

2018-2019



**ANNUAL PROGRAM
REPORT**

ABOUT NCJWC TORONTO

Our Organization

NCJWC Toronto, established in 1897, has been a catalyst for change as well as a powerful pioneering force on behalf of children, youth, the elderly, families, the disabled, new Canadians, and the disadvantaged.

In 1922, our first Council House was opened at 44 St. George Street and we moved into our present facility in 1964. In 1984, NCJWC Toronto Foundation was created and the Bathurst-Prince Charles Apartment Building was opened. The Bathurst-Prince Charles is an integrated fully-accessible housing project with affordable housing for seniors combined with independent accommodation for the disabled.

NCJWC Toronto is a proud supporter of NCJWC's national project in Israel, ALUMA. ALUMA (formerly known as Israel Family Counseling Association), which provides needed services such as pre-marital, marital and family counseling, divorce mediation, preparation of mentally handicapped people for marriage and independent life in Israel.

Our Vision

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada Toronto (NCJWC Toronto) is a non-profit organization committed to enhancing the lives of individuals within our community and in the broader multi-cultural community through education, service and social action.

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**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT
Eva Karpati**



As President I am so proud to be at the helm of an organization recognized as engaging and impacting the community through relevant and meaningful programs that provide education, service and social impact. It has been my honour to oversee these last two years of growth and transition and now I am humbled to be asked to continue for another two years to conduct this fabulous orchestra.

It is my pleasure to present this year's Annual Program Report which is a testament to the dedication and commitment of the women of NCJWC Toronto. The report is a little more robust to give you more information. The accomplishments are astounding.

We completed the first children's library in a women's shelter and we are just about to finish two more as Turning the Page continues to fulfill its mission. We have taken on Project LISA, which provides legal information for women fleeing abusive relationships. This unique and much-needed service puts us on the Toronto map for taking care of women at their most vulnerable moment. Our One Voice project conducted a panel discussion which brought to light the need of faith communities to address the issue of violence against women. The Human Trafficking Committee created a very emotional presentation on Human Trafficking Awareness Day on the urgency of eliminating this criminal activity. We had wonderful media coverage. The Education Committee and ALUMA presented a Symposium on Mental Health to help parents of teen become more aware of this ubiquitous illness and the resources available.

It is very evident that we are becoming an ever stronger voice for the voiceless.

This Annual Program Report also serves as a stepping stone. This spring we enlisted the new Board to embark on a Strategic Plan for the organization. Based on feedback from a cross section of stakeholders, this will be our roadmap with which to move forward. This gives us the vision of our future by answering the question "who we are" and the tools to implement the necessary steps to ensure we fulfill our mandate. The full Plan will be shared with you on its completion. Examining all these programs is certainly phase one.

During my term as President I will experience our most profound change in the last 56 years – a move to our new home. In February we purchased 890 Sheppard Avenue West. This year is about making this space our new Council House. It will reflect our relevancy as well as our longevity with a look that is modern but still feels haimisch – a symbol of who we are in the community. Please stay tuned as we will be having a "good bye" party and a "hello" party.

I am excited for these next two years as we journey forward with the new Board, Jessica Kronis and her staff, and with you.

Respectfully submitted,
Eva Karpati
President



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Jessica Kronis

I am humbled to be working with such an impressive group of women and volunteers as the Executive Director of NCJWC, Toronto. Working with Eva, the Board and the membership to move our organization into the future continues to be an incredibly rewarding experience.

Facility

We acquired a new home for NCJWC, Toronto this winter, it is located at 890 Sheppard Ave West, Unit 1. We are working with KirKor Architects, they have drawn up a new plan for the space, it promises to suit our needs as we move forward and includes a multi-purpose room for programming, an open work area and closed office suites. We have received word from the new owners of 4700 Bathurst that we will be able to stay in the building until our new home is finished at the end of 2019.

Strategic Planning - Mission and Vision

We embarked on an extensive, 5-month strategic planning process, facilitated by George Stanois and his team at the Goldie Company. This process involved an environmental scan, financial analysis, internal and external stakeholder surveys, and research regarding current trends in volunteerism in a North American context. The full strategic plan for 2019-2023 will be ready to share by the end of the summer, and includes a new vision statement:

The National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto
Recognized as engaging and impacting the community
through relevant and meaningful programs that provide
education, service and social impact

A new mission/statement of purpose:

- To create positive change by empowering women, assisting the vulnerable, educating the public and advocating for others
- To identify the needs of the vulnerable in the community through a Jewish lens; educate about those issues; mobilize change
- To foster leadership opportunities for women
- To create community amongst our members
- To create community and project opportunities for all volunteers
- To advocate and be a voice for Jewish women

We identified our core values as: Integrity, Respect, Compassion, Inclusivity, Transparency

Our strategic Imperatives are:

- Implement Measurement Data and Processes, Improve Communication and Engagement with All Stakeholders
- Establish Human Resource Plan, Create focused, relevant programs and initiatives, Ensure Financial Sustainability
- Review and Update Governance Practices

I look forward to sharing the completed plan with our membership and stakeholders and we move forward with implementation.

Development (Fundraising) Campaigns

In September we sent our Rosh Hashanah cards as a way to engage with our membership and donor base without a solicitation. It was well received. In November we executed our first "Giving Tuesday campaign", it brought in approximately \$20,000. Passover Food Drive was very successful, bringing in more corporate gifts, enabling us to cover the entire cost of the program. Moving into DonorPerfect has improved our donor management, however there is still room for further improvement and a need for us to continue to collect more data. We have hired a consultant on named Aliya Ansari to work on fundraising on our behalf. She is working on a part-time basis and has submitted a number of proposals for us, as well as sending out an appeal letter to several major donors in the community. We should see results of these asks in July. Aliya has also created a sustainable funding model to help us with our development plan. A large part of this is reporting the impact of donation dollars to our donors. Our first move towards stewardship was an impact letter that was sent to all donors about \$360 for Passover Food Drive. We are currently participating in the 'the great Canadian Giving Challenge', giving us a chance to win \$10,000 every time we receive a gift through our website. The board recently moved to request proposals from 3 consultants to help facilitate a capital campaign with naming opportunities for our new home at 890 Sheppard Avenue West.

Social Media & Communications

We have made great strides with our social media platforms, in particular around the success of Passover Food Drive. We created a comprehensive campaign around the 'hashtag' "Matzah4all" (conceived by the Passover Chair, Gail Crystal), which included stickers, logo water bottles, and a "selfie station". This generated a buzz of activity that we hadn't seen before, and online traffic that NCJWC, Toronto hadn't attracted in the past. Our online presence has substantially improved, it has been great for our organization as a whole.

Creative/Branding

We have created a streamlined branding approach that will result in a communications hand-book in the upcoming year. With credit to Navi Mann, all of our program logos and branding materials are in line with the updated NCJWC, Toronto logo.

PROGRAMS



Human Trafficking

While attending the Ontario Provincial Human Trafficking Awareness Day, February 22, 2019, it became apparent that one of the areas that needs attention is the education of parents to the ways in which their children can become lured by the traffickers. NCJWC Toronto will undertake this initiative and we have a number of resources that will help us get started on this process.

Our 3rd Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day was held May 10, 2109 at the North York Civic Centre. Our program was very successful, approximately 100 people attended, and had the opportunity to survey the information tables set out by various services and listening to our panel of speakers.

The panel included: Pauline Gagne from PACT Ottawa, Constable Corrado Rabbito, Marissa Kokkoros and Asha Dahir from Aura Freedom and Rhonelle Bruder a survivor and founder of RISE Initiative. Laurie Hermiston representing the Indigenous voice was not able to attend. We have started the planning conversation for next year's event.

A Human Trafficking report was presented at the ICJW meeting held at Council House on May 27th, it was very well received.

The scope of Human Trafficking within our communities is alarming. NCJWC Toronto prides itself in being the only volunteer driven organization involved in combating this heinous activity.

Please email: humantrafficking@ncjwctoronto.org for information.

Ena Cord
Chair, Human Trafficking

Just for Me Backpack Project

In August 2018, we completed another successful donation for the Just for Me Backpack project. The group of volunteers prepares and packs 200 backpacks to benefit children clients through JF&CS between the ages of 4 and 16 who would not otherwise be able to afford new school supplies at the beginning of the school year.

The project, funded by proceeds from Bingo and NCJWC, Toronto, supplies these children with a brand-new backpack, which includes: a lunch kit, water bottle, school supplies, a French-English dictionary, calculator and some fun items like Canada baseball hats.

With the generous contribution of The Mitzvah Knitters, we are able to provide each of the 200 recipients with a hand-knit or -crochet hat, and also provide additional items like scarves or hats, as well as a sweet tag noting the fact that each item is lovingly made by hand!

25 volunteers helped to make the project efficient and enjoyable and the volunteers are multi-generational, including children or grandchildren of Council members, adding a particularly impactful experience for the volunteers.

We will be working on the backpacks this July 30 & 31st 2019. Keep an eye on your inbox for further details later this summer.

Robin Tameshtit
Just for Me Backpack

L'Chaim



We have 13 new clients since May, 2018. Giftbags (in updated bright reuseable bags) have been delivered to these newly-diagnosed women.

L'Chaim is planning a community-wide educational event for Sept 11th, 2019, at Adath Israel Synagogue on Southbourne Ave. in Toronto.

We've invited four doctors to speak as a panel on the topics of cancer prevention. The four doctors who will be presenting are: Dr Ellen Warner, medical oncologist, breast cancer screening and prevention; Dr Andrea Eisen, medical oncologist, skin cancer prevention; Dr. Rachel Kupets, gynecologic oncologist, cervical cancer screening and prevention; and Dr. Marla Ash, family physician, colon cancer prevention and screening. Charitable organizations, such as Nanny Angel, Chai Lifeline or Cleaning for a Reason will be invited to set up resources for attendees to view, before and after our panel speaks.

L'Chaim continues to offer its clients and volunteers opportunities to enjoy relaxing and fun outings in the form of painting or jewellery making classes.

Irene Papernick and Susan Austin
Co-chairs of L'Chaim

Project LISA

Project LISA has kicked off its first year of operation with an impactful community based program. Started in September 2018, Project LISA has served a diverse population of women including: Latin, Russian, Indian, Asian, Jewish- both Ashkanaz and Sephardic, and Ukrainian clients.

In a short time Project LISA has cultivated relationships with multiple organizations:

- Metrac: provides training to professionals working with domestic violence
- Abuse Hurts: provides services for women fleeing domestic violence
- Sistering: provides services for homeless women
- Shelter Movers: provides no-cost moving for women fleeing DV
- JF&C
- JRCC: Jewish Russian organization providing: furniture and stipends
- Toronto Police Sex Crimes and Domestic Violence
- UJA
- Miles Nadal JCC
- United Chessed: provides resources for the Jewish community
- Toronto LINK Yad Chessed: provides monthly stipends for food
- Chasdei Kaduri: provides food cards
- Jewish Free Loan Toronto

Project LISA has served 37 adult clients and assisted in the lives of 36 children. We pride ourselves on in-depth case management. Our clients receive help obtaining legal aid certificates, referrals to vetted lawyers, accompaniment to court, legal appointments and referrals to community resources. Project LISA's aim is to provide a bridge for women; delivering the necessary resources enables our clients to move past trauma while supporting their journey towards a violent free future. Domestic abuse is complex and time consuming. Victims of domestic abuse require legal support, financial support and community involvement.

Project LISA supports women experiencing intimate partner violence navigate the family law system in Ontario, and to help our clients achieve their goals-no matter what point they are at when they come through to the program for help.

Ariella Boehm
Director of Legal Support, Project LISA

Mitzvah Knitters



Mitzvah Knitters has continued to grow in membership and expand the recipients of our knitted projects. We have attracted new members who range from novices to experienced knitters and every two weeks we can rely on 30 to 35 women who join us to knit on a Monday afternoon.

We have a group of women at a seniors' home who knit for us and send in their work with one of our members. Other contributions are the owner of Prock Insurance, who along with her mother regularly donate beautifully knitted hats to our project.

Our work is distributed across the city. Preemie hats go to Humber River Hospital and Mackenzie Health. Chemo caps go to Sunnybrook and Mackenzie Health. Lap blankets and Twiddlemuffs go to L'Chaim and Cheltenham Place. We also deliver hats to several Toronto District School Board schools.

Non-profit, Brands for Canada helps by distributing knitted goods to more than 70 shelters and agencies across Toronto.

We continue to support the Chanukah and backpack projects of NCJWC Toronto. We have donated well over 1000 items each year. We look forward to continuing and growing in the future.

Renee Birnbaum and Elaine Barkin
Mitzvah Knitters

One Voice



Our project One Voice - Multifaith Women Working to End Violence Against Women, has been meeting for many months to create a toolkit for all faith leaders to address this issue. This is the first such endeavor in Toronto.

Twenty women of various faiths – Christian, Sikh, Muslim, Bahai, Hindu, and of course Jewish – are involved.

On February 5th, as part of World Interfaith Harmony Week, we had an event called Break the Silence. This was a panel to discuss the common experiences across faith communities around violence against women. The speakers were Rabbi Sean Gorman of Pride of Israel, Nazila Isgandarova, a faculty member at U of T, and “Susan” a survivor of domestic violence. This event served to introduce more faith leaders to our task. Forty people attended. As a result we have created an advisory group of faith leaders.

The next steps are that we are using the remainder of the Ontario Multicultural Grant to employ a facilitator to bring more structure to the toolkit. Rebecca Starkman, a PhD candidate at OISE, has agreed to do this.

We hope to finish this project by June 2020.

Eva Karpati and Dafna Strauss
One Voice



The Toronto Jewish Quilting Project

In December the Toronto Jewish Quilting Project celebrated its 15th year anniversary. In that time there have been 500 Angel Quilts made. Every Wednesday 10 to 20 volunteers come out to Council House to stitch these blankets of comfort for those touched by cancer. The atmosphere of comradery and joy infuses each quilt with love.

A very special new member, and our first recipient of our Angel Quilt has joined the volunteer base.

"I was given an Angel Quilt as a gift on May of 2004 after undergoing months of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant for leukemia. I've proudly hung my quilt up in my living room. It is a symbol of the warmth and generosity of the women who created it, and for this I am so grateful.

Thank you Women of the Angel Quilters", said Susie.

On January 17, 2019 an article was written in the CJA about the program by Beverley Bergman entitled "The Precious Gift of an Angel Quilt."

Quilts have also been gifted to each of the children's libraries created by Turning the Page.

The TJQP would not be possible without our generous donors. Fabricland has donated batting and backing for the quilts since the program's inception which amounts to over \$37,000.00. We are still using the funds from the generous donation of Marlene Nesbitt and her husband. Many more individuals have donated fabric from their own stash which keeps our quilt materials colourful and plentiful.

The project continues to impact many lives. Our touch points are many. Our first connection is the person or persons requesting the Angel Quilt on behalf of a loved one. We are able to deliver a tangible demonstration of caring at this difficult time. We touch the quilt recipient who feels the love we put into each blanket. We have had over 100 volunteers who have helped us sew over the years. Over 1,000 people have been impacted by the TJQP over these 15 years.

Eva Karpas and Marcia Pascoe
Toronto Jewish Quilting Project

Welcome Quilts

This year we delivered five Welcome Quilts. Three families were Yazidis, one Syrian and one Rwandan.

All the families were extremely grateful for these gestures of warm friendship as they are settling into their new homes. In sharing their stories of their harrowing journeys in order to come to our peaceful city they have enriched our lives.

This project is in partnership with JIAS, the Sponsorship Agreement Holder for each of the families.

Eva Karpati
Welcome Quilts

Passover Food Drive



The Passover Food Drive went very smoothly during packing days and on delivery day. Living Jewishly continues to work closely with me and Jessica to provide project management of the Drive. They have introduced new ideas that were well received.

There were 2,000 boxes of food packed and additional food made available to groups and walk ins. During the drive there were a total of 52 Packing Shifts, each with an average of 20 volunteer packers, a minimum of 3 supervisors for each shift, miscellaneous sorting and packing volunteers, food supervisors Paula & Shirlee, food collectors at 10 participating stores, food donations were abundant, warehouse supervisors and volunteers on delivery day and drivers on delivery day. This translates into almost 2,000 people who helped make our Passover Food Drive a resounding success. That is the spirit of the project that helps our recipients and gives our volunteers the opportunity to contribute doing a hands-on mitzvah. Toronto's Jewish Community rallies behind this project!

On delivery day we were visited by politicians Mayor John Tory, Michael Levitt and James Pasternak. Some highlights of the drive include a new shortened professionally narrated video viewed by all packing groups, more social media promoting #matzah4all and #matzah4all branded mega-sized photo frame encouraging picture tagging on social media to raise more awareness. Branded water bottles and volunteer stickers created a positive experience and sense of community for our volunteers.

Our financial results, while not finalized, are looking very favourable. More money has been donated and more food collected this year. Costs have increased slightly in some areas but will be offset by the money raised. Final results on our financial reports will be forthcoming.

Gail Crystal
Chair, Passover Food Drive



Turning the Page Libraries

Juliet's and Yorktown Women's Shelters will have brand new Children's Libraries in June 2019. Both shelters have approximately 15 children, 20 children in residence at any given time, ranging from newborns to 18 years of age. Because of the housing shortage, the average stay can be up to one year. Yorktown Family Services is a 32-bed facility and Juliette's Place has 35 beds.

Yorktown and Juliette's Place are larger shelters, that have existing arts and crafts rooms with bookshelves, therefore the two new TTP Libraries are catered to older children and teens. Both Turning the Page and Zion Branch committees are working diligently to see their projects through. We are using grant money from the Retired Teachers Association (RTO District 23, North York) to furnish the libraries. We have also received in-kind donations and services including: paint, furniture, lamps, a rug, bookshelves, computer desk and chair, a quilt, Painting, Room Design, an Artist's mural and all most importantly all library books.

This program has been a wonderful experience for all of us who are involved. The Shelters and their residents are so appreciative of this initiative, and the positive impact having access to new books can have on young lives.

Elayne Shuster and Susan Austin
Co-Chairs of Turning the Page Children's Libraries



**TREASURER'S
REPORT
Bev Hutner**

We expect our total expenses for the year 2018-19 to be in line with our budget. Our occupancy costs were higher than expected as we were forced to make a major repair to the heating system in order to remain in the building. Wages are also higher than expected, as we incurred severance costs in the course of replacing our bookkeeper. Our new bookkeeper, Tina Tsirbis is a CPA, CA. She is responsible for all of the accounting, while Navi Mann has taken over responsibility for issuing tax receipts. I am pleased to report that both the accounting and receipting functions are working much more efficiently than in the past. Also, since Tina has the skills to provide a higher level of support to the Auditors, and they agreed to hold the audit fee for 2018-19 to the same level as last year. These extra costs were offset primarily by the property tax rebate.

Prior to the sale of the building, Council was exempt from property tax, since the building was both owned and occupied by a registered charity. As a result of the sale to a commercial enterprise, this was no longer the case. Under the terms of our lease we are required to pay all of the operating expenses, including property taxes of \$73,990 per year. It came to our attention that a 40% rebate was available to charities who were leasing premises from a commercial enterprise. We consulted with various advisors, and decided to apply for the rebate for the calendar years 2017 (4 months) and 2018, and were successful in obtaining a rebate amounting to approximately \$40,000. We will be applying for a rebate for 2019 in January 2020.

Our revenue line continues to be severely challenged. As in the prior year, membership dues and branch fundraising, while important, are woefully inadequate for our needs. We had an ambitious fundraising objective of \$150,000, and ran a fundraising campaign, which raised only \$36,000. We are working on various fundraising initiatives, which are further described in the fundraising report. Investment income will also be below budget. Our investment advisor continues to invest in compliance with our policies, and is achieving the expected results. However, our capital has been depleted, due to the shortage of fundraising revenues and the purchase of our new home.

During the year we continued to search for a new home. In early January we purchased a commercial condo at 890 Sheppard Avenue West for \$950,000. The transaction closed at the end of February. We utilized a portion of our nest egg to fund this purchase. The interior of this unit is completely undeveloped and we expect to incur a further \$500,000 in costs for leasehold improvements, furniture and moving expenses. We are in the process of investigating various fundraising opportunities to cover these capital expenditures. If we are successful, this will allow us to generate additional investment income to fund operations.

Our Passover Food Drive was very successful this year. By using a more targeted approach, we were able to obtain some larger donations and cover all of our costs.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Hutner
Treasurer

Communications Report



Communication continues to be a work in progress as we work towards inclusion of many new communication opportunities.

Key Communications Methods

E-Blast

The Eblast continues to be created and distributed, bi-monthly by email to all members for whom we have email addresses.

Its purpose is to draw members' attention to the wonderful happenings, projects, events and opportunities for Section involvement. The content is kept concise. Photographs enhance the readership. It also includes National and International News.

Social Media/Website

A consistent Facebook, Instagram and Twitter presence was established this year. Greetings for holidays, all section fundraisers, projects and events were posted. During 2018/19, the number of people who have joined our Network, browsed, liked and shared posts have increased thanks to a number of social media campaigns that we ran including Giving Tuesday, PFD, and Human Trafficking Awareness Day. We have begun the process of updating the Website. Current programs and projects have been updated and new logos have been inserted. The next step is to get this up and running. A new website was also created for our newest project, Project LISA.

Logos/Marketing Materials

A new clear, consistent brand logo was created for each project of Toronto Section. We have begun the process of standardization and more creative marketing materials were produced to help market events and programs more effectively.

Media Coverage

We continue to invite Media to our events and are excited with some of the coverage we had this year. Human Trafficking Awareness Day was covered by CBC TV, Radio, and Passover Food Drive was broadcasted on CBC radio.

Next Steps for Communication:

- Eblast – We need to make sure that not only do people receive the E-Blast; but that they read it. An assessment of its effectiveness needs to be gathered.
- Press/PR plan – We will work on raising our profile in a positive manner, through the media. This includes print, broadcast and online media.
- Social Media – There will be more focus on social media campaigns and increasing our audience online. We will expand usage and the number of people who join, browse, like and share posts!
- Branch Liason – A more powerful connection to Branches will be established in order to involve more people in all aspects of the organization. Additionally, we will investigate ways to include General members and those without email.

Naomi Kingston
Communications

Community Support & Involvement

JIAS Chanukkah Party

On December 6, 2018, the annual Chanukkah party took place at the Prosserman Centre. As there was no heat in our auditorium, it was necessary to find an alternate location.

As always we welcomed newly arrived immigrant families to a festive Chanukkah event. The activities included crafts for the children, traditional foods including latkes and sufganiot, candle lighting, singing and dancing led by Iztchak Argamon, and the return of Doo Doo the Clown who performed his magic with much participation from the children.

The children took home loot bags with toys that were provided by the Drive for Dreidels campaign.

Many thanks to Jodi Block and her team for their energy and enthusiasm!

Yom Manual Labour

On Sunday May 5th NCJWC Toronto participated in Yom Manual Labour. Jessica Kronis organized an opportunity where she and community members went to Shores's Kavanah Garden for a Sunday afternoon.

This was a wonderful interactive opportunity where the community worked together to grow food for vulnerable community members. Attendees included adults and children creating a fun filled day for all to enjoy.

3rd Annual Make a Meal from Scratch

On February 28, 2019 Orah Branch prepared a dinner at St. Mathews Church for approximately 120 homeless people. This was a great occasion for NCJWC Toronto's Orah Branch to continue to work in the community.

This is the 3rd Annual Make a Meal from Scratch held for the clients and our third year of participation. It is very rewarding to offer some home down comfort to the less fortunate in our community, and a special feeling in creating a meal together.

NCJWC - President's Report



This year has been a very exciting one for NCJWC and in the fall a new Section of NCJWC was born. On November 12th 2018 there was an opening meeting attended by 25 interested women in the home of Helen Silverstein, a Toronto member of NCJWC who now lives in Simcoe County. To date there are almost 40 members in this Section and it is continuing to grow. The new members form an eclectic group – a range of ages, nationalities, work experiences, and life experiences. They have lots of ideas and are full of enthusiasm.

In May, CIJA facilitated a program for NCJWC in Toronto discussing ways to deal with the growing incidents of anti-Semitism in the world, and in particular in our Canadian cities. By webinar, members from Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Simcoe County participated by means of watching the presentation and being able to ask questions. The rise in antisemitism is very disturbing, but the presentation gave us all hope that we can do our individual part (as long as our individual safety is never compromised) to combat this growing problem.

May 27 and 28, NCJWC hosted International Council of Jewish Women's Executive meeting in Toronto. Representing 33 countries, women from around the world congregated in Toronto at Council House to discuss such global matters as women's and children's rights, antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiments, environmental concerns, human rights and the like. It was indeed an honour to host this gathering and to have 5 NCJWC delegates included in this influential group. ICJW has consultative status at the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with the Economic and Social Council and maintains permanent delegations in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Paris. As ICJW's only Canadian affiliate, our NCJWC delegates have a voice on global matters.

At lunchtime on the first day, Galit Baram, Consul General of Israel for Toronto and Western Canada, addressed the delegates and discussed Israeli concerns and the need for global involvement.

In the afternoon, Professor Irwin Cotler spoke to the delegates, members of Toronto Section and the community on the topic "Resurgent Global Authoritarianism: the assault on human rights through the lens of political prisoners". His lecture inspired us and gave us motivation to try to help. ICJW committed to begin a writing campaign in the hopes of helping one of the political prisoners discussed by Mr. Cotler. She is being held in Iran. We are hopeful that by circulating a document to our 33 affiliated countries that can be signed and sent on to the appropriate destination protesting this imprisonment, a positive outcome may result. This is a small initiative that hopefully will encourage us to advocate in this way on behalf of other political prisoners in the future.

The next meeting of NCJWC will be a Triennial convention to be held in Edmonton, Alberta November 23-25, 2019. All members of NCJWC are invited to attend. Information will be disseminated shortly. If you are interested in attending, please email me at president@ncjwc.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Wasserman, President NCJWC

BECOME A MEMBER OF NCJWC TORONTO

To strengthen the voices of
Jewish women in our community

MAKE TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

To support our programs and initiatives to help
serve the needs of the community.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

HONOUR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER

Send a card to a loved one with the gift of a donation.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

To help make an impact in our
community

CONTACT DETAILS

NCJWC TORONTO

CONTACT INFORMATION

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