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## May 2017 Updates and Happenings

### Featured in this Edition:

Celebrating 25 Years at the Annual General Meeting

Welcome to the WISE Board Of Directors

Volunteers of the Month

Garden Box Workshop

New WISE Strategic Plan

Running Away With WISE

Clothesline Project

Monthly Safety Tip

### WISE AGM

Were you there on April 27th? If not, you missed a great time! It wasn't just a boring old AGM! We had that business stuff that you always have

speakers: [Kelly McGahey](#) from [Hire Immigrant Ottawa](#) spoke to us about *diversity and inclusion in the workplace*. Martine Dore of [Chrysalis House](#), a local shelter spoke to us about *accessing WISE services and the positive impact it's had on shelter residents*. Along with that, we had some powerful remarks and cool live entertainment from [Abel Maxwell](#), an up-and-coming Francophone musician who *sang to us a song about violence against women*. Check out the [music video here](#).

Since this is the 25th anniversary of WISE, we presented former directors of WISE with a memorial plaque. We were honoured that volunteers attended and presentations were made to them as well for their dedication and commitment. Thanks to all for the great evening.



## WELCOME TO THE WISE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We're starting a new year here at WISE. Following the AGM, we start with a new slate of Board Directors. Congratulations to all those who are part of our board:

**Kristy-Lu Desrosiers, Danielle Jeddore, Arwa Kassamali, Rachael Quick, Nasreen Rajani, Jennifer Regnier, and Chloe Saint-Arnaud-Watt.**

The staff and volunteers are excited to work with this group over the next year and we invite you to join us as volunteers and become part of our dynamic team.



## Volunteers of the Month - Heroes For Tomorrow Group

Last month we shared with you the news about the Heroes For Tomorrow. It is a dynamic interactive program loaded with activities and



### Garden Box Workshop

If you had been around Bronson Centre a month ago, you would have heard hammering, and saws whining and women chatting and laughing. That was our Garden Box Workshop participants at work. Some women who had previously taken our [Building Women Up workshops](#) requested to build something practical for their apartment balconies: garden boxes! So, WISE partnered up with the [Ottawa Tool Lending Library](#) and put it on. The good news is, that we're going to have another one. We've got supplies left, and in **July, we're going to do it again.** Email us to register!

### Clothesline Project

On Saturday May 27, WISE, with other agencies delivering the [Clothesline Project in Minto Park](#). T-shirts were painted by women and children survivors of violence

masculinity, gender-based violence and ways to change attitudes when boys are young – especially between the ages of 8 and 12. WISE wishes to publicly acknowledge our 4 guys who have stepped up and assisted us with the development of this program. Without them, it would be difficult to administer. **Wilder Tweedale** helped us flesh out the concept and put a framework together. And then, **Ivi, Devon and Peter** have worked hard to polish the presentation and facilitate sessions for young boys. Thanks to these volunteers who have done such a great job.

### New WISE Strategic Plan

This past winter and spring has seen the WISE board hard at work pulling this together. If you're interested in seeing what we've set as priorities and the steps we've laid out to accomplish them, check out the abridged Strategic Plan [on our website](#).

### Running Away With WISE

Once again we ran for WISE in the [Tamarack Ottawa Race Weekend, May 27-28](#). If you didn't sign up to be a runner, please consider clicking on the [link to donate](#). Help us deliver programming to women and vulnerable people in Ottawa. You

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move you.

so will Ottawa women.

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### Safety Tip:

With the nice weather, all of us are walking more and enjoying the city's parks and paths. Remember to walk with your eyes and ears open to your environment. Phones and music devices can become a dangerous distraction. If you are feeling unsafe in any public space, give WISE a call and we can do a Safety Audit. Together let's work on those things that are making you feel nervous. We're here for you!

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