

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It is a great honour to have returned in 2010 as chair of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues. Having been one of the original members of the Council which was created in 1987, I can look back on the changes that have taken place in the Territory in the intervening years and remember the dedicated women who have served on Council. Today, as in the past, Council members are strong, active women who continue to strive for recognition and equality for all.

We are grateful for the support and guidance we receive from the Minister Responsible for the Women's Directorate, Marian C. Horne, and look forward to continue working with her to address the concerns and issues which are so relevant to all women in the Territory. Our work has also been made easier by the wonderful staff at the Women's Directorate, who acts as the Council Secretariat.

On September 24 and 25, 2010, ninety women from around the Yukon gathered at the Westmark Whitehorse to attend the "Your Health is in Your Hands" forum. Hosted by the forum provided opportunities for women to gain information, explore new opportunities and network with Yukon women active in the wellness industry. Evaluations received reflected appreciation for the learning, networking, exchange of information, sharing, diversity of backgrounds, enthusiasm and knowledge of presenters, and the empowerment of the forum as well as the "women only" aspect.

At present, we are preparing a Strategic Plan for Council to help us better identify the issues most urgently needing attention. This coming year, we hope to work with many women of the Territory to help bring about positive changes in our communities and, through our Minister Responsible, will continue to bring forward recommendations that will one day result in true equality for all our citizens.

BETTY IRWIN  
CHAIR



The Council at strategic planning, December 2010. Missing: Barb Barchen.

## 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.

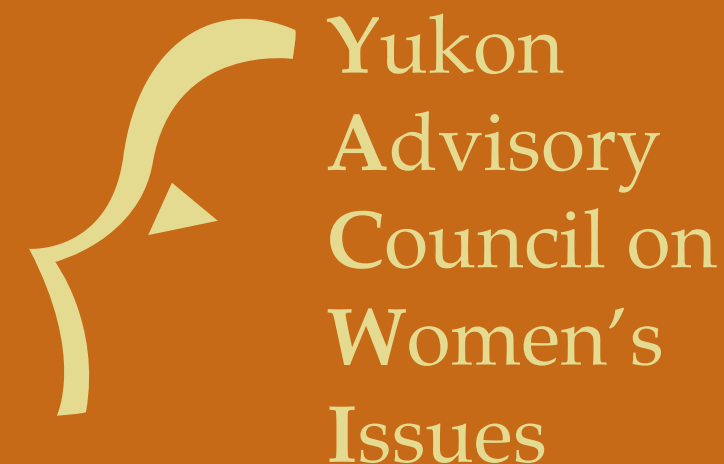
Council business is directed and determined mainly at Council meetings, which are held four times a year.

## MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 2011

|        |                               |                                   |
|--------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chair  | Betty Irwin (Whitehorse)      | betty.irwin@jarwinenterprises.com |
| Member | Irene Brekke (Whitehorse)     | brekkedi@nortwestel.net           |
| 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, 2010 – MARCH 31, 2011



## COUNCIL MEETINGS

YACWI held three meetings during the 2010 fiscal year. Time at the beginning of each meeting is given over to reports from council members about the happenings and issues that are current in their respective communities. Various information items are brought to Council's attention and appropriate action is taken. The Minister Responsible for Women's Directorate, Marian C. Horne, is invited to each meeting and updates from the Women's Directorate are provided about their activities and projects.

**MAY 28 & 29, 2010** Lois Moorcroft spoke to Council about the then upcoming Policing Review and the importance of having women adequately represented on the Advisory Committee. The Chair wrote to the Police Review Committee expressing concerns with committee membership. Members worked toward the organization of the 2010 Women's Forum which would have a women's health theme. Possible candidates for membership in YACWI were put forward and the Women's Directorate sent out nomination information. Barb Barchen was chosen to act as YACWI representative on the Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust.

**AUGUST 27 & 28, 2010** Promotion of YACWI was a major topic for this meeting. The Women's Directorate will send letters to all YG Departments regarding YACWI consultation. The Women's Directorate will start working on the creation of a new brochure. There is also the need to determine what the critical issues are for women and to bring these to the attention of the Minister so she will be aware of what needs attention. It was decided to devote the next meeting to the creation of a Strategic Plan for YACWI.

**DECEMBER 3 & 4, 2010** This meeting was devoted to the preparation of a Strategic Plan for YACWI. Members felt that major issues included having a much stronger public role and presence, better and more formalized lines of communication with important contacts and renewed understanding of mandate and focus of the Council. It was suggested that definite tasks and ideas for outreach to community members be established. Finalization of the Strategic Plan is expected to take place at the next Council Meeting.



## MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

### 2010 WOMEN'S FORUM—YOUR HEALTH IS IN YOUR HANDS A WOMEN'S WELLNESS FORUM

On September 24 and 25, 2010, ninety women from around the Yukon gathered at the Westmark Hotel in Whitehorse to attend the "Your Health is in Your Hands" forum. Hosted by YACWI and sponsored by the Women's Directorate, Government of Yukon, the forum provided opportunities for women to gain information, explore new opportunities and network with Yukon women active in the wellness industry. Women from across the Yukon gathered to broadly explore women's wellness and personal self-care through a range of workshops grouped into four "streams": Eat Well, Exercise More, Reduce Stress and Nurture Me.

Sixteen women with expertise in the workshop areas shared their knowledge and experiences in hands-on settings in the workshops. A trade show composed of sixteen service providers accompanied the forum and provided an opportunity for government, non-governmental and private sectors to showcase their products and services to the delegates.

**FORUM OUTCOMES** The topic of the Forum clearly resonated with Yukon women as the event was full in less than a week with a long waitlist. The quality of the workshops as well as the opportunities for learning and networking represented the majority of responses to the "most valuable aspects" of the forum as noted by those who filled in the evaluation. This year marked the first time that delegates were provided with Forum Papers—summaries of the workshops in 1-2 pages. The trade show was the largest yet with 16 booths and many interactive activities (astrology dice, massage, reiki, etc.) and the response was very positive.

### POLICING REVIEW

The Chair participated in two public consultations and also attended a women's group meeting at which Sharing Common Ground, the Review of Yukon's Police Force, and If My Life Depended on It: Yukon Women and the RCMP, which was prepared by Lois Moorcroft, were presented. Further consultations with women's groups are planned to discuss the recommendations from the Review document.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2010–2011

### YACWI COUNCIL MEETING EXPENDITURES 2010–2011

| DESCRIPTION        | AMOUNT             | NOTES               |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Advertising        | \$635.04           | Bursary ads         |
| Contracts          | \$544.00           | Lalena Design       |
| Food/Catering      | \$273.33           |                     |
| Honoraria          | \$4,791.25         |                     |
| Hotel accomodation | \$1,021.00         |                     |
| Meeting room       | \$1,394.37         |                     |
| Printing           | \$200.00           | YACWI Annual Report |
| Travel             | \$4,632.62         |                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>\$13,491.61</b> |                     |

### YACWI FORUM EXPENDITURES 2010/11

| DESCRIPTION        | AMOUNT             | NOTES |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Advertising        | \$320.00           |       |
| Catering           | \$4,932.53         |       |
| Childcare          | \$150.00           |       |
| Coordination       | \$12,660.00        |       |
| Design             | \$360.00           |       |
| Entertainment      | \$350.00           |       |
| Hotel accomodation | \$2,398.00         |       |
| Keynote Speaker    | \$1,000.00         |       |
| Materials          | \$2,252.32         |       |
| Presenters         | \$1,226.28         |       |
| Printing           | \$811.66           |       |
| Travel             | \$2,548.00         |       |
| Unitech            | \$356.00           |       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>\$29,364.79</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   |
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