

On November 15, 2017 CFUW-Calgary and CFUW-Calgary North held their annual joint meeting. This year's topic was **Gender Equality and the Importance of Mentorship**. Guest speakers included **Linda Southern-Heathcott**: President and CEO of Spruce Meadows, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of ATCO and Board Chair of Akita Drilling and **Lori Williams**: Associate Professor and Student Advisor, Department of Economics Justice and Policy Studies at Mount Royal University.

The event was well attended from club members and the public. The topic coincided with a recently launched 6-month pilot mentorship project supported by the Alberta provincial government and Calgary Economic Development. This project matches 14 women with leaders in the fields of engineering, business, construction and many more.

50/50 Day was the springboard for this event. 50/50 Day, which took place on May 10, 2017, was a global event including more than 140 countries engaged in conversation about a more gender-balanced world. Our CFUW event organizers were inspired by the 50/50 Day video directed by Tiffany Shlain ([www.letitriipple.org](http://www.letitriipple.org)).

Linda Southern-Heathcott engaged the audience with anecdotes about mentorship in her own family and gender bias in the area of sports. Lori Williams shared personal gender biased experiences and the search for gender balance in society as a whole.

The discussion was followed by audience-generated questions. General consensus indicated the need for focus not only on the existence of gender bias, but also on the abundance of gender balance (from 15 to 50 women world leaders in the past 20 years) while at the same time keeping the conversation going.