



Activities Update

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women



Chairperson's Message

It is my great pleasure to wish you good wishes for the holiday season. At the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the weeks before the holidays are a time for reflection and preparation as we coordinate the annual Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence and prepare for the sober remembrance of the Montreal Massacre on December 6. This year, with anti-violence events and activities taking place across the province, there is much reason to celebrate in hopefulness that together we can prevent violence.

The fall also provides occasions for civic engagement and awareness of our democracy, as our elected representatives conduct their fall sitting in the Legislature. The Speech from the Throne and the days since have already provided some highlights. Government has promised to act towards poverty reduction and has signalled renewed commitment with a promise to end the clawback of Child Tax Benefits from social assistance recipients.

There are also positive signs for policy being evaluated for gender effects, with the release of a statistical profile of PEI women, updated for the first time since 1996. This will provide useful data to guide decision-making.

In a political system where women remain under-represented in elected positions, Council congratulates Olive Crane as the new official Leader of the Opposition. We regret the net loss of female representatives following the November municipal elections. We need to do more, here!

The members of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women work hard to provide advice to government, to encourage them to make

women's equality a reality. As 2010 draws to a close, four of our nine government-appointed Council members are completing their work as advisors and encouragers to government, and I would like to thank them on behalf of Council.

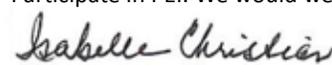
Sister Norma Gallant of Wellington has served five years on the Council, sharing enormous energy and a lifetime's experience with crime and violence prevention, character-building, and community activity. While Norma has been on the Council, we have greatly expanded services and publications in French and have ensured clear language in our English work. We will miss Norma's enlivening spirit and sense of humour.

Sadie MacKenzie of Montague has served five years as well, and she has been a source of down-to-earth advice. Sadie has shared her experiences with town government, with challenges for families of children who have disabilities, and with helping victims of violence access safety in towns and small communities. She has ensured the Council continues to pay attention to long-time issues such as regulation of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Roseanne Sark of Summerside has served on Council for five years, and she has been generous in sharing her individual insights and those she has gathered from members of the Aboriginal community. As she has grown in her work with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy, negotiating issues in First Nations health with all levels of government, she has gained new perspectives on effective ways for governments to collaborate. Roseanne deliberates on issues with wisdom and sensitivity.

Andie Bulman of Charlottetown has had to resign from her place on Council to pursue a graduate degree off-Island. In addition to providing a voice of youth - and demonstrating the importance of creating an Island where talented and educated young people can stay and make a living - Andie has provided Council an incisive mind and constant commitment to feminist values.

I wish all departing members well and look forward to a renewed Council next. If you can see yourself at the table, please apply through Participate in PEI. We would welcome you.



Isabelle Christian, Chairperson of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Fall/Winter 2010



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Facing Facts About Violence: 2010 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence



Poster design by Susan Christensen
Poster Photograph by Mark Anthony

Face facts, warned the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women through its annual Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence. According to the Council, the facts about violence show that violence and abuse take root in the many types of inequality in our society.

"Each year, we ask people to wear purple ribbons between November 25, the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and December 6, Canada's National Day for Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women," says Advisory Council Chairperson Isabelle Christian.

"This year, as people wear purple ribbons, we ask them to think about what groups are at risk of violence and why. The facts show that women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal women and children are more at risk of violence, alongside people who are vulnerable because of their ethnicity, sexual orientation or economic status," states Christian. "When we face the facts about

violence, we can respond with effective plans and actions to stop violence," Christian says.

The 2010 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence encourages Islanders to take an active role in their communities to work against violence and to commemorate those who have died by violence. "Groups across Prince Edward Island have taken the facts to heart and are taking action," Christian says.

"They are organizing groups, such as SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) at high schools and UPEI. They are organizing memorials in English and in French in Summerside, and in English in Charlottetown, O'Leary. They are sponsoring Silent Witness displays at Holland College, and advocacy events such as Take Back the Night and Freezing for Warmth in Charlottetown. These activities show a great will in the community to put an end to violence and address its causes."

Volunteers from across the Island pinned purple ribbons to over 20,000 information cards in English and French for distribution to schools, churches, government employees, and the general public. Cards and purple ribbons are available free of charge from the PEI Status of Women office at 368-4510.

More information about the 2010 Purple Ribbon Campaign is available on the Status of Women website at www.gov.pe.ca/acsw or peiacsw.wordpress.com.

*First mourn, then
work for change.*



Violence Against Women Events

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

Charlottetown

Silent Witness Project Display

9 am, Holland College,
Charlottetown Centre gymnasium
More info: 566-9349

Memorial Service & Candle-Lighting

12 noon, Memorial Hall,
Confederation Centre of the Arts
Special guest Michael Kaufman,
White Ribbon Campaign
More info: 368-4510

Summerside

Memorial Service In English

12:10 pm, Heritage Park,
Ottawa Street Entrance
Refreshments served.
More info: 436-9856

Candle-Lighting for Victims of Violence en français

7 pm, Le Centre Belle-Alliance
More info: 888-1685

O'Leary

Candle-lighting for Victims of Violence

12 noon, O'Leary United Church
More info: 859-8849

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Launch & Unveiling of Purple Ribbon

7 pm McMillan Hall, W.A. Murphy
Student Centre, UPEI,
Charlottetown
More info: 892-0110



Teachers' Resources

Also available from the 2010 Purple Ribbon Campaign are resource guides designed for teachers to use in classrooms for Grade 7 Social Studies and Grade 9 Health. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has been a partner in reviewing and distributing these resource guides.

Equality Report Card: Interim Trends Report

In June 2010, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women released its 2010 Interim Trends Report, a mid-term assessment between the 2009 Equality Report Card and next year's 2011 Equality Report Card. Report Cards highlight government action and inaction towards women's equality goals.

In June 2010, trends indicated that if government action continues on the priorities the Advisory Council has identified, government will improve on its 2009 "C" grade when the next full report comes out in June 2011.

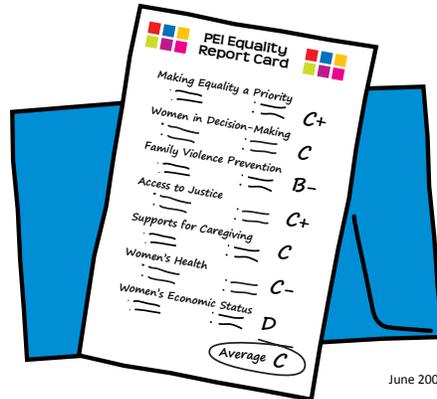
For the interim assessment, Council monitored government's action through media reports, publications, and news releases. Council members noted many steps in the right direction, especially the move of kindergarten into the school system and new approaches to early childcare and education.

Council Chairperson Isabelle Christian also offers a caution, however: "The ways in which early childhood education changes have been implemented, with short timelines for transitions, have created a great deal of preventable stress and uncertainty for children, parents, educators, and childcare centre workers and operators."

In the June report, the Status of Women noted some long-awaited actions that have been realized, such as the completion of the updated 1996 statistical profile of women on PEI, changes to the Child Protection Act, and updates to the Employment Standards Act.

Since the June report, there have also been renewed promises for action towards a Poverty Reduction Strategy and a promise to stop clawing back Child Tax Benefits from social assistance recipients. "These are good-news stories from the Speech from the Throne," says Christian.

In June, Women's Health was the one area where the trend was heading towards lower grades in 2011. Council continues to keep a watchful eye on developments. "One way of approaching health care is to balance acute care with attention to social



June 2009

determinants of health, such as gender, income, or ethnicity. To prevent illness and promote wellness, it is worthwhile to pay attention to the way we live with each other in society," says Christian. "In that sense, poverty reduction is as important to women's health as it is to women's economic status."

For government to achieve higher grades in 2011 the PEI Status of Women has identified a few top priorities for action, including continued supported transitions in early childhood care and education and action on training members of the provincial civil service in using gender and diversity analysis. Action on government promises to propose PEI models for a Domestic Violence Court and to strike a Special Committee on the Role of the MLA could also result in better grades.

"For the 2011 Equality Report Card, we will be looking for a more even approach across government in addressing issues raised by Island women. We are looking to government to consider gender and diversity as a matter of course in all policies and legislation," says Christian.

"Gender Based Analysis (GBA) is a tool that allows government to predict potentially different and unequal outcomes of policy for women, men, and diversity groups," says Christian. "In Council's view, applying GBA systematically across government policy is the best way to ensure progress towards women's equality goals".

The next full Equality Report Card will be released by the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women in June 2011. Says Christian, "Our Council is looking forward to collaborating with government to help achieve high grades across all categories."

2010 Publications

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>

2010 Equality Report Card Interim Trends Report (June)

Council's mid-term assessment of government's progress towards women's equality goals on Prince Edward Island.

Considering the Two-Tier Wage (March)

A submission to the Standing Committee on Community and Intergovernmental Affairs consultation on Different Minimum Wage Rates.

20 Years After the Montreal Massacre: The PEI Story (February)

Special resources and research to mark 20 years since the Montreal Massacre.

- VIDEO 20 Years After the Montreal Massacre: The PEI Story - View at <http://www.vimeo.com/9444976>
- PROFILE Women Murdered on PEI: 1989-2009
- OVERVIEW Violence Against Women Prevention Activities on PEI: 1989-2009
- POEM "For Montreal," December 2009, by Tanya Davis



News Releases & Editorials Persons Day 2010 (October)

Support for the Long-Gun Registry (September)

Interim Report Points to Improved Grades for Government - L'action du gouvernement devrait donner de meilleurs résultats en 2011

Steps in the Right Direction (July)

First Woman Chairperson of Human Rights Commission (April)

Celebrating 25 Years of Section 15 in the Charter of Rights (April)

Celebrating Women of Courage (March)

DID YOU KNOW? Council has been consulting your neighbours.

Around the kitchen table in Breadalbane.

Each sent an informal invitation that led to participation by interested, engaged women Council might not always reach. Discussions were wide-ranging and wise.

Council has organized a process for consulting Council members' friends and neighbours through Kitchen Table Consultations focused on hearing the issues Island women face. Two Council members, Sue Connolly and Roseanne Sark, have hosted discussions in their communities so far.

DID YOU KNOW? There's a new bursary on the block. The Advisory Council administers several bursaries each year. This year we introduced a new \$250 bursary for an eligible woman attending Collège Acadie Î.-P.-É. The new award will be granted annually alongside bursaries for a woman attending UPEI, a woman attending Holland College, and a woman who entered Canada as a refugee and is furthering her education. Application time comes up each autumn.

DID YOU KNOW? Women have been "persons" for 81 years. October 18 each year in Canada, we mark Persons Day, the anniversary of women being declared "persons" under the law. This year, Her Honour, the Honourable Barbara A. Hagerman, Lieutenant Governor of PEI, held a reception at Government House with guest speakers Daphne Dumont, Q.C., recipient of the 2009 Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, Hon. Janice Sherry, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, and Lisa Murphy, chairperson of LEAF PEI.



DID YOU KNOW? There's no Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women... but there used to be. When funding was cut to this advisory agency, provincial and territorial advisory councils formed a coalition which continues to meet each year to discuss issues of local, regional, and national importance to women. The Coalition met this year for the first time in Quebec.



DID YOU KNOW? Council members are taking new STEPS. Council member Gwyn Davies and staff members Lisa Murphy and Jane Ledwell are participating in the STEPS for Women training program in interest-based conflict resolution. Two dozen participants from organizations that work with vulnerable women across the Island are training towards a certificate in conflict resolution. Each participant will also lead a project to pass on interest-based skills to vulnerable women. This project is funded by Status of Women Canada.

DID YOU KNOW? Your Council meets near you. In 2010, the Council has met in communities including Charlottetown, St. Eleanors, Stratford, and Montague. Meetings included consultations on early childhood care and education, social assistance, and issues in the Acadian community. Council members participated in learning events on social marketing and with authors.

DID YOU KNOW? You could participate in the Council, too. Are you interested in sitting on the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women? Members are appointed by government. You can put your name forward through the *Participate in PEI* process. Advisory Council Staff would be happy to provide more information or to help you prepare a letter of interest for yourself or a friend. Call our office for more information or visit <http://www.gov.pe.ca/eco/participatepei>.

Participate
in PEI



Council Members

Isabelle Christian, Chairperson, Stratford
Sadie MacKenzie, Treasurer, Montague
Sister Norma Gallant, Wellington
Pauline Thomson, Canoe Cove
Gwyn Davies, Gairloch
Roseanne Sark, Summerside
Sue Connolly, Breadalbane
Marcia Enman, Wellington

Staff

Lisa Murphy, Executive Director
Jane Ledwell, Researcher/Policy Analyst
Becky Tramley, Office Administrator (p/t)
Sandy Kowalik, Purple Ribbon Coordinator

Contact

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Location

Sherwood Business Centre
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Members & Staff of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women wish you, your families, and your loved ones a season of peace & goodwill.

