

ACTIVITIES UP DATE



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
CONSEIL CONSULTATIF SUR LA SITUATION DE LA FEMME DE
L'ÎLE-DU-PRINCE-ÉDOUARD

Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women



NEW COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is very pleased that the Government of Prince Edward Island

has appointed Debbie Langston of Blooming Point to chair the Council from October 2019 to the end of her term in March 2021. Debbie previously served as Vice-Chairperson.

Debbie and her sisters were raised by their mother in the UK. After leaving school, Debbie worked for the Metropolitan Police Service, where she met her husband Robin. They immigrated to Canada with their young family in 2004. Debbie graduated from the Holland College Child and Youth Care Worker course in 2009 and is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program at UPEI. She has worked in a variety of settings and is currently employed as a Youth Service Worker with the Public Schools Branch. Debbie is a passionate advocate for equality for women and the rights of other marginalized groups.

Debbie is the 20th woman appointed to chair the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women in its 45-year history. She is proud to be the Council's first Black Chairperson.



Yvonne Deagle & Debbie Langston at the Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee.

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE: DEBBIE LANGSTON

I am honoured to be appointed as Chairperson of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and I am looking forward to undertaking the work, pushing forward with our message, and advocating for gender equality for all Islanders.

I am happy my appointment comes in time to lead the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence Against Women, as we prepare for a meaningful December 6th Montreal Massacre Memorial Service to commemorate 30 years since 14 women lost their lives at l'Ecole Polytechnique, just because they were women.

I am likewise looking forward to meeting four newly appointed Council members who will join us at the table.

I would like to thank Council staff, Jane, Michelle, and Becky, and all the women who served on the Council this past year for a successful year of advising government and educating the public on issues that affect the status of PEI women.

I extend special thanks to outgoing Chairperson Yvonne Deagle, who finished her term in September. We weren't able to celebrate her end of term in person due to Hurricane Dorian, so I was pleased to spend time with her at the Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee. Yvonne was a caring, dedicated leader for our Council work.

Wishing everyone warmth and peace as the winter solstice approaches.

Debbie Langston



30

YEARS
ANS
1989-2019

... since the Montreal Massacre.
We remember.
... depuis le massacre de Montreal.
Nous nous rappelons toujours.

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 honour, to reflect, and to act so these murders end.



Charlottetown Memorial Service

12:00 noon, Friday, December 6

Memorial Hall, Confederation Centre of the Arts (venue sponsor), Charlottetown
 Guest Speaker: Dawn Wilson, "Supporting Survivors in PEI: A Remembrance"

More info: 902-368-4510

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Summerside Memorial Service

12:00 noon, Friday, December 6

Presbyterian Church (next to Three Oaks High School)
 130 Victoria Road, Summerside
 More info: 902-436-9856

East Prince Women's Information Centre

PURPLE RIBBON CAMPAIGN 2019-2020

Multilingual Poster

This year's multilingual 11"x17" poster highlights the Purple Ribbon Campaign theme "**Support Survivors: Support the person. Involve the Community. Right the world**" in ten languages.

Translations are from English into French (by Service de traduction du gouvernement de l'Î.-P.-É.); Mi'kmaq (by Thirly Levi); and through PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, into Nepali and Hindi (by Krishna Thakur), Mandarin Chinese (by Alex Yin), Spanish (by Antony Baker), Vietnamese (by Caitlyn Huynh), and Arabic and Farsi (by Fereshteh Shaer).

These represent the founding and most commonly spoken languages of our province. Posters are available by request or at www.gov.pe.ca/acsw. See sample on page 3!

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 support survivors of violence, especially survivors of sexual assault. The guides also include resources on consent and healthy relationships.

Resources for teachers focus on commemorating 30 years since the Montreal Massacre and also highlight resources and opportunities for teachers thanks to 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 at www.gov.pe.ca/acsw.

How to Support Survivors

It is hard to know what to think or say to a friend, family member, co-worker or neighbour who suffers trauma and has no one to turn to, abuse, or harassment (physical and emotional) in our nation except us. By finding the right words and responding with compassion, you can support the person, benefit the community, and right the world. Here are a few ideas to help you support survivors.

SUPPORT THE PERSON

Support survivors by saying...

- I believe you. I am sorry this has happened to you.
- This shouldn't have happened to you. I know it is traumatic to repeat this story. I am listening to you and won't interrupt.
- Whatever you are feeling or expressing is normal, understandable.
- There is no reason for what he did to you. It's not your fault. You could go to the hospital or the police or a women's shelter.
- I will accompany you! You need to go to the hospital or the police or a women's shelter.
- The person who hurt you is responsible, not you. Your story is yours and no one else's. You decide.
- How can I help? What do you need right now? I will be here for you when you are ready to get help.

INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY

Support survivors by saying...

- I respect the confidentiality of people who have trusted me with their stories.
- Violence or abuse against anyone affects everyone. I need to live in a community where people are safe, respected, and treated well. I want to live in a community where people who harm others are held accountable.
- I know I have a role to play. I will do what I can. I know I am part of the solution. What victim serving organizations can I support?
- I will seek out more information from victim-serving organizations. I will educate myself by reading reliable sources of information about violence prevention.
- There is very little someone in my life who has survived violence or its experiencing it now. Statistics say that half the women in my life have experienced trauma from sexual assault or other forms of violence since they turned sixteen.
- Survivors are around me every day, working so hard so they can be stronger than their trauma.

RIGHT THE WORLD

Support survivors by saying...

- Everyone has the right to live without violence. It is not normal to expect violence in your life. A person who uses violence is making a choice. There are always better choices than violence available.
- Violence men need to stop sexually assaulting women and children.
- Violence men need to stop harassing, abusing, and controlling behaviour towards women and children.
- Violence men need to trust women and children with respect and help to keep them safe.
- Violence, abuse, and harassment, especially sexual assault, are always about dominance, power, and control. Greater social equity is always part of the solution to prevent violence.
- Any genuine first step to gaining understanding of the issue and acting accordingly to support survivors is the right step.
- We can all take action to be good bystanders when we see a sign of violence, abuse, and harassment. Small actions can make a big difference, or even save a life.

New this year: How to Support Survivors poster. Available at gov.pe.ca/acsw or by request to 902-368-4510. Bookmarks with purple ribbons are also still available.

2019-2020
 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence
 Campagne du ruban violet contre la violence

Support Survivors
Appui aux survivantes & survivants

Support the person. Involve the community. Right the world.
Appuyons la personne. Rallions la communauté. Redressons le monde.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS 2019: HIGHLIGHTS

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women meets four to 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.

March 9, 2019, Charlottetown, PEI New Members & Council Planning

A February meeting was cancelled due to bad weather, so on March 9, Council members welcomed newly appointed members Caroline MacRae and Gina Younker for a facilitated Council planning session led by Sara Roach-Lewis. Council Executive followed up the session with action-planning later in the month.

May 3, 2019, Montague, PEI Council Collaborations

Chairperson Yvonne Deagle and Council staff members walked through the Council's calendar year with new and continuing members and provided updates on Council's collaborations, coalitions, and partnerships to advance gender equality.

June 28, 2019, Summerside, PEI Renewing the Report Card Model

Council members met in beautiful Summerside and committed to continuing the Equality Report Card project to assess government progress towards gender equality, with a renewed model. Members defined the outlines of the project towards a next Report Card in 2021.

September 7, 2019, by teleconference

Appreciation for the Outgoing Chairperson

Yvonne Deagle's final meeting as Chairperson became a teleconference due to the impending arrival of Hurricane Dorian! Council members thanked Yvonne for her leadership and also thanked outgoing members Madison Blanchard and Pam Schurman-Montgomery whose terms also ended in September. Council members filled in the outlines of the renewed Equality Report Card model and built shared understanding of Council's work towards equity.

Next meeting: December 6, 2019, in Charlottetown, PEI. Council members will help to coordinate the annual Montreal Massacre Memorial Service and will welcome four new members to their first meeting.



Gina Younker and Caroline MacRae joined the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in February 2019.

Barb McDowall, Serena Smith, Gaylene Carragher, and Emily Rutledge joined the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in October 2019.

Apply to be appointed to the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women through the Government of PEI, Engage PEI: www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/executive-council-office/engage-pei



2019 Purple Ribbon multilingual poster.



Interviews with women of three generations and cultural backgrounds, remembering 30 years since the Montreal Massacre. Full interviews available at peiactsw.wordpress.com.



Many hands make light work! Volunteers pin 17,000 purple ribbons to bookmarks each year.



From the top left: 1) Advisory Council on the Status of Women members at the June 2019 Council meeting in Summerside; 2) Hosting a winter program for Family Violence Prevention Week in O'Leary; 3) West Prince in warmer weather! Staff and chair at North Cape; 4) Eight past and current Chairpersons of the Advisory Council attending the annual Chairs Circle in May 2019; 5) A post-hurricane presentation of Yvonne Deagle's service award as outgoing Chairperson; 6) Dr. Olive Bryanton, Debbie Langston, and Yvonne Deagle celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Federation of University Women; 7) A joyful round dance at International Women's Day 2019 celebrations; 8) Showing feminist PRIDE at the Charlottetown 2019 Pride Parade.

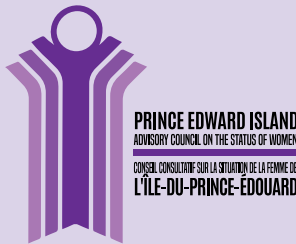
2019 Publications

2019 News Releases and Opinion Pieces

- International Women's Day 2019 - #BalanceforBetter | Journée internationale des femmes 2019 - #BalanceforBetter (March 8)
- Supporting Survivors for an End to Violence Against Women | Appuyer les survivantes pour mettre fin à la violence contre les femmes (to come, December 6)

2019 Submissions to Government Consultations

- Feedback on workplace harassment regulations to accompany Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act (March 1)
- Feedback on the Child and Youth Advocate Act (October 9)
- Feedback on the Consultation Draft Municipal Government Act: Code of Conduct Regulations (October 24)
- Input on the Rules of the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly for the Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges (October 25)



Council Members

Debbie Langston, Chairperson, Blooming Point
 Cathy Rose, Vice-Chairperson, Fortune
 Chris MacPhail, Treasurer, Canoe Cove
 Caroline MacRae, Member, Summerside
 Gina Younker, Member, Cornwall
 Emily Rutledge, Member, Charlottetown
 Gaylene Carragher, Member, Stanhope
 Barb McDowall, Member, Charlottetown
 Serena Smith, Member, Summerside

Staff

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

Contact

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Location

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On-line

Website: www.gov.pe.ca/acsw
 Blog: peiacsw.wordpress.com
 Facebook: [facebook.com/peistatusofwomen](https://www.facebook.com/peistatusofwomen)
 Videos: [vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen](https://www.vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen)
 Twitter: @peiacsw
 Subscribe to e-News: newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca

Weekly e-Newsletter

Receive notices of upcoming events, work and research opportunities, and more. Subscribe at eepurl.com/r-DMn or newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca.

Got a PSA? Weekly deadline to submit notices is Wednesdays at 4:00 P.M. to newsletters@peistatusofwomen.ca. Notices will ordinarily be sent out Thursday afternoon.