



COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT TO THE BOARD

DATE: May 2020

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (CANADIAN)

HIGHLIGHTS:

In our last report we brought two subjects forward: Ethical Investing and the impact of Canadian tax laws on women. Progress on the two has been minimal because of challenges reaching knowledgeable sources. The Kitchener-Waterloo Club has booked a financial representative from RBC Dominion Securities to speak at their October meeting to explore Ethical investing. Noteworthy that the University of Guelph has divested their investments of fossil fuels. Their Chancellor Martha Billes is from Alberta and she promptly resigned her position.

There were some queries about Bill C-5 which is before the Canadian parliament. It deals with training Judges in regards to their conduct when handling sexual assault cases. We have not written any letters but the Women's Legal & Education Fund (LEAF) has posted their recommendations regarding the Bill. This information was shared with the members who were interested in the Bill's progress.

LEAF just celebrated their 35th anniversary of working on behalf of women in Canada. Their newsletter celebrated their successes in this regard and it was forwarded to all the Zonta Clubs in D4 and across Canada.

With the onset of Covid-19 in mid-March the focus of most people changed and life as we knew it went on hold.

CHALLENGES:

Getting information from Clubs about their activities. We strongly suggest that reports from Area Directors be shared with this Committee so that everyone knows what Advocacy activities are being done and then best practices can be shared. This would reduce the amount of reporting that the presidents need to do as they could just complete one document quarterly.

Respectfully submitted:

Connie Deckert/Julie Brown