



Welcome to the Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville Newsletter!

This newsletter includes information on events and advocacy over the past three months:

- Women's Momentum Assembly for a Just Fossil Fuel Phaseout
- SKILLSHub "Skills in Common: Women Building Across Generations"
- John Molson Women in Leadership Conference
- Advocacy Committee letter to Ontario Government
- International Women's Day Events
 1. IWD Breakfast hosted by Councillor Curry
 2. ZKS and CFUW Perth and District film screening and fundraiser
 3. CFUW Ottawa Film Screening
 4. She Builds: Stories of Immigrant Women
- Zonta Club of Hamilton I hosts Catherine McKenna
- NGO CSW70 Civil Society Briefing
- Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada
- Beyond 101: A nuanced, real-life look at sex trafficking
- The Belém GAP: a new chapter for Gender & Climate Change
- Coffee Chat with International Advocacy Chair, Helen Bowie
- Right to Learn Afghanistan – International Day of Education
- Zonta USA Caucus Zonta Says NOW committee book discussion
- News from members

Women's Momentum Assembly for a Just Fossil Fuel Phaseout: A virtual global assembly in the lead up to the First International Conference on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels – 31 March 2026

April 28-29, Colombia and the Netherlands will host the [First Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels](#)—coordinating governments to institutionalise global cooperation for a managed, equitable fossil fuel phaseout. This breakthrough opportunity will convene committed countries after the failure to include a transition away from fossil fuels in the final outcome documents of the UNFCCC COP30 at the end of last year.

Aligned with [the 2025 International Court of Justice's ruling](#) that nations have a legal duty to address fossil fuel production, licensing and subsidies, the Colombian conference will reinforce the Paris Agreement and mark a critical step toward a just and equitable global transition away from fossil fuels. While the conference is organised by and for governments and civil society, other stakeholders were invited to have meaningful engagement.

[Women's Earth and Climate Action Network](#) (WECAN) serves on the [Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative](#) Steering Committee. WECAN International hosted global women leaders at this virtual pre-Conference Assembly to strategise and generate momentum for action on a Fossil Fuel Phaseout and a Just Transition. During the Assembly, policymakers, frontline leaders, global advocates and parliamentarians discussed the challenges to ending the era of fossil fuels as well as successful policies, campaigns and solutions to ensure a just and equitable path forward.

The full agenda, individual speaker interventions, three panels and the list of 20+ speakers can be found [on the Assembly page here](#).



Judith attended the assembly and was inspired by the passion, stories, strategies, comments in the chat, and so much more. **Tzeporah Berman, Chair, Fossil Fuel Treaty Initiative, Canada** moderated a panel of government leaders. You can watch Tzeporah's panel starting at 1:26 of the complete four-hour [assembly](#).



Nessa Cosgrove, Senator in the 27th Seanad House, Recent Councillor on Sligo County Council, Ireland explained that although fracked gas exploitation is banned in Ireland, nothing stops Ireland from importing fracked gas, which it does.

WECAN showed a powerful [video](#) at 2:30 followed by a panel of civil society and indigenous activists. Eriel's chat demonstrates her passion!



Tasneem Essop, Executive Director, Climate Action Network - International (CAN-I), South Africa



Eriel Tchekwie Deranger (Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation), President, Indigenous Climate Action (ICA), and 2024 Climate Breakthrough Award Winner, Turtle Island/Canada



As the world faces increasing threats to democracy and science, it is more important than ever to continue the fight for climate justice and rights-based approaches to solutions to end the era of fossil fuels. The challenges are ever-increasing, but so are our power, hearts and leadership when we gather together.

Canada and Australia got some bad publicity in the chat. They are coming to Santa Marta yet they are ramping up fossil fuel projects. Someone questioned Nigeria's stand and we learned that Mr. Trump's attacks on the Endangered Species Act were struck down.

Clara Vondrich to **Everyone** 1
Is it possible to restrict AU and CA participation until they agree to account for their full footprint of emissions - upstream, downstream, everywhere in between?

Darryl Vancise to **Everyone** 15:4
When Carney gets his majority in Canada he will unleash climate actions. The pipeline in Canada will never be built as one co. already pulled out and there is no ROI but we need to keep the pressure on.

Darryl Vancise to **Everyone** 16:3
Excellent Eriel. Well done. You and First Nations are leaders. As a Canadian, we are the worst democratic emitter in the world per capita. Provinces /cities are on side for the transition, as are the majority of citizens, we have tons of money and need Carney to act. I don't understand the lack of science and logic here. It's embarrassing. We need COPS & Santa Marta to get us out of our complacency. Thanks to Columbia, the Netherlands, First Nations and all of you which really helps. Hopefully attending Santa Marta is just step one before taking action. Oil and gas lobby here is extremely powerful with money and political influence. The fight will be Long and Hard. Lament for a Nation.

Aquib A. to **Everyone**
@DarrylV, I hope so. Alberta's referendum is going to be another factor to mildly concern on now.

Arc. AMINAT AJENIFUJAH-ABUBAKAR 1 Ph.D to **Everyone**
Thank you Ladies.
I am a trifle afraid of where my country Nigeria stands in accepting this initiative, especially in the light of our crude oil driven economy.

Jacqui Deveneau to **Everyone** 15
VICTORY FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES! 🙌
Today, a federal court struck down President Trump's attacks against the Endangered Species Act, restoring key values of the bedrock environmental law.
For more than 50 years, the Endangered Species Act has been one of the most successful conservation laws we have. This victory gives vulnerable species and the ecosystems we all rely on a chance to recover in the face of the climate crisis and relentless pressure from extractive industries.
<https://wildearthguardians.org/.../federal-court-strikes.../>

SKILLSHub “Skills in Common: Women Building Across Generations” – 26 March 2026

The Kanata North Business Association organised this event and asked Isabelle to participate on the panel. The panel was student-moderated followed by interactive conversations with students and early-career talent. The audience included secondary students, post-secondary learners and early-career professionals. Although Isabelle was unable to attend, one of the company’s senior structural engineers, Jennifer Chaijan, P.Eng, attended as a mentor.

The goal was to bring together women from different stages of their careers to talk about how skills actually develop over time and how people navigate pathways into tech and skilled trades. They wanted to include a few voices from both the **technology and skilled trades sides**, especially people who could speak honestly about their career journeys and what helped them move forward.

John Molson Women in Leadership (JMWL) LEAD Conference – 21 March 2026

Judith attended the 10th annual LEAD conference organised by the JMWL at Concordia University, Montreal which showcased a fabulous lineup of speakers and panelists. The main panel discussion emphasised the importance of dedication, believing in yourself and taking risks. Judith was pleased to meet so many young aspiring leaders whose professionalism and capacity for learning from networked events will pave the way to rich careers.

In the words of one young woman: “One of the highlights of my day was the mentorship lunch where I had the opportunity to connect with Victoria Hasegawa [a panelist pictured below]. She generously advised me on navigating the marketing industry as a Psychology student interested in consumer insights, and how to effectively translate academic skills into this field.”



Leading Through Challenges & Change			From Credibility to Impact <i>Advancing Inclusive Leadership</i>		
Lauren Mezzaluna Co-Founder sona	Victoria Hasegawa Marketing Manager ABB		Karine Bah Tahe Co-Founder & CEO oasis	Nathalie Palladitcheff Former CEO Ivanhoe Cambridge	Jo-Ann Lempert Partner, Assurance and Accounting MNP
Lina Balafoutis Manager, District Sales Associate MACKENZIE Investments	Emie Dufour Team Manager Processing Fidelity	Moderated by Louise Misako Mazauric Architect, OAQ BGIS	Leslie Quinton VP Communications 	Andria Forde Branch Manager Enterprise Mobility	Moderated by Rosalia Felice Course Instructor Reyou Itchee

Advocacy Committee Letter to Ontario Government – 5 March 2026

The Advocacy Committee, chaired by Elspeth Nickle, wrote a letter to the Ontario Government requesting it to revise its decision and declare IPV an epidemic in Ontario. In November 2025, the Ontario Government refused to pass Bill 55 and instead voted to declare IPV “endemic” in Ontario despite more than 150 women’s organisations calling on the Ontario government to declare IPV an epidemic.

In the wake of the inquest into the murders of three women by the same former intimate partner in Renfrew county in 2015 and the report calling for a society-wide response to declare IPV an epidemic, 106 municipalities, including all of Ontario’s largest cities, have passed motions to this effect. The governments of three provinces, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia, have all passed motions declaring IPV an epidemic.

By refusing to declare IPV an epidemic in Ontario, the Ontario government will not have to commit resources and funding to actionable strategies to address this crisis.

Elsbeth and Judith met with Official Opposition New Democratic Party MPP Catherine McKenney (Ottawa Central) and Third Party Liberal MPP Karen McCrimmon (Kanata-Carleton) to obtain feedback on the letter and advice for follow-up actions. On 5 March, the letter was emailed to Premier Ford, all members of the Standing Committee on Justice Policy, several Shadow Cabinet ministers and the two elected Green Party MPPs.

International Women’s Day Events – 5-19 March 2026

Members of the Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville participated in many events in person or virtually to celebrate IWD. Here are some highlights.

1. International Women's Day Breakfast – 5 March 2026

Isabelle, Elspeth and Judith attended the International Women’s Day breakfast hosted by Kanata North Councillor Cathy Curry (l). Nathalie Gougeon (r), Auditor General for the City of Ottawa/Vérificatrice générale de la Ville d’Ottawa was our guest speaker. She spoke to us about her professional trajectory as a woman in a mostly man’s field. Even with all her qualifications: Honours BA, Certified Professional Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor and Certified in Risk Management Assurance, among others, she still did not feel confident enough and questioned whether she should apply for this job. Lucky for us that she did!

Early in her career, she received an excellent performance review with one exception: “aggressive”. She was shocked and turned to a female manager for advice, never in a million years expecting to hear this:

“If a male is firm and direct, he is seen as “decisive” and “confident”. Whereas women often, get labelled as aggressive, difficult, or another term that I won’t mention here today, but you can probably fill in the blank.”



You can read the full text of this powerful speech [here](#). Women have come a long way, but there is still so much more to do.

2. ZKS and Canadian Federation of University Women Perth and District – 8 March 2026

The Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville partnered with CFUW Perth and District to present a special screening of the National Film Board of Canada documentary ***The Nest***.

The Nest is a deeply moving film that explores important philosophical and social issues affecting many viewers — the death of a parent, aging, activism, raising children to be agents of change, the marginalisation of immigrants and people with disabilities, and the underrated role of women in history. The film was thought-provoking and resonated deeply with the audience, encouraging everyone to consider new perspectives.

The film was followed by a presentation from special guest speaker Rajnish Sharma, hosted in partnership with the Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville. Rajnish Sharma is Program Coordinator with [Immigrant Women Services Ottawa](#) (IWSO), a community-based agency dedicated to supporting immigrant and racialised women as they navigate life in Canada. A short question period followed the presentation with further questions about the work that IWSO does to support immigrant women and how we might get involved. Rajnish is pictured here with Judith.



About 110 guests attended the film screening, including Valerie Hume from the Zonta Club of Ottawa. The event raised \$1262, plus period products, to support [Lanark County Interval House](#), a registered charity that provides emergency shelter and ongoing programs for women and children living with or escaping domestic violence.



Judith emceed the event, supported by Elspeth. We thank Alanna Scanlon (r) and the CFUW team for their hard work planning and organising such a stimulating, informative and worthwhile event.

3. CFUW Ottawa Documentary Screening *The Day Iceland Stood Still* – 12 March 2026

The inspirational and entertaining documentary recalls “the heady days of feminism” in the 1970s and one revolutionary event in particular. On October 24, 1975, to protest discrimination and wage inequality, 90% of the women in Iceland stopped working for the day, walking out of their workplaces and homes, thus teaching Icelandic men a lesson and bringing the country to a standstill. They called it Kvennafrídagurinn, The Women’s Day Off. The men who were left to fend for themselves had another name for this day – Föstudaginn langa, The Long Friday! An equal rights law was passed in Iceland the following year.

I particularly liked the funny parts that showed the men trying to look after their children in the workplace and making dinner for them, and the more sobering parts where women explained that they taught the male trainees the job requirements, only to have the men promoted over them. Judith, and Valerie Hume from the Zonta Club of Ottawa, attended the screening.

4. *She Builds: Stories of Immigrant Women* – 19 March 2026

Judith attended this event which featured a screening of the film *How She Dares* by McGill alumna Zoonie Ngyuen followed by a panel discussion of women entrepreneurs who shared their experiences building their businesses in Canada. *How She Dares* is a documentary that follows the extraordinary path of Zoonie Nguyen, a Vietnamese-Canadian who went from being a war refugee to a corporate powerhouse and finally embarked on an unplanned, transformative journey to connect with and amplify the voices of female entrepreneurs around the world.

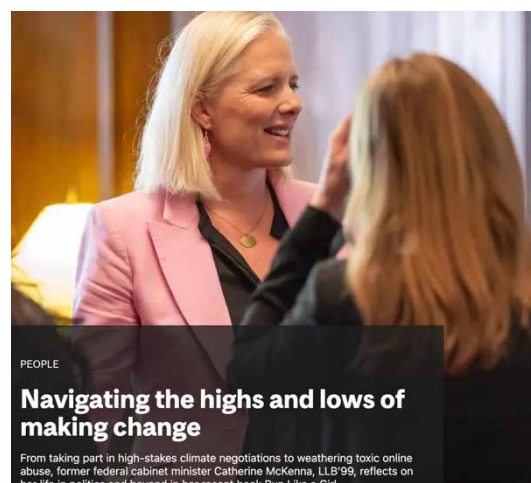


The event was a collaboration between the McGill Desautels Faculty of Management Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team and the Laidley Centre for Business Ethics & Equity (LCBEE) in recognition of International Women’s Day. Judith hopes to follow up with Zoonie to hold a film screening at either University of Ottawa or Carleton University in Ottawa.

Zonta Club of Hamilton I hosts Catherine McKenna – 3 March 2026

Catherine McKenna is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Climate and Nature Solutions. She is Canada's former minister of environment and climate change, and minister of infrastructure. She is chair of the UN Secretary General's Expert Group Net Zero, founded Women Leading on Climate, practiced law in Canada and Indonesia, established a not-for-profit focused on providing justice for all, and worked for the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Timor-Leste.

From Olympic dreams to the frontlines of politics and climate action, *Run Like A Girl* charts McKenna’s personal and political journey – from leading Canada’s climate plan to withstanding sexist attacks as “Climate Barbie.” Through a unique scrapbook-style format, McKenna blends candid personal stories, political insights, and reflections on motherhood, ambition, and activism. McKenna recounts her fight for climate policy, the ups and downs of public service, the tough decision to leave politics, and her mission to empower women in leadership.





Lori Robinson, D4, International Convention Chair, and Carole Theobald, D23, International Chair of Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action Think Tank joined online, too.

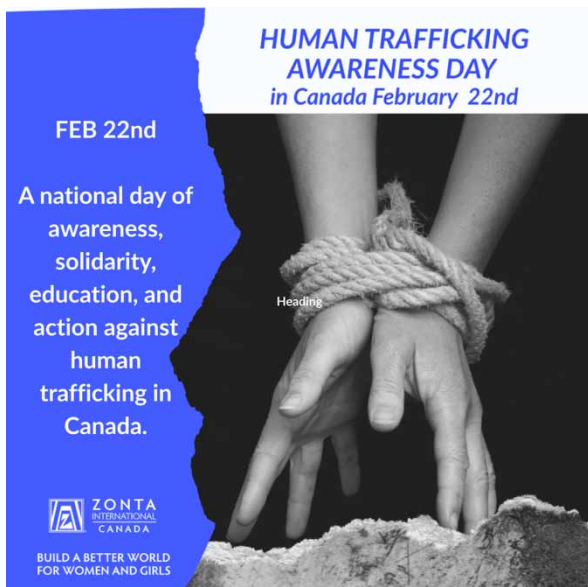
NGO CSW70 Civil Society Briefing – 19 March 2026

The discussion centred around the United States’ attempt to amend certain language from the agreed conclusions including diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), the effects of climate change on women, the definition of gender (redefine the concept of gender as binary) and the reproductive health rights of women and girls. Normally adopted by consensus at the CSW opening session, for the first time in history the U.S. requested a recorded vote on the draft conclusions. [How US tried but failed to wipe out 70 years of global consent on women’s rights](#)

Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada – 22 February 2026

The Zonta Canada Caucus developed an overwhelming number of graphics and text related to six human trafficking categories for Canadian Zonta clubs to post on social media. The ZKS put together 14 posts, one for each day leading up to Human Trafficking Awareness Day and

one for each day afterwards until 28 February. Kathleen posted to Facebook and Instagram and Judith posted on the ZKS LinkedIn with reposts on her personal LinkedIn. Here are the graphics and text we posted on the 22nd.



Day 8 Sunday 22 February Category 6

On Feb 22, we invite community members to learn the signs of trafficking and share key resources to protect women and youth. 📄 Together, we help build a safer, more informed community. 🌟

February 22 is Canada’s National Human Trafficking Awareness Day — a time to stand



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CANADA
BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Ottawa Survivor Support & Resources

- Youturn Youth Support Services: The Next Chapter 613-789-0123
- Voice Found: The Hope Found Project 613-763-5332 x1
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 or text 686868
- Ontario Native Women's Association 1-800-667-0816

together, honour survivors, raise awareness and take meaningful action. Human trafficking is happening in communities across the country; awareness saves lives.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada: February 22.

Our club supports organisations that provide counselling, transitional housing, reintegration pathways and culturally inclusive services for women and youth. 🧡 We believe survivors deserve stability, compassion and opportunity. ❤️

(Certainly not a graphics expert, Judith created this one on Canva using the template provided by the Canada Caucus.)

Beyond 101: A nuanced, real-life look at sex trafficking – 18 February 2026

To mark **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day**, Aura Freedom and ASTER (*Addressing Sex Trafficking Through Education and Research*) hosted this special online event. The event was developed to support social workers, healthcare providers, advocates and educators working to address sex trafficking and support survivors. The discussion delved into the complexities and challenges faced by survivors and advocates in combatting this human rights abuse.

Elsbeth and Judith gained a deeper understanding of the realities of **sex trafficking** and how to better support survivors and enhance prevention. You can access the [webinar recording](#).



**Beyond 101:
A Nuanced, Real-life Look at
Sex Trafficking**

Feb 18, 2026. Online.
An event to support social workers, healthcare providers, advocates and educators working to address sex trafficking and support survivors.
In observance of Canada's National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Hosted together by:  **AURA FREEDOM INTERNATIONAL**  **aster**

The Belém GAP: a new chapter for Gender & Climate Change Information Session 3 February 2026

Judith attended the virtual information session offered by the UN secretariat to provide information on what can be expected on gender and climate change after the adoption of the Belém GAP (Global Climate Action). The Belém GAP is a UNFCCC framework designed to accelerate gender-responsive climate action, finance and policy. It acts as a 9-year roadmap to ensure women's equal representation and address the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, girls and marginalised groups. The recording is on [UN Climate Change](#).

Coffee Chat with International Advocacy Chair, Helen Bowie – 28 January 2026

On Global Community Engagement Day, Elspeth and Judith joined the open discussion on how we can engage in advocacy for change at the community level.

Right to Learn Afghanistan – International Day of Education – 24 January 2026

Right to Learn Afghanistan Ottawa Chapter of Volunteers and University Women Helping Afghan Women (UWHAW), in collaboration with Carleton University Afghan Students' Association, hosted a panel discussion on education within broader debates on human rights and gender apartheid.

One of the members contacted us and asked if they could borrow one of our **Orange Ladies** to display at the event. The club was happy to participate. Thanks to Elspeth for organising lending the **Orange Lady**.

Education is a fundamental human right. Afghanistan is the only country in the world where girls and women are banned from secondary and post-secondary education. The Taliban's severe restrictions removed women from nearly all public, economic and political spaces, while online platforms – Afghan girls' and women's last avenues for learning and connection – face shutdowns, surveillance and cyberattacks.

Zonta USA Caucus Zonta Says NOW Committee book discussion – 11 January

Judith joined the Zonta Says NOW to Climate Justice committee of the Zonta USA Caucus for their Sunday evening book discussion. Angela Brokmann did a fabulous job hosting and discussing the book *Feminist City: Claiming Space in a Man-Made World* by Leslie Kern, while including participants' views. Judith now has another book to add to her summer reading list!

Hot off the Press - News from Kathleen!

I got a super cool recognition at work from the global CFO and got a real engraved baseball bat!!!! Our global CFO is from Louisville, Kentucky, so that's his big recognition thing! There were 4 of us on the Canada Financial Planning and Analysis (FP&A) team that won for all the work we did on harmonising the two businesses when we brought food and beverage together as one company in Canada.

(Editor comment: Note the number of women who were recognised. That's about right. Women still only make up about 25% of women in decision-making roles across government, business and industry.)



Let's make a difference in the lives of women and girls!

Mark your calendars for upcoming events and let's plan to attend! They are fabulous ways to learn, be inspired, connect and reconnect to build a better world for women and girls!

**Zonta International Convention 2026
11-14 July, Vancouver, BC, Canada**



**More women and girls will reach their full potential
if more of us work together!**