



Activities Update

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2009!



Isabelle Christian
Chairperson

The first International Women's Day was marked 100 years ago in the United States. Over the past century, the day has grown to become a truly international celebration, as it recognizes women's ongoing work to improve wages and working conditions, to ensure voting rights and women's political participation, and to extend human rights and women's equality worldwide. In 1975, the United Nations officially fixed International Women's Day on the global calendar on March 8th

each year. This year on Prince Edward Island, International Women's Day events focus on women in the arts. We celebrate the ways that women and their work shape our culture and our heritage. We celebrate the women who have won the freedom on our behalf to have a voice through art, because it was not always so. We celebrate artists who use their creativity to increase equality and equity for all. I invite you to take a moment on March 8th this year to consider all the ways women here and abroad create and re-create the world we share.

Isabelle Christian

RECENT COUNCIL & EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

December 5, 2008, Charlottetown Montreal Massacre Memorial Service

Council members met at Confederation Centre of the Arts, where they also helped prepare for and participate in the service in memory of the Montreal Massacre and other women victims of violence. All Council members played a role in a successful and moving service. In the afternoon, Chairperson Isabelle Christian led a discussion about what kinds of issues women raise when they call the Status of Women office, and how staff members respond to these enquiries. While the Advisory Council is not a front-line service organization, women often call our office as a first step, to get an idea of where to turn, or as a last resort, when they have tried to get help everywhere and have fallen through all the cracks. Most women who call

need legal advice. Many women who call need mental health supports. Many are facing social assistance barriers. Their stories all inform our policy work and influence our recommendations to Government.

February 11, 2009 Council Executive Meeting

The Council Executive (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Treasurer) and staff met to review a new staff handbook, set direction for the Council's budget, and consult with MLA Cynthia Dunsford, on behalf of the caucus of women's MLAs she initiated. Executive members and Cynthia were able to generate good ideas to enhance communications between Council and with women MLAs and to support the work of all the female MLAs.

**Next Full Council Meeting:
March 11, 2009, Wellington**

2009 PUBLICATIONS

Equality Report Card Priority Recommendations (January 2009)

A listing of the priority recommendations the PEI Status of Women will assess on this year's Equality Report Card. The recommendations were refined from last year's list and drawn from recommendations made to government by Council over the past eight to ten years.

Notes for Federal Budget Consultations (January 2009)

Notes submitted and presented by the PEI Status of Women at a Town Hall Meeting on the January 2009 Federal Budget. The Town Hall was hosted by Malpeque MP Wayne Easter and Charlottetown MP Shawn Murphy on January 6, 2009 in West Royalty.

Advice to the Public Kindergarten Commissioner (February 2009)

Reflections from the PEI Status of Women on Public Kindergarten Commissioner Pat Mella's public information sessions in preparation for her report on integrating kindergarten into the public school system.

Submission for 2009 Provincial Budget Consultations (February 2009)

A summary of possible budget implications for the 2009 Provincial Budget from the priority recommendations featured in the 2009 Equality Report Card project, and notes to introduce a discussion on gender budgeting.

**Publications are available at
<http://www.gov.peca/acsw>**

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The PEI Status of Women is celebrating another successful Purple Ribbon Campaign and the volunteers who made it possible. We especially thank the more than 170 "poster men" who sent their photos to be displayed in our "Men, Take a Stand with Us" campaign, with their pledges to work to end violence against women and children. The posters were a touching backdrop for the December 5th memorial service recognizing victims of the Montreal Massacre and local victims of violence. Our poster men also went "on tour" during Family Violence Prevention Week in February. They were displayed at the Charlottetown Mall and a Summer-side violence prevention event. The posters were stormed out of their visit to Morell High. East and West Prince expanded on the poster theme and used their own featured displays as part of wider activities to mark Family Violence Prevention Week. In addition to sharing its posters, PEI Status of Women did outreach about violence prevention to local Scouts Canada groups and to participants in the Spud Minor Hockey Tournament.



ATTENTION: ALL PEI WOMEN ARTISTS

We want you to answer our call for submissions for the Women's Work(s) art promotion and fundraiser. The jury-selected art created for Women's Work(s) will thematically reflect the nature, scope and reality of women's work in all its diversity. All fine art work will be considered (i.e., painting, sculpture, photography, textile, printmaking, etc.).



Please include in your submission:

- * Contact information
- * 3-5 good-quality images (JPEG) or photographs of recent art work
- * CV or resume (2 page max)
- * a brief description (50 words max) of the proposed artwork and how it relates to the theme

Deadline for submissions: **March 16**
 Selected artists notified by: **April 1**
 Artwork must be completed by **June 22**
 Artwork will be auctioned **July 12**

Please mail submissions to Women's Work(s) c/o PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, or by email to womensworks@eastlink.ca. More info at womensworks.wordpress.com.

COUNCIL

Isabelle Christian, Chairperson, Stratford
 Andie Bulman, Vice-Chairperson (nominated), Charlottetown
 Sadie MacKenzie, Treasurer, Montague
 Sister Norma Gallant, Wellington
 Pauline Thomson, Canoe Cove
 Gwyn Davies, Gairloch
 Roseanne Sark, Summerside
 Sue Connolly, Charlottetown

STAFF

Lisa Murphy, Executive Director
 Jane Ledwell, Research/Policy
 Becky Tramley, Office Administrator (p/t)
 Sandy Kowalik, Women's Work(s) Artistic Coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website: www.gov.pe.ca/acsw
Blog: peiacsw.wordpress.com



COUNCIL VACANCY: PARTICIPATE IN PEI

The nine members of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women are appointed by provincial Cabinet to serve two- or three-year terms. Cabinet now appoints members of the Advisory Council from among people who apply through the Participate in PEI office. We have one vacancy. To help them meet the Council's mandate to advise government and to educate the public on issues important to women, members receive an honorarium for their participation in Council meetings.

Between meetings, Council members consult on many issues and documents by e-mail and phone. If you wish to be part of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Council staff would be happy to assist you to prepare your application.

PARTICIPATE IN PEI

Telephone: (902) 368-4502
 E-mail: participate@gov.pe.ca
www.gov.pe.ca/eco/participate.php3



WARM CONGRATULATIONS...

... to PEI's new Family Violence and Community Development Coordinator, Dr. Wendy Verhoek-Oftedahl. Welcome to the Island!



Celebrate International Women's Day!

Join us to recognize *Leaders Among Us: Champions in the Arts*.

Date: Sunday, March 8, 2009

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: Georgian Room, Charlottetown Hotel

All welcome ~ No Charge

Panel discussion, guest performances, and a reception to follow. For more information, call Marian at 902.892.2610 or Lisa at 902.368.4510.