

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



IWEN



Intercultural Women's
Education Network

Empowerment • Education • Freedom

Board of Directors

Kevin Edgecombe	President
Heather Oishi	Vice President
Sylvie Forget	Treasurer/Secretary
Kusum Wijesekera	Director of Members/Sponsorship
Teresa Dockstader	Director at Large
Katie Phelps	Director at Large
Karen Hughes	Finance and Admin Officer

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President's Report

On behalf of the 2014 - 2015 IWEN Canada board, I want to offer a sincere and heartfelt **"THANK YOU"** to those who have carried the torch for this great little charity called IWEN. Often these board members are the silent soldiers doing their day to day tasks that a "working board" requires. Thanks to: **Heather Oishi, Sylvie Forget, Katie Phelps, Kusum Wijesekera** and **Theresa Dockstader**. A special thanks to long time board member **Jill Conroy** who has elected to step down this year. We appreciate all you have done and wish you success in the future. Thanks to **Linda Edgcombe**, scarf sales extraordinaire, for all she continues to do. Also a special thanks to our fearless founder and our leader for so many years, **Michelle Bonneau**, who is far less active than she once was (as when she was on the board) but her guidance remains as strong as ever.

The volunteer support IWEN receives to support people on the other side of the globe makes you realize that the world is a global community. Nepal has been through incredible hardship this year and I want to thank each and every one of you who made a difference with our efforts.

As always, none of the work we do could be pulled off without the unwavering and amazing support provided by the *Creating Possibilities* (CP) team in Nepal. **Dinesh Raj Sapkota, Nura Basnet** and **Govinda Adhikari's** leadership remain key to IWEN's success. I am humbled by their hard work, commitment and resourcefulness. They make what we do feel worthwhile, transparent and trustworthy.

In addition to Dinesh and Nura, we are so lucky to have **Sarita, Deepa** and **Junu** in Godhawa. Each of these young ladies are dedicated and engaged in their jobs, but more importantly they have influence with the local people and they are role models to many. These are the girls that work on the front line in our *Empowerment through Education* program, the mother's and micro-credit groups, and every other program we provide.



We continue to work closely with CP in Nepal as they are the conduit to our work in this country. This direct connection made our earthquake relief efforts more accessible and provided the confidence that we were spending the funds raised in appropriate places.

This has been the first year of operation at Unako House. It was amazing to visit this incredible building firsthand. The building is basically complete and beautiful. Thanks to our partner on the project, *Developing World Connections*, our CP staff are working in clean and spacious offices with ceiling fans. (I can't overstate the importance of ceiling fans!) I saw the smiles on the Unako mothers' faces as they worked on countless scarves in their new "factory". I took part in the amazing gathering of local community women and girls who joined us for a welcome celebration in the main hall upstairs. The graciousness these people demonstrate is incredible and having Unako House there as a hub of our activities is FANTASTIC.



Thanks to so many who donated time, effort and money. I am happy to report that this facility will be paid off in the 2015-2016 year.

Unako House truly will be the nucleus of our operations. It is a building with four walls and a roof, but more importantly it will belong to the women and girls of this region forever. It is their house, their place to learn and grow. UNAKO!



The earthquake of April 25, 2015 may very well change Nepal forever. The devastation, loss of life and destruction was incredible. Nineteen of us were set to travel to Nepal on the 15th of May but things changed a lot that day. Within 8 hours of the quake, IWEN Canada had posted a fundraising link thru *Canada Helps* that turned out to be very successful. I was incredibly humbled by the outpouring of support for this fundraising effort. We didn't know what we were going to do exactly with the funds but we knew our trip's intent had changed and this was now clearly a humanitarian trip.

Over the next three weeks we raised an incredible \$90,000, most of which came from the Okanagan, Quebec and Ontario, but we also received generous donations from all over the world. The power of social media is amazing but so is the power of local media. Kelowna media outlets helped so much with our message and the incredible bottle drive that was held is a testament to that. Over \$25,000 was raised that day alone where hundreds of people lined up to drop their bottles at our production line of sorters. Over 148,000 bottles and cans were sorted that day! Amazing! Special thanks to **Mike Martin** and **Angela Wilhelm** who came up with this idea which at first I thought was a bit "iffy"... I was so wrong.





May 15th saw a small group depart Kelowna for Kathmandu, our pockets bulging with cash. Mike and Angela were there along with **Francine Walker** and my daughter **Chloe Edgecombe**. (Having Chloe along was so rewarding on a personal level and I know in my heart she will revisit Nepal many times in her days.) Thanks to the hundreds of contributors to the fund as we were able to accomplish so much while there. We helped with, or contributed funds towards, the

construction of 12 classrooms, 3 personal homes and provided metal roofs for hundreds of families preparing for the summer monsoons. In addition to this there was highly emotional and powerful moments simply providing a token of good will, a hug or a blanket for many in need.

This trip was different than past trips that we have done but one thing that remains the same is the strength and character of the people. So many incredibly powerful moments were shared and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.



Although the effects of the earthquake will be evident for many years to come, we as a charity must continue with our mandate of providing opportunities for less fortunate women and girls. As they say, “the show must go on”. We as a board are planning to focus on the Empowerment through Education (ETE) program and realize now more than ever that young girls need a chance at an education. We are looking for at least an additional 100 sponsors for girls in the immediate vicinity of Unako House that deserve an education. This fall's focus will be on the ETE program and ensuring these girls will get a chance at an education. Our annual golf tournament that is held in Kelowna on Sept 25th will dedicate all funds raised to the ETE program.

IWEN Canada had another fantastic year this year! We continue to make a huge difference in the lives of so many. Our support from the community has been incredible, our growing support in eastern Canada is amazing and it is important that we continue to spread the word. We hope to set up “regional chapters” in key geographic locations that can help us help Nepal. Although the effects of the earthquake are massive, we are proud that we did what we could to help. We are honoured to provide the number of scholarships and bikes that we can and the Unako cooperative is making huge advances towards women's independence.

Sungava, albeit small, is such a needed service in this country. The Unako signature scarf program is successful and providing good jobs for women of the region. Thanks to those who believe in a global community. Thanks to those who love Nepal and its people.

“Common people doing uncommon things” is why we succeed... Thanks for being a part of it!

Kevin Edgecombe, President, IWEN Canada

ARE YOU READY TO DO SOMETHING GREAT?

Financial Report

The support of our members, donors and sponsors guaranteed a good fiscal year for 2014-2015. For the last couple of years, on top of funding our regular programs ETE (Empowerment through Education), *Sungava*, mothers groups and the local *Immigrant Women Committee (IWC)*, we have been raising money for new builds in Nepal, which increases our fundraising goals and donations. In fact, Unako House, our community building in Dang, has been a focus for the past few years and we are proud to say that as of the next fiscal year, it will be paid in full.

We have an additional expense this year since we really needed to update our website. We applied for a grant with a company based out of Victoria, Pixel Sweatshop, and they gave us a matching grant. This will help launch our easy to navigate and updated website that will include our new logo along with our current activities and events and quick links to donate. This expense is essential to keep a professional standard for the charity and to make sure our supporters are well informed.

We are in good standings with our reserves with close to \$200 000. The UBC sickle cell reserve is a medical student research project that partnered with IWEN to facilitate their trip to Dang, Nepal. In June 2015, a group of medical students is going to Dang and will be testing 3600 people for sickle cell anemia. They will also be doing medical check-ups and offer their support to the community. It is a self-funded project and a great advertisement for IWEN, on top of a good opportunity for our Dang students, mothers and families to gain access to medical help and support with this specific medical condition.

Our goal in the new year is to increase the number of sponsored girls. We are currently sponsoring 205 students, but many more girls still need our help. We are facing a bigger Nepal budget for the next year. This is due to our expanding programs, English schools, tutoring needs and our growing mothers micro-credit program, on top of the change in the exchange rate. Creating Possibilities added a new team member, Junu, who works closely with the mothers groups and their new co-op and does exceptional work. We will keep increasing the number of students attending English schools as opposed to government schools because they offer a much better education and passing grade. The tutoring needs are also higher to facilitate this transition and help senior students pass their exams the first time around.

As my first year on the board, it's been a pleasure to work with inspiring people to make a difference in so many lives. Since my own visits in Nepal, I feel privileged to be a part of such a wonderful charity as IWEN. Thank you to all the sponsors and supporters who make our work possible.

Submitted by Sylvie Forget, Treasurer/Secretary

IWEN Canada
Statement of Financial Position
as at March 31, 2015

	2015	2014
Assets		
Current		
Cash	126,485	143,551
Inventory	37,769	17,436
Prepaid expenses	42,750	1,399
	207,004	162,386
Equipment		
	686	857
	207,690	163,243
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable	2,500	4,217
Deferred income	6,900	-
	9,400	4,217
Members' Surplus		
Reserves	198,290	159,026
Members' Surplus	-	-
	207,690	163,243

IWEN Canada
Statement of Reserves
For the year ended March 31, 2015

	Opening Balance	Change	Closing Balance
Reserves			
General	90,684	61,740	152,424
Empowerment through Education	31,683	794	32,477
Unako House		- 23,417	- 23,417
Classrooms	34,364	- 11,000	23,364
UBC Sickle Cell		13,262	13,262
Teacher Training	180	-	180
Local Immigrant	2,115	- 2,115	
	159,026	39,264	198,290

IWEN Canada
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Members' Surplus
For the year ended March 31, 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Receipts		
Donations	90,267	84,445
Fundraising	38,514	43,237
Sale of goods	92,363	71,653
Other revenue	1,322	1,462
	<u>222,466</u>	<u>200,797</u>
Disbursements		
Bank charges and interest	3,469	3,961
Charitable programs	110,477	125,955
Fundraising	14,596	7,056
Insurance	550	550
Office	2,946	2,617
Professional fees	22,161	21,057
Purchase of goods for resale	27,232	16,551
Travel	24	-
Website maintenance	1,575	-
	<u>183,030</u>	<u>177,747</u>
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements before Amortization	39,436	23,050
Amortization	171	214
Excess of receipts over disbursements	39,265	22,836
Transfer to reserves	- 39,265	- 22,836
Members' Surplus, beginning of year	-	-
Members' Surplus, end of year	-	-

Director of Members/Sponsorship

Our donors have vocalized that they would like to receive more information about IWEN's programs and activities and also to receive it in a timelier manner. The focus of this year was to address these issues.

IWEN's Empowerment through Education (ETE) is one of our longer running programs. The table below contains some information regarding the activities during the past school year.

Total number of students in ETE and Sungava programs*	246
Total number of students who dropped out of ETE program during the past school year**	12
Total number of new ETE donors	8
Total number of students in ETE program as a result of new ETE donors	14

*Includes students who have completed their education and students who have dropped out of the program.

**Students have left the program as a result of marriage, entering the work force, or choosing to learn an applied skill.

Our ETE donors have let us know that they would like to have key pieces of information such as updated photos, birthdates and siblings for the student they are helping to support. Our ETE donors have also mentioned that they would also like to know more about the students.

In rural areas of Nepal, it is common for people not to track their age as they do not necessarily place a great deal of importance on birthdays. In the past, Creating Possibilities relied on the students' parents for their age, which the parents did not always remember. As our ETE donors have mentioned this information is important, we have developed a system where we are now tracking the students' ages/birthdates. It is common for our students to be living in a household with more than just their immediate family members. They often have cousins, aunts and uncles residing under the same roof. In Nepal, there is no equivalent word for cousin and cousins are referred to as brother and sister. Creating Possibilities has recognized this and now is tracking siblings only. We have also asked our students deeper questions so that our sponsors can get to know them better such as their favourite subject and what they aspire to become after they complete their education. This information will be conveyed to ETE donors through the Student Profiles.

In order to manage all of our growing programs and activities we have been working on migrating current systems with one new data management program that will effectively manage IWEN's increased activities. The new system is in the process of being tailored to allow IWEN to track information more efficiently but also to convey information to the IWEN community more frequently. Given that we are continually trying to improve our programs and address our donor's requests, we are still in the process of transitioning between our data management systems. Once the migration of information has been completed our new system will allow us to provide more information to the IWEN community.

Submitted by: Kusum Wijesekera, Director of Members/Sponsorship

UNAKO East



UNAKO signature scarves has now been in operation for 2½ years. In Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal, due to the generous collaboration of the National Women’s Show Enterprises, UNAKO’s sale went beyond the stated annual 2014-15 goals. Even more importantly, the help of many volunteers keeps UNAKO sales and stories alive. UNAKO scarves are surely weaving links between Canadian and *Tharu* women. A small booklet of IWEN’s Tharu mothers’ stories called “Women of Hope, Women of Action” was published increasing the bond between Canadian and IWEN’s women.

Besides the steady sales on the online store, one significant event was a marketing trip across Canada. The purpose of this trip was to make the UNAKO brand known outside Quebec as well as to establish contacts with other women/men who wish to help market UNAKO scarves by selling them in their area. This initiative has added to the present number of volunteers who sell scarves in BC and in Temiscaming, Quebec. Presently the UNAKO network is spreading slowly through Southern Ontario, and north in Old Chelsea, Ottawa, Kingston and Toronto while in Quebec, Trois Rivières, Quebec City, Val Allain are opening up to UNAKO sales. Generous volunteers make it all possible.

In April of 2014, IWEN’s UNAKO women’s dream was to involve more Tharu women in their small cottage business. The reason for this dream was so that other women could experience the freedom, self-confidence and dignity that the UNAKO business has given them. Marketing is essential if the UNAKO Cottage Business in Dang is to grow. Today the livelihood of eight Tharu women and their families depend on this small enterprise. As IWEN’s fiscal year finishes we are unfortunately not in a position to hire more Tharu mothers to work in the UNAKO Scarf Cottage Business. Working hard to market and sell UNAKO scarves is the only way to fulfill their dream.



La Presse’s story on IWEN in 2014 gave the online store the necessary publicity it needed. Since then there is a weekly stream of small orders. Since January 2014, we had 500 orders on the online store (value of about \$20,000). As well UNAKO has a new market outlet through “To the Market” (TTM). This is a non-profit organization that sells goods from countries where citizens are victims of conflict. It is one way of getting the IWEN UNAKO brand out to a larger public.

PROFIT SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 TO AUGUST 31,2013, which does not include set up costs	\$ 461.44
PROFIT SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 TO MARCH 31, 2014 (7 months)	\$ 11,839.57
PROFIT APRIL 1, 2014 TO MARCH 31, 2015	\$ 23,876.04

Comparison of UNAKO's three years of financial output. All profit earned goes towards IWEN's programs.

The challenge for UNAKO volunteers is to find ways to market the UNAKO brand. Volunteers or UNAKO Ambassadors are the lifeline between IWEN's UNAKO women and our Canadian market. One thing is certain - the UNAKO cottage business has changed the lives of eight families and their community. And they are not willing to go backwards. It is amazing what can be accomplished by accessing the inner strength of women and women working in unison.

Submitted by: Catherine Castonguay



Nepal Country Director Report

A Better Year with Better Results

Last year was an excellent year for IWEN's programs in Nepal delivered by Creating Possibilities. All of the proposed programs were completed. These were the completion and inauguration of Unako House, Bicycle Allocation, to better students' results for those transferred to English schools, support and growth of the mothers' entrepreneurship and the sound management of IWEN's volunteers in Nepal.

The visits from the volunteers strengthened the relationship with IWEN's beneficiaries and the Nepalese employees.

2014 – 2015 was a productive and successful year!

"I AM SO LUCKY TO BE GETTING SUPPORT FROM IWEN. MY DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE BECAUSE I AM STUDYING NURSING"

Sunita Chaudhary

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Education & Support

126 students shifted to private schools are doing well.

Mothers' Group

Increased from 13 to 19 groups for a total of 650 with 350 mothers in micro business

Unako Co-op

405 mothers bought shares of Unako Co-op. The total capital is \$17,000

Unako House

Completed by 66 Canadians in 6336 hours and an additional 7360 hours volunteered by local mothers and students. The building is supported by a 10Kw solar energy system.

Empowerment through Education

Last year IWEN supported the education and personal care of 211 deprived female students. These female students are from different village clusters of Dang Deukhuri. The ETE has been IWEN's key program since 2007.

Achievements:

- 3 students were awarded their School Leaving Certificate
- Enrolled 126 students in private English medium school for better education thereby increasing their self-confidence and self-esteem
- Enrolled Sunita in Nursing College
- Enrolled 3 orphan children in English school
- Decreased early marriage within IWEN's working areas
- Reduced child labour within IWEN's working areas

Challenges

- Out of 126 students, 20 are struggling to keep up their grades because of their weak base in English
- Low percentage of passing students in grade 10



Sabita Kumal is my name. I am in grade 5. I am the luckiest one in the family because I can go to school regularly. My sisters were bonded so they could not go to school. They were trapped in a home that was not good.

I wanted to go to the English medium school and through the support of IWEN, now I am sitting in an English medium school. I did very well in my last final exam. I am very proud of my 91.44 percentage.

I got a bicycle last year. It has helped to save time because I was able to get around faster. My family is very happy for the support. My mother is an active member of Gadwa Mothers' Group.

Empowerment of Women

Mother groups are instrumental in the success of IWEN's educational scholarship program. The 650 members of the 19 mothers' groups are very determined. To the best of their ability, they participate actively in their life-skills/micro-credit monthly meetings, are enthusiastic and courageous in starting small businesses, they believe in themselves and are becoming financially independent. To their credit they have become role models for other women in their communities.

The micro credit program continues to elevate their economic condition and slowly the majority of members are becoming self-reliant. 82% of loans are used for business purposes and 11% for health treatment. The access for health loans is bringing much relief to these families because the Tharu's only option is to use a lender. Due to the high interest rates it can take long time a long time to pay off a loan.

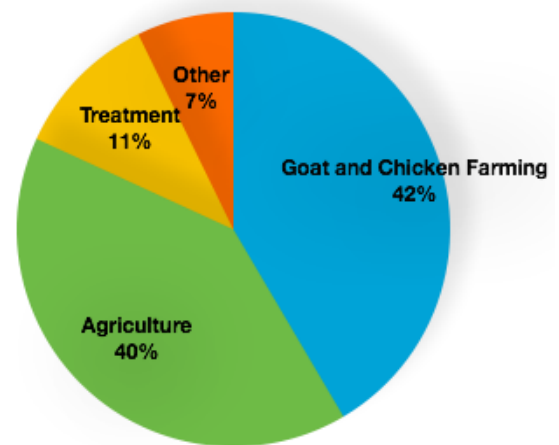
Since June 2009, when the mother's communal funds started there have been no defaults on any loan given. Sometimes a mother pays a late fee but they have always repaid the loan in full. Most mothers are seeing a good return on their loan. From the profit, they are able to build houses, pay their children's school fees and improve their homes.

Last year 360 mothers actively participated in micro business.

They took loans for different businesses as well as for family needs and all were successful. The mother's group, which were started in 2009, has grown to 19 groups in 2015. The original groups of 2009 became models to others. From other villages there were requests to form groups. So IWEN is following the mothers' necessity to fight against poverty by organizing new mothers groups as needed.

As of March 2014 the mothers registered the Unako cooperative, a formal microfinance that is going to help them with loans and to save their business profit as well as their daily savings on a regular basis. The process is: any other members who have already been one full year in a mothers group can buy a share worth 1000rs and there are now 405 share members. So, all the members promote this Unako Co-op. This is an independent co-op backed and facilitated by IWEN.

Loan Consumption from April 014 to March 015





My name is Chameli, I am 31 years old and we are five in our family.

Three years ago, my husband and I with our 3 children came back to Gadawa from India. We used to do labor work and could not afford education. When we heard that IWEN was helping girls with their education we decided to come back. I then joined the Gadawa Mothers' Group.

Joining the mothers' group help me a lot. I

asked for a loan of Rs 2,000 with that I bought a female piglet. That pig gave birth to 6 piglets. I was able to sell four of them for Rs 6,000. I was able to pay back the loan and bought rice and other items needed in the house.

The pig then gave birth to another 10 piglets, my income has doubled. I also now know how to read and write. Our whole life has changed due to IWEN.



Bicycle Allocation "Tour de Force"

IWEN keeps working on improving the quality of its educational programs. One method was to reduce the students' workload so that these girls could go to school on time and have surplus time for their studies.

The bicycle allocation is to improve their daily activities through:

- Ease of mobility around the community
- Motivation for further education
- Increasing school attendance for the students and their siblings
- Decreasing early school dropout rate



Since the first bicycle allocation in 2012 IWEN has presented the students with over 130 bikes. When a student drops out of school, the Dang Student Co-coordinator goes to the family and requests the return of the bike. This action makes it clear to the family and the community that the bicycle allocation is to help the students with their education.

The Dream... Became Reality

With the collaboration of DWC and many generous donors and volunteers, despite ups and downs, the yellow building was finally completed. The dream, Unako House, which started in August 2012 was accomplished in November 2014. It's an amazing multipurpose building having 3 showers, one kitchen, one hall, 6 rooms and 2 guest rooms. This building enjoys continuous electrical power from 10Kw solar panels. The total cost of the building was \$153,094 which was only possible through the commitment of 66 Canadian volunteers and many local volunteers, who actively participated in construction.



Sungava

IWEN’s continual funding to Sungava has been an instrumental support for intellectually disabled females of Sungava where these females are provided lunch and bus fare. In addition to this, this charity provides opportunities for them to learn different life skills so that they can contribute more to the lives of their families.

These females come to the Sungava Center and spend 5 to 6 hours learning different skills from sewing to dance. Sungava needs more funding so that it can enroll other intellectually disabled females and can provide other needed support to them.



Submitted by: Dinesh Raj Sapkota, Creating Possibilities Director



Support for the Needy

Three years ago Unako, Sushma and Jayapal’s mentally ill mother left them. Nobody could find her. Their alcoholic father never looked after them. Neighbours kept an eye on them, but it was the older brother who took care of his two younger sisters. Jayapal collected recyclables before school and bought food or the children would beg for food around the neighborhood. The family was landless so they had absolutely nothing. They slept in a badly constructed tiny bamboo hut on dirty mats.

Unexpectedly, their lives changed. IWEN found them and is now supporting them with access to education as well as food and board. Their older sister in Kathmandu is supported through an American charity.

Annual General Meeting 2014 Minutes



Annual General Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2014
The Delta Grand Hotel
Kelowna, BC

Welcome

Introduction of special guests: Michelle Bonneau & Dinesh Raj Sapkota

Opening

The Annual General Meeting of the Inter-cultural Women's Educational Network was called to order at 7:17pm by Kevin Edgecombe.

32 people in attendance, 22 members in attendance; quorum met.

Welcome to all by Kevin Edgecombe and introduction of the present Board of Directors.

Copies of the 2014 Annual Report and 2013 AGM Minutes were made available to everyone in attendance.

Approval of 2014 Agenda

Motion to accept the Agenda made by Paul Whitewood; seconded by Sherri Chapman;
All in favour, motion carried

Approval of 2013 Minutes

Motion to accept the 2013 IWEN AGM Minutes made by Mark Walker; seconded by Diane Wiebe;
All in favour, motion carried

Kevin Edgecombe asked the membership if there was any new business; there was none brought forth by the members in attendance.

Election of Officers

President

Paul Whitewood called for nominations for President, Dana Smithers nominated Kevin Edgecombe, Paul called two more times for any further nominations, none were received, Kevin Edgecombe is declared president by acclamation.

Vice President

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Vice President, Kevin nominated Jill Conroy, Kevin called two more times for any further nominations, none were received, Jill Conroy is declared vice president by acclamation.

Treasurer/Secretary

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Treasurer/Secretary, Kusum Wijesekera nominated Sylvie Forget, Kevin called two more times for any future nominations, none were received, Sylvie Forget is declared Treasurer/Secretary by acclamation.

Director of Membership and Sponsorship

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Director of Membership/Sponsorship, Sylvie Forget nominated Kusum Wijesekera, Kevin called two more times for any future nominations, none

were received, Kusum Wijesekera is declared Director of Membership/Sponsorship by acclamation.

Director of Fundraising

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Director of Fundraising, Michelle nominated Cathie Heinrichs, Cathie declined nomination. Kevin called two more times for any future nominations, none were received, and position is not filled.

Director at Large

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Director at Large, Michelle Bonneau nominated Teresa Dockstader, Kevin called two more times for any future nominations, none were received, Teresa Dockstader is declared director at large by acclamation.

Director at Large

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Director at Large, Kevin nominated Suzan Lapp, Kevin called two more times for any future nominations, none were received, Suzan Lap is declared Director at Large by acclamation.

Director at Large

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Director at Large, Kevin nominated Heather Oishi, Kevin called two more times for any future nominations, none were received, Heather Oishi is declared Director at Large by acclamation.

Director of Policy

Kevin Edgecombe called for nominations for Director at Large, Kevin nominated Katie Phelps, Kevin called two more times for any future nominations, none were received, Katie Phelps is declared Director of Policy by acclamation

Directors Reports

See 2013-2014 Annual Report

Overview of IWEN Projects

Presentation by Kevin Edgecombe

Kevin presented a rundown on the performance of IWEN programs, including Empowerment through Education, Mother's Groups, Sungava, Power of One, IWC, bikes, Classroom for a Cause, Bricks, Unako Scarves, 9 Wine Pie. He also introduced new strategic partners, Developing World Connections (DWC), and Bill Adams and Capstone at UBCO – Partners in Unako House.

Nepal Report

Presentation by Dinesh Raj Sapkota

Dinesh provided the membership with an update on the state of education in Nepal.

Mother's Groups Presentation

Presentation by Michelle Bonneau

Michelle gave a presentation on the history of Unako Scarves along with various success stories from the mothers.

Financial Report

Presentation made by Paul Whitewood, Treasurer

Presentation was made on the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2014 well as Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Member's Surplus for the year ended March 31, 2014.

Success during the year include an increase in scarf sales due to La Presse media coverage and the ultimate success of Unako House fundraising. The challenges include the increased cost of private schools for students in the younger grades. While the cost is about 10% higher, the pass rate is much

higher, this will set the students up for success and will decrease the number of students repeating grades.

Move to accept Financial Report by Lorri Simpson, seconded by Sylvie Forget.
All in favour, motion passed

Immigrant Women's Committee Report

Presentation by Victoria Oppertshauser

Victoria introduced the IWC team along with new volunteers. During the year the IWC hosts food safe courses as well as socials and English conversational classes.

Unako House Presentation

Presentation by Kevin Edgecombe

Kevin provided the attendees with an update on Unako House construction. The opening date will be in the early New Year. A slide show was shown that included volunteer trips and construction progress.

The 2014 Annual General meeting was adjourned at 9:04