



*We Take Pleasure in
Introducing You to*

Alberta Women's Institutes



More Than Fifty Years of Progress

What is the Alberta Women's Institutes?

It is an organization of women working together for the improvement of home and country. Institutes foster and promote the interests of the community along such lines as Health and Welfare, Education, Citizenship in its many phases, Handicrafts, Social and Cultural projects. The range of activities is so great that it is difficult to enumerate them.

MOTTO

"FOR HOME AND COUNTRY".

ORGANIZATION

The ALBERTA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES is strictly non-political, non-racial and non-sectarian.

Members are women and girls over 16 years of age.

The Provincial membership fee is one dollar per member per year.

HOW IT FUNCTIONS

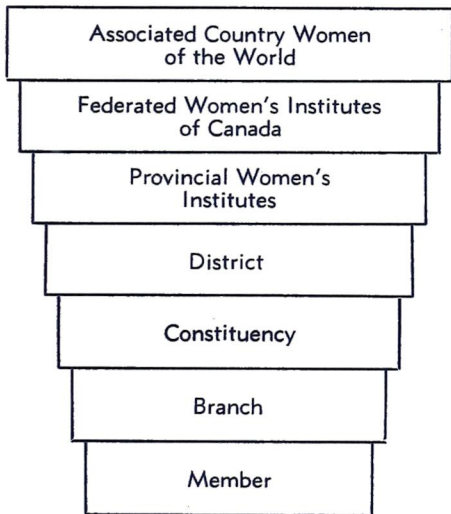
The branch is the first and most important part of the organization. Branch meetings are held regularly.

The Constituency is made up of branches in an area having easy access to one another and holds a conference yearly, so that all the Institutes in the Constituency may become better acquainted with the organization.

The District is composed of a number of Constituencies. There are five Districts in Alberta. District 1 is the northern part of the province. Districts 2, 3 and 5 Central Alberta and District 4 Southern Alberta.

The Provincial body holds a biennial convention.

Membership in a local Institute gives membership in the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and the Associated Country Women of the World.



On the individual member rests the whole structure.

HISTORY

The first branch in Alberta was organized in 1909. In 1912 Women's Institutes were organized under the Provincial Department of Agriculture, and were carried on under Provincial supervision until 1922 when a new Act was passed and the Women's Institutes were discontinued as a Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

In 1919 the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was formed with Judge Emily Murphy of Edmonton chosen as the first President.

In 1933 the International Organization, The Associated Country Women of the World, was formed to unite the work of women of all countries. It is comprised of Women's Institutes and similar organizations in over thirty countries and has a membership of between six and seven million women.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The purpose of the Standing Committees is to help the Branches promote year-round activities and programs of study on selective subjects. These are: Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Citizenship, Education, Handicraft, Health, Home Economics, Social Services, United Nations and Exchange Programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Women's Institutes of Alberta have been instrumental in establishing splendid welfare work, rest rooms, community halls, organized recreation; in undertaking the care of cemeteries, school improvement,

beautification of home surroundings; in welcoming new settlers and in general being the "Good Neighbor" in a new country.

In the field of health the contribution to the work of the Canadian Cancer Society has been outstanding. In 1939 the sum of \$2000.00 was given to the Minister of Health for the purchase of radium to be used, free to the patient. Each year the Branches support the "Fight Against Cancer" with donations from Branch funds and by canvassing the local communities, e.g., in the period 1957-59 Branch donations totalled \$1696.17 and the canvass for funds yielded \$25,969.14. The Alberta Women's Institutes is the first body to have an Associate Membership in the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Alberta Women's Institutes has made a significant contribution through study and by financial assistance to such other health organizations as the CANADIAN ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM SOCIETY, the MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, the CANADIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, the CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, etc.

During the war years the A.W.I. applied an all-out effort and if the contributions were put down on paper it would make a very impressive amount. Since 1946 tons of clothing and food have been shipped to Europe and Asia for the needy and hundreds of uniforms made for the children of the Middle East.

In 1957-59 the sum of \$7854.96 was given in support of Education through scholarships, libraries and equipment for schools, while Provincially, scholarships amounting to \$850.00 were awarded to further the study of handicraft, music, home economics and for leadership courses.

Since 1953 the Alberta Women's Institutes has maintained a friendly interest in, and contact with, the Indian Homemakers' Clubs of Alberta.

The Alberta Women's Institutes has representatives on the Provincial Boards of the Canadian Cancer Society, Canadian Association of Consumers, Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society, Canadian Red Cross Society, Canadian Mental Health Association, the Board of Rural Education for Alberta, the Alberta Advisory Committee for the Canadian Conference on Education, and the Curriculum Committee for the Alberta Department of Education.

We invite you to join your nearest Women's Institute Branch.

You will enjoy every minute of it.

If you wish any further information, write to:

MRS. JAS. L. RICHARDS,
A.W.I. Secretary,
Box 495, Red Deer, Alberta.