



# **SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA**

**RESOURCE PACKAGE**

**(2008)**

## LEGAL MATTERS

The Letters Patent is the original document signed the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 1963 which incorporates the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada (SFC) as a registered charity. A charitable number was given by Canada Revenue Agency, with which the SFC can issue tax receipts to individuals who donate to the SFC. Of course, to continue to qualify for the tax number, the SFC must follow the rules for charities in Canada set out by the Income Tax Act and CCRA. The Foundation must also adhere to the purposes and objects set out in the Letters Patent.

## HISTORICAL MATTERS

- **AWARDS**

February 6, 1965: The **very first** \$500 award given by the fledgling Foundation was to the Booth Memorial Home of the Salvation Army at Calgary to purchase laundry equipment to be used in training of girls in the home.

February 12, 1966: \$1,200 to the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children in Winnipeg; used to establish a wheelchair bank for children.

November 9, 1968: \$1,200 to the Department of Indian Affairs for bursaries for aboriginal children & \$800 to the Citizenship Award Program.

March 7, 1970: \$1,800 to the Bursary Program, given to six children from disadvantaged areas & \$1,800 to the Youth Citizenship Award.

November 6, 1971: \$3,000 to the Soroptimist Foundation for the Youth Citizenship Award.

August 21, 1973: \$4,000 to The Soroptimist Foundation for Youth Citizenship Award.

June 30, 1974: \$5,000 to Soroptimist programs.

1976: McCalls Life Pattern Awards.

May 24, 1980: A committee was appointed to investigate a Canadian Foundation Project.

July 12, 1982: The establishment of \$5,000 awards “to further the training or education of women who are preparing for a profession or occupation which deals directly with helping other women.”

July 16, 1982: Five awards of \$5,000 each were made using the criteria from 1980.

1983: \$5,000 award was named the Grants for Women, and that year five awards were given out.

2001: The Grants for Women Awards were increased to \$7500.00 each; four are awarded annually to women in postgraduate studies (MA, PhD, Law, Medicine) pursuing careers mainly of benefit to women.

- **Additional information**

2002 – SFC website was launched

- **GOVERNANCE**

The first directors met in Vancouver, British Columbia, on September 13, 14 and 15, 1963. The Directors were: Chairman Barbara Calef, Secretary Lillian Aylesworth, Dorothy McQuarter, Nora Partridge, and Frances Wagner. Currently there are 5 directors alternately 2 from east or west or 3 from east or west.

- **ENDOWMENT FUND**

1963: Western Canadian Soroptimists donated \$4,836 the first sum donated; Eastern Canada Soroptimists donated \$2,950, and Maritime Soroptimists donated \$164.

1981: donation of \$114,000 the largest single bequest by Norma Brougham of Thunder Bay a psychologist and a Soroptimist member for 22 years.

2002 – Fall: \$10,550 in our most audacious fundraiser yet. Megan Halprin of SI Vancouver offered to cut her hair, in Campaign Trim, to raise money for the Endowment Fund. The cut, or rather shave, took place at the Annual General Meeting in October.

2004 - \$2020.00 by Sue Gilbert SI Stoney Creek Niagara for her ‘See Less of Me’ personal fundraising campaign.

2007 – The \$1,000,000.00 goal was reached.

## **SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION of CANADA & SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL of the AMERICAS**

The Soroptimist Foundation was established in 1957 by Deed of Trust, as a foundation of the Federation, by Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA). Canadians soon found that under Canadian tax law their donation could not qualify for tax exemption, so work began on research into Canadian laws regarding foundations. Out of this work, the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada was incorporated in 1963.

**Soroptimist International of the Americas** funds numerous valuable programs throughout the Federation. These are the Women's Opportunity Awards, Making a Difference for Women Grants, Prevention of Domestic Violence Initiatives, the Violet Richardson Award, the Disaster Relief Fund and the Translation Fund.

**Soroptimist Foundation of Canada** funds the Grants for Women for postgraduate students, SFC Grants for Clubs for SI club educational programs in Canada and is looking at other projects that fit its mandate.

### **Approving and Discontinuing Programs and Projects Funded by the Foundation**

#### **Appropriate Programs and Projects**

Any potential new project must be in accord with the Letters Patent. It is desirable that it be simple to administer and that administrative costs be relatively low. It is desirable that the project be identified directly with the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada. It is desirable that the beneficiaries of the project should be primarily women and/or girls, in keeping with the purposes of the Soroptimist organization. However, this does not preclude consideration of other projects.

## **Co-operating with Other Agencies**

Programs or projects may be undertaken in co-operation with other agencies; however, The Soroptimist Foundation of Canada must be identified as a program sponsor and included in the public identification of the project. In addition, the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada must be in a position of authority and responsibility respecting the administration of the program which is at least equal to that of any other sponsor.

## **Recommending a New Program or Project**

Searching for new projects can be done by the Board, by a committee established by the Board for this purpose, and in addition any member club or group of clubs may put forward a proposal for consideration.

## **Approval Process**

A potential project or program in its embryonic stage may be submitted to an Annual General Meeting in order to 'test the waters' and get some feel for the interest of the members. This may result in some re-designing by the proposer or in the withdrawal of the proposal. However, this early response by an AGM is not binding, and the proposer may continue to research the design the program. Before a potential program or project may be submitted for formal approval, it must be fleshed out with complete written information about what it is, who it will benefit, how it will operate, what it will cost, what the potential positive outcomes are, what the potential pitfalls are (if any), and all additional pertinent information. This material must be submitted to every member club at least six months prior to the meeting (Annual General or Special General) at which it is to be considered. Upon request, the Secretary will provide the proposer with a complete mailing list of members.

The Board will review the proposed program or project, and submit its recommendation to the members in writing as soon as possible, but not later than two months prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered. (If the Board itself is putting forth the recommendation of a program or project, this step is not required.)

At the meeting at which the new program or project is being considered, appropriate time shall

be provided for full discussion by those present. When the question is put, the body may approve, disapprove, or direct that additional study be undertaken or amendments be made, and that the program or project be brought back to a future meeting for further consideration. SFC Grant for Clubs events supported all areas of the SIA Renaissance Campaign (Program, Fundraising, Membership and Public Awareness). Clubs also provided Soroptimist Orientation & Leadership Training (SOLT) for members.

### **CANADIAN CLUBS PROJECTS USING SFC CLUB GRANTS**

**(for reference only)**

SI Club

Date

Topics

SI of the Langleys

May 31, 2003

Tuning Into our Teens

Mothering Conference

“From Crayons to Perfume”

May 29, 2004

Tuning Into Our Teens

Parenting & Girl’s Conference

“From Crayons to Perfume”

Mar. 5, 2005

Tuning Into our Teens

Parenting & Girl's Conference

"From Crayons to Perfume"

Oct. 22, 2005

Tuning Into our Teens

"It's All About You!"

Oct. 14, 2006

Tuning Into our Teens

"It's All About You, Girl!"

October 13, 2007

Tuning Into our Teens

"Meeting Challenges with Confidence"

SI Kamloops

May 8, 2004

Mothering Conference – ProActive Parenting

From Playpens to Pajama Parties

Apr. 25, 2007

“Possibilities” Career Choices for Young Women

2008

Women Entering/Re-entering the Workforce

SI Haldimand Norfolk

May 4, 2005

Best for Women Show

May 11, 2006

Best for Women Show

SI Cambridge

Mar. 4, 2007

“Every Body is a Somebody”

Beautiful Women Project

SI North & West Vancouver

May 27, 2006

Mom- Do You Know?

What’s Going on in Your Teen’s World?

SI Banff National Park

May, 2007

Live Your Dream

2008

Live Your Dream

SI Abbotsford-Mission

2008

Living with Loss throughout a Woman's Lifespan

SI White Rock &

SI Surrey-Delta

2008

Share Your Story & Live Your Dream

SI Tri-Cities

2008

Monthly Educational & Social Clinics for Homeless Women