



Status of Women Council  
of the NWT

# Women Speak

## 2010 Spring & Summer Newsletter

Published by the Status of Women Council of the NWT. Dedicated to achieving equality for all women of the Northwest Territories.

### Back to School Campaign School for Women

Major decisions concerning life in the NWT are made each session the NWT Legislative Assembly sits, but women are not an equal part of the decision-making process. Women's voices, to express their perspectives and priorities, are grossly under-represented. More than ever, it is imperative efforts be made to support more women to take leadership roles and to provide them with knowledge, skills and a supportive network to help them be successful.

Currently, three out of 19 members of the NWT Legislative Assembly are women (16%) and only one member is a Cabinet Minister. Although this is a better representation than we have ever had in the past, it is still not near the equal representation we seek.

This Campaign School proposes to support and encourage NWT women interested in running for MLA in the 2011 territorial election. It plans to do so by providing real supports to prospective candidates in the form of workshop training for both themselves and potential members of their campaign teams, complemented by relevant, up-to-date resource materials participants can take home.

If you are interested in attending our Campaign School in Yellowknife on Saturday, October 16, 2010, please contact us at the Status of Women Council to sign up!



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## Technologic Advances

The Status of Women Council is now on the net! We have been working feverishly to set up a Facebook and Twitter account so that we can reach more people in the north and also so that more people can reach us.

Facebook is: Status of Women Council of the NWT  
Twitter is: StatusofWomenNT

Please check us out and make comments, we are always looking for your feedback. We have been available on these two accounts since April and currently our Facebook demographic is 77% female mostly between the ages of 24-34.

Also as you can see we have changed the format of our newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter through email instead of a hard copy let us know by emailing [council@statusofwomen.nt.ca](mailto:council@statusofwomen.nt.ca). We are also hoping to keep our website more current and will be posting items to help communities set up events such as Take Back the Night and Family Violence Awareness Week. This newsletter and information about our upcoming conference are just some of the updates you can look forward to.

Please check our website at [www.statusofwomen.nt.ca](http://www.statusofwomen.nt.ca) often and let us know if you are having problems downloading from our page.

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## Big Hello and a Sad Good Bye

The Council would like to welcome Samantha Dechief (Sami) back to the Council. Sami worked at the council for almost two years and just couldn't stay away for long. Now she is back working feverishly as the Community Development Coordinator. She brings a huge skill set with her and we are very happy to have her back.

With joy there must be sorrow and we had to say good bye to Marilyn Hardisty our very hard working Project Officer for the Northern Women Mining, Oil and Gas Project. With the project at a close Marilyn has found a new job but is greatly missed here. Her dedication to the Council and the NWMOG students will never be forgotten.

## Get to Know your Rep!

**Ann Marie Tout**  
**Director**  
**Norman Wells**  
**Appointed**  
**August 2008**

Ann Marie is our newest board member and a resident of Norman Wells since 1986. A past Wise Women in 1994 she is also the president of the NWT Chamber of Commerce. Prior to serving as Mayor of



Norman Wells she served two terms on Council and is a strong supporter for women in leadership.

Ann Marie is currently employed with Enbridge Pipelines (NW) Inc. as the Manager. She has done extensive volunteer work for a number of years with a variety of organizations. She was a past director with the NWT Business Development & Investment Corporation and remains a role model for women taking a lead in industry.



“...a comprehensive, strategic training program aimed at increasing the interest level participation, and retention of women in the mining, oil and gas sectors...”

## Non-Traditional Results

In March 2007, the Status of Women Council of the NWT began implementation of the Northern Women in Mining, Oil and Gas (NWMOG) Project. The project, a comprehensive, strategic training program aimed at increasing the interest level participation, and retention of women in the mining, oil and gas sectors, was based on the following research question:

Given the current population of unemployed and underemployed women in the Northwest Territories; will a dedicated, women-only, partnership-based and strategic approach to training and development be successful in increasing the interest level, participation, and retention rates of women in industrial and trades based occupations in the northern mining, oil and gas industries.

The NWMOG Project has now completed its three year pilot phase, and a summative evaluation of the project has been produced. This evaluation outlines how well the project was able to meet its goals and also provides associated recommendations to education, industry, government, and non-government sectors. Highlights of the project's successes include the following achievements:

- Provided women-only training.
- Increased the interest level of women to participate in the trades; particularly where hands-on training was provided.
- Assured training costs were not the responsibility of the participants.
- Employed eight women in the trades.
- Identified baseline barriers that hindered women's interest in the trades and provided an invaluable suite of supports to help address those barriers.
- Addressed baseline barriers identified by the participants: awareness that the participants in the project could gain the skills necessary to enter the trades; removed perception among participants that mining, oil and gas are industries suited only for males; and address some wellness issues.
- Identified barriers that keep women from succeeding in the trades, but were beyond the scope project's ability to address them (ie. availability of child care and low education levels).
- Increased employability for several, and workplace readiness skills for most participants.
- Increased organizational capacity within, and the profile of, the Status of Women Council of the NWT.
- Positively affected the labour market of those companies that hired successful participants of the project.
- Increased the self-confidence and self-esteem of most participants.
- Significantly improved the lifestyles of some participants.

*“NWMOG addressed the need of getting the under-represented represented”*

Overall, the Project was successful at increasing women's interest levels and somewhat successful at increasing women's participation in trades-based occupations. When compared to other programs at either Thebacha Campus or Mine Training Society, the NWMOG Project surpassed the number of female participants. Where the Mine Training Society boasts a 30% female participation rate, and Thebacha Campus a 5% rate, NWMOG had a full 100% female participation rate. Therefore, NWMOG addressed the need of getting the under-represented represented.

The full summative evaluation report is available at the Status of Women Council office on request.



## Take Back the Night March

"A woman walks alone down a dark, deserted street. With every shadow she sees, and every sound she hears, her pounding heart flutters and skips a beat. She hurries her pace as she sees her destination become closer. She is almost there. She reaches the front door, goes inside, collects herself, and moves on forgetting, at least for tonight, the gripping fear that momentarily enveloped her life. This scene could have occurred anywhere last night, last year, or even 100 years ago. Historically, women faced the anxiety of walking alone at night and that is why Take Back the Night began."

The March in Yellowknife will be on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> however traditionally this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Sept. Please gather your community together and march for a woman's right to walk down the street at night for more information please visit our website or the site below. You can also call the council for materials that may help you organize this event.

\*<http://www.takebackthenight.org/history.html>



# Wise Women Awards

On March 8th, the wise women awards were held at the ledge to honor the five women chosen this year. Nomination forms and Kits for IWD were sent to about 450 agencies. Winners were brought in from all regions to attend the awards ceremony.

The winners are: North Slave, Lyda Fuller of Yellowknife; Mackenzie-Delta, Sister Faye Tremblay of Tuktoyaktuk; Sahtu, Gina Dolphus of Deline; South Slave, Rosa Lafferty of Fort Resolution; Dehcho, Elaine Lamallice of Hay River Reserve.

The Status of Women Council has been distributing this award to outstanding women in the five regions of the NWT every year since 1992. Wise Women recipients are role models who demonstrate wisdom, perseverance and dedication while standing up for

women, children and families in our communities. They strive to make the North a better place to live, work and raise a family.

International Women's Day is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. The roots of it can be traced back to the 19 century and the early 20th century. International Women's Day was honoured for the first time on March 19, 1911. Over one million women and men rallied for women's rights to work, vote, and are trained, to hold public office, and end discrimination. Participating countries: Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. Bread and Roses have become associated with IWD. The Bread & Roses campaign, resulted from the lyrics of a marching song. Bread symbolizes economic Justice and roses represent quality of life. The United Nations formally proclaimed IWD in 1975; IWD is designated in many countries as a national holiday. It is a day When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents decades

of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development in women equality .

The awards were presented during Bread and Roses Luncheon at the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly The Honorable Sandy Lee, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Council of the NWT, was the Keynote speaker at the 2010 Wise Women awards.



Funded by: GNWT, Women's Advisory

# Family Violence Awareness Week



## Stand With Us Stop Family Violence



"It is good to respect others and live a healthy life with family, friends and community. Keep up with our culture by sharing what we know and give when we can, remembering that violence has no part in our lives"

~Rosa Lafferty

# October 3-9, 2010



## FAST Funding for HIV/Sexual Health

Community-based non-government agencies and groups are eligible up to \$10,000.00 of multi-year funding assistance from the Community HIV / HEP C Prevention and Awareness Project.

**Goal:** To promote and support community HIV/Hep C initiatives in the NWT.

**Objective:** To continue to implement a program delivery process that coordinates community development HIV and Hepatitis C initiatives in NWT while ensuring that funding is distributed in an equitable, effective and accountable manner.

The Status of Women Council of the NWT is pleased to be administering and coordinating the Funding and Support Team for HIV Awareness and Prevention Program 2010-2012. We encourage your organization to develop a project to promote awareness and prevention of HIV and/or Sexual Health.

A Funding and Support Team uses a coordinated and supportive approach to funding and mentoring projects by offering help with the development and implementation of community projects.

### How to apply

Applications for funding have been mailed to over 350 agencies across the NWT. Applications are also available on our website at [statusofwomen.nt.ca](http://statusofwomen.nt.ca) or by calling our toll free number at 1-888-234-4485.

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