



Status of Women Council of the NWT

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

October 14, 2009

Hon. Sandy Lee
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Government of the Northwest Territories

Dear Minister Lee,

On behalf of the Status of Women Council of the NWT, I am pleased to present our Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 2009.

This year has been a busy and productive year for the Council. Thanks go to all of our funding partners for allowing us the opportunities to work on women's issues in the Northwest Territories.

Along with our core work and yearly events, we have worked on special projects in collaboration with many community organizations on issues concerning Family Violence; Economic, Political and Social Equality; Women's Health and Wellness; and Leadership. We have also worked closely with other Status of Women Councils across the country to advocate on a national level to address specific areas of concern for women.

I would like to thank our Council Directors and staff for their continued collaborative and coordinated efforts in our work towards women's equality.

Sincerely,



Therese Dollie Simon

President 2008-2009

Table of Contents

BACKGROUND.....	1
Directors	1
Our Vision.....	2
Our Mission	2
Advocacy.....	2
Meetings.....	2
Activities and Initiatives	3
Information Service.....	3
Resource and Videos Library	3
Projects.....	4
Northern Women in Mining, Oil & Gas Project	4
2008 / 2009 Community HIV / HEP C Prevention and Awareness Project	7
Women in Leadership	8
Family Violence.....	10
Coalition against Family Violence.....	10
Family Violence Awareness Week Launch & Public Awareness Campaign 2008.....	10
2008 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – December 6 th Vigil – White Ribbon Campaign.....	11
Discussion Groups, Consultations, and Committee Work	12
Discussion Groups.....	12
Consultations.....	12
Committee Work.....	12
Publications and Resources	14
Financial Statements.....	15

BACKGROUND

The mandate of the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories is to work for the political, social and economic equality of all women in the NWT, through advice to the Territorial government, research, public education, advocacy on behalf of women, and assistance to women's groups. The Council was created in April 1990 under the NWT *Status of Women Council Act*. The Government of the NWT provides core funding for the operations of the Council, while special projects have been funded by various sources.

There was one new appointment to the Council Directors during 2008-2009 when Betty Tetso, our Sahtu representative, completed her term. Anne Marie Tout has been appointed to the Sahtu region. The Board of Directors meets at least twice a year for a face to face and has at least 4 conference calls within the year.

Directors

The members of the Council are appointed by the NWT Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. The Council can have up to nine members representing the different regions and cultures of the NWT. Current Council members are:



Therese Dolly Simon,
Fort Resolution
President



Su-Ellen Kolback,
Yellowknife
Vice President



Ann Marie Tout,
Norman Wells



Tina Gargan,
Fort Providence



Ethel-Jean Gruben,
Inuvik

Our Vision

- Equality for women in all areas of life.
- Economic equality.
- Communities, workplaces and families free from violence against women.
- A society which respects and includes the diverse experiences and perspectives of all women.

Our Mission

The Status of Women Council of the NWT is dedicated to achieving equality for all NWT women through

- public education and awareness,
- research,
- advocacy,
- community development,
- interagency cooperation,
- advice to government, and
- identification and development of opportunities for women.

Advocacy

Advocacy is done on an as per need basis, responding to women's concerns/needs. Women can request help by dropping by the Council office, calling toll free, or by email. Staff is assigned to advocacy cases as per their expertise and availability.

Often, the Council is the first agency that women approach in crisis or advocacy situations. Concerns raised by individual women often lead the Council to take action and/or make recommendations to the government to make changes to the underlying systemic discrimination against women.

Meetings

The Board of Directors meets twice a year, in October and March, and holds several conference calls as required. Additionally, Council staff meetings are held weekly, with guest speakers attending as necessary. Throughout these meetings, the Council reviews progress to date on its activities and initiatives; annual events; and programs and projects. They also discuss any new issues that may come up.

Council Staff

Lorraine Phaneuf
Executive Director

Irene Savoy
Office Manager

Tara Kearsey
Community Development
Coordinator

Annemieke Mulders
Northern Women in Mining
and Oil and Gas Project
Coordinator

Marilyn Hardisty
Northern Women in Mining Oil
and Gas Project Officer

Activities and Initiatives

Council Directors and staff carry out equality seeking work in several ways:

- Information Service
- Library Lending of Resource and Videos
- Coordinating Annual and Special Events
- Program Development
- Research Writing for Recommendations and Submissions to the Government
- Working with NGOs and Committees
- Policy Review and Research
- Advocacy
- Special Projects

Information Service

The Council's mandate to provide public education and awareness is met, in part, through responding to enquiries from individuals, groups, governments, and the media on a variety of questions and issues. The enquiries vary from requests for resources, documented or statistical information, referrals, crisis calls, and calls for advocacy support. People make enquiries in person, by correspondence, telephone, or email.

Resource and Videos Library

The Council provides resources to community agencies throughout the territories by request through the Council's free video and resource lending library, which serves all NWT communities. A video catalogue is available by request to the Council's office. Occasionally staff receives requests for these resources outside of the territory and we do our best to accommodate these request.

In 2008-2009, the following mail outs and kits were provided across the NWT:

1. International Woman's Day
2. Wise Woman Nomination Forms
3. Take Back the Night Info
4. Family Violence Awareness Week Information
5. Quarterly Newsletter
6. National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
7. Other information dependent on project needs.

Drop by the Council's office to check out the resource library, and the large selection of research reports on various topics.