rhea co-organized queer community building projects to provide positive and inclusive space for Belleville and Kingston Ontario's LGBTQ communities, with the mission of developing stronger bonds of allyship.

As an active member of the academic community, Rhea currently serves as the secretary for the Canadian Psychology Association's section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues; is on the program committee for the Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes; and is on the editorial board for *Psychology & Sexuality*.



## Ask Me Why I'm A Soroptimist

*Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.*

*Together, we CAN make the dreams of greater social and economic empowerment for EVEN MORE women and girls come true!*

**INTRODUCING THREE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS - SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA**



**Margot R. Rutherford** joined her club in 1998. She was eased into becoming Assistant Treasurer not long after joining, then, after a few years, she became Treasurer. Eventually she became Vice President followed by a year as President.

She has served the club by taking minutes of meetings, conducting meetings on behalf of an absent President, and has frequently been a member of the bi-annual audit committee. She has worked on various club committees including Finance Committee, Live Your Dream Awards, Bursaries, as well as years as an active fundraiser for their annual events. She has attended many Western Canada Regional Conventions and Retreats, two SIA Conventions (Honolulu and Vancouver), two Soroptimist Foundation of Canada Annual meetings (Winnipeg and Abbotsford).



**Colleen Penrowley** has been a member of SI Tri-Cities since 2008 and in that short time has held many positions including Club Director, President, Membership, Public Awareness, Dream It Be It, and Awards Chairs.

At WCR level Colleen has served as Action Line Editor, Board Member at Large, Public Awareness Chair and Membership Chair.

Colleen has a Masters Degree in Arts and Learning and in her working life, she instructed courses in introductory software development at BCIT from 2008 till 2015 when she retired, However, Colleen did not put her feet up and is sharing her knowledge with young women. She has coached two teams participating in the Technovation Challenge 2016, global technology entrepreneurship program for girls.

Colleen received the "Excellence in Teaching award at BCIT in 2009.



**Heather L. Rollins** has been a member of SI Chilliwack since 1999 (18 years) and during that time has served in numerous positions at club level, including President twice 2001 - 2002 and 2008 - 2012.

Heather has also served at the WCR level in many positions but, most recently, 2013 - 2014, as Governor.

Heather owns two Budget Blinds franchises in Abbotsford and Langley.

Heather has taken many professional development courses including Certificate in Foundations of Effective Management from The Justice Institute of BC., Certified Fund Raising, Executive designation, from The Association of Fundraising Professionals, Fundamentals of Fundraising from The University of Indiana at BCIT, and Certificate in Non-Profit Management, Vancouver Community College.

**FAREWELL TO THREE RETIRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS – SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA**



**SHERYL HOPKINS**, *SI Peterborough*, is retiring this year, after 5 years of service to the Foundation as Treasurer.

We wish Sheryl much success with her future endeavours and a happy retirement.

It has been a pleasure working with Sheryl and she will be missed.



**ALINE CHAN**, *SI Guelph*, has served the SFC Board for six years. She has been the Grants for Women Manager and editor of

the SFC newsletter, Cornerstone.

Thank you, Aline, for your service to the Board.

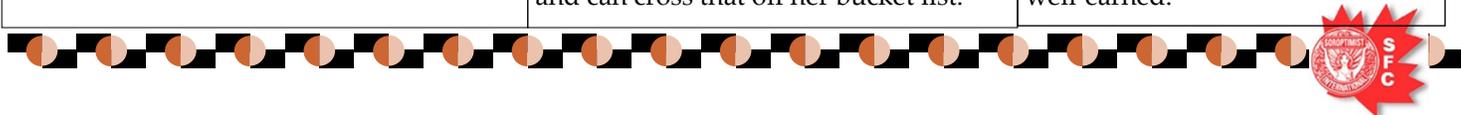
Aline will be cruising to the South Pole, and can cross that off her bucket list.



BJ Gallagher has served the SFC Board for six years as Chair. She wrote a regular Bulletin to the Clubs across Canada, called

monthly Board meetings, did the Call to the AGM and other official duties.

Enjoy your retirement, BJ! It is well-earned.



## CLUB GRANT APPLICANTS, 2017

SI Stoney Creek	Dream it Be It for Indigenous Girls
SI Grand Erie	Dream It Be it - A day of Empowerment
SI Tri Cities	CABE Lunch, Learn and Mentoring
SI Surrey	Dream it Be It, Career Support
SI Banff and Canmore	Dream it Be it
SI Edmonton	Empowering Young Girls
SI Peterborough	Dream it Be it at the Loft
SI Calgary	Soroptimist Sharing Cupboard
SI Central Alberta	Power of a Girl: Mother and Daughter Conference

The SFC Board Members look forward to meeting with each of the Clubs representatives and presenting them with their cheques.

**Please note:** A Financial Reporting Form must be used after funds are received from SFC. The form is available on the SFC website as part of the application form.

Club Grants Manager  
Soroptimist Foundation of Canada

### Soroptimist Pledge

We are Soroptimists committed to:

- The Sincerity of Friendship
- The Joy of Achievement
- The Dignity of Service
- The Integrity of Profession
- The Love of Country

We will put forth our best efforts to improve the lives of women and the girls in local communities and throughout the world.

### GIVE GENEROUSLY and PROUDLY wear your MAPLE LEAF PIN



The Red Pin is awarded to recognize individual members whose cumulative donations have reached \$500 plus. The Silver Pin is added to recognize cumulative donation amounts totalling \$1000 plus, and the Gold Pin recognizes \$2500 plus.

For some members these milestone pins are reached in a relatively short period of time. For other members, they represent several years of faithful donations. Hence, there is a bonding and all pins are worn with pride in each other.

### SOROPTIMIST CLUB GRANTS FOR CANADIAN SOROPTIMIST CLUBS

The Soroptimist Foundation Of Canada offers Club Grants to Canadian Soroptimist clubs holding educational programs for women and/or girls that will help them to be the best they can be by developing their abilities and their awareness so that each of these young women can reach her full potential. The exact number of grants and the amounts for the grants will be determined each fiscal year at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, depending on the funds available in that year's budget, the number of clubs applying, and the program needs of the clubs applying. **A FOLLOW-UP REPORT IS MANDATORY.**

Deadlines for Club Grant Applications is June 30 of each year.

Applications are available on the website.

Click on Club Grants Application at  
<http://www.soroptimistfoundation.ca/>

Or go directly to

<http://www.soroptimistfoundation.ca/application.html#clubs>

**Cyndy Roberts**, Manager, Club Grants  
[clubgrants@soroptimistfoundation.ca](mailto:clubgrants@soroptimistfoundation.ca)

### LET'S BUILD OUR ENDOWMENT FUND

Send your Club Donation or Personal Donation to

*Soroptimist Foundation of Canada*

*Margot R. Rutherford*

4529 Dove Creek Road, Courtenay, BC V9J 1S3

OR **DIRECT-MAIL**



It's fast and easy - fill out the form on the following page and attach a voided cheque and your donation will be automatically deposited as directed by you! It's that easy!

*Thank you!*

# HOW TO DONATE

...Go Direct

I would like to make my annual donation to  
SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA via  
**DIRECT deposits**

Pre-authorisation for Scheduled Donations from my bank account:

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Club: SI of \_\_\_\_\_

Region \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorise the SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA to make withdrawals in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in the following withdrawal sequence:  monthly  quarterly  bi-annually  annually

STARTING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
month) (day) (year)

PLEASE SPECIFY WHERE FUNDS ARE TO BE DIRECTED:  Endowment /  SFC Expenses

If it is not indicated, it will be directed to SFC Expenses.

attached is my voided cheque required to set up an automatic deposit schedule.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MAIL TO:

Treasurer, Soroptimist Foundation of Canada  
Margot R. Rutherford  
4529 Dove Creek Road, Courtenay, BC V9J 1S3

Tax receipts will be issued December 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Please indicate the name and the mailing address for the receipt if it is for someone else:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (City) (Province) Postal Code

(Registration # 119156594RT001)

## SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016 – 2017



**ELIZABETH JANE (BJ) GALLAGHER, Chair**  
[chair@soroptimistfoundation.ca](mailto:chair@soroptimistfoundation.ca)

Box 841, Rosedale Station  
Rosedale AB T0J 2V0  
780-689-1091  
Club - SI Edmonton



**SHERYL HOPKINS, Treasurer**  
[treasurer@soroptimistfoundation.ca](mailto:treasurer@soroptimistfoundation.ca)

Maple Leaf Pins  
2455 Cunningham Blvd  
Peterborough, ON K9H 0B2  
705-740-9863  
Club: SI Peterborough



**ANNA DER, Secretary**  
[secretary@soroptimistfoundation.ca](mailto:secretary@soroptimistfoundation.ca)  
780 903-0426  
Club: SI Edmonton

**ALINE CHAN**  
Grants for Women, Eastern Canada  
National Grants Manager / Editor, Cornerstone  
[grantsforwomen@soroptimistfoundation.ca](mailto:grantsforwomen@soroptimistfoundation.ca)

87 East Tree Drive  
Breslau ON N0B 1M0  
519-213-1520  
Club: SI Guelph



**CYNDY ROBERTS, Club Grants**  
Grants for Women, Western Canada  
[clubgrants@soroptimistfoundation.ca](mailto:clubgrants@soroptimistfoundation.ca)  
P.O. Box 1067, Waterford ON N0E 1Y0  
519-718-3376  
Club: SI Grand Erie

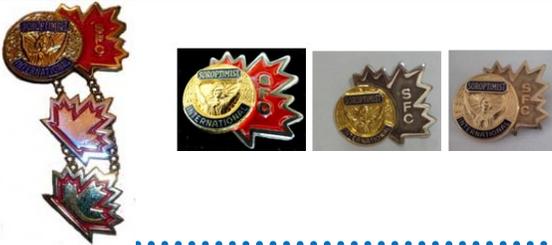
**MAPLE LEAF PINS**

PINS WERE DISTRIBUTED AT THE SPRING CONFERENCES FOR BOTH ECR AND WCR.

<p><b>ECR WINNERS</b>  <b>RED PIN</b>                  Paula Borsellino                  SI Stoney Creek-Niagara</p> <p>Nancy Davidson                  SI Grand Erie                  ***</p> <p><b>GOLD PIN</b>                  Cindy Figus                  SI Thunder Bay</p>	<p><b>WCR WINNERS</b>  <b>RED PIN</b>                  Frieda Lawson                  SI Courtney</p> <p>***</p> <p><b>SILVER</b>                  Heather Rollins                  SI Chilliwack</p> <p>Laura Van Loon                  SI Chilliwack</p>
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Paula, Nancy and Frieda were honored with donations by their Soroptimist Clubs. Heather was honored by WCR at Spring Conference last year. Cindy and Laura made personal donations and were honoured.

**GOLD MAPLE LEAF PIN GOES TO BJ GALLAGHER AT THE SCF AGM AT THE WCR FALL MEETING**



**SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA DAY  
 FEBRUARY 6**

**Club Recognitions...**a recognition program is in place to recognize annual Club donations. Club Star Award Certificates are awarded as follows:  
 for donations \$2001 and over...a Platinum Certificate;  
 for donations \$1001 to \$2000...a Gold Certificate;  
 \$501 to \$1000...Silver;  
 \$201 to \$500...Bronze;  
 \$100 to \$200 a Red Certificate.

**SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA  
 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
 will be held in conjunction with the  
**SI Eastern Canada Region Leadership Retreat**  
**TO BE ANNOUNCED.**



**CLUB RECOGNITIONS...**a recognition program is in place to recognize annual Club donations. Club Star Award Certificates are awarded for donations as follows:

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 \$201 to \$500...Bronze;  
 \$100 to \$200 a Red Certificate

- RED** SI Hamilton-Burlington
- BRONZE** SI Grand Erie  
 SI Toronto  
 SI Cambridge  
 SI Greater Victoria  
 SI Abbotsford Mission  
 SI Courtney
- SILVER** SI North and West Vancouver  
 SI Tri Cities
- GOLD** SI Peterborough  
 SI of the Langleys
- PLATINUM** SI Edmonton



**AGM GUEST SPEAKER**

At dinner on Saturday, Minnie Teng will be our guest speaker. Read more about her on Page 2.

Minnie is one of the latest recipients of our Grants for Women award.



**INVESTMENT REPORT**

The 2017 fiscal year is now behind us; and I'm pleased to confirm it was the best in recent memory for the Soroptimist Foundation portfolio.

Here are a few of the highlights:

**Total Return 7.59%**

- Income \$69,896
- Growth \$55,196

**Equities**

- Equity markets performed well as global economies advanced and earnings improved.
  - Strong performance has driven up valuations, and reduced our expectations for future returns as a result.
- We reduced equities by 4% to 41% of the overall portfolio.

**Fixed Income**

- Rising rates are creating better opportunities to invest in high quality bonds.
  - We increased fixed income by 8% over the past year.
- We further increased our holdings of higher quality bonds.

**Warwick Holland** | Portfolio Manager

**TREASURER'S CORNER**

**Balance Reporting - Balance Summary Report**

SHERYL HOPKINS, TREASURER  
 SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA  
 Report Date: July 15, 2017



Account Type	Account	Currency	Balance
BUS DEP	Operating Account	CAD	3,115.76
BUS DEP	Endowment Account	CAD	42,163.87
BUS DEP	VISA	CAD	(owing) 0.00

The Soroptimist Foundation wishes to thank all the members and clubs who have donated to our Endowment Fund this fiscal year. It is only due to the support of our faithful donors that we are able to maintain the programs that are supported by the Foundation. It has been suggested and we agree that we would like to increase the number of women that we help with our Grants for Women's program but due to the financial atmosphere at present, we are reluctant to extend the number of grants, although it is agreed that this would help to increase the brand name of the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada.

The stewardship of our Investment Manager, Warwick Holland, and the generous support of all of our donors has helped to raise the balance of our endowment fund.

Thank you all very much for your continued support of the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada.

**THE OFFICIAL ADDRESS IN WINNIPEG:** SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA  
 c/o Albina Moran, Partner, Thompson, Dorfman, Sweatman LLP  
 2200 – 201 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MN R3B 3L3

Full accounting of donations, income and expenses of the Foundation can be referenced at the Auditor's report to be approved at the **Annual General Meeting on September 23, 2017 at The Sandman Hotel, 32720 Simon Ave., Abbotsford BC.**

*Sheryl Hopkins* Treasurer



### FROM THE DESK OF BJ GALLAGHER, CHAIR

I hope that everyone has had a really lovely summer. I had a visit from my friend, Pam, who lives in Phoenix and we went on a great road trip, shopping in Edmonton at all of our favourite shops, then on to Jasper for a few days with my granddaughter, Rayne, and great-grandson, Landon - they are lucky enough to live in Jasper, AB. Then on down highway 93 to Banff where we had lunch with my son, Andy, and his girlfriend, Anna from Vancouver, and Anna's family visiting from Toronto. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet them. All in all, it has been a really hot, awesome summer, full of fun and family and great celebrations for Canada 150.

This is my last 'Message from the Chair' and I would like to say thank you to every Soroptimist member and Club in Canada, and to the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada, for their support during my term. I have enjoyed my time on the board of Soroptimist Foundation of Canada and have been lucky enough to make many new friends during my tenure on the board – that is one of the benefits of Soroptimist, that and "making a difference in the lives of women and girls". I know it has enriched my life.

It has been six years on the board for Aline Chan and me, and five years for Sheryl Hopkins, and now it is time for us to step down and although we have had no nominations from Eastern Canada Region, we have had three very capable and worthy nominations from Western Canada Region. Those nominations are Colleen Penrowley, SI of the Tri Cities; Heather Rollins, SI Chilliwack; and Margot Rutherford, SI Courtenay.

We also have four new winners of the Grants for Women and you will find their information in this issue of Cornerstone, and it is posted on the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada's webpage - thanks to our very capable webmaster Dina Correia, SI London.

There have been many other individuals who have worked to make a success of the Corporation. They are in no specific order - every Soroptimist member in Canada and each WCR and ECR Board Member and Governor during my time in office, Albina P. Moran (from Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP) legal counsel to the Foundation, Sandra L. Fawcett, Chartered Accountant, both from Winnipeg. Dina Correia, webmaster from London, Ontario, and last but not least Warwick Holland, Endowment Fund Advisor - RBC Dominion Securities, Vancouver, BC. Committees have been Finance Committee Cora Salvador, Bylaws Committee Janet Simms-Baldwin and Tanna Edwards. Without all of these people the Foundation would not be the strong entity that it is and will continue to be if everyone keeps on supporting it.

With all of the generous donations and the diligence of our Endowment Fund Advisor, the foundation would not have climbed **from \$1,310,475 June 30, 2012 to \$1,764,724 June 30, 2017.**

Thank you, everyone!

Please continue to keep Soroptimist Foundation of Canada in your hearts and make it your Charity of Choice.

BJ Gallagher  
Chair, Soroptimist Foundation of Canada



SOROPTIMIST  
Best for Women®



★ ★ ★ Live Your Dream: Education and Training  
Awards for Women

*Improving the lives of women and girls through  
programs leading to social and economic  
empowerment.*

**Annual General Meeting**

Saturday, October 15, 2016, 1:15 PM

Best Western Brantford and Conference Centre 19 Holiday Inn Drive.  
Brantford ON**Minutes****Attendees:**

**SFC Board:** Chair Elizabeth Gallagher (BJ), SI Edmonton; Secretary Meta Flemke, SI Edmonton; Treasurer Sheryl Hopkins, SI Peterborough; Aline Chan, SI Guelph; Anna Der, SI Edmonton

**Club Voting Delegates:**

Eastern Canada Region: Hannelore Nyman, SI Grand Erie; Karen McDowell, SI Cambridge; Shirley McCoy, SI Dundas/Ancaster/Flamborough; Aline Chan, SI Guelph; Margaret MacCrae, SI Hamilton-Burlington; Dorothy Huhtalo, SI Kawartha Lakes; Gertrud Hocke, SI London; Julaine Palmer, SI Peterborough; Janet Sturch, SI Stoney Creek-Niagara; Barbro Stalbecker-Pountney, SI Toronto; Pat Giusti, SI York Region

Western Canada Region: Rita MacKenzie, SI Abbotsford-Mission; Margaret Wootton, SI Courtenay; Anna Der, SI Edmonton

**Club Proxies from:** Western Canada Region – SI Banff National Park, SI Calgary

**Guests:** SIA President RoseMary Reid; ECR Board – Jean Skillman, Janet Simms-Baldwin, Jennifer Oliver, Bonnie Domonchuk; SI Cambridge – Joan Moyer, Sue Rivers, Joni Gosselin, Alison Sanders; SI Grand Erie – Wendy Shelly, Laurie Cappe, Nadine Doktor; SI Guelph – Donna Keating; SI Hamilton-Burlington – Millie Pantou; SI London – Anna-Lena Hocke, Dina Correia, Gail Lamers, Najet Hassan; SI Peterborough – Jullie Coleman, Dianne Nielsen, Marney Horton, Tanna Edwards, Mary-Lynn Koekkoek, Jane Crane, Elaine Stanbury; SI Stoney Creek-Niagara – Pat Copeman, Carol French, Billie Yakiwchuk, Michele Scott, Kathie Grosul, Melanie Stewart, Carolyn Thombs

Call to Order and Welcome – Elizabeth Gallagher (BJ), Chair - At 1:25 PM Chair BJ called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the 2016 Annual General Meeting. She thanked Eastern Canada Region Board for making the arrangements to hold the AGM along with the Leadership Retreat. She also thanked President Hannelore Nyman of SI Grande Erie for hosting and SIA President RoseMary Reid and Western Canada Region Governor Rita MacKenzie for attending. She also thanked Warwick Holland of RBC Dominion Securities for his presentation during lunch on the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada's investment portfolio.

2. Chair BJ suggested a change in the Agenda to have the Financial Report first to accommodate Sheryl's mobility issues.

**3. Financial Reports –**

Financial Presentation by Warwick Holland, Portfolio Manager, RBC DS, was presented during lunch and covered the Investment Policy Statement for SFC which guides him as to what companies he will invest in or not; percentage of equity, fixed income and cash; diversification, Canadian and international investments. A slide of a tulip showed the growth of the Endowment Fund since RBC DS took on our portfolio in 2010. The fund has grown from \$1,122,471 to \$1,707,215 at an average of 6.15% annually. Any club may contact him for a copy of his report. He mentioned that regulations are changing so that there is more transparency from advisors to their clients. Financial advisors are to tell their clients what the clients are paying for the financial advice and compensation the advisors receive from certain product providers. RBC DS is already doing this, listing the fee for service charged the client.

**Minutes of AGM continued from previous page...**

- 3b. **Treasurer's Report** – Sheryl Hopkins – attached at the end of the Minutes
- c. **Audited Financial Report** – copies on the tables. Sheryl Hopkins moved the Unaudited Financial Report be accepted, seconded by Julaine Palmer, SI Peterborough. Carried
- d. **Appointment of Auditor** – Sheryl Hopkins moved that we appoint Sandra Fawcett as SFC auditor for fiscal year 2016-17, seconded by Dorothy Huhtalo, SI Kawartha Lakes. Carried.
- e. Sheryl Hopkins moved that Warwick Holland VP & Portfolio Manager, RBC DS Wealth Management, remain as our Financial Advisor for fiscal 2016-17, seconded by Dorothy Huhtalo. Carried.
4. Elizabeth Gallagher (BJ) reported the quorum needed is 3 Board members and 25% of clubs represented in person or by proxy (8 clubs needed). Present are 5 Board members and 12 clubs represented in person plus 2 proxies.
5. Appointment of Parliamentarian – Barbro Stalbecker-Pountney, SI Toronto.
6. BJ thanked Warwick for his presentation on the SFC's investments, which had been made during lunch, just prior to the AGM.
7. Approval of Minutes of 2015 Annual General Meeting as printed in Spring Cornerstone and included with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting - Anna Der, SI Edmonton, moved the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Shirley McCoy, SI Dundas/Ancaster/Flamborough. Carried.
8. Business Arising from 2015 Minutes –
  - a. SFC Bylaw Review Committee – BJ called for volunteers to review the SFC Bylaws which were approved in October 2010. Janet Simms-Baldwin, ECR Board Secretary, and Tanna Edwards, SI Peterborough volunteered.
9. Presentation of Proposed Budget for 2016 – 2020 – Elizabeth Kitchen, incoming Treasurer, presented the report – copies on the tables. Costs were projected to increase by 2%. This year \$8,000 was spent on Club Grants, giving \$1,000 each to eight clubs, rather than turning down any clubs or reducing the amount from the traditional \$1,000. This will have to be reconsidered as more clubs have been applying each of the past several years. A suggestion was made that the grants for women be raised to \$10,000 each from the current \$7,500.00. Incoming Treasurer Elizabeth reminded that we can only spend disbursements but none of the capital. We will need to wait to see what the investments produce. Elizabeth Kitchen moved acceptance of the Proposed Budget for 2016 – 2020, seconded by Dorothy Huhtalo. Carried.
10. SFC PowerPoint presentation – Aline Chan. At the request of Governor Jean Skillman, Aline developed a presentation on the history of the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada, which she and BJ Gallagher presented. Members commented that it was very informative and appreciated. Some suggested doing a presentation each year.
11. Committee Reports – attached at the end of the Minutes
  - Chair – Elizabeth (BJ) Gallagher
  - Grants for Women – Aline Chan
  - Club Grants – Anna Der
  - Secretary – Meta Flemke, outgoing Secretary
12. New Business – None
13. Thanks – Tanna Edwards thanked the Soroptimist Board for their hard work and Sheryl for sending out the income tax receipts so quickly.
14. Next Annual General Meeting - The 2017 AGM will be in Western Canada on September 16, 2017, in conjunction with the Leadership Retreat.
15. Adjournment at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Meta Flemke, Secretary, SFC

Continued on next page ...

Minutes continued from previous page....

### SFC Board Committee Reports

#### 1. Chair's Report – Elizabeth (BJ) Gallagher

Thank you very much for attending the AGM with the SFC Board and me this year. I know that you are all extremely busy ladies and it is heart-warming to see so many here supporting the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada. Having your support is what makes this job so rewarding.

In January I filed our Annual Return with Industry Canada.

I wrote two Bulletins, one after our successful AGM held in Abbotsford along with the WCR Fall Retreat and the second at the beginning of the New Year. In February I sent out an e-blast to all of the Club Presidents reminding them of Soroptimist Day and asking them to remind their members about the benefits of contributing funds to the Foundation.

I travelled to Vancouver in April to attend the celebration of SI Vancouver's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and then about a week later attended the WCR Spring Conference.

I chaired monthly meetings of the Board, including an orientation meeting in Orlando in July.

I have written submissions to the Cornerstone and done whatever I could to help Aline with the huge job she does putting the Cornerstone together. I have kept in touch with ECR & WCR secretaries, asking them to forward on SFC information to Club Presidents.

All in all, the job is a demanding one and keeps me on my toes.

Respectfully submitted, BJ Gallagher, Chair

#### 2. Treasurer's Report – Sheryl Hopkins

The Fiscal Year 2015-16 the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada was a successful one. As shown in the Financial Statement, the growth of the investment portfolio was considerable despite the economic situation. Our donations were generous and the legacies left to us by former members accounted for the record year total of over \$90,000.

The whole Board is responsible for our success. We work hard and feel that we accomplish much. Endowment Fund = 1,710,529.00; General Fund = 82,217.00

Total 2015-16 = 1,792,628.00; Total 2014-15 = 1,674,019.00; Difference = 118,609.00

Eastern Canada = 11,222.00; Western Canada = 16,817.00; Legacies (Western Canada) 63,000.00 Total 2015-2016 = 90,039.00; Total 2014-15 = 27,454.00; Difference = 62,585.00

A cheque for \$50,000 was given to Warwick Holland to be invested in the Endowment Fund on November 16, 2015.

It has been a pleasure to be part of this Board for the past four years. I will miss the friendships made.

Respectfully Submitted, Sheryl Hopkins, Treasurer

#### 3. Grants for Women – Aline Chan

The Grant Chairs received 45 applications for Western Canada and 86 for Eastern Canada. Applications were reviewed by judges at the Regional and National levels. Numbers have reduced over past years because now the applicants have to pay to obtain their transcripts to include with their applications. The deadline for submissions is January 31 each year.

Aline Chan, Grants for Women, Eastern Canada & National Grants Manager

#### 4. Club Grants – Anna Der

I would like to thank all Soroptimist Clubs that filled out the SFC forms asking for funding to help provide programs to young women in their communities. I would like to encourage more clubs to host programs and apply for funding from SFC next year. This year we have applications submitted by nine clubs. Most of these clubs are old hands at providing quality programs to girls and women in their communities and, in doing so, strengthening ties to their communities and to the families, including the young women and girls that attend those programs.

The Soroptimist International Clubs in Canada that applied for funding this year are:

- **SI Guelph** – Dream It Be It DIBI; • **SI Kawartha Lakes** – Girls of Action and Leadership (GOAL)
- **SI Central Alberta** – The Power of a Girl (Mother/Daughter Conference); • **SI Edmonton** – “Be Brave” Empowerment Workshops
- **SI Surrey Delta** - DIBI Career Support for Girls; • **SI Calgary** – Soroptimist Sharing Closet
- **SI The Langleys** – DIBI Career Support for Girls; • **SI Tri-Cities** – Suwa' Ikh Girls Project; • **SI Winnipeg** – DIBI Career Workshops

The SFC Board members look forward to meeting with each of the Club representatives as applicants and being able to present them with their cheques. SI Winnipeg did not get funds this year because they requested and were given approval to carry forward last year's money.

Please note: For this year only, SFC has set an amount of \$8,000 for Club Grants from SFC.

A Financial Reporting Form must be submitted to the Club Grants Chair after funds are received from SFC. The form is available on the SFC website.

Anna Der, Club Grants

#### 5. Secretary's Report – Meta Flemke

This year started with preparing the Minutes of the AGM held in BC last September. During the year we held monthly teleconference meetings of the Board for which I prepared the Minutes. My sincere thanks to Anna for taking and preparing the Minutes at the Board meeting in Orlando in July. Following this AGM and preparation of the minutes I will be going off the Board effective November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA**

SI WESTERN CANADA REGION LEADERSHIP RETREAT,  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 AT THE SANDMAN HOTEL,  
32770 SIMON AVENUE, ABBOTSFORD, BC. V2T 0B8

Beginning at 1:30 pm

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

1. Call to Order and Welcome - Elizabeth (BJ) Gallagher, Chair.
2. Introduction of Guests.
3. Introduction of Board Members and Special Guests.
4. Introduction of Attendees.
5. Adoption of Agenda.
6. Declaration of a Quorum.
7. Appointment of Parliamentarian.
8. Approval of the Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting.
9. Business arising from the Minutes.
10. **Financial Presentation** by RBC DS - Warwick Holland, Portfolio Manager.
  - a. **Treasurer's Report** - Sheryl Hopkins and introduction of incoming Treasurer
  - b. **Report of the Auditor.**
  - c. Approval of Financial Statements.
  - d. Appointment of Auditor for 2017 - 2018.
11. Presentation of Budget for 2017 - 2018.
12. **Reports**
  - a. **Chair** - Elizabeth (BJ) Gallagher.
  - b. **Grants for Women** - Aline Chan.
  - c. **Club Grants** - Cyndy Roberts.
13. **New Business**
  - a. Bylaw Changes
  - b. Policy and Procedure Changes
14. **Date of Next AGM**

