

In Tiohtià:ke (Montreal) on unceded Kanien'kehá:ka [Mohawk] territory



Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

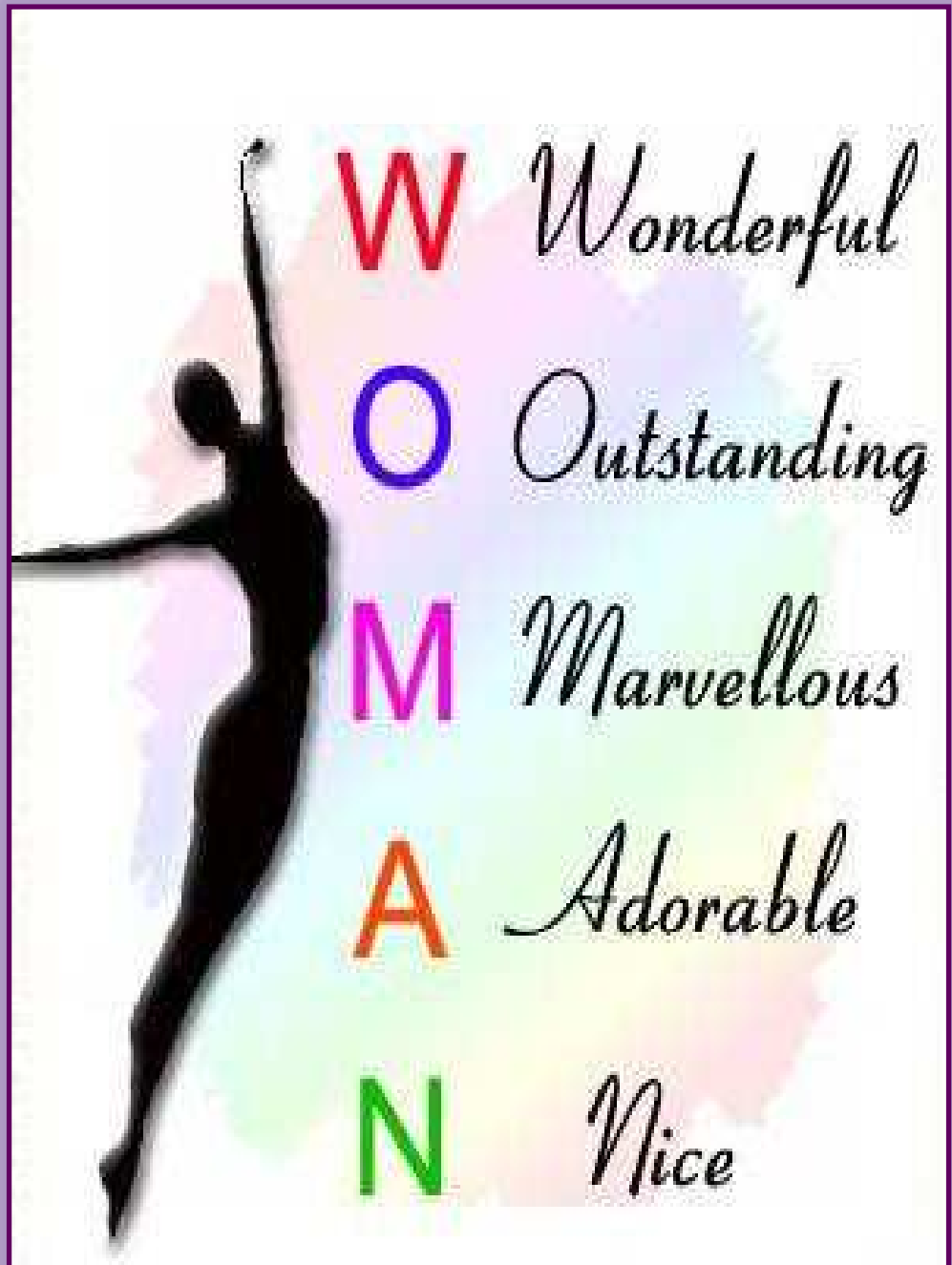
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**Qu'en pensez-vous?
What do you think?**

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin.
- Que pensez-vous de notre journal?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to:
- sawccbulletin@gmail.com
- Écrivez -nous à

sawccbulletin@gmail.com



CENTRE UPDATE



Centre Hours/heure d'ouverture

Monday & Thursday/lundi & jeudi 9am—9pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday/mardi, mercredi & vendredi— 9am-5pm

Please note: for the monthly of April, the center is not open on evenings

The Centre is wheelchair accessible

Le centre est accessible aux fauteuils roulants.

Volunteers — If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Juvaria (Ext. 104 or juvaria@bellnet.ca) to coordinate a meeting!

Next Executive Council Meeting: Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 6pm. All are welcome.

Executive Council Meeting Highlights Meeting of March 21st, 2017

- ◆ Sadeqa Siddiqui Essay Writing Competition
- ◆ Finance Committee and grant writing committee to form
- ◆ Suggestions for outreach
- ◆ Youth secretary portfolio description
- ◆ New member for FFQ board
- ◆ Grant writing training

MEMBER NEWS — It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Samantha's father, Jim Quinn on Thursday 6th April. Visitation on Thursday 13th April 3-7pm. Funeral on Friday 14th April 10:30am at Urgel Bourgie, 1275 Dollard, Lasalle. <https://www.urgelbourgje.com/en/necrology-obituaries/46362-james-quinn> SAWCC extends its deepest sympathies to Samantha and family.

SAWCC Bulletin -- submission guidelines:

SAWCC members are encouraged to send submissions to the Bulletin, to share items of interest with other members. Send submissions to: sawccbulletin@gmail.com

If using the post send to: SAWCC Bulletin, 1035 Rachel est, Montreal, Quebec, H2J 2J5

Submissions should reach by the 25th of the month.

Submissions may be original work or reprints (with permission) and can include --

art, reports, photos, information, opinion pieces, short fiction, poetry, announcements, recipes, etc.

Publication criteria are guided by SAWCC's commitment to not negatively discriminate on the basis of physical and mental ability, religion, colour, nationality, age, sexual orientation and identity, caste, and class. Publication is further guided by the feminist ethos of sis-terhood, and principles of intersectionality*, equality, equity, and transparency. As well, material that may compromise confidentiality of individuals without their consent will not be published.

SAWCC reserves the right to select, reject or edit submissions. When authorship identified, items reflect the views of the authors.

*Intersectionality -- the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, that create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Sadeqa Siddiqui Essay Writing Competition

SADEQA SIDDIQUI ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION



Topic: *What does feminism mean to me*

DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2017

Open you youth 14-19 years old

English and French entries accepted

750 words maximum

PRIZES

1ST: \$100 2ND: \$50 3RD: MOVIE PASSES

EMAIL: SAWCC@BELLNET.CA FOR SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

ENTER NOW...

The Sadeqa Siddiqui essay writing competition

The South Asian Women's Community Centre is pleased to announce the **Sadeqa Siddiqui Essay Writing Competition**. On November 1, 2014, we at the centre celebrated Sadeqa Siddiqui's retirement from the position of Coordinator. Sadeqa had been with SAWCC almost from the beginning, working with great dedication. For her it was not a position but a vocation. We could not think of a better way in which to honour her indescribable contribution to

Contd. page 4

SAWCC by holding an essay writing competition. We wish to make this an annual event, this being the first competition. So be the first to enter. **The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2017.**

RULES AND REGULATIONS (downloadable from www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca)

ELIGIBILITY

- Open to High School and CEGEP students
- 15 to 19 years of age
- Living in the greater Montreal area

CRITERIA

- The essay must be written in English or French.
- Number of words – 750.
- Electronic submission in Word to SAWCC@bellnet.ca
- Type “Essay Competition” as the subject in the email.
- Word document programme’s word count will be used.
- All entries must be accompanied by the SAWCC entry form.
- Blind judging so NO names on essay submitted. Name and age are only written on the entry form.
- Parent’s signature required for contestants under 18 years of age.

SUBJECT OF ESSAY

WHAT DOES FEMINISM MEAN TO ME

SUBMISSION DATE

April 30, 2017

WINNERS

Three essays will be chosen by the judges from those submitted.

The results will be announced in June.

PRIZES

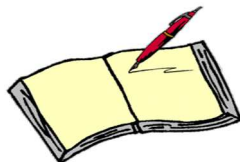
- The three chosen essays will be published in the SAWCC (South Asian Women’s Community Centre) bulletin, one per month following the declaration of the winners.

- Three prizes will be awarded.

First Prize: \$100

Second Prize: \$50

Third Prize: Movie pass for two



Sadeqa Siddiqui Essay Writing Competition– Application Form

Organized by the South Asian Women’s Community Centre, 1035 Rachel Street, Montreal, QC, H2J 2J5

APPLICATION FORM

Downloadable from www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017, 12:00 Noon
e-MAIL ADDRESS FOR SUBMITTING ESSAY: SAWCC@bellnet.ca

CONTESTANT’S INFORMATION

NAME: (Please print) _____ AGE: _____

(NOTE: Do not write either name or age directly on the essay you are submitting. If this information appears on the essay submission it will be disqualified)

PARENT’S SIGNATURE FOR CONTESTANT UNDER 18 YEARS _____

ADDRESS OF CONTESTANT: _____

e-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

HIGH SCHOOL OR CEGEP BEING ATTENDED: _____

GRADE (High School) OR YEAR (CEGEP): _____

NUMBER OF WORDS IN ESSAY: _____

NOTE: The submission must be in Word and the Word programme will be used to count the words of each submission.

Drum Roll - Applause

Jennifer Chew

Time moves in leaps, we, too busy to be aware of its lightning speed. We miss important markers of its passage unless we are reminded. So it was a pleasant surprise this year to be celebrating fifteen years since the founding of **Women of Diverse Origins**.

And this is an occasion to celebrate. To celebrate the devotion and dedication of this group of women who, for 15 years, have brought us together on the occasion of International Women’s Day to meet the world of women, here in Montreal and around the world through activists engaged in struggles on behalf of women and thus for all.

Unless it is some sort of emergency, I do not call Dolores on Saturday mornings, come September, because she is busy preparing eggs for the group who meet without fail to organize the coming year’s International Women’s Day event. I am not privy to what is on the rest of the menu to nurture those morning meetings, but I don’t doubt that all the women involved are as busy on Saturday morning’s as my sister. There is a recap meeting following the event and the march which is held on March 8 each year. And then there is a respite till September. Well deserved.

The thoughtfully planned programs are inspiring, informative, a chance to hear at first-hand what women’s experiences are, to share, to learn, to support. The sisterhood exudes a welcoming warmth.

And so, on Sunday, March 5, 2017, while I sat with Sadeqa on one side, and Sajida, Nighat and Jalal on the other, with Sarwat behind us, in the midst of many familiar faces with eager new ones too, watching performances interspersed with talks that reminded us that our struggle continues but not without hope, I thought I should not let this

Contd. page 6

fifteenth anniversary slip by without putting words (in lieu of hands) of applause together for these women who have made it possible each year to celebrate who we are and where we want to go. And in that spirit there was also a remembrance of women who have worked for the same goals, whose footsteps we walk in, who are now with us in spirit. We never have to feel alone.

I look forward to the 2018 celebration.

The Saturday morning stalwarts for this year's event: Maya Acosta, Mali Ansary, Fanny Barshee, Marie Boti, Louise Brownrigg, Dolores Chew, Jasmin de Calzada, Husniye, Amelia Morena, Monique Rocheleau, Lina Rodriguez, Sara Santillan, Samia Salomon, Tess Tesalona, Louise Worrell, Olga Ulanov and members of Comité des femmes kurdes, Centre de travailleurs et travailleuses immigrante/s, Mouvement contre le viol et l'inceste, Pinay plus individuals.

Fighting Against Muslimphobia: Let's Talk!

South Asian Youth (SAY) Collective

We hold our second brainstorming session for our anti-Muslimphobia project on Thursday, March 23rd at 6 PM at the South Asian Women's Community Centre. In response to the recurrent anti-Muslim racism that has had roots in the political climate of Quebec, the South Asian Youth (SAY) Collective provided a space of sharing, articulating and support. This meeting was open to all ages, regardless of race/ethnicity/religion and facilitators were present to support safer space.

Say invited to bring forward a piece of favorite artist's (music, poetry, books, films, lyrics or anything). This was intended to linger and confront how art, a medium that has existed ever since humankind has always inherited solidarity ages after ages. And to come together to celebrate while we contemplate on how can we become a better society to live in.

We intended to warm our hearts by the words we share, the silences we crave and the space to exist peacefully in all our colours.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/487085051680269/>

Member News

Education researchers awarded SSHRC grants

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission identified the role social science and humanities scholars play in enabling research properly grounded in respect, diversity and reciprocity regarding the relationships between Indigenous peoples and academics. Two researchers from the Faculty of Education working at this vital intersection have been awarded Knowledge Synthesis grants by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Their work addresses the question, "How are the knowledge systems, experiences and aspirations of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples essential to building a successful shared future for all Canadians?"

Mela Sarkar was awarded over one year for the project "Ethical relationality, Canadian applied linguists and Indigenous language revitalization".

Congratulations

Nowroz at SAWCC

SAWCC celebrated the "Nowroz" (Iranian and Afghani New year) this past 31st of March. The participants enjoyed the fun food, singing and henna applications as well as learnt about traditional ways to celebrate Nowroz.



SAWCC wishes happy Nowroz to all of you

Saying bye to Komal

Komal has been interning at SAWCC since Feb of this year. During her stay at SAWCC, she became part of the SAWCC family helping wherever she was needed. We at SAWCC miss her and wish her the best in all her future works."

SAWCC gathering to say goodbye to Komal:



8th March — INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2017 — SAWCC as part of Women of Diverse Origins, for the 15th year in a row taking to the streets — to be visible , to say we are here, these are our issues, linking the local and the global. The theme this year was CELEBRATING OUR RESISTANCE FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE!

(photos: Rushdia)



ANTI-MUSLIM RACISM in Quebec — Join us at SAWCC to talk about how this is affecting us, our families and communities. What should we be doing to respond to this.? This will be an informal discussion, with the possibility of action and activities proceeding from it. on Sunday 30th April from 3:30-5:30pm. All welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Lutte contre le racisme: des paroles aux actes

(Le devoir, 25 mars 2017)

Signées par SAWCC et plusieurs organismes et personnes

<http://www.ledevoir.com/societe/actualites-en-societe/494843/lutte-contre-le-racisme-des-paroles->

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En cette année 2017, la Semaine d'actions contre le racisme (qui se termine le 31 mars) revêt une importance particulière. Ayant lieu à peine deux mois après la tuerie de Québec, cette semaine d'action et de sensibilisation est une occasion unique pour le Québec de montrer qu'il sait passer des paroles aux actes quand il s'agit de montrer l'exemple en matière de lutte contre le racisme. Il va sans dire que sur ce terrain-là, le rôle et la responsabilité du gouvernement sont de première importance. C'est au gouvernement de donner le ton et d'imposer la cadence devant l'urgence d'agir.

Cela fait maintenant plusieurs années qu'une diversité de groupes tire la sonnette d'alarme concernant le racisme dans notre société. Aux problèmes de discrimination à l'embauche, de profilage racial, de barrières institutionnelles à la reconnaissance des diplômes, de discrimination au logement, de sous-représentation dans les médias ou à l'Assemblée nationale, viennent s'ajouter les délits et les crimes haineux, les lieux de culte vandalisés, l'intimidation, les menaces de mort contre les militants antiracistes, et maintenant la tuerie atroce à la mosquée de Sainte-Foy.

S'il n'existe pas de races au sens biologique du terme, on conviendra qu'il existe une construction sociale qui racialise les citoyens. Il existe un système social qui fait en sorte qu'une personne est défavorisée dans la société par sa couleur de peau, sa religion ou ses origines. Ce système, qui produit et reproduit des inégalités entre citoyens sur la base de leur racialisation, est appelé racisme systémique.

Pour comprendre le racisme systémique, l'analyser, le déconstruire et lui apporter des réponses globales et cohérentes, il faut d'urgence mettre sur pied une commission de consultation publique sur le racisme systémique. Cet exercice démocratique important doit être le point de départ d'un ensemble de politiques publiques qui viseraient à répondre de manière efficace et innovante aux défis établis. Mais déjà, il est possible de proposer quelques pistes pour la mise en oeuvre d'initiatives très concrètes inspirées de politiques publiques existantes au Québec ou ailleurs.

Conseil de la lutte contre le racisme : À l'instar de la Direction générale de l'action contre le racisme en Ontario, il faut créer un Conseil de la lutte contre le racisme. Ce conseil serait au racisme ce que le Conseil du statut de la femme est au sexisme.

Droit au travail : Établir des politiques claires d'actions positives avec des objectifs chiffrés afin que toutes les institutions publiques atteignent leurs buts en matière d'embauche de personnes issues des minorités racisées.

Éducation : Introduire un cours obligatoire dans l'enseignement secondaire qui porterait sur le racisme contre les autochtones ou les Noirs, l'islamophobie, l'antisémitisme, le sexisme, l'homophobie, etc. En effet, chaque citoyen québécois doit être éduqué afin d'être en mesure de comprendre ces systèmes d'oppression, leurs particularités, leurs origines et leurs manifestations. Au-delà de la notion de « diversité », il est temps d'enseigner des concepts comme ceux d'essentialisation, de privilèges, de colonisation, de racialisation, de discrimination systémique, de patriarcat, etc. Ces concepts sont essentiels à la participation active des citoyens québécois à un véritable vivre-ensemble égalitaire.

Justice et sécurité : Former les employés des différents corps de police et le Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales à reconnaître et à traiter sérieusement les actes haineux. Diffuser l'information sur les cas traités par la police dans le but de rassurer les populations et de dissuader les éventuels criminels.

Prévoir des sanctions sévères contre les employés des corps policiers qui se livrent à du profilage racial. Mettre sur pied un programme de compensation financière permettant de dédommager adéquatement et facilement toute personne victime de profilage racial.

Sensibilisation : Organiser une campagne de sensibilisation nationale pour lutter ouvertement contre toute forme de racisme, y compris contre les autochtones et les musulmans, et mieux valoriser la diversité qui enrichit le Québec.

Représentativité médiatique et culturelle : Assurer une juste représentation de la diversité culturelle et sociale du Québec dans les médias et dans les projets culturels subventionnés en mettant en place des incitatifs forts pour transformer les mécanismes systémiques de reconduction des pouvoirs en place.

Politique municipale et lieux de culte : Établir une politique globale pour garantir aux minorités religieuses leur droit de jouir de lieux de culte accessibles et sécuritaires.

Formation des fonctionnaires : Mettre en place une formation pour sensibiliser les fonctionnaires de l'État aux questions de racisme et de discrimination.

Un Québec plus juste

Le racisme a des impacts directs sur la vie de près d'un million de Québécois. Des personnes noires, autochtones, musulmanes, d'origine latino-américaine, asiatique, arabe ou berbère sont bafouées quotidiennement dans leur droit à l'égalité et à la dignité. Plusieurs sont menacées dans leur intégrité physique. Certaines en sont mortes. L'attentat du 29 janvier dernier a suscité chez la majorité de nos citoyens beaucoup d'émotion, une prise de conscience et un élan de solidarité sans précédent. Cette cause n'est pas seulement celle des racisés, c'est celle de nous toutes et nous tous, Québécoises et Québécois, qui rejetons les inégalités systémiques et rêvons d'un Québec plus juste, plus harmonieux et plus fort.

Alors que nos voisins du Sud ont élu Trump et que le parti de Marine Le Pen s'apprête à réaliser

Montreal, 9th April 2017



Women of Diverse Origins (WDO) denounces the US attacks on Syria 6th April. We are an organization of women committed to peace with justice and opposed to imperialism, colonialism

and militarism in all its forms. We see the US attack as an act of imperialist aggression. That it was carried out even without any semblance of approval by the United Nations or even with President Trump's own Congress makes it as well a violation of international law and domestic law.

The attack on Syria is very much in the tradition of earlier interventions and regime change actions that have been perpetrated against Iraq and Libya. We are seeing the disastrous consequences of this continuing to unfold in the region with tragic consequences for the peoples of Iraq and Libya. Lies about weapons of mass destruction housed by Saddam Hussein in Iraq generated sympathy and legitimacy for the invasion of that country. The voices of those who warned that the evidence was concocted were drowned out by opportunists mouthing righteous rhetoric.

We are seeing the same thing unfold in Syria today. And we believe it is a matter of great urgency. Peace and justice loving *cont'd on next page*

I struggle I fight

Rushdia Mehreen

Cloudy day snowy day
 Sunny day rainy day
 I wake up to find myself
 Struggling
 Struggling against the rule
 The rule of men
 White men brown men
 Big men short men
 Bald men cute men
 Fighting the patronizing
 Their power that aspires
 To control
 My body my clothes
 What I cover what I don't
 The power that controls
 The means of production
 Physical and virtual
 Their fragile egos
 Oppressing
 Without accountability
 Insecure as they go
 Don't want to be called out
 Yet ready to inflict pain and be offensive
 Passive aggressive with plausible deniability
 Refusing to take responsibility
 Let alone modifying behaviour
 Day night inside out
 I hurt but persist
 Joining hands when possible
 I struggle I fight
 Imagining that light
 At the end of the tunnel
 I struggle I fight
 The patriarchy

Volunteering Opportunities

Would you like to

- be part of a great cause and share your talent?
- meet a group of like minded and caring people ?
- experience accomplishments and pride?

We are looking for volunteers for grant writing and fundraising. Familiarity of SAWCC/ grant writing experience is highly appreciated.

Find out more about us!

Please contact Juvaria (Ext. 104 or juvaria@bellnet.ca) to coordi-

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people around the world must act now to pressure their governments to take a stand and not condone this US imperialist action. There has been absolutely no investigation of claims of Syrian state action in the chemical weapons tragedy. It was simply stated as a matter of fact. And the mainstream media – right-wing and liberal, breaking the cardinal rules of journalism about fact-checking -- have been quick to follow, reiterating the stated impetus – chemical attack on “innocent” Syrian civilians. And it has become the truth! The flawed logic here is stark. Including the implication that there exist two kinds of civilians the “innocent” and the “not innocent”!

Despite the fact that there has been no factual evidence provided, the so-called ‘world community’, the club of imperialists and colonialists who see it as in their best strategic and economic interests, have all condoned America’s illegal attack on Syria. WDO does not support authoritarian regimes. But we also do not support imperialist regime change! The fact that Saudi Arabia is implicated in the Syrian movement against Assad is ignored. And it’s very telling that Saudi involvement in bombing, death and destruction in Yemen where one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises and the largest food security emergency in the world (as identified by the UN) is unfolding as a result, has the support and complicity of this same ‘world community’. Why the double standard? Civilian populations and humanitarian crises anywhere should get the same attention. But Canada, which has supported the US attack on Syria, has not halted its sale of armed military vehicles to Saudi Arabia and countries such as Britain also continue to sell arms to the Saudi state. Today as the government of Canada officially commemorates the centenary of the World War I battle of Vimy Ridge, and the Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau spoke at the ceremony in Vimy of “Canada’s enduring commitment to peace” and speaking in the name of Canadians said “Never again”, the words ring hollow and the world is closer than ever today to World War III. We cannot remain silent. We must speak out with great urgency. We must halt the threat to world peace.

Info: wdofo@gmail.com

THERE IS NO FORCE
 MORE
 POWERFUL
 THAN A WOMAN
 DETERMINED
 TO
 RISE

Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

South Asian Women's Community Centre
1035, rue Rachel est, 3ième étage.
Montréal, QC H2J 2J5

Phone: 514-528-8812
Fax: 514-528-0896
E-mail: sawcc@bellnet.ca

36 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2017

www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca

Apr 4 at 10:30 - To be determined
Apr 11 at 10:30 - Tax return- provin
-cial
Apr 18 at 10:30 - Tax return- federal
Apr 20 at 18:00 - EC meeting
Apr 25 at 10:30 - Housing – rights and
responsibilities
Apr 28, 12:00 - 15:00 - New Year
Party (potluck)
Apr 30 3:30-5:30pm — Anti-Muslim
racism discussion

4 avr à 10:30 - Session sera dé
terminée
11 avr à 10:30 - Déclaration d'impôt -
provincial
18 avr à 10:30 - Déclaration d'impôt -
fédéral
20 avr à 18:00 - Réunion du
comité d'execu
tif
25 avr à 10:30 - Logement -
votre droits et
responsabilités
28 avr, 12:00 - 15:00: Fête de la
nouvelle année
(potluck)
30 avr 15:30-17:30—reunion sur le
racisme contre les musulmanes

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 	5	6	7	8
9	10	11  Tax return provincial	12	13	14	15
16	17	18  Tax return federal	19	20  EC meeting	21	22
23	24	25  Housing rights/ responsi- bilities	26	27	28  New year potluck	29
30 Anti-Muslim racism discussion						

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year! Please renew your SAWCC membership to ensure you get all the mailings and can participate fully in the organization.

Changes to your information (address, phone number, etc. email, etc.)? Download the membership form from our website, insert the correct information and send it along with your membership dues.

<http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca/EN/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Membership-form.pdf>

Please mail cheque to: SAWCC, 1035 Rachel est, Montréal, Qc., H2J 2J5.

Make cheque payable to: "South Asian Women's Community Centre".

Indicate in the note section: "membership".

Making a donation to SAWCC at the same time? Donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax-deductible receipt (for 2017 tax year).

Membership dues:

\$15.00 (for salaried)

\$7.00 (for non-salaried)