

## WFWP Canada's annual retreat at Clearstone Lodge in Roseneath, Ontario

Lilly Tadin  
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On September 21-22, participants gathered under sunny skies for the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Canada's annual retreat at Clearstone Lodge in Roseneath, Ontario. Traveling from Ottawa, Brockville, Toronto, and beyond, attendees arrived by car and train, warmly welcomed by their hosts, the Tadin family. One carload of participants was greeted by a striking double rainbow - a hopeful start to the weekend.



The first stop was the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, Ontario, where the group explored First Nations history and culture through displays of birch bark canoes from eastern Canada, cedar dugouts from the west coast, and seal skin kayaks from the north. The visit provided insights into Indigenous life, instilling a sense of respect and appreciation for the people and their environmental stewardship, leaving a lasting impression on many.

Upon arriving at Clearstone Lodge, the group shared lunch and launched into the retreat's theme, "Awakening Our Spirituality, Impacting Our Society." Eveline Stewart facilitated the meeting, encouraging cooperation and active listening among participants. After introductions and a welcome from WFWP Canada President Lilly Tadin, guest speaker Pierrette Scarr presented on Reiki, its history, uses, and benefits, including the principle of "letting go of what does not serve you." Her presentation set a meaningful tone, fostering reflection and connection among participants.

In the evening, attendees enjoyed dinner followed by a lively karaoke session and a heartfelt presentation by Blandine Stringer on the topic of angels, which prompted deep and personal discussions. The evening allowed participants to bond over shared experiences and a sense of mutual support.



Sunday morning began with an inspirational reading led by Saphia Samson. Lilly Tadin then presented WFWP Canada's achievements over the past year, surprising many with the extent of their efforts. This was followed by a discussion about WFWP's new leadership and the direction of future work, including its influence at the United Nations. Participants with UN experience shared valuable insights, while Mee Young Gabriel closed the session with a moving musical performance.



The retreat brought together 21 women, including two community leaders and three young women under 25, representing a diverse group. Attendees included a woman who traveled from Winnipeg and another who experienced a sense of release and relaxation from a Reiki session.

Participant feedback was filled with appreciation:

"I just wanted to give thanks to our Heavenly Parent and to our co-founders who put us together as one family. This retreat was so special for me to receive the care and attention of all participants who gave so much love to me." - Jacqueline Chityoka

"Thank you WFWP for hosting this retreat. I am grateful I could attend and spend some time learning, laughing and growing together." - Monica Halenko

"We formed such deep bonds by really listening and respecting everyone." - Eveline Stewart

"The consensus was that even though the organization was a bit lacking, the spirit and atmosphere were wonderful. Pierrette's presentation really set the tone, there was a lot of time to chat and connect with sisters." - Leonie, Ingrid and Blandine from Ottawa