



Status of Women Council
of the NWT

Women Speak 2009 Fall & Winter Newsletter

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



December 6 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women



Fall and winter 2009 issue

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A message from the Executive Director

The Status of Women Council of the NWT invites you once again to join together in the memory of the fourteen women who were killed at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal on December 6, 1989. The gunman who took their lives was the product of our society, and a world that has refused to put an end to the cycle of violence. On this day, we ask you to think of what you can do to help break this cycle.

Violence against women crosses all boundaries of race, social condition, age, and status. The fourteen women killed in Montreal were in training to become engineers. The countless women that are lost in the north makes this issue hit home for everyone in the Territories. These women may have lived very different lives, but their deaths and disappearances tell one story: that women are targets of violence.

No woman should live in fear. But in our own communities women and girls are being abused in alarming numbers. We are five times higher than the national rate for family violence and those numbers are only scratching the surface. If we remain silent, we fail them: our sisters, mothers, daughters, friends, co-workers, and neighbors.



**December 6th Vigil will be held at the Salvation
Army in Yellowknife ,from 2:00pm –4:00pm.
Coalition Against Family Violence Reusable Bags
will be launched at the Vigil .**

Status of Women Council of the NWT delivers community courses in Trout Lake and Hay River



Photo of the women that completed the HEO course in Trout Lake



Photo of the women that completed the Summer Airport Maintenance Course With the Federal & Territorial Ministers for the Status of Women

On June 8th in partnership with the Samba Ke Development Corporation and the MACA School of Community Government we kicked off the first day of our Heavy Equipment Operation exposure course in Trout Lake.

The Territorial Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Nahendeh region joined the NWMOG management team for the opening ceremonies and subsequent community feast. The community support for the project and for the participants was overwhelmingly positive.

On June 19th the NWMOG management team returned to Trout Lake for the closing ceremonies .

The team was treated to a wonderful surprise as the graduating class held a celebratory parade – driving all the community’s heavy equipment through town – showing off their new skills.

All ten local women that began the course successfully completed it.

On July 20th in partnership with the Department of Transportation / Airports Division and MACA School of Community Government we kicked off the first day of our Community Airports Summer Maintenance course in Hay River. The Territorial Minister Responsible for the Status of Women along with other officials joined management team for the opening ceremonies and subsequent barbecue at the Hay River Airport maintenance garage.

The community support for the project and for the participants was very positive. Eleven women began the course – each from a community where they have a gravel airport runway. We had two students from Colville Lake, and one each from the following communities: Fort Simpson, Lutselk’e, Wrigley, Hay River, Fort Smith, Gameti, Deline and Fort McPherson.

The executive director and the project coordinator returned to Hay River for the granting of certificates and celebration of learning luncheon. Ten women that began the course successfully completed it.

“Unless all of us are free, none of us will be free.”

Rosemary Brown

Family Violence Awareness Week Stand with us— Stop Family Violence

On October 5th about 100 people gathered for the annual Family Violence Awareness Week launch . In collaboration with the Coalition Against Family Violence each year a committee is formed to develop and implement activities and resources for Family Violence Awareness Week .

A package of resources was sent to about 300 agencies to help them organize activities in their perspective communities. A theme was developed for the week—Stand with us—Stop Family Violence . Materials were chosen for the packages and sent out. A launch was done at the Salvation Army for the general public .Guest speakers addressed issues concerning family Violence. An insert / newsletter was put in News North during Family Violence Awareness Week. Additional advertising was done for three weeks prior to FVAW in all northern newspapers.

Reusable bags with the Coalition’s logo will be distributed to all residents of the NWT.Bags will be included in Salvation Army Christmas baskets .Bags will also be sent to all shelters. A launch of the bags will be done at the December 6th Vigil which will be held at the Salvation Army in Yellowknife.

Family Violence Awareness Week is funded by the Government of the Northwest Territories



Photo includes
 Top—Honorable Sandy Lee
 2nd row
 Left Nancy Peel NWT Native Women’s Association
 Right Sisters of the Sacred Circle
 3rd Row
 Left Loren McGuiness CBC
 Right Lorraine Phaneuf NWT Status of Women



Resource Kits

HIV & HEPC Resource Kits are available through the Community HIV/ Hepatitis C Prevention and Awareness Project
 To receive a kit or additional information
 please call our toll free number
 @ 1-888234-4485



Wise Women Awards



Every year on March 8 , five northern women are honoured by NWT Status of Women Council for their dedication and work in the community.

Nomination forms will be sent to over 500 community agencies. To download a copy of the nomination form check out our website @ www.statusofwomen.nt.ca





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The Board and Staff wish you a Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

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