Because of our women's committee I made a new acronym! W...O...W... WOW! We are Women of Wonder! Our committee could easily be called that. We rocked 2017!!! We had a contest, seminar, marches, campaigns. It has been an amazing year for the Northern Alberta Regional Women's Committee. We have accomplished much and we should all take pride in the good work that we've done.

We started off a bit shaky with our financials but we came together and we are now better for it. Charmaine bravely took on the role of treasurer and our books are finally organized in a way that makes an audit an easy task. I know the job of treasurer is a new one for you Charmaine but you have done an amazing job and for that I thank you.

In March we held a contest for International Women's Day with the winner having a lunch with Robyn Benson and Marianne Hluden at the Union Bank Inn. A surprise guest in MLA Maria Fitzpatrick was a welcome addition to the table. In Robyn's words Maria occupied a spot at the table, "of someone more famous than her." Congratulations to Mavis Callihoo who took first prize and Charmaine Nelson and Cindy Veneer for second and third. All three also won PSAC jackets.

In the community, the RWC put their best efforts forward with two campaigns. Our community garden helped seniors in shelters living below the poverty level and the Food for Women campaign helped women in shelters who have been separated from their resources.

First I will speak to the garden. We grew and harvested vegetables that were taken to the Seniors Association of Edmonton better known as SAGE. They were very thankful as the food was taken to women staying in their shelter. These

seniors were able to prepare food in their suites and enjoy the taste of freshly harvested vegetables. I want to thank our current secretary Kim Cardinal for offering her beautiful yard where we planted the garden. Her contribution went above and beyond as it fell to her to watch over the garden and to prompt us for weeding and harvesting. Unfortunately, this was one area where we fell short. Even with a schedule, many of our members who said they would, did not show up to do much of the work of weeding, harvesting and delivering the food which left a few of us to handle the tasks. But a big thank you goes out to you Kim for your watchful eye and generosity. We couldn't have done it without you.

The Food for Women campaign came together over the year and with the help of many locals, and the committee's \$500 that we matched, we raised \$2,150 for grocery cards for women. With a bulk card discount, we purchased 45 \$50 cards, which will soon be delivered to SAGE and the Alberta Association of Women Shelters. This is such an amazing accomplishment and I am so proud of this committee for the work that was done. You all deserve a pat on the back.

The committee also held a seminar in September focusing on Universal child care. We put a great deal of effort into this, and with some much needed help on the front lines from Nina and Freada, it was a success. Thank you so much for putting the word out and getting those last few attendees so we could go ahead with the seminar. It was a day filled with education and activism!!! We were 22 strong on September 16th and it felt like we were 1000. I think I speak for everyone when I say we not only had fun, but by bringing this important issue to the streets of Edmonton we reached many people! Congratulations sisters for a job well done!

A big thank you goes out to Charmaine and Deb who attended the butterdome for the Remembrance Day Ceremony and laid a wreath on behalf of the committee. Thank you Sisters!

On Dec. 3rd, our committee attended the Alberta Federation of Labour's Commemorative Brunch for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. This was a special event that supported the Jessica Martel Foundation. Jessica who lost her life by domestic violence at a young age. I believe they raised \$10,000 at the event for the foundation. It also gave our committee a chance to mingle outside of regular business.

In closing I want to say that I put my heart, my time, immense effort and commitment into this committee because I am passionate about it. When I see something that needs to be done, I don't think about it, I do it. I would very much like to be chair of this committee for another term so I hope you will support me tonight.