

# Activities Update

## PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Fall/Winter 2018

### Chairperson's Message



The Advisory Council has had a very active year in which I was able to participate as Chairperson, after receiving this honour in January, replacing Mari Basiletti, whose term was ending. We also welcomed Debbie Langston as Vice-Chair, and three new members to Council, Cathy Rose, Chris MacPhail, and Susan Sun.

Being named Chair for the Council has certainly made me more aware of the tremendous amount of work and energy that is required to fulfill the obligations to continue the work that Council does with other organizations and community. The partnerships and cooperation that happen are unbelievable!

The first event I attended as Chair was the launch of the *Make It Your Business* video series, which staff partnered with Family Violence Prevention Services to develop. This series of workplace training and public education videos will help people learn how to intervene safely and effectively as a bystander when they witness violence.



*Yvonne and Hon. Paula Biggar at the launch of the Make It Your Business videos in February 2018.*

Another highlight of the year was International Women's Day, when women of different cultures came together to celebrate our diversities. In the spring, I also participated in meetings and public consultations for the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Adoption Act review, and focus group sessions with a variety of different groups to help provide feedback for our Equality Report Card.

In June, we launched our Equality Report Card which assesses the PEI government's progress towards women's equality goals. Council awarded an overall grade of B- for the period of May 2015 to December 31, 2018. This shows that some progress is being made on a number of issues. I had the opportunity to meet with Hon. Paula Biggar,

Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, to present the Report Card and discuss school dress codes, as we had been asked to conduct a study on this issue. Later in the summer, we also met with the Minister to provide input into consultations about the Employment Standards Act, especially regarding domestic violence leave.

In October, I had the honour of speaking at the Sisters in Spirit Vigil ceremony and attend the Indigenous Justice Forum, which provided me with a tremendous amount of respect and information regarding PEI Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous peoples.

We attended the PEI Famous Five 25th Anniversary conference at UPEI, where our five Island women leaders were celebrated and shared reflections on their roles in 1993, when women held the five most responsible roles in government for the first and last time in history. What an amazing day.

We are now preparing our Purple Ribbon Campaign which begins November 25 on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Our annual Memorial Service to remember the Montreal Massacre and Island women murdered here on PEI will be held December 6, 2018, at Memorial Hall, Confederation Centre of the Arts, at noon. Please wear your purple ribbon during the campaign and during PEI Family Violence Prevention Week in February 2019.

In conclusion our work continues with other community organizations to address ongoing difficult issues. We thank these partners for their hard work and commitment.

I wish to thank all Council members for their support and dedication during the past year; it has been a busy one! Our dedicated staff, Jane, Michelle, and Becky, you are such a joy to work with. Thank you. Your support goes beyond.

On behalf of the PEI Advisory Council for the Status of Women, I wish you and yours a very happy and peaceful holiday season. May the new year be filled with good health, peace, and joy.



*Yvonne and Hon. Paula Biggar at the October 2018 Sisters in Spirit Vigil in Charlottetown.*

## Memorial Services for Victims of Violence

### *First mourn, then work for change*

December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. On December 6, candle-lighting services remember 14 young women who in 1989 were murdered because they were women in the Montreal Massacre. We remember 10 women since 1989 murdered on Prince Edward Island by men who knew them. Join others in your community to light a candle of remembrance, to remember, to reflect, and to act so these murders end.



### **Charlottetown Memorial Service**

**12:00 noon, Thursday, December 6**

Memorial Hall, Confederation Centre of the Arts (venue sponsor), Charlottetown Mi'kmaw ceremony & prayers

Guest Speaker: Paxton Casey

Music: Gaia singers and Dylan Menzie

More info: 902-368-4510

PEI Adv. Council on the Status of Women

### **Summerside Memorial Service**

**12:00 noon, Thursday, December 6**

Trinity United Church

90 Spring Street, Summerside

More info: 902-436-9856

East Prince Women's Information Centre

***29 years since the Montreal Massacre***

## Multilingual Purple Ribbon Poster



This year's multilingual 11"x17" poster highlights the Purple Ribbon Campaign theme "Time to step up. Be ready to prevent violence against women" in English, French, Mi'kmaw, Arabic, Farsi, Mandarin, Nepali, Vietnamese, and Spanish. These represent the founding and most commonly spoken languages of our province. Posters are available by request, or at [www.gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw).

## Time to step up. Be ready to prevent violence against women.

How can I be ready to prevent violence against women? There are new local resources available to help Islanders learn how *be ready to step up*. The Advisory Council is proud to have participated in the creation of both of these valuable and important projects.



The *Make It Your Business* video series from PEI Family Violence Prevention Services provides safe violence intervention training for workplaces and the general public. The videos and training materials are available at <http://fvps.ca/makeityourbusiness/>.



The "Microphone" Project is inspired by Kinley Dowling's song "Microphone." Four new health curriculum resources will be available this fall to help teachers engage youth in sexual health education discussions about consent, gender norms, bystander intervention, and sexual assault.



## Resources for Teachers

Again this year, the Purple Ribbon Campaign has produced a resource guide for PEI teachers. The guide includes bilingual handouts for students about what it means to "step up" to help people who experience violence. The guides also include resources on consent and healthy relationships. Resources for teachers focus on trauma-informed teaching and bystander tip-sheets from the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention. The resource guides provide teachers with links to the curriculum outcomes for Grades 7-9 Social Studies, Grade 9 Health, and high-school Family Life. Resources from the teachers' guide are available to anyone by request or can be downloaded from the PEIACSW website, [www.gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw).



## Advisory Council Meetings 2018: Highlights

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women meets six times a year in communities across PEI. At meetings, members focus on issues important to the status of Island women, plan actions to advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and her government, and organize events and publications to raise public awareness.

### January 10, 2018, Cornwall, PEI Community Mental Health

Mari Basiletti's last meeting as chair focused in-depth on community mental health services, continued the discussion of our school dress codes research, and delved into issues related to adoption records. It was also the final meeting for Patti Wheatley and Melissa Mullen.

### March 21, 2018, Cornwall, PEI Welcome New Members

Yvonne Deagle's first meeting as new chair also welcomed new members Susan Sun, Cathy Rose, and Chris MacPhail. Council also invited presentations by valued community partners: Dawn Wilson (Coalition for Women in Government), Eliza MacLauchlan (CLIA PEI), and Jaime Griffin (Women's Network PEI).

### May 7, 2018, Summerside, PEI Report Card Grade-Setting Workshop

In an intensive, consensus-building workshop, Council set draft grades for the Equality Report Card and discussed

and selected the analysis to support the grades in each category.

### June 27, 2018, Cornwall, PEI 2018 Equality Report Card Launch

In a public news conference with guests from community organizations and government, Council members launched the 2018 Equality Report Card. During the meeting portion of the day, Council also made plans for this year's Purple Ribbon Campaign.

### October 3, 2018, Charlottetown, PEI Gender Presentation & Policy Review

Guest speaker Angele DesRoches from PEERS Alliance shared a presentation on gender norms. Council members spent the rest of their meeting time to update and renew the Council and Staff policy handbooks to put our principles into practice.

**Next meeting:** December 6, 2018, in Charlottetown, PEI. Council members will help to coordinate the annual Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.



Members and staff of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women in January 2018.



New members  
Cathy Rose and  
Chris MacPhail.



Some past Chairpersons of the Advisory Council got together in May as a Chairs Circle to make input into the Equality Report Card.

## National Coalition of Advisory Councils 2018 Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia



Some members of the National Coalition with Nova Scotia's Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Hon. Kelly Regan at the 2018 annual meeting in Halifax, NS.

The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women held its annual meeting in Halifax June 5 to 6. The meeting ended with a new partnership between the Coalition and the Canadian Women's Foundation and a renewed commitment to advancing women's leadership in Canada.

The meeting was hosted by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women and participants discussed current challenges in achieving gender equality in our respective provinces and territories, while sharing resources and best practices. Paulette Senior, CEO and president of the Canadian Women's Foundation, was a guest speaker and provided Coalition members with her advice on how women's leadership can strengthen women's voices in Canada. She also discussed the recently formed Gender Equality Network Canada, and their work to develop a national Gender Equality Action Plan.

Michelle Kelly, the Coalition's chair, led the group in a strategic planning discussion and identified next steps and future directions for the Coalition.

"It is incredible to bring together a group of dynamic women to discuss how we can

work collaboratively to ensure women's voices are heard across our country," said Ms. Kelly.

Ms. Kelly is the president of the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women and a partner with Cox & Palmer, practising in commercial and insurance litigation.

The coalition discussed current issues and emerging best practices in supporting women's leadership, addressing harassment and ending gender-based violence. Participants learned about two specific models in Nova Scotia, the domestic violence court program and legal advice for sexual assault survivors.

Ms. Kelly's term as chair of the cCoalition was renewed for one year. The 2019 annual meeting date will be determined by the members of the Coalition in the coming months.



(1) Then-Chairperson Mari Basiletti and Michelle Jay at the January 2018 Women's March. (2) Vice-Chairperson Debbie Langston, Jane Ledwell, and Chairperson Yvonne Deagle at the June 2018 launch of the Equality Report Card. (3) Eileen Conboy, Michelle Jay, Debbie Langston, and Ellie Langston carry the new Feminist Pride banner at the 2018 Charlottetown Pride Parade. (4) Retiring members Melissa Mullen, Mari Basiletti, and Patti Wheatley show off their service awards in January 2018. (5) Participants join hands for a round dance at International Women's Day. (6) Susan Sun was appointed to Council in January and was a wonderful member until a move out of province. (7) Becky Tramley, Yvonne Deagle, and Jane Ledwell in Miminegash, PEI, in July 2018.

## Our 2018 Publications Available On-line

**2018 News Releases and Opinion Pieces**, available at [www.gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw)

- PEI Provincial Government Earns a "B-" for Work on Women's Equality / Le gouvernement provincial reçoit un B- pour son travail en matière d'égalité des femmes (June 27)
- Past Chairs Recognize Community Sector Contributions to Equality / Les anciennes présidentes reconnaissent les contributions du secteur communautaire à l'atteinte de l'égalité (June 20)
- International Women's Day 2018 #HerToo / Journée internationale des femmes 2018 #ElleAussi (March 8)
- Let's Talk: About the Wellness of Mental Health Systems (January 31)

**2018 Publications**, available at [www.gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw)

- *2018 Equality Report Card / Fiche de rendement sur l'égalité 2018 – sommaire* : 2018 marks the 10th anniversary of this PEIACSW project to assess government's progress towards women's equality goals.



## Council Members

Yvonne Deagle, Chairperson, Miminegash  
Debbie Langston, Vice-Chairperson, Blooming Point

Lalana Paul, Treasurer, Melville  
Pamela Montgomery, Summerside  
Madison Blanchard, Charlottetown  
Chris MacPhail, Canoe Cove  
Cathy Rose, Fortune

## Staff

Jane Ledwell, Executive Director  
Michelle Jay, Program Coordinator  
Becky Tramley, Office Manager (p/t)

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## On-line

Subscribe: [newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca](mailto:newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca)  
Website: [www.gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw)  
Videos: [vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen](https://vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen)  
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Got a PSA? The deadline to submit notices is Wednesdays at 4:00 P.M. to [newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca](mailto:newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca). Notices will ordinarily be sent out Thursday afternoon.