

Activities Update

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Fall/Winter 2013

Chairperson's Message



This past year has been another busy year for ACSW staff and council. Our three new council members, Mari Basiletti, Melissa Mullin, and Patti Wheatley, bring positive energy and different talents to the table, and we are so grateful for their unique input on the numerous issues that we have dealt with during 2013. A sincere

thank you to Council members and staff for their continuing commitment and passion on behalf of Island women and their families.

As Chairperson, I want to take this opportunity to thank our many partners in the community who continue to work on very difficult community concerns. Issues are numerous and include poverty, food insecurity, income and job inequality, housing and homelessness, mental health and addictions, access to justice, sexual and reproductive health, violence against women and children, and more. As we continue to address such issues and attempt to make changes and have an impact, it becomes increasingly apparent that it is vital that we all work together to assist those with no voice to find their voices – and in some instances stand by them while such is happening. Our thanks to those on the front lines who continue to support and stand with the most vulnerable of our community.

Also at this time I want to thank the Hon. Valerie Docherty (Minister Responsible for the Status of Women) and Michelle Harris Genge (Interministerial Women's Secretariat) for their ongoing support of the ACSW's work and their commitment to the issues affecting Island women and their families. Our regular meetings allow us to update them on the concerns we are hearing from the community and in turn we are appreciative of their responsiveness and input.

One of our major projects in 2013 was the release of the Equality Report Card in June, after months of hard work by community members, government employees, ACSW staff, and Council. Although a difficult process, it has proven to continue to be a positive vehicle for input on numerous areas, including analysis of results, and most of all accountability. At a recent National Coalition of Advisory

Councils meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon, the representatives from other provinces and territories commented on the uniqueness and value of our Equality Report Card. On behalf of ACSW staff and Council, I thank all who participated.

The theme for the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence this year is "ASK. Sex without consent is a crime." Council members and staff felt that a concentrated discussion on this topic was long overdue in our community and that it was also a very timely theme. It is our hope that this year's theme will encourage discussion and debate in our homes, in our schools, in our workplaces, and throughout our communities.

We encourage everyone to wear a Purple Ribbon on and around November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women), December 6th (National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women), and February 9–15, 2014 (PEI Family Violence Prevention Week). We look forward to seeing you on December 6th at noon in Memorial Hall of the Confederation Centre of the Arts for the annual Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

On behalf of Council members and staff of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, I wish you a peaceful winter season. May the new year be one of health, peace, and hope for you and your friends and families.



Diane Kays, Advisory Council Chairperson



Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Hon. Valerie Docherty (second from left), welcomes three new Advisory Council members: Melissa Mullen (far left), Mari Basiletti (second from right), and Patti Wheatley (far right).

Memorial Services for Victims of Violence Friday, December 6

First mourn, then work for change.

On December 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, we remember fourteen young women who in 1989 were murdered because they were women in what became known as the Montreal Massacre. We remember nine women since 1989 murdered on Prince Edward Island by men who knew them. Join others in your community to light a candle of remembrance, to remember, to reflect, and to act so these murders end.

Charlottetown Memorial Service

Guest Speaker: Colleen MacQuarrie
12 noon, Friday, December 6
Memorial Hall, Confederation Centre
of the Arts

More info: (902) 368-4510

PEI Adv. Council on the Status of Women

Summerside Memorial Service

12:10 p.m., Friday, December 6
Summerside Presbyterian Church,
130 Victoria Road

More info: (902) 436-9856

East Prince Women's Information Centre



O'Leary Memorial Service

12 noon, Friday, December 6

O'Leary United Church

More info: (902) 859-3916

ASK. Sex without consent is a crime.

**Purple Ribbon Campaign
Against Violence 2013-2014**

Get It? Get It. Get It!

We are proud that Council members chose the theme of consent for the 2013-2014 Purple Ribbon Campaign. Sex without consent is sexual assault. "Non-consensual sex" is sexual assault. It is rape. It is criminal. And it is not acceptable.

Over the summer ACSW staff had numerous discussions with women's organizations and those engaged in violence prevention work and found that the theme had a strong resonance. We want our young people to understand what consent is and is not. To be safe. To not be rapists. To respect their own autonomy and that of others. To be sexually healthy in all ways.

Talk to your kids, but also have conversations with your friends, your co-workers, and your family about consent. We need to know what we want and don't want, and be able to express that. We all deserve to experience healthy sexual relationships free from fear of violence.

Kudos to Volunteers!



Once again, a heart-felt THANK YOU to the many volunteers who make the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence possible. In workplaces, homes, Women's Institutes Chapters, and at the public pinning bee at Beanz, more than 15,000 ribbons were cut and pinned to information cards for distribution across PEI. This year's focus on consent in the prevention of violence is an essential theme for all Islanders.

Purple ribbons and information cards are available free of charge from the PEI Status of Women office. Contact Michelle at 902-368-4510.

More about the 2013-2014 Purple Ribbon Campaign is available on the Status of Women website: www.gov.pe.ca/acsw.

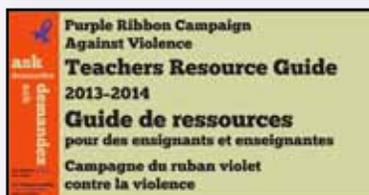
"ASK" for Multilingual Posters & Bilingual Teachers Resource Guides

Multilingual Posters

This year's Purple Ribbon Campaign theme is featured on a multilingual 8.5"x14" poster featuring English, Mandarin, Spanish, Nepali, Mi'kmaq, Korean, French, Arabic, and Farsi. These represent the founding languages and some of the most commonly spoken languages of our province. Posters are available by request, or you can download the printable PDF from our website or blog.

Bilingual Teachers Guides

Again this year, the Purple Ribbon Campaign has produced a package of resources for Prince Edward Island teachers. The fully bilingual teachers guide includes ideas for classroom activities and resources linked to the curriculum for Grade 7 Social Studies and Grade 9 Health. Handouts provide background information about the Purple Ribbon Campaign and suggest actions students can take to end violence against women and children. The teachers' guide is available on request or can be downloaded from the PEIACSW website or blog.



Advisory Council Meetings 2013: Highlights

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women meets six times each fiscal year in communities across Prince Edward Island. At meetings, members focus attention on issues important to the status of Island women. They plan actions to advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and her government. They organize events and publications to raise awareness of issues among members of the general PEI public.

March 8, 2013, Charlottetown, PEI – International Women’s Day

Council members celebrated International Women’s Day with a meeting that welcomed and provided an introduction for three newly appointed members: Mari Basiletti, Melissa Mullen, and Patti Wheatley. Council staff and some members participated in a very well-attended International Women’s Day celebration featuring the NFB film “Status Quo?: The Unfinished Business of Feminism in Canada,” lots of bread, and lots of roses.

May 8, 2013, Cornwall, PEI – Report Card Grade-Setting Workshop

Having already reviewed information from government and research and completed a survey already, Council members came together to reach consensus on assessments and grades for the 2013 Equality Report Card. They selected key information for supporting analysis.

June 26, 2013, Cornwall, PEI – Equality Report Card Launch

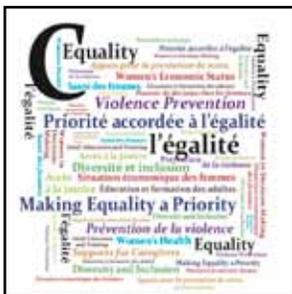
Council welcomed representatives from government, community organizations, media, and the general public to a news conference to launch the 2013 Equality Report Card.

October 2, 2013, Summerside, PEI – Prescription Drug Addiction

Council members welcomed presentations by community experts on the crisis in prescription drug addictions in PEI and prepared for a brief to government on this issue. Council also discussed issues raised at the National Coalition of Advisory Councils meeting and made plans together for the 2013 Purple Ribbon Campaign.

Next meeting: December 6, 2013, in Charlottetown, PEI. Council members will meet with Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty and help with the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

2013 Report Card Awards Government a “C” for Equality Work



In June 2013, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women released its 2013 Equality Report Card assessing the provincial government’s progress on equality work. The Advisory Council Report Card awarded the PEI government a grade of C for its progress so far in this mandate of government (elected 2011) in addressing the equality goals of women and under-represented groups on the Island.

“The C grade in 2013 shows that although government is taking some important and concrete steps to meet needs that women and vulnerable citizens have identified, much

more needs to be done,” said Diane Kays, Chairperson of the Advisory Council. The Equality Report Card graded government in nine categories including Women’s Health, Diversity and Inclusion, and Women in Decision-Making. The general global score of C recognizes that issues that affect women are interconnected.

The Chairperson of the Status of Women noted some areas that still require attention. “The Social Action Plan needs a real commitment. Poverty continues to disenfranchise and harm so many women, children and families in this province,” said Diane Kays. Mental health and addictions were areas the Advisory Council members also saw as needing more action.

“From 2008 when the Advisory Council first began the Equality Report Card, we have made a commitment to work collaboratively with government to support them to achieve A and B grades,” said Jane Ledwell, Executive Director. “The Advisory Council is committed to seeing this significant collaboration continue, and to working together in the coming years to raise the status of women across PEI.”



Some members of the National Coalition of Advisory Councils and Yukon Women’s Council in Whitehorse, Yukon, in September.

Federal Issues: Coalition Meets in Whitehorse

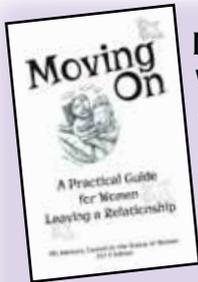
The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils met on September 26 and 27 in Whitehorse, Yukon. The yearly meeting allows for discussion of the issues specific to the geographic areas along with discussing national concerns. The following are highlights of some of the issues discussed:

- Women in Leadership
- Human Trafficking
- RCMP: Expired Rape Kits
- PEI: No Local Abortion Services
- Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women
- Sexual Violence and Bullying
- Sex Trade Workers
- Federal Government Blocking United Nations Motion on Sexual Violence Against Women

The Coalition will act on these issues by sharing information and writing letters to government. The National Coalition of Advisory Councils on the Status of Women will meet in Charlottetown next September which will allow members to attend PEI 2014 events taking place at that time. The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women looks forward to hosting this Coalition Meeting in 2014.



Tina Gargan (NWT), Stephanie MacInnis-Langley (NS), Diane Kays (PEI), and Bea LeBlanc (NS) under beautiful Yukon skies.



MOVING ON / ALLER DE L'AVANT

We are pleased and excited to release a freshly revised and updated version of our most requested resource, *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship*. We are thankful for the knowledge and talents of Council Vice-Chairperson Kelly Robinson for a fantastic reboot of this document. Artist Karen Gallant allowed us to use her original drawings again. Our printing partner Kwik Kopy in Charlottetown contributed extra copies. This guide is available in French for the first time, titled *Aller de l'avant : Guide pratique à l'intention des femmes qui décident de mettre fin à une relation*. Find it on our website at gov.pe.ca/acsw or request a hard copy.



Our 2013 Publications Available On-line

2013 Publications, available at www.gov.pe.ca/acsw

- Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship / Aller de l'avant : Guide pratique à l'intention des femmes qui décident de mettre fin à une relation (2013)
- Submission to the Public Dialogue on Prescription Drug Addictions, Standing Committee on Health, Seniors and Social Development (October 2013)
- 2013 Equality Report Card / Fiche de rendement sur l'égalité 2013 (June)

2013 News Releases and Opinion Pieces, available at www.gov.pe.ca/acsw

- Verbal Abuse Prevention Week in PEI (October 5)
- Government Earns a C on 2013 Equality Report Card / Le gouvernement obtient un C sur la Fiche de rendement sur l'égalité 2013 (June 26)
- Congratulations to City of Charlottetown on New Code of Conduct (May 6)
- Value of a Minister Responsible for the Status of Women (March 18)
- A Reflection and Celebration for International Women's Day (March 8)
- Purple Ribbon Tattoos Popular with Youth (Feb. 20)
- Access Still the Issue (January 28)

2013 Videos, available at vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen

- 2013 Equality Report Card - Kudos (November)
- Prescription Drug Addiction in PEI: Comments from the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women (October)
- 2013 Equality Report Card - Overall Assessment (June)
- Choice and the Cycle of Violence (December 2012)

For November 25, 2013, look for a video called "Consent is..." at vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen. November 25th is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Community Events E-News!

Subscribe to
our e-News

To receive notices of upcoming events, work and research opportunities, and more, subscribe for FREE at eepurl.com/r-DMn (or follow the link on our Website). Your email address will not be used for any other purpose.

Got a PSA? The deadline to submit notices is Wednesdays at 4:00 P.M. to newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca. Notices will ordinarily be sent out Thursday afternoon and will be viewable online to non-subscribers.



Council Members

Diane Kays, Chairperson, Charlottetown
 Kelly Robinson, Vice-Chairperson, Stratford
 Marcia Enman, Treasurer, Wellington
 Louise MacLeod, Uigg
 Eileen Brown Wilt, West Cape
 Catherine Rankin, Summerside
 Melissa Mullen, Lewes
 Mari Basiletti, Canoe Cove
 Patti Wheatley, Charlottetown

Staff

Jane Ledwell, Executive Director
 Michelle Jay, Program Coordinator
 Becky Tramley, Office Manager (p/t)

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 Videos: vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen
 Facebook: facebook.com/peistatusofwomen
 Blog: peiacsw.wordpress.com
 Twitter: @peiacsw



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.

