Chairperson's message

Welcome to our spring and summer Activities Update! It sure feels good to have the sun’s warmth once again. Time marches on and since this is my swan song, I want to say it has been an honour for me to serve as Chairperson for the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women for the past three years. My term was a very rewarding and enlightening experience.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Advisory Council’s new Chairperson, Kirstin Lund, and Vice-Chairperson, Jackie MacNeill Doiron. I know they will serve Island women well during their mandate.

A welcome as well to new Council members Elaine Rabinowitz and June Sencabaugh. You will learn more about our three new members in this issue. Jackie MacNeill Doiron and Joan Savage have also been re-appointed for additional two-year terms. At the same time, Council bids a fond farewell to Council member Darlene Peters of Souris who finished her term in November 2002. And, we are sad to share that the Council’s Vice-Chairperson Inge Blackett died in December. She was a vibrant member and is greatly missed.

Be sure to drop by the office sometime to view the artwork displayed in our front window. At the present time, we are delighted to have a Dale McNevin print entitled “Her Name is...” with an accompanying poem, “a.k.a. Angelica Rose” by Margie Carmichael. This initiative is a work in progress that will feature the talents of Island women and celebrate women in arts and culture in Prince Edward Island.

As this is my last Activities Update as Chairperson and Council member, I choose to share some reflections of my tenure. You will find my “Retrospective” included in this mailing. I will miss the work being done on equality issues very much, but I will carry with me all that I have learned and always do my best to support women to reach their full potential in PEI.

Farewell.
Kirstin Lund was recently appointed for a three-year term. Kirstin has been a faculty member of UPEI’s Centre for Conflict Resolution Studies since 1998, teaching courses in mediation, communication skills and restorative justice. Since leaving the practice of law in 1996, she has coordinated many projects concerning conflict resolution and woman abuse prevention. Kirstin has served on several boards related to the advancement of the status of women including Women’s Network PEI, Transition House Association and the PEI Crime Prevention Association.

June Sencabaugh is past president of the Northumberland Minor Hockey Association and a former Village Commissioner for Murray River. She is also appointed for a three-year term as Council member. June is a very active member of the Northumberland Recreation Association, a founding member of the Montague Figure Skating Association, and is involved with the new community Eagles View Golf Course. She worked many years with Island Tel as a service representative and is presently retired. June is a recent recipient of the Queen’s Jubilee Medal.

Elaine Rabinowitz, appointed for a three-year term, is a Registered Nurse and works with Community Mental Health in Summerside. She is a founding and current member of the East Prince Committee on Family Violence, a member of the Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee and a previous board member of Transition House Association. Elaine also contributed to the board of the PEI Multicultural Association and was active in Home and School and Guiding.

In memory of...

Inge Blackett was appointed to the Advisory Council in 1998 and served as Vice-Chairperson. Her contributions to Council were significant. Her commitment to women’s equality was always present. Inge shared her knowledge and experience on many of the Advisory Council’s issues including seniors, health care and education. Her compassion for others was reflected in her tireless volunteer efforts in the community. Inge died in December 2002. She will be missed.

Rosemary Faulkner served as a Council member for two and a half years and was appointed in January 1998. Rosemary worked with the Canadian Mental Health Association, PEI Division and PEI Self-Help Clearing House. She chaired the advisory panel for the Atlantic Breast Cancer Information Project, facilitated by the Breast Cancer Network and was actively involved with the PEI Pottery Studio. Rosemary died in February 2003.
The 10th Annual **EQUALITY Recognition Awards** were held as part of International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations on Friday, March 7, 2003 at the Arts Guild in Charlottetown.

The 2003 winners were:

**Individual**

~ Marlene Bryenton has spent her life working on programs and projects close to her heart that support women living with breast cancer.

**Organization or Group**

~ L'Acadie c'matin, the French morning radio program, produced by Radio-Canada, brings awareness of and actively promotes activities important for women such as the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence, IWD, and family violence.

**Employer**

~ Kevin O'Brien/ Island Services Network - Kevin’s respectful approach to women employees’ ambitions and family responsibilities helps them to achieve their leadership and management potential. He exemplifies the qualities women appreciate in an employer.

**Lifetime Achievement**

~ Anne Marie Perry is known as a leader, innovator, mentor, businesswoman, and mother. She has made a significant impact at the local, regional, provincial and national level. During Anne Marie’s term on the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, she was instrumental in developing policy recommendations such as pension reform, pay equity, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

**Special Recognition - Women in Sport**

~ **Becoming an Outdoors-Woman®** BOW is an international outdoor education program designed especially for women. The program is driven by volunteers who believe that women should have access to the skills and knowledge, along with the joy associated with being in the outdoors.

---

**International Women’s Day Cabaret - A Celebration of Women and Song**

No politics. No fundraising. No hidden agendas. Just fun, laughter, good company, delicious food, and great music. Thanks to a grant from the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health (ACEWH), the Advisory Council was able to host a very memorable IWD celebration in 2003. Twenty-four talented Island musicians took the stage at the Arts Guild Hall on Saturday, March 8 to entertain a capacity crowd that was filled with high spirits and positive energy. Thanks to ACEWH for helping Island women relax and celebrate themselves for an evening!
Early Childhood Care and Education Policy Guide
Did you know that:

- Canada is one of the only industrialized countries without a national child care program?
- 83% of all mothers with young children on PEI work outside the home?
- 40% of all Island early childhood educators would choose another, better paying career if given another opportunity to do so?

The lack of commitment to providing universal and quality care and education to pre-school children means that, as the consumers and providers of market-driven services, women face considerable barriers to their equality and to their full and active participation in society. Right now, early childhood care and education is all but invisible in the public consciousness. A recent federal/provincial/territorial funding agreement signed by the Province of PEI may signal that it is time to get updated on this long-standing issue.

The Advisory Council has prepared a policy guide on issues related to early childhood care and education. There has been considerable feedback from the community and a public release is scheduled for June 25. For copies of the guide or to discuss the issue, please call the office.

Women and Unpaid Work Policy Guide
The Advisory Council publicly released this policy guide on Women and Unpaid Work as part of its January Council meeting. The recommendations have been shared with Minister Responsible Pat Mella, Elmer MacFadyen, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs and Premier Pat Binns. Council specifically requested that the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs sponsor a public education and awareness campaign on women and unpaid work; and, also conduct a participatory study that measures and analyzes contributions being made by Island women to the Island’s three main industries - tourism, farming, and fishing. A copy of the guide and support materials are included in this mailing.
Complementary Medicine ~ Healthcare Options for Women . . .
Following up on requests from women during our consultations for the Women’s Health Policy Guide, Council staff organized a series of information sessions coordinated by Daniel Schulman, a Charlottetown acupuncturist. Eight sessions were held weekly during the winter months, with wonderful feedback from the audiences. The sessions focused on Naturopathy, Homeopathy, Acupuncture, Reflexology, Osteopathy, Brennan Healing Science and Massage Therapy.

Lacey House . . . On April 3, 2003, Council staff members attended an Open House at the new location for Lacey House, a long-term residential treatment program for women recovering from addictions. Staff and program participants seem pleased to be back in the community, but it is noteworthy that the facility is now operating with three fewer beds than in its previous location.

Removing Provincial Tax from Feminine Hygiene Products . . . In recent months, Council requested that Pat Mella, Provincial Treasurer and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, remove the sales tax from feminine hygiene products. This would address “gender-based taxation.” The Manitoba Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Diane McGifford, announced last year that her province was removing it. Taxing essential and necessary products used exclusively by women is unfair and discriminatory. Removing the tax would benefit all women at some point in their lives, but the effort would be particularly beneficial to low-income women who have no choice but to purchase these products. If you would like to add your voice to this request, contact your MLA or Minister Mella directly. Call the office for more information.

Bradley Sentencing . . . Council members attended the sentencing for Barry Bradley in March 2003 and were witness to an inspired judgment by Justice Campbell. As you know, Council has an interest in the justice system and how it functions in cases of family violence. PEI can be proud of this precedent-setting decision.
2002 Advisory Council Bursary Winners ~ Tammy MacDonald in the UPEI Nursing Program received one of the Advisory Council's bursaries as well as Sharon Laybolt in the Medical Support Services Program at Holland College. Congratulations!

New Bursary . . . Council will be instituting a new annual bursary in 2003/2004 in memory of Inge Blackett, former Advisory Council Vice-Chairperson. It will be introduced in the fall of 2003 with a November 15 deadline.

Southern Kings Group Home Workers Still on Strike . . . Council staff members Heidi Rankin and Patricia MacAulay joined the Federation of Labour to celebrate International Women's Day with the strikers from CUPE Local 3373 in Montague on March 8, 2003. These five women have been on strike for fair wages and working conditions since May 29, 2002. Council staff reminded the striking women that IWD originated with women's labour action in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Then, they presented the striking women with copies of Council's 2003 IWD promotional materials that contained graphic representations of the earlier strikes and the current strike at the Southern Kings Group Home. Everyone in attendance appreciated the irony!

Moving On...A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship . . .
This free publication has already had a second printing of 2,000 more copies! If you do not have one yet or would like an additional copy to pass along, call the office at 368-4510.

Community Notice

All welcome for a non-denominational Labyrinth Walk
7 pm - 10 pm on Friday, June 6, 2003
10 am - 6 pm on Saturday, June 7, 2003
Spring Park (United Church Auditorium
Charlottetown, PEI

"Come with an open mind and open heart"

For more information, contact Dianne Porter at 892-4923 or porter@islandtelecom.com
The national coalition logo created by Lisa Murphy of PEI is inspired by the beauty and practicality of quilt making, a product of traditional women's work. The actual bird shape is drawn from a quilt block entitled "Flying Swallows" created by Naomi Parkhurst. In the logo there are thirteen birds united in flight representing the coexistence of Canada's individual and diverse provinces and territories as they strive to advance the status of women together. The circular flight pattern features the letter "C" for Coalition. There is an upward elevation in the flight of the swallows which depicts the aim of the Coalition to build on past equity work and raise the status of girls and women onward and upward toward equality.

Royal Commission on the Status of Women

While the structure of such a commission is undetermined, there is certainly a ground swell of interest in the need for re-examining the status of women in Canada. The Coalition of Provincial & Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women continues its efforts in this area and have prepared drafts of support materials for discussion purposes in the community and with government leaders. Letters of support have been sent from many provinces, endorsed by Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women as well as Senators, MPs and in some cases, Premiers. The Advisory Council will be meeting with Island women and women's groups beginning in June, to discuss the idea and potential formats for sharing the voices of grassroots women on issues near and dear to their lives and hearts.

CONGRATULATIONS!! TO THE...

PEI Humane Society . . . The Advisory Council would like to publicly congratulate the PEI Humane Society for temporarily housing pets belonging to women staying at Anderson House. This demonstrates their understanding of the link between animal cruelty and violence against women and children. Women who are victims of family violence have indicated they sometimes do not seek safe shelter because they fear for the safety of a pet left behind. For more information, call Heather Irving at 892-1190.

PEI Women Do Math and Science Project . . . The Advisory Council initiated and sponsored this project from 1991-1998. Susan Hume, CA recently earned her designation as a chartered accountant. Council was delighted to hear Susan say she was inspired originally by a female chartered accountant as part of the Women Do Math and Science Project when she was in grade seven. It is not always possible to track the students who participated and monitor the impact of such an initiative. However, Susan herself attributes her interest directly to the project! Congratulations Susan!
• **Rape/Sexual Assault Crisis Centre** needs your help! Please join its team of volunteers! If you are interested in helping out, twelve sessions of training will begin soon for women who would like to volunteer on the crisis/support line. Contact new Coordinator, Janet Marshall at 566-1864.

• **Fifteenth Annual Summer Programs**, June 27 - July 4, 2003 & July 6 - 13, 2003, at the Belcourt Centre, South Rustico. The program includes bioenergetic exercise, bioenergetic group process, Tai Chi, spirituality sessions, individual therapy, massage, and play sessions with writing and dance. For further information and to register, visit http://www.isn.net/bioenergetics; bdoyle@isn.net; or 894-3244.

• **MAD AND NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE?** Seen any ads or programs that make you mad? As an audience member and a consumer, your opinion matters and your complaints can make a difference. In 2002, the Advertising Standards Council of Canada reviewed more complaints for Unacceptable Depictions and Portrayals than any other category - 753. Send your complaints to: **Print and television advertisements** - Advertising Standards Council of Canada, 350 Bloor Street East, Suite 402, Toronto, ON, M4W 1H5; Tel: (416) 961-6311; Fax: (416) 961-7904. **Television programs and advertisements** - Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, Box 3265, Station D, Ottawa, ON, K1P 6H8; Tel: (613) 233-4607; Fax: (613) 238-1734; **Complaint Form** - E-mail, radio, televised or internet content: CRTC (Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission), Ottawa, ON, K1A 0N2; Toll-free: 1-877-249-2782; Fax: (819) 994-0218.

---

**We want to hear from you...**
The Advisory Council office is located on the 1st floor of 9 Queen Street, Charlottetown. Drop by, call 368-4510, email peiacsw@isn.net or contact the nearest Council member:

**Council:**
- Patricia Roy
  - Chairperson
  - Ellerslie
  - 831-2088
- Maxine Ellis
  - West Cape
  - 859-1425
- Joan Savage
  - Summerside
  - 436-8773
- Valerie Smallman
  - O’Leary, 859-1258
- Wendy MacLaren

**Morell,** 961-2331

**Staff:**
- Heidi Rankin
  - Director
- Becky Tramley
  - Administrative Assistant
- Cheryl J. Dalziel
  - Communications Coordinator
- Patricia MacAulay
  - Researcher/Policy Analyst

---

**The Minister Responsible for the Status of Women is:**
- Hon. Pat Mella

**Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women**
- PO Box 2000
- Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
- Tel: 902 368 4510
- Fax: 902 368 4516
- Email: peiacsw@isn.net
- Website: www.gov.pe.ca/acsw

**HAPPY SUMMER!!**