

WFWP Canada's International Women's Day Celebration

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On March 8, 2025, WFWP Canada held an International Women's Day celebration. The event began with the first group of guests warmly introducing themselves and engaging in conversation, setting the tone for a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.

As the program officially began, participants took turns sharing their thoughts and asking questions, creating a meaningful dialogue that brought everyone closer together.

Dr. Tina Kouendze, of Laval University and a Canada Research Chair in International Criminal

Justice and Human Rights, delivered a moving talk about her journey as an immigrant, as well as her experiences in marriage and raising children. She sparked a thoughtful discussion on relationships between spouses and school-aged children, prompting deep, heartfelt exchanges. Many attendees - including widows, divorced women, and remarried women - opened up about their personal challenges. Despite the difficult topics, the conversation remained positive, emphasizing resilience and the qualities that empower women: strong communication, effective organization, and the courage to face life's challenges with strength and grace.

While the adults engaged in discussion, children participated in a creative activity, designing posters in honor of International Women's Day. Using markers, stickers, glue, and origami, they crafted beautiful, heartfelt artwork. Their creativity and good manners were recognized and admired by all. The children were proud and happy to contribute to the celebration.

Lunch Menu:

- Potage soup (yellow peas, carrots, and celery)
- Baked fish with vegetables
- Green salad and coleslaw salad
- Celebration cake

During lunch, the conversation about the value and strength of women continued. Once the sharing began, it flowed naturally, and the group grew closer. Sixteen people - many of whom had never met before - sat together at one large table. By the end of the meal, a strong sense of connection and unity had formed.

WFWP members were especially delighted to welcome new faces and forge meaningful new connections.

Reflections from the St. Narcisse Church Choir Members

The following day, I visited St. Narcisse Catholic Presbyterian Church, where several choir members who had attended the event shared their positive impressions. Despite the range of ages represented, the gathering was marked by peace, joy, and a spirit of cooperation.



Interestingly, two men were present at the celebration. One young man had driven his mother and sisters two hours to attend, as his mother had worked a late shift the night before as a nurse. His support was deeply appreciated. The second male participant was my husband, who remained quiet but attended in solidarity with the women. Their presence sparked a conversation about the evolving role of men in women's spaces. Rather than being out of place, their involvement was seen as a symbol of a new era - one where men and women work together to uplift, support, and champion gender equality.

A Note of Gratitude

Heartfelt thanks go out to all who made this International Women's Day celebration so special. Your presence, support, and shared stories made a lasting impact. Special thanks to Dr. Tina Kouendze, the Church Choir members, and the families who joined us.

The event was a true success. It created a safe and uplifting space where women could share openly, encourage one another, and feel truly valued. It was a beautiful reminder of who we are as women - strong, resilient, and capable of shaping a better future, together.