



University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University Women's Club of Montreal Inc. (UWCM) is proud to spearhead the first North American competition of *les Olympes de la Parole* in Canada.

**Official launch is scheduled for November 15, 2017, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Club Atwater, 3505 Atwater Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, H3H 1Y2
CONTACT: Dr. S. Savary, Chemist (Ph.D.), UWCM president, 514-561-9481**

This academic competition is a unique opportunity for empowered secondary school girls to engage in the global conversation on gender equality and learn how to influence policies that foster a gender-equal society. Participating secondary school students from The Sacred Heart School, Villa Maria College, and The Study in Montreal will reflect on how access to information technology can contribute to the empowerment of Indigenous girls and women in Canada.

The competition theme aligns with the goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reflects the *themes* that will be tabled at the Sixty-Second Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 62), scheduled for 2018. The top three projects will be awarded scholarships at the *Olympes de la Parole Gala* on April 6, 2018.

Les Olympes de la Parole, named after Olympe de Gouge, was initiated in 2001 by the Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU); it has been successfully implemented on several continents but not previously in North America.

Les Olympes de la Parole was recognized by the Council of Europe as part of its "All Different, All Equal" program to promote diversity and gender equality among European youth.

In 2017, the University Women's Club of Montreal decided to spearhead the first North American edition of *les Olympes de la Parole* right here in Montreal using the French model.

For more information, visit our website at: <http://uwcm.com/olympes-de-la-parole/what-is-it/>

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF MONTREAL INC.

The UWCM was founded in 1927 in Montreal by women university graduates involved in promoting quality education for girls and women. UWCM is a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with over 100 Clubs and 8,400 members, located in every province of Canada. Since its founding in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women and girls, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace in Canada. CFUW holds special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. CFUW regularly sends a delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. CFUW is affiliated with Graduate Women International (GWI), located in Geneva.