

FACTS ON NWT WOMEN

NWT Status of Women Council

January 2005

General Information

In 2005:

- There were 20,889 females in the NWT
- Women were 48.7% of the NWT population
- 24.5% of NWT females were under age 15

Families

- In 2001, single parent families represented 20% of families in the NWT
- 75% of all NWT single parents are female
- In 2004 and 2005 the NWT birthrate was 16.6 per 1000 population; the national rate was 10.5
- NWT women have children at a younger age than Canadian women in general
- In 2003, 72 babies were born to women aged 19 or under; this was 10.3% of all NWT births that year. This was three times the national rate of births to mothers aged 15 - 19.

Child Day Care

- In January 2006 there were a total of 1484 licensed early childhood spaces in the NWT. There were 22 centres, 21 nursery schools, 11 after-school programs and 42 day homes
- In 2000 there were 2630 NWT families with at least one child under age 6
- Average day care fee for one child is approximately \$700 - 800/month

- There is no capital funding program to assist communities which have no suitable buildings in which to establish a day care centre
- Early Childhood Education training for day care workers is consistently available.

Politics

- In 2005, 2 out of 19 members of the NWT Legislative Assembly are women (10.5%) and no women are Cabinet Ministers.

In 2005:

- 2 out of 15 Metis Local Presidents were women (13%)
- 4 out of 28 Chiefs of band councils were women (14%)
- 6 out of 32 municipal leaders (mayors/Chiefs) were women (19%)
- In December 2004, hamlet and settlement elections (12 communities) women were 46% of councillor candidates and 50% of elected councillors.

Education

- In 2005, 12.7% of NWT women over 15 had less than a grade 9 education, 21.3% had a high school diploma, 29.3% had another diploma or certificate and 15.3% had a university degree.
- Among NWT Aboriginal women in 2005, 21.1% had less than grade 9 but 23.1% had a high school diploma or other certificate or diploma.

Income and Employment

- In 2005, women were 46.7 % of all NWT workers
- In 2004, a higher proportion of Aboriginal women (50.2%) were employed than Aboriginal men (49.8%)

- The employment rate for Aboriginal women increased almost 10% between 1985 and 1995, compared to a 2% increase among non-Aboriginal women
- In 2005, 68.9% of all women in the NWT were part of the labour force, compared to 72.7% of NWT men.
- In 2002, 15% of NWT employed women worked part-time, versus 8% of employed men.
- According to the 2001 census, 36% of senior management workers in the NWT were women
- In 2000, women were the majority owners of 16% of northern businesses.
- The average income of NWT women from all sources in 2000 was \$29,911 or 75% of the average income of NWT men (\$39,795)
- In 2000, 31.2% of NWT women had Incomes of less than \$15,000 and 28.6% earned \$50,000 or more.
- In 2000, the average income for NWT single parent families headed by women was \$34,178, compared to \$44,366 for male single parents and \$104,937 for married-couple families.

Wife Assault

- From April 2001 to March 2002, 295 women and their 321 children used the NWT family violence shelters, for a total of 8,747 bednights. The rate of shelter use here is about eight times the national rate.
- The NWT has five family violence shelters.
- In 2004, 274 cases of spousal assault by a male spouse and 52 by a female spouse were reported to the RCMP in the NWT.

Sexual Assault

- In 2004, 241 sexual assaults were reported to the RCMP in the NWT. This was almost eight times the national rate of reported sexual assaults.

- In 2000 the RCMP received 24 reports of sexual abuse against children under 12 and 50 reports of sexual abuse of teens between 12 and 18 in the NWT. In the NWT and nationally about 80% of under-18 sexual assault victims are girls.
- There is no rape crisis centre in the NWT.

Health

- In 1997 average life expectancy at birth for NWT Aboriginal women was 76.7 and for non-Aboriginal women it was 81.5.
- In 2002 15% of NWT women drank more than once a week and 26% of NWT women who drank usually had 5 alcoholic drinks or more at a time
- In 2002 16% of NWT women had used marijuana or hash at least once in the past year
- 45% of NWT women smoke and 59% of NWT Aboriginal women smoke (2002)
- In the NWT, 53% of females aged 15-17 smoke, compared to 44% of males
- Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer for NWT women. Average age at breast cancer diagnosis: 52.8 years.
- In 2002, 245 therapeutic abortions were performed on NWT women. This represents a rate of 24 per 1000 women, which was the highest across Canada for that year (no rate was available for Nunavut).
- The rate of sexually transmitted infections for girls age 14 and under doubled between the five-year periods 1993-1997 and 1998-2002.
- Gonorrhoea rates for NWT women are twelve times the national rate
- For the period 1999-2003, the highest rate of STI's were between the ages of 15 yrs and 24 yrs (974 per 10,000 population or more than twice the rate of males)