

CHANGEMAKER

AUGUST 2024

#COUNT **ME** IN



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I'm thrilled to be here as President and CEO of the Canadian Women's Foundation, working in partnership with you for gender equality and justice.

I'd like to share something I learned from a 14-year-old girl. It has always stayed with me.

I met her on a trip to a remote fly-in community in Northern Ontario. Talking to her, I flashed back to my younger self. At her age, I was excited about my future. I was finding my feminist voice. I was challenging my dad to heated debates about gender issues.

But this girl wasn't feeling those sparks or excited about what lay ahead. She told me that since there was no high school on her reserve, she had to make a heartbreaking choice: either stay with her family or move to Thunder Bay to stay in school.

That one conversation explained so much about the impact of barriers to equality and gender justice. It also stoked my determination to be an agent of social change.

Safer, fairer futures filled with opportunity and possibility also urgently depend on our work together at the Canadian Women's Foundation.



About Mitzie Hunter

Mitzie's 30 years of leadership span the nonprofit sector, private sector, and government. She has a trailblazing track record and many successes championing infrastructure and community improvements. She was the first Black woman to serve as Ontario's Minister of Education. She also served as Ontario's Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development and Associate Minister of Finance.

Continued on page 2

It's an honour and privilege to count myself into this award-winning organization that is an essential voice for women, girls, and gender-diverse people all over Canada. Your support is critical in this context of challenge and change, as we continue taking action together.

In this issue of Changemaker, you'll learn how your support is changing lives, and ways you can help champion young women as we approach International Day of the Girl Child.

With gratitude,



Mitzie Hunter

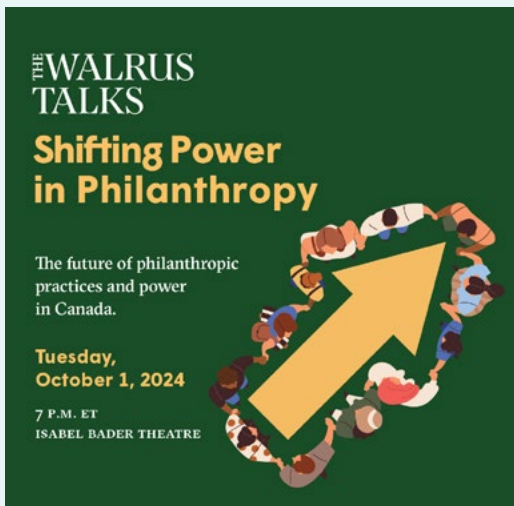
**President and CEO
Canadian Women's Foundation**

PS: Now that I've told you a bit about me, do me a quick favour and tell me a bit about why you count yourself in for advancing gender justice and equality. As I get to know you all, I would love to know why this vision resonates with you.

Mitzie is known for her expertise in an array of issues, from women's leadership to inclusive economies to sustainable neighbourhood and city building.

She is a founding visionary of the Prosperity Project. She served as Chief Administrative Officer of Toronto Community Housing Corporation, CEO of CivicAction, Vice President of External Relations and Corporate Secretary at Goodwill Industries, and President of SMART Toronto, a technology hub.

She is a Senior Fellow with the C.D. Howe Institute and a Canadian Urban Leader at the University of Toronto's School of Cities. Her board leadership experience includes United Way Greater Toronto and TVO. In 2023, Mitzie ran for mayor in the City of Toronto by-election.



What Does the Future of Philanthropy Look Like?

Join us at The Walrus Talks on October 1 to hear Mitzie Hunter and other speakers talk about how changes in giving, wealth, technology, and power dynamics are affecting philanthropy.

Register for the in-person event in Toronto, or the online livestream, to learn about the practices and people shaping philanthropy right now.

#COUNT **ME** IN

Thank You for Counting Yourself In for Gender Equality

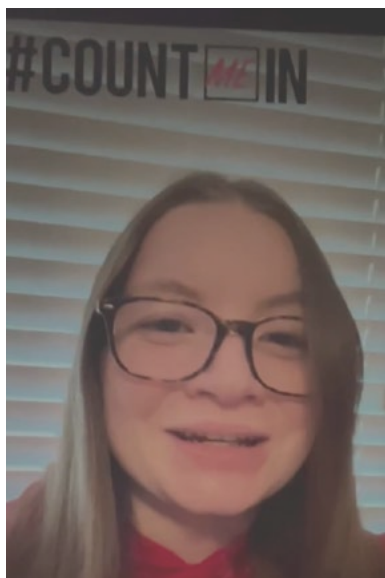
We're so grateful and moved to see our community of 71,000-plus active, generous people taking action to advance gender justice. You can help us grow this community by encouraging like-minded people in your networks to [count themselves in](#).



Are You a Challenger, Creator, Connector, or Collaborator?

You have your own unique way of taking action and creating change. Changemaking diversity is our strength!

Find out your changemaker personality type by [taking our quiz](#).



Young Advocates Are Spreading the Word

We are so touched that Youth Initiatives and Community Development, a student-led non-profit that encourages young people to give back to their community, got involved with this initiative. Check out their inspiring Instagram video calling on other young people to count themselves in, too.

> [Watch](#)

Your Voices and Actions Matter

You're Calling for Emergency Crisis Response With a Gender Lens

Wildfires, floods, and other emergency events happening all over Canada have underseen gendered impacts. You filled us with hope by supporting our call to provincial and federal representatives to let them know it's time to close the gender gap in emergency planning and management. And guess what? Together, we reached more than 695 representatives!

You'll also want to know and share this: we just launched a free online course on service continuity planning for community organizations and social service agencies. The course helps women's shelters, community centres and programs, and local health services fortify their critical functions in times of disaster or emergency.

You Counted Yourselves In for Mothers and Caregivers

In celebration of Mother's Day, you made generous tribute gifts to honour loved ones and support critical programs and services tailored to the needs of diverse mothers and caregivers. You also shared heartfelt insights about your experiences as mothers and caregivers that will inform our efforts into the future.

"We need to find ways to build more involved communities. People are so busy working, making dinners, getting kids to bed – repeat – that there's really no time left to interact with people near you, get to know them, to know how we can help each other."

- Mother's Day survey respondent



Making Workplaces Better for Women and Gender-Diverse People

A big thanks to all of you who responded to our survey on improving Canada's Employment Equity Act. Your responses informed our recommendations in the consultation process.

Empower Girls and Gender-Diverse Young People as We Approach International Day of the Girl

Girls and young women are highly involved in civic organizations and activities. As we approach International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, you can help girls and young people count themselves into the democratic processes that affect their everyday lives.

You can support the process of extending the voting age in Canada to 16 and 17. The Foundation is part of a network supporting the [#Vote16](#) movement. Send this letter to show your interest in this effort.

Why do You Count Yourself In?



Donor Spotlight: **Laura Sanhueza-Miller**

“I count myself in for gender equality because I want a future for my two daughters and girls everywhere, where they have the same opportunities, pay and respect, as men do across various paths.”

I choose to support the Canadian Women’s Foundation because of the action they’ve taken, and continue to take, in partnering with organizations to support girls and women throughout Canada—with a focus on justice, health and well-being, and so much more.”

Corporate Partner Spotlight: Ricki’s

This year marks the 20th year of Ricki’s partnership with the Foundation! Through their efforts, they’ve raised over \$2 million dollars. Thank you to Ricki’s staff members, leaders, and customers for supporting women, girls and gender-diverse people striving for economic security in communities throughout Canada!

“In a gender-equal Canada, we wouldn’t have to think about discrimination while striving for our full potential - equality would be a given,” says Cindy Lange, Brand and Creative Content Manager, Ricki’s.

“We count ourselves in for gender equality because we are a company of women for women, so we are intimately aware of the barriers that stand in our way. The Canadian Women’s Foundation is the perfect partner in our efforts to make a positive difference in the lives of women, girls, and gender-diverse people.”

RICKI’S

Aimee Quitevis Memorial Fund has raised more than \$141,000 to help survivors move out of violence

In April 1998, Aimee Quitevis tragically lost her life – a victim of domestic violence.

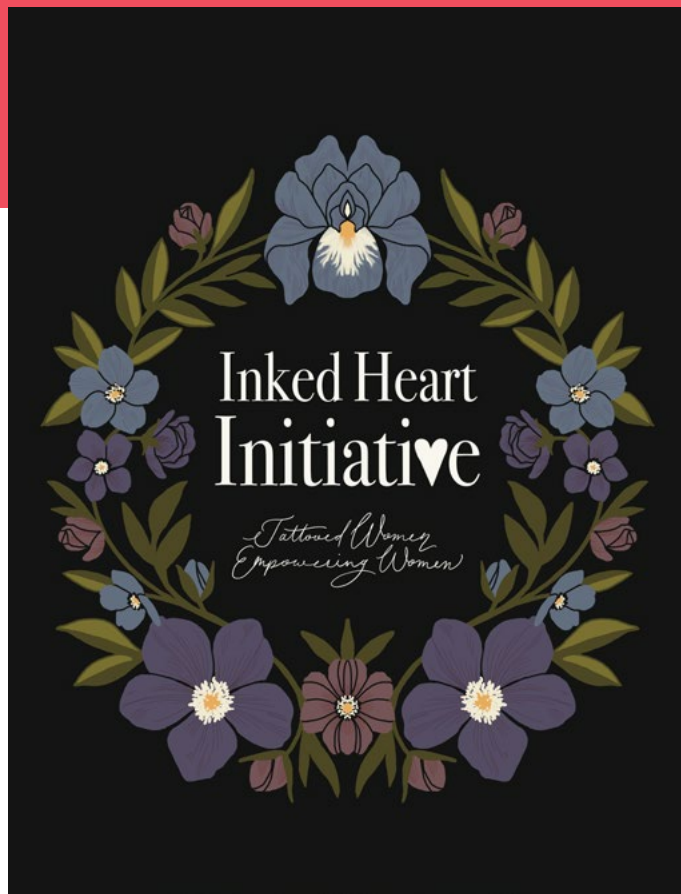
She is remembered as a dutiful daughter, a beloved sister, a doting aunt, a loyal friend – a vibrant person whose life was taken far too soon. Her loved ones describe her as a great listener, fun-loving, and a dedicated athlete.

Aimee’s legacy lives on in the work of her friends, family, and community members. Since the Aimee Quitevis Memorial Fund was established at the Foundation in 1998, its supporters have raised over \$141,000 to help prevent violence and support survivors to rebuild their lives.

In addition to donations, the Fund is supported by an annual volleyball tournament organized by Aimee’s friends in Toronto, which was held in May. We are so grateful to Aimee’s family, friends, community, and tournament participants for helping to transform lives in her memory.



ONE OF THE MANY TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN THE AIMEE QUITEVIS MEMORIAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT.



We are grateful to Inked Heart Initiative, a collective of women tattooers who raised funds for the Foundation through sales of items including prints, mugs, pins, shirts, and patches online and at tattoo conventions across Canada.

“We are strong in our convictions of empowering women, especially in male-dominated communities such as ours,” says Inked Heart organizer Natalie Jobe. *“We did a lot of research to find a foundation that was not only focusing on women, but inclusive of marginalized women and gender-diverse people who need guidance, help, and support.”*



Count Yourself In for Supporting Teen Healthy Relationships

Grantee Partner Spotlight: Second Stage Safe Haven, New Brunswick

Thanks to you, about 4,000 Grade 8 students across New Brunswick have gained the skills to create healthy, equal relationships and help break the cycle of gender-based violence. And thousands more students will learn these powerful skills in years to come.

A pilot project funded by the Canadian Women's Foundation, together with our donors and partners, paved the way for this programming to be adopted into the middle school curriculum in New Brunswick.

“We can't thank the Canadian Women's Foundation enough - if it hadn't been for this funding, we would never have achieved this long-term, systemic change,” says Julia Forgrave, Executive Director of Second Stage Safe Haven women's transition housing in New Brunswick.

Julia and her colleagues at Second Stage knew that healthy relationship programming for teens of all genders could play a key role in reducing gender-based violence. In 2017, they learned about The Fourth R, a program that teaches young people skills like setting boundaries, assertive communication, and how to recognize the signs of an unhealthy relationship. With a grant from the Canadian Women's Foundation in 2018, Second Stage was equipped to conduct research and pilot The Fourth R program in 11 schools, in collaboration with Healthy Learners in School nurses and the Anglophone South School District.

“Feedback from students and teachers was phenomenal,” Julia says. Not only were students engaged in learning healthy relationship skills, but teachers could see the impact on classroom dynamics and behaviour.”

Since the pilot, your generous giving has continued to empower Second Stage's work to expand the program, in collaboration with Healthy Learners in School nurses, all four anglophone school districts, and the provincial Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. After a long journey, The Fourth R was officially added to the curriculum in the fall of 2023.

Catch up on our [recent podcast](#) series about women's health, hosted by Andrea Gunraj of the Canadian Women's Foundation.

Tune into a refreshed and revamped Season 7, which kicks off on September 11 with Mitzie Hunter, the Foundation's new President and CEO.

ALRIGHT, NOW WHAT?

Hosted by Andrea Gunraj



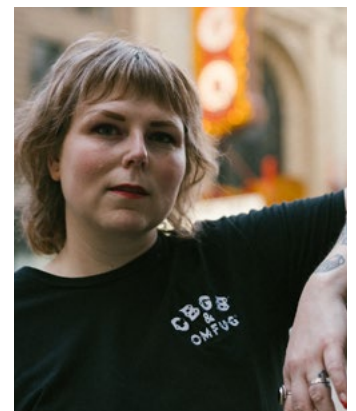
Big Data on Women's Health with Liza Vityuk



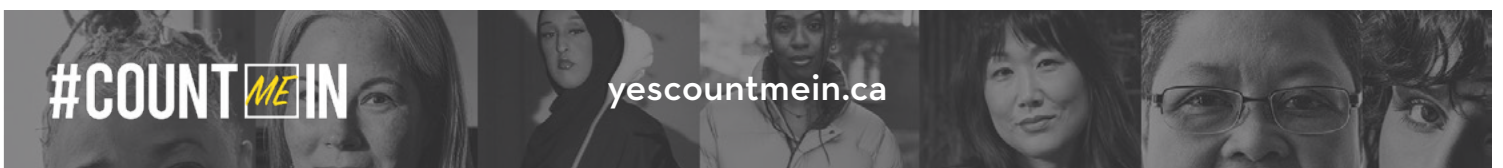
Women's Heart and Brain Health with Carissa Gravelle



Dementia and Gender with Saskia Sivananthan



Endometriosis and Misogyny with Tracey Lindeman



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