



Family Violence Awareness Week

This year's theme focuses on men to choose to be nonviolent or choose not to abuse. We want to encourage men to stand up with the community as leaders, role models and community figures and make a statement against family violence. Family Violence Awareness Week will start September 30 and end October 7, 2011.

Family Violence Awareness Week packages will be mailed to every community in the north mid-August. This kit will also be available on our website to download for your own use. We hope that the information in the packages will be used to spread awareness throughout the north about the issues of family violence. We would like to encourage organizations and individuals to call us for more information around family violence and where they can reach supports. The Council will also ship extra promotional items and materials while supplies last to communities so that they may host their own events during Family Violence Awareness Week.

The Committee has decided to continue with the grant program to help communities host their own events during the week. We wish to encourage you to call us for a small one-page application. All we request is that your activities reflect this year's theme of nonviolence and focuses on men's participation in standing up against family violence. The small grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Some ideas or actives that the small grant would fund could be:

- Discussion group
- Movie premiere
- Men's sharing circle
- School presentation
- On-the-land learning
- Guest speaker
- Art project

If you would like more information please contact the Status of Women Council. We will also except a letter of interest in lieu of the application and contact you for any further information we may need. Expressions of interest need to be submitted before noon on June 24, 2011 in order to receive funding.

We would like to thank our funder the Government of the Northwest Territories for their continued support.

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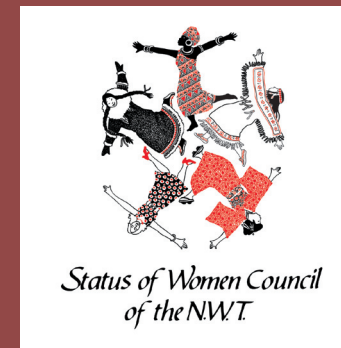
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Women Speak 2011 Winter & Spring Newsletter

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

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Get Out and VOTE!!!!

Territorial Forum



With the Federal Election upon us the Council would also like to remind the north that the Territorial Election will be happening on October 3, 2011. The Status of Women Council is planning on hosting an all candidates forum for the Yellowknife candidates. We are also planning on sending questions to all the candidates in the Territories and post them on our site and on our Facebook. Keep your eyes peeled or call us for more information on the Territorial Election. You can also call Elections NWT at 1.800.661.0796 to find out who your candidates are and what riding you are in. If you are a women interested in running in this year's Territorial Election please give us a call. Important dates to remember are September 5th (Nomination Period Starts) and September 9th (2pm deadline for nomination package). There are some materials on our website that might be useful for you to get started. Above all else make sure you are registered to vote and GET OUT AND VOTE!

If you want to be part of the change that will shape your future or make a difference in how we are governed one of the easiest ways is to vote. By voting you are helping elect the next leader of your government, you are directing which path the next government will take. When you vote you are making a solid statement that you have a voice and you support the idea of this leadership, you matter.

If you still believe that your one vote doesn't make a difference then go out and find people who support your view and vote together. You never vote alone and with each supporting vote your cause is increased. It only takes one passionate voice to change a group of peoples mind. If you have children that cannot vote then be their voice. If you know people who are jaded because governments never changes then enlighten them on the platforms that are running and how their vote could make a change.

Voting is as simple as making sure you are on the voters list, walking into a polling station on May 2, 2011, and placing an "X" in the box for the party you wish to run your government.

There are many ways to become more informed about who to vote for or why voting for one party is better for your circumstances then another. It is a great way to support community growth if you vote for a party that wants to change issues that are affecting your community into something better. Keep in mind that elections are not a match of who is the better person or that if someone votes for another candidate/party they are voting against you. Everyone has different priorities and no one party can fix everything. Choose the issues that are most important to you and vote for the party that will positively change those issues the most.

Ways to become more involved and informed are by asking questions, keeping updated on current events, ask your neighbors, phoning other organizations such as the Status of Women or Alternatives North, looking at the party's websites/pamphlets, participate/attending forums, talk to your band councils. You can find out about these through your local paper or radio stations in your community.

If enough people in your community believe the same issues are important and they all vote, your concerns will be voiced in government. If after you vote you find that those concerns are not being met you can lobby your government based off the promises that they made in their campaign. Call your government to task! If enough people vote for the same platform then hopefully issues raised in that platform will be addressed in government. Change Canada into a healthier place for us all.

It all starts with one ideal, one voice, one vote. Get out and vote for a better Canada.

Get to Know your Rep!

Tina Gargan
For Providence Appointed
August 2007

A proud Dene woman, and mother of two absolutely adorable children, ages seven and two.

She was a previous recipient of the Wise Women Award (2006), prior to appointment on the Board.

Currently employed by Deh Cho Health and Social Services as the Community Wellness Worker, she is also the Deputy Mayor of the Hamlet of Fort Providence and serves on the local justice committee.

Tina has previously volunteered on the Aboriginal Head Start Program advisory board, served one term as the Mayor of Fort Providence and has served many years as a councillor.



Because I am a woman in the NWT...

- I believe strongly in community-based solutions
- I can help the next generation learn to respect one another for the people they are and recognize the issues which affect them
- I have an equal voice
- I can overcome obstacles and become a leader in my community
- I enjoy opportunities that I wouldn't have elsewhere
- I have a right to make changes in my life & my family
- I am inspired by those women who came before me to do something for those who come after
- I can work to make change with all people

Celebration of Success

Women from all over the Northwest Territories attended to celebrate women's achievements and work together to advance gender equality in the north. The 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day was a great success having over 120 women that participated at the conference. 46,000 people accessed the live webcast for the conference. The webcast will be permanently archived on our website at www.statusofwomen.nt.ca so that everyone can go back and see the talent, dedication and energy from this conference.

This gathering provided a wealth of knowledge that can be bought back to share among the communities. It also stressed to women how important they are in society and that they have rights, a voice, and resources. It also provided a forum for women to tell us what they saw as a priority in the north. The top three recommendations were based around:

1. Gender-Based Analyses
2. Poverty
3. Childcare

The Council plans on creating an action plan out of the many recommendations that the women choose to prioritize. Guest speakers presented on diverse themes from women's leadership, women in non-traditional occupations and gender-based analysis women were given a historical review of the women's movement. Participant's left with a sense of pride over what we have accomplished over a century, with great inspiration to move even further in the future.

Other events that happened during the conference were a cultural night with song and arts from women around the north. There were Fireworks to commemorate the 100th anniversary of international women's day with a particularly feminine tone. Finally to wrap up all the events a movie night at the theatre where we screened the Canadian National Film Boards film "Rosies of the North".

We have received positive feedback from women that attended. The Council hopes that people will enjoy the live feed for years to come and that in the next century men and women will be equal in the north and around the globe.



Wise Women Awards

The Status of Women Council of the NWT is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 Wise Women Awards.

The winners are bottom row left to right: Deh Cho, Sylvia Nedli of Fort Providence; Mackenzie-Delta, Ann Kasook of Inuvik; Sahtu, Alison DeJong of Tulita; North Slave, Lena Pedersen of Yellowknife; South Slave, Alizette Lockhart of Lutsel 'Ke;.

Top row: Tina Gargan (SWC Board Member), Georgina Jacobson-Masuzumi (SWC Board Member), Sandy Lee, Su-Ellen Kolback (SWC Vice President), Dollie Simon (SWC President), Lorraine Phaneuf (SWC Executive Director)

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.

The awards were presented during the Bread and Roses Luncheon at the Explorer Hotel on March 8, 2011 where a former recipient of the award, Lyda Fuller, spoke to the achievements of women leading the way to social change. Dawn Lacey, also a former recipient of the award led us in the traditional song that was sung at the Bread and Roses March a century ago. There was a full house where the women were honored for their dedication to their communities. Later that day they were recognized in the legislation assembly.

Each wise woman brought a unique and strong message to share with the women of the north. The council would like to encourage more women to follow in these women's footsteps and take steps towards change in their communities.

FAST

The Council has resource kits available for hosting workshops or to promote HIV awareness in your community if you would like a resource kit please contact us.

The Status of Women Council of the NWT is also pleased to be administering and coordinating the Funding and Support Team for HIV Awareness and Prevention Program 2011-2012. We invite you to submit an application for funding to create a project that will bring awareness and prevention of HIV and/or Sexual Health to your community.

We encourage your organization and others in your region to develop a project to promote awareness and prevention of HIV and/or Sexual Health.

If you need information or assistance in developing your community awareness project, please call the FAST Team by using the Council's toll free line at 1-888-234-4485 or 920-6177 in Yellowknife.



Community Corner



Taiga is excited to announce it's 4th camp season! Taiga Camp is for young women, ages of 11 - 17 from EVERY community in the Northwest Territories. Taiga Adventure Camp offers a camp experience in a safe outdoor environment, where girls will live outdoors, learn leadership skills, make new friends and discover their many talents.

We will be offering three land based sessions at our base camp located close to Yellowknife, as well as two MacKenzie River Canoe trips this summer. Please check out our website at www.taigacamp.com for more information. Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/taigacamp and Facebook