



Annual Report

April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Chair's Message

On behalf of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues, I would like to convey our message of thanks to the women who keep the ongoing struggle for women's equality alive in light of national cutbacks and hard work quickly forgotten. To each and every one of you who wouldn't quit when funds were short or when you had given everything you had and then gave more, we appreciate your work and applaud you.

This past year the Council held "mini" forums in Yukon communities. We wanted to connect with and speak to women at the grass roots level to hear what their priorities are and how we as a Council can help. We managed to get out to almost half of Yukon communities.

The annual women's forums, held in Whitehorse, have become our conduit to the communities and have allowed the Council to remain in touch with women across the territory, and to keep the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate informed of the issues that remain important to women in Yukon.

In closing, I want to thank the YACWI members, Directorate staff and the many women I have had the opportunity to meet and work with. As my second term comes to an end, I can look back and see all the work these dedicated women have done and continue to do to make this territory a better and safer place to live.

Thank you!

In Unity,
Lisa Hutton
Chair, YACWI



Council Activities

Meetings:

The Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues (YACWI) held four meetings during the 2006–07 fiscal year.

At each meeting, information items were brought to the Council's attention and the Director of the Women's Directorate provided updates on Directorate activities. In addition, a standing agenda item encouraged round table discussions about the most recent activities and/or concerns of Yukon women and women's groups. The Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, the Hon. Elaine Taylor, was invited to each meeting.

June 23 & 24, 2006

The Council met to discuss the planning of the community forums and the process for these visits, including which members would travel to which community, as well as which Women's Directorate staff member would accompany Council members. The Council also welcomed new member Douma Alward.

September 15 & 16, 2006

The Council welcomed Colin Kelly and Ed Schultz, co-chairs of the Education Reform project to give an overview of the project to date. The presentation was well received and the Council was encouraged

to hear about the work that has been completed. The Council welcomed new member Glenna Tetlich from Old Crow and said goodbye to Shona Cardigah as her second term ended. The remainder of the meeting was spent on fine-tuning planning for the upcoming mini forums.

February 6, 2007

The Council met over dinner to discuss planning for the new year and how to carry out the work outlined within its strategic plan.

March 23 & 24, 2007

Yukon Housing Corporation's Louise Girard and Shona Motsyn gave a presentation on the Victims of Violence/Abuse Policy. Ms Girard provided a context for the development of the policy by giving an overview of the Social Housing Evaluation Report issued in 2004. Ms Girard and Ms Mostyn acknowledged the work of the Women's Directorate, Kaushee's Place, Status of Women Council and YACWI in bringing this issue to their attention. The policy is now being implemented and Yukon Housing and the Women's Directorate will continue their successful partnership to monitor its success.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

Major Activities of the Council

Mini Forums Held in Yukon

Communities: Council members teamed up with Women's Directorate staff and went to various communities to speak with and listen to community women. A report on the results of these community meetings will soon be complete.

Bursary for Women's Education:

YACWI members donated a portion of their honoraria toward a \$400 bursary that encourages young women to undertake course work in women's studies. No submissions were received. The Council will discuss the bursary and how best to direct the funding towards women in need.

Priority Housing Initiative: The Women's Directorate worked for many years with Kaushee's Place and Yukon Status of Women Council to research the need for a priority housing policy for women fleeing their violent partners. The need for a policy was reiterated at the 2005 second annual Yukon Women's Forum. YACWI presented a recommendation to Cabinet in 2006 for priority housing. Subsequently, the

Women's Directorate worked with the Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) to review eligibility criteria and YHC has since developed a Victims of Violence/ Abuse Policy, which replaces the Priority Housing Initiative.

Financial Statement 06-07

Item	Amount
Travel	\$ 3,584.83
Accommodation	\$ 1,893.00
Honoraria.....	\$ 5,384.49
Room rental/ food for meetings.....	\$ 2,429.46
Coalition meeting — out of territory travel.....	\$ 2,189.10
Total	\$15,480.88



About the Council

The Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues was established by the *Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Act* in May 1992. The Act directs YACWI to:

- Develop public awareness of the issues affecting the status of women;
- Promote a change of attitudes within the Yukon so that the women may enjoy equality of opportunity;
- Encourage discussions and expressions of opinion by Yukon residents on issues affecting the status of women;
- Review policies, programs and legislation affecting women, as directed by the Minister;
- Advise the Minister with respect to such issues as the Minister may refer to the Council for its consideration;
- Advise the Minister with respect to such issues as the Council considers advisable; and
- Encourage organizations and groups that promote the equality of women.

The Council is comprised of eight members appointed by the Commissioner. At least 50 per cent of the members are from rural areas and at least 25 per cent are members of Yukon First Nations.

Council business is directed and determined mainly at Council meetings, which are held four times a year. In 2006–07 the meetings were held as follows:

- June 23 and 24, 2006
- September 15 and 16, 2006
- February 6, 2007
- March 23 and 24, 2007

Members as of March 2007

Irene Brekke (Whitehorse)
Stace Burnard (Whitehorse)
Barb Hume (Haines Junction)
Lisa Hutton, Chair (Whitehorse)
Andrea Mansell (Dawson City)
Julie Ménard (Whitehorse)
Anne Maje Raider (Watson Lake)
Glena Tetlichich (Old Crow)

Other members who served during 2006–07

Douma Alwarid (Whitehorse)
Shona Cardigah (Watson Lake)
Alyce Johnson (Burwash Landing)