

# Activities Update

## PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Fall/Winter 2014

### Chairperson's Message



The Advisory Council on the Status of Women staff and Council have had another busy year. In September we were pleased to welcome Yvonne Deagle from Miminegash to our Council. Yvonne brings a wealth of knowledge, life experiences, and numerous skills to the table, and we look forward to working with her. We said goodbye to Marcia

Enman, who completed her maximum term at our table.

Marcia contributed a great deal, and we will miss her. A sincere thank you to Council and staff for their continuing commitment and passion on behalf of Island women and their families.

In 2014 with support from the PEI 2014 Fund, we were able to celebrate past and present accomplishments at our Women's Equality Garden Party held at The Dunes in early September, with our honorary hostess Hon. Catherine Callbeck extending a warm welcome to all who attended.

In late September, we participated in A Bold Vision conference held at Rodd Brudenell as one of the sponsoring organizations. We are extremely proud of our staff who took on various tasks to ensure the success of this special event. A special thank you to Jane Ledwell for her presence and hard work on the Steering Committee as well as her superb work on the Bold Vision anthology. By all accounts Bold Vision was a success and memorable for all who attended.

September was indeed a busy month and the third event held was the annual meeting of the National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Status of Women councils from across Canada. Of the numerous concerns and issues addressed, the priority was to continue to advocate for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada.

At this time I want to thank 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 input, responsiveness, and genuine support.

The 2014-2015 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence calls for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous

women across Canada. Groups at various levels (on-reserve, off-reserve, municipal, provincial, national, and international) are united in their appeal for a national inquiry to examine the root causes of violence and discrimination. To be truly effective, an inquiry would need commitment by the federal government and an acknowledgement that this is a national issue with historical and sociological roots.

It is 25 years since the Montreal Massacre. 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 8 to 14, 2015 (PEI Family Violence Prevention Week). We look forward to seeing you on Friday, December 5th at noon in Memorial Hall of the Confederation Centre of the Arts for the annual Memorial Service.

In conclusion, the ACSW continues to work with other community groups to address ongoing difficult issues: poverty, food and housing insecurity, income and job inequality, mental health and addictions, sexual and reproductive health, violence against women and children, and many more. We thank our community partners for their hard work and commitment.

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 families and friends.

*Diane*

Diane Kays, Advisory Council Chairperson



Hon. Catherine Callbeck, Chairperson Diane Kays, and Hon. Marion Reid at the Equality Garden Party in September 2014.

## Memorial Services for Victims of Violence

### *First mourn, then work for change*

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. On and around December 6, candle-lighting services remember 14 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. **Please note differences in dates and times of services.**

#### **Charlottetown Memorial Service**

Guest Speaker: Sarah Stewart-Jackson  
12:00 noon, Friday, December 5  
Memorial Hall, Confederation Centre  
of the Arts  
More info: 902-368-4510  
PEI Adv. Council on the Status of Women



#### **Summerside Memorial Service**

12:00 noon, Friday, December 5  
Trinity United Church, 90 Spring Street  
More info: 902-436-9856  
East Prince Women's Information Centre

#### **O'Leary Memorial Service**

9:00–10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 4  
Westisle Composite High School  
More info: Dara, 902-859-3916  
PEI Family Violence Prevention Services

***We remember 1989***

***25 Years Since the Montreal Massacre***

## Demand a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.

With this year's Purple Ribbon Campaign, the PEIACSW adds its voices to the Aboriginal women's organizations and others that have been calling for a national response to the human rights crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada.

Advisory Council members and staff do not identify as First Nations, Inuit, or Métis. In planning this campaign, we have had inclusive consultations about how to stand with our Indigenous sisters and how to be good allies in the work they have led.

With the permission and involvement of Aboriginal women's organizations, we have developed resources on being good allies. Allies learn from Indigenous people. Allies hear and value stories and knowledge about Indigenous cultures and history in what is today Canada. Allies act out of a genuine interest in fighting inequality and racism in Canada today.

We are grateful for the chance to learn and invite all Islanders to learn with us.



## Thanks to Aboriginal women's organizations

Aboriginal women's organizations have been working to end violence against women and to draw attention to their missing and murdered sisters for decades. Many Aboriginal women and organizations have been generous in guiding us and contributing their wisdom to this year's Purple Ribbon Campaign. We are honoured and humbled. The Native Women's Association gave us permission to use the Sisters in Spirit logo. Walking With Our Sisters gave us permission to use an image on the poster. First Nations leaders Dr. Lynn Gehl and Jessie Housty gave permission to copy their work for the teachers' resource guides. And the PEI Aboriginal Women's Association shared information, made suggestions, and reviewed materials for the Campaign.

## Purple Ribbon Campaign Events & Resources

### Lunch and Learn on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Hear the voices of members of the PEI Aboriginal Women's Association on the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Join us at 12:00 noon November 25, 2014, for a lunch and learn on missing and murdered Indigenous women at the Confederation Centre Public Library. Bring your lunch, and there will also be coffee, tea, juice, and sweets provided by the Justice Options for Women project.

### Bilingual Teachers Guides

Again this year, the Purple Ribbon Campaign has produced a bilingual resource guide for PEI teachers. The guide includes handouts on how to be an ally to Aboriginal peoples and more information about this year's theme, with classroom activities and resources linked to the curriculum for Grades 7–9 Social Studies, Grade 9 Health, and high-school Family Life. Resources from the teachers' guide are available on request or can be downloaded from the PEIACSW website [www.gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw).



### "Honouring Our Sisters" Multilingual Posters

"Honour our sisters: missing but not forgotten" is the theme featured on a multilingual 11"x17" 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 [www.gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw).



## 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.

### January 29, 2014, Charlottetown, PEI – Purple Ribbon Campaign Planning

Council members gathered a week later than originally planned due to a storm. Scheduled guests and presenters were not available, so the Council spent additional time on interest-based planning for the Purple Ribbon Campaign. This campaign continues to be a much-valued part of Council's work.

### March 31, 2014, Charlottetown, PEI –

Council members spent another stormy day discussing the very successful Inter-



Council members and staff in Canoe Cove.

national Women's Day activities organized with the support of the PEI 2014 Fund. Council members and staff shared their experiences of Family Violence Prevention Week activities.

### May 7, 2014, Canoe Cove, PEI –

#### Equality Report Card Policy Review

Council gathered in beautiful Canoe Cove and participated in a workshop to review and reflect on government's progress on priority issues from the 2013 Equality Report Card. While there has been good progress on some issues, others appear stalled; Council members will be paying close attention in preparation for the 2015 Report Card. Council members also took part in a consultation to develop a booklet on sexual and reproductive health services in PEI.

### June 11, 2014, Summerside, PEI –

#### Partnering with Aboriginal Women

Council members bade a fond farewell to Marcia Enman, who completed her five-year term as a member. Council contributed to the Department of Community

Services and Seniors strategic planning in a consultation with Department staff. Judy Clark, President of the PEI Aboriginal Women's Association, was the day's special guest. She gave a moving presentation on Mi'kmaw women's past and present experiences and their strength.

### October 22, 2014, Charlottetown, PEI – Women with Disabilities

Council members welcomed new member Yvonne Deagle and guest volunteers from Canada World Youth. Council appreciated a presentation and conversation on women and disabilities with Judith Bayliss of the Council of People with Disabilities. Michelle Harris-Genge, the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat joined Council for lunch.



New Council member Yvonne Deagle of Miminegash works with the French Language School Board. A mother and grandmother, she has a background in accounting and municipal affairs. She is an active volunteer on Francophone organizations. Bienvenue!

**Next meeting:** December 5, 2014, in Charlottetown, PEI. Council members will help coordinate the annual Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

## Federal Issues: Coalition of Advisory Councils Meets in Charlottetown

At the end of September, we hosted representatives of Advisory Councils on the Status of Women from across Canada here in Charlottetown for our annual National Coalition meeting. The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women shares information about the activities, issues, and best practices of each member organization and plans actions to address national issues that affect the status of Canadian women.

Most of the topics for discussion at the National Coalition table are ongoing issues of concern, including the need for national strategies to prevent violence against women and girls; the particular need for an inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women; changes to Employment Insurance benefits, including maternity and parental benefits;

unaddressed instances of sexism by professionals such as judges or doctors; unequal access to basic health services, especially abortion care; effective ways to support women in government and leadership at all levels; inclusive economic development that benefits women equally with men; and the need for supports and services for sex trade workers.

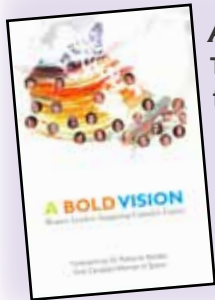
The National Coalition will carry these issues forward with research-based letters to policy-makers and to the general public, under the leadership of Coalition chair Linda Ross of the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Most members of the National Coalition of Advisory Councils stayed in PEI to take part in A Bold Vision conference in Brudenell. We were proud to provide the best hospitality that PEI has to

offer. Members of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women had an opportunity to meet counterparts from across the country in a reception hosted by Hon. Valerie Docherty, PEI's Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. Next year's meeting is planned for St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.



Some members of the National Coalition of Advisory Councils on the Status of Women in Charlottetown in September.



## A BOLD VISION ANTHOLOGY

Taking part in A Bold Vision project with colleagues from Women's Network PEI, the Coalition for Women in Government, the PEI Business Women's Association, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat was a highlight of our year. Get your copy of *A Bold Vision: Women Leaders Imagining Canada's Future* from Women's Network, at The Bookmark, or at [aboldvision.ca](http://aboldvision.ca)



Top left: IWD 2014 Organizing Committee, March 2014. Top right: The PEI ACSW at the Equality Garden Party, September 2014. Bottom left: Marcia Enman receives a service award for her time on Council, June 2014. Bottom right: Past Chairpersons of the Advisory Council at the annual Chairs Circle, May 2014.

## Our 2014 Publications Available On-line



2014 Publications, available at [www.gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw)

- Women Care for Communities: Municipal Election Guide 2014 / L'engagement féminin au sein des collectivités (October)
- Consultation on Social Assistance Food Rates (June)
- Presentation on Family Violence Prevention (March 12)
- Submission to the Atlantic Premiers' Panel on Employment Insurance Changes (January 20)

2014 News Releases and Opinion Pieces, available at [www.gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw)

- Popular Booklet in a New Edition / Lancement d'une nouvelle édition d'un livret populaire (January 9)
- International Women's Day 2014: Inspiring Change / Inspirer le changement (March 6)
- Response to the Closure of the Morgentaler Clinic in Fredericton, NB (April 10)
- Council Meets in Canoe Cove (May 8)
- What is an "undue risk to society?" (August 21)
- Equality Garden Party a Grand Success (September 5)

2014 Videos, available at [vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen](http://vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen)

For November 25, 2014, look for a video calling for a national inquiry on missing and murdered Indigenous women at [vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen](http://vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen). November 25th is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

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.



## Council Members

Diane Kays, Chairperson, Charlottetown  
 Kelly Robinson, Vice-Chairperson, Stratford  
 Melissa Mullen, Treasurer, Lewes  
 Louise MacLeod, Uigg  
 Eileen Brown, West Cape  
 Catherine Rankin, Summerside  
 Yvonne Deagle, Miminegash  
 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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## On-line

Subscribe: [newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca](mailto:newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca)  
 Website: [www.gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw)  
 Videos: [vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen](http://vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen)  
 Facebook: [facebook.com/peistatusofwomen](https://www.facebook.com/peistatusofwomen)  
 Blog: [peiacsw.wordpress.com](http://peiacsw.wordpress.com)  
 Twitter: @peiacsw



Receive notices of upcoming events, work and research opportunities, and more. Subscribe for FREE at [eepurl.com/r-DMn](http://eepurl.com/r-DMn) (or follow the link on our Website).

Got a PSA? The deadline to submit notices is Wednesdays at 4:00 P.M. to [newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca](mailto:newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca). Notices will ordinarily be sent out Thursday afternoon.

