

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to be back as chair of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues. I can ensure you that the Council members are strong women representing diverse backgrounds and strong experience. They all have Yukon women's interest at heart. Each member is working with their community to make positive changes to bring equality to women.

This year's annual women's forum entitled Smart Cookies & Their Dough: A Forum on Money, Careers and Business for Yukon Women was so successful that we had to have a registration waiting list for the first time. This year we were fortunate to have Yukon Women in Trades and Technology (YWITT) as our presenting partner. The participants were appreciative for the opportunity to network, the enthusiasm and knowledge of presenters, the feeling of empowerment they gained from the forum as well as the "women only" aspect. It is further clear that Yukon women need to continue to meet once a year to exchange thoughts and ideas for action on a contemporary issues. This in the best interest of all citizens.

We are working with you to ensure that emerging women's issues are brought forward to the attention of the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate.

In solidarity,

Julie Ménard, Chair



## 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. Members sit for a three-year, renewable term, at the invitation of the Minister Responsible for the Women's Directorate.

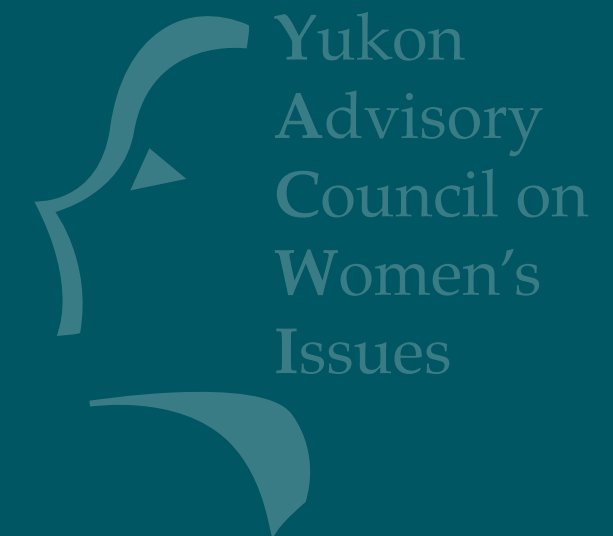
Council business is directed and determined mainly at Council meetings, which are held four times a year.

## MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 2010

Chair	Julie Ménard (Whitehorse) – musokajan@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Betty Irwin (Whitehorse) – betty.irwin@jarwinenterprises.com
Member	Irene Brekke (Whitehorse) – brekkedi@nortwestel.net
Member	Winnie Peterson (Whitehorse) – winnifred@klondiker.com
Member	Andrea Mansell (Dawson City) – andrealeemansell@gmail.ca
Member	Ann Maje Raider (Watson Lake) – majeraider@yahoo.ca
Member	Barb Barchen (Mayo) – bbarchen@hotmail.com
Member	Sarah Taylor (Carmacks) – sarah.taylor@yesnet.yk.ca

# ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2009 – MARCH 31, 2010



*"Economy, prudence, and a simple life are the sure masters of need, and will often accomplish that which, their opposites, with a fortune at hand, will fail to do." Clara Barton*



## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

YACWI held three meetings during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. At each meeting, members presented a community report that brought forward the concerns of women and women's groups from their respective community. Various information items were brought to the Council's attention at each meeting and the Director of the Women's Directorate provided updates on the projects and activities they are leading. The Minister responsible for Women's Directorate, the Honourable Marian C. Horne, was invited and present at each of these meetings.

**MAY 22 + 23, 2009** The May meeting was chaired by Betty Irwin (past chair). There were two guests at this meeting: Ketsia Houde, Director of Les essentiElles and Barbara McInerney, Executive Director of the Yukon Women's Transition Home Society (Kaushee's Place). They brought forward the importance of the Women's Equality Funding (through Women's Directorate) to ensure the stability of their clients' service. The chair suggested YACWI write a letter of support to the Minister in support of the Womens Equality Fund's continuation and to assure that equality seeking women's organizations would fully participate in the then upcoming fund evaluation by the Women's Directorate. Members also worked towards the organization of the 2009 Fall Women's Forum.

**SEPT 11 + 12, 2009** Julie Ménard returned as chair after the amendment of the YACWI ACT to permit members of the council to be reappointed after their term of three years. Community reports from members raised concerns about the need for more social services and a better quality for women and youth in rural communities. Issues of violence amongst youth in the educational system in communities and the need for single parent family affordable housing were important issues brought forward by the members. A brainstorming session on communication was also held to determine better ways to let people know about YACWI's work.

**JAN 29 + 30, 2010** The Board members reviewed the report of the 2009 annual forum before they outlined the major themes and objectives for the 2010 Women's Forum. Members discussed the need for improvement in health services in communities by attracting and retaining sufficient numbers of health professionals. A suggested holistic solution was to include midwifery in the health system by changing the nursing regulations. It was also suggested to request from the RCMP to commit to including GIA training for new RCMP Yukon members. A discussion on the promotion of the education bursary and the best time to make the call for applications was also on the agenda.

## MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

### 2009 WOMEN'S FORUM — SMART COOKIES & THEIR DOUGH A FORUM ON MONEY, CAREERS AND BUSINESS FOR YUKON WOMEN

This year's fall forum was a logical follow up to the 2008 forum on women's leadership. On October 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 2009, 66 women from throughout Yukon gathered at the Westmark Hotel in Whitehorse to attend this annual event. This year YACWI co-hosted the forum with Yukon Women in Trades and Technology (YWITT) and the Women's Directorate sponsored the initiative. The forum provided opportunities for women to gain information, develop skills, gain knowledge and network with Yukon women active in finance, business and career development.

Women from across the Yukon gathered to broadly explore women's economic security through a range of workshops grouped into four "streams".

Financial literacy	Lifecycle Money Management
Yukon Women in Business	Career Growth and Development

Altogether, 25 workshops were available during the weekend. A Trade Show comprised of 11 service providers was also held for the first time.

**FORUM OUTCOMES** This year's forum represented the most complex structural conference undertaken by YACWI in recent years. There were twenty-five workshop hosts, two out of town keynotes, twenty individually structured and one-off workshops as well the first ever Trade Show. This structure was designed to help cover the issue area for the conference — "women's economic security" — and provide a very broad range of topics to appeal to a diverse audience of women from all walks of life.

The forum attracted women of all ages, and the presence and enthusiasm of young women at the forum was of particular note. Of interest was the absence of a dominance of government employees, which had been the historical audience of the forum prior to 2008. This diversity responded to direction from YACWI to attract a wide and public audience. In addition, eight spaces were protected for Social Assistance clients to ensure access for low income women.

## BURSARY ON WOMEN'S EDUCATION

YACWI members annually donate a portion of their honoraria toward a bursary that encourages young women to undertake course work in an area focusing on women's issues. No call for the bursary was made in 2009. After consultation, members thought it would be more strategic to do the call in May of each year in order to accommodate timely applications from Yukon students finishing school and returning to the Yukon. The deadline for applications in years to come will be mid-August and the successful recipients will be invited to the Annual Women's Forum.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2009-2010

ITEM	AMOUNT
Travel	\$8,868
Honoraria	\$8,938
Contracts	\$1,684
Rental Expense	\$463
Printing	\$110
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,063</b>

## HOW TO CONTACT US

In person	Women's Directorate, suite 1-404 Hanson St, Whitehorse, YT
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Fax	867 393-6270
Web	www.womensdirectorate.gov.yk.ca/yacwi.html

Photographs on opposite panel

(top) Julianna Scramsted, Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and Julie Menard at the May 2009 meeting, (bottom) Minister Marian Horne, Charlene Beauchemin, Acting Director, Women's Directorate, women's organization representatives and YACWI members (minus Winnie Peterson) at the May 2009 meeting.

Inside photos

(left) Charlene Beauchemin and Minister Marian Horne, (middle) Fall Forum Trade Fair, (right) Betty Irwin, Amanda Mudry (Women's Directorate), Winnie Peterson and Julie Menard at the Forum registration table.

