



**ACTIVITIES OF THE
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020

ABOUT THE COVER ART



Mother of All Crows
by Gail Rhyno

Artist Statement: “I am a self-taught painter working in acrylics, influenced by Folk Art and Modern Expressionism. I often begin my process with an under painting of sorts, something that creates texture or simply starts an undirected flow of creativity. While I do usually have an idea of the focal point of a piece, I do not plan out the entire scene but rather let it evolve as I paint, sometimes painting over a scene multiple times to achieve the finished product.”

About the painting: “Most of my work at this time centres on creating scenes with large birds, moments in time that create a story or attempt to form an intimate connection between the bird and the viewer. ‘Mother of all Crows’ is one of those pieces where I pulled from my love of stories where large birds play a role in folklore or fantasy, as guardians or protectors. A large ‘otherworldly’ bird, creating a sense of peace and tranquility as it moves above the world below.”

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



Tel: 902 368 4510
<http://www.peistatusofwomen.ca>
info@peistatusofwomen.ca

Advisory Council on the
Status of Women

PO Box 2000
Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island
Canada C1A 7N8



June 2020

Hon. Natalie Jameson
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Jameson:

I am pleased to present you with the 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements and a summary of the Advisory Council's activities, publications, projects, and collaborations with government and the community from April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020. The Advisory Council continues to play a very important role in both community and government-supported initiatives.

I was pleased in October 2019 to be appointed as Chairperson and to carry on the work begun by Yvonne Deagle, the previous chair, who completed her maximum term on Council in September 2019. Thank you, Yvonne.

During the year I had the pleasure of meeting via memo with you as Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to update you of our participation on government consultations, Council concerns regarding emerging issues, and violence prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also discussed the dynamics of our Council, our projects, and our members. Some of the highlights of the year included the review of the Equality Report Card process and revision of the template in June 2019, under the leadership of Yvonne Deagle, Council Chair at the time. In August 2019, I participated as Vice-Chair in consultations on the role of the Child Advocate. Also as Vice-Chair, alongside Yvonne, we participated in the 100th anniversary of the national and local Canadian Federation of University Women. As Chairperson, I was also happy to spend two lovely evenings in support of non-governmental organizations who carry out vital work on PEI. The Women's Network PEI fundraiser took place in November and Community Legal Information's 35th-anniversary celebration was held in January 2020.

The 30th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre gave us all an opportunity to reflect on the challenges that women and society still face. The unveiling of commissioned artwork by Indigenous artist Patricia Bourque to commemorate the event was particularly poignant. February was a busy month with many important events taking place. In particular, the launch of Family Violence Prevention Week and participating in a short video series created by the Province to promote it. Later in the month, I had the honour of presenting to the House Standing Committee on Health and Social Development and presenting as a guest speaker for the Black Cultural Society of PEI at two events. March is always an exciting time as we host International Women's Day celebrations. This year was exceptional and we are grateful to you as Minister and the Lieutenant Governor for attending to mark the occasion when we celebrate all that women are and reflect on the work still to be done to achieve gender equality.

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Chairperson's message, continued

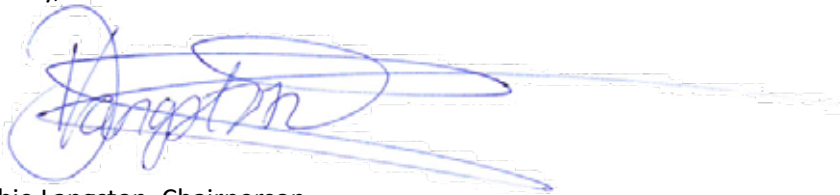
As Chairperson of the Advisory Council, I am responsible for chairing our regular meetings, attending staff meetings, and check-ins with staff with regular frequency. This close collaborative process ensures the Council continues to function in an effective manner and that the work undertaken is supported by all of its members. As part of our policy advisory function, the Advisory Council often makes submissions to government from a gender perspective. The Province requested public input on numerous topics, and I was happy to ensure Council provided feedback on topics including, among others, sexual violence policies at post-secondary institutions, Health PEI's strategic plan, the rules of the Legislative Assembly, family law reforms related to children, and the Residential Tenancy Act.

Finally, I have written several opinion pieces regarding issues that affect women in the province. The op-eds have been published in the Guardian and posted on the Advisory Council on the Status of Women Facebook and website, which was newly launched at the end of the year at a new address, www.peistatusofwomen.ca.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank Advisory Council staff, Jane and Michelle and Becky, for another year of dedication and for their flexibility transitioning to teleworking in March as public health restrictions came into place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They have ensured Council members were well supported and that work could continue to advance Council's mandate, which is more important than ever as the pandemic reveals stark systemic inequalities.

I look forward to the coming year as Chairperson of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women navigating the new ways we must work together in a time of the global pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Langston', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Debbie Langston, Chairperson

CONTENTS

ABOUT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL	4
Vision, Mission, and Mandate	4
Council Meetings & Strategic Planning	5
Advisory Council Members	6
Advisory Council Staff	10
ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT: POLICY & RESEARCH	11
Equality Report Card	11
Other Research & Policy Work	12
Meetings & Correspondence with Government	13
PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION	14
Newsletters & Activities Updates	14
New Media & Social Media	14
Media	16
Inquiries & Referrals	17
ENGAGEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY	18
Community Consultations	18
Chairs Circle 2019	19
Community Events	20
Partnerships	22
LEADERSHIP IN ANNUAL EVENTS	25
Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence	25
International Women's Day – March 8	28
Bursaries for Women	29
Commemorative Art Commission	29
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	30

Vision, Mission, and Mandate

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEIACSW) is an arm's-length government-appointed Council.

Nine Council members are selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality and who represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity.

The Council believes that women's equality is the foundation for equality for all people. Women's inequality continues to influence discriminatory attitudes and actions that affect our society and culture, our politics and laws, and our economies.

Council believes that women's independent social and economic security is key to equality and to freedom from physical, emotional, and sexual violence.

The Advisory Council began in 1975 as a Minute-in-Council. In 1988, it received full legislative standing with the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act. This Act continues to govern the Council's structure and mandate.

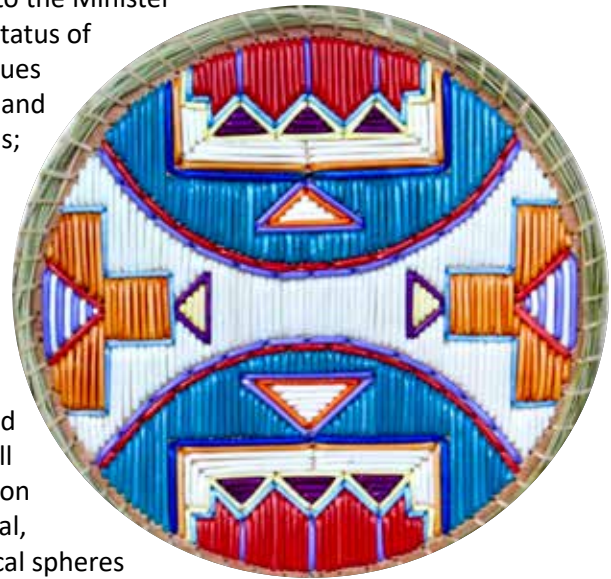
Vision: Working for gender equality for all Islanders

Mission

Promoting changes of attitude within the Prince Edward Island community and advising government to achieve equality in legislation, policies, and programs.

With a commitment to feminist principles and process, the PEIACSW:

- serves as an advisor to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women regarding issues facing Island women and girls and their families;
- serves as a liaison between the community and the provincial government on matters related to equality;
- works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life;
- promotes social justice for vulnerable populations, including senior women, Indigenous women, low-income women, women of colour, Francophone women, women with disabilities, women who identify as 2SLGBTQ+, and others;
- conducts research and offers recommendations to government, collaborators and partners to promote equality;
- provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about the status of women and their families;
- works in collaboration with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils.



"Ma'kit," quillwork by Melissa Peter Paul, a Mi'kmaq woman from the Abegweit First Nation, located in Epekwitk (PEI). Melissa launched her professional career as a quill artist with her first solo exhibit in Charlottetown in 2019.

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women acknowledges all women-identifying people in our understanding of "women," including cis women, trans women, and gender minorities.

Council Meetings & Strategic Planning

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is mandated to meet at least four times per year. At meetings, Council members share experiences, knowledge, and understanding of issues. They discuss and decide on policy priorities and recommendations to government. They meet with government officials or community organizations or both. They invite resource people who offer opportunities for learning and analysis.

Council's strategic planning processes are ongoing. The goal of Council planning is to ensure that Council's policy work is based on Council's priorities and that Council looks to the future on issues of concern to women. Ensuring ongoing follow-up on issues is part of Council planning. Council sets its objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process, with expert facilitation whenever this is possible.



Outgoing Chairperson Yvonne Deagle and incoming Chairperson Debbie Langston at the 2019 Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee.

Advisory Council Meetings & Highlights, 2019–2020:

- **163rd meeting: 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.
- **164th meeting: June 28, 2019, Summerside, PEI**
Renewing the Equality 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.
- **165th meeting: September 7, 2019, by teleconference, PEI**
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.
- **166th meeting: December 6, 2019, Charlottetown, PEI**
Montreal Massacre Memorial Service
During Debbie Langston's first meeting as Chairperson and joined by new members Gaylene Carragher, Barb McDowall, Emily Rutledge, and Serena Smith, Council members helped to coordinate the 30th-anniversary Montreal Massacre Memorial Service. Council also approved planned input into the regulations of the *Post-Secondary Institutions Sexual Violence Policy Act*.
- **167th meeting: January 18, 2020, Charlottetown, PEI**
Council Planning Retreat
Council members participated in a retreat-style day, with planning and priority-setting facilitated by Sara Roach-Lewis, a Tai Chi demonstration by practitioners in the community, and opportunities to get to know each other and Council's history and past and ongoing projects, especially the Equality Report Card planned for 2021.
- **168th meeting: March 6, 2020, Cornwall, PEI**
Partnerships and Policy Consultations
The Council reviewed partnerships with community organizations and in networks and coalitions and planned for Council input into government consultations on topics such as proposed family law changes with respect to children and the *Residential Tenancy Act*, as well as emerging issues such as equitable access to French immersion programs and extending the ban on conversion therapy to people of all ages.

ABOUT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory Council Members



Debbie Langston, Blooming Point — Chairperson (from October 2019)

Council term: 22 March 2016 to 22 March 2021

Chairperson term: 29 October 2019 to 22 March 2021

Vice-Chairperson term: 23 January 2018 to 29 October 2019

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. 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.



Yvonne Deagle, Miminégash — Chairperson (to September 2019)

Council term: 9 September 2014 to 9 September 2019

Vice-Chairperson term: 20 September 2016 to 22 January 2018

Chairperson term: 23 January 2018 to 9 September 2019

Yvonne is semi-retired from the French School Board (*La Commission scolaire de langue française de l'IPE*) and is an active volunteer on numerous boards of Acadian and Francophone community organizations. She has a background as a municipal councillor and administrator and has also worked in accounting. Yvonne has great energy and a hearty sense of humour. She is the mother of two grown children, grandmother of five, and great-grandmother of three. Yvonne lives with her husband in Miminégash.



Cathy Rose, Fortune — Vice-Chairperson (from October 2019)

Council term: 23 January 2018 to 23 January 2021

Vice-Chairperson term: 29 October 2019 to 23 January 2021

Cathy Rose owned and operated Creative Esthetics Dental Lab for 23 years. She then went on to become a Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) and following that, obtained her Executive Masters in Business (MBA). She worked for 10 years in disability management, the last five of which were at UPEI as Coordinator of Accessibility Services. Cathy is currently working in the area of capacity building for rural and Indigenous communities. She also runs a small home-based dental lab business. Cathy is the VP of the PEI Business Women's Association and a volunteer at her local Community Centre. She enjoys time at the cottage with her husband, three daughters, three stepsons, and their families.



Chris MacPhail, Canoe Cove — Treasurer (from October 2019)

Council term: 23 January 2018 to 23 January 2021

Chris MacPhail has been an active volunteer with Indigenous organizations since her teens, when she was a youth representative on the Native Women's Association of Canada. She is currently a Zone 2 director of the Native Council of PEI. She is also enrolled as a student at Holland College. Chris is a mother of three, including a daughter, Danelle, with Down Syndrome. She is also a grandmother. Chris is a dedicated advocate for children and youth with different abilities and a strong voice on environmental issues.

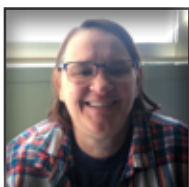
Advisory Council Members, continued



Caroline MacRae, Summerside — Member

Council term: 19 February 2019 to 19 February 2022

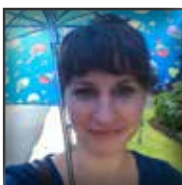
Caroline MacRae grew up in Charlottetown and spent several years teaching overseas in South Korea and Guyana. Within Canada she has worked on a youth advocacy project through the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre and Sexual Assault Services Association, as well as nursing at a remote hospital in Haida Gwaii, BC. She is currently working as a Registered Nurse in Summerside. In addition to her work on the Advisory Council she serves on the boards of PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre and PEI Family Violence Prevention Services.



Regina "Gina" Younker, Cornwall — Member

Council term: 19 February 2019 to 19 February 2022

Regina (Gina) Younker is an Islander by choice; she has lived in Prince Edward Island for over 30 years and is currently in the process of becoming a Canadian citizen. Gina is a local anti-poverty advocate who is especially passionate about improving choices for women, mothers, and children experiencing poverty. Gina has been involved with the Adventure Group, and Women's Network PEI (specifically the Paths to Prosperity project). Currently, she represents PEI as a board member of the national anti-poverty organization Canada Without Poverty. Gina also serves on PEI's Poverty Reduction Advisory Council in addition to her appointment as an ACSW member, and she previously served on the Provincial Housing Council. Gina lives with her dog Morgan in Cornwall, PEI. She is the proud mother of three grown children and grandmother to Savannah, Spencer and Stella.



Emily Rutledge, Charlottetown — Member

Council term: 29 October 2019 to 29 October 2022

Emily is a single mom who works outside the home as a Career Counsellor. She has lived in the Maritimes most of her adult life. Originally from Toronto, she moved to Halifax to study art and crept further east to complete a psychology undergrad at UPEI. She moved on to do a Masters in Community Psychology and another in Counselling and is now happy to call the Island her home. Working as a Career Counsellor has afforded her the opportunity to be an ear to the realities Islanders face on a daily basis. She is passionate about supporting the mental health of Islanders and is a longstanding member of the Abortion Rights Network.



Serena Smith, Summerside — Member

Council term: 29 October 2019 to 29 October 2022

Serena is originally from PEI, but grew up across Canada. She returned to PEI to begin her career as a lawyer with McLellan Brennan in Summerside. She has a social work degree and is a registered social worker. Serena is passionate about social entrepreneurship and the equality of women and marginalized groups, which is reflected in her various volunteer positions. In addition to her work on the Advisory Council, she currently serves on the Board of the PEI Literacy Alliance.

ABOUT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory Council Members, continued



Gaylene Carragher, Stanhope — Member

Council term: 29 October 2019 to 29 October 2022

Gaylene is very honoured and excited to be working as a member of Council. She is a mother to three children, is married, and lives in Stanhope. She has worked at Holland College for twenty-two years and taught sessionally at UPEI for ten years. She is currently the Director of International Business Development at Holland College. Her educational background includes an MEd, and MBA, and a diploma in human resources—she is a lifelong learner!



Barb McDowall, Charlottetown — Member

Council term: 29 October 2019 to 29 October 2022

Barb McDowall describes herself as a New Paradigm spiritual renegade. She offers values-based, bigger picture perspective reflected in conscious thought, word and action. Her energy is intentionally grounded in boundless joy and unconditional love. Barb is a conscious living and dying coach, and a PEI Marriage Commissioner.



Pamela Schurman-Montgomery, Summerside — Member

Council term: 20 September 2016 to 20 September 2019

Pam Schurman-Montgomery has spent most of her life living in Summerside, initially working in her family's business and recently serving as the Executive Director of Downtown Summerside Inc. Pam has a BA from Acadia and most recently an Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from UPEI. She has volunteered with several not-for-profit organizations over the years, serving a term as President of the PEI Home and School Federation and on the Board of Community Connections Inc. Pam is a committed advocate for the rights and needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities. She shares a home with her husband, two nearly grown boys, and a couple of lovable canines.



Madison Blanchard, Charlottetown — Member

Council term: 20 September 2016 to 20 September 2019

Madison Blanchard completed her college diploma in print journalism at Holland College in 2015 and is currently working towards her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism at UPEI. She is passionate about women's reproductive rights and is outspoken about the perspective young women bring to sexuality and gender expression. Madison lives, works, and plays in downtown Charlottetown.

Advisory Council Members, continued

Council Member Highlights & Changes, 2019–2020:

Members of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women are appointed by Executive Council, selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Women self-nominate for inclusion through the "Engage PEI" program.

Members usually represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity, including groups such as young, LGBTQ+, Indigenous, Francophone, disabled, low-income, and racialized women, newcomer women, and senior women. Council members are appointed for two- and three-year terms and may serve a maximum total of five years.

In September 2019, Chairperson Yvonne Deagle ended her maximum term after five years on Council. Madison Blanchard and Pam Schurman-Montgomery each retired after a three-year term. All received service awards for their contributions to Council work.

In October 2019, Debbie Langston was appointed Chairperson and Cathy Rose Vice-Chairperson. Four wonderful new members were appointed: Gaylene Carragher, Barb McDowall, Emily Rutledge, and Serena Smith.



Council staff presented Yvonne Deagle with her service award in the fall of 2019.



All nine Council members at the December 2019 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.



Gina Younker, Chris MacPhail, Madison Blanchard, Cathy Rose, Debbie Langston, Caroline MacRae, and Yvonne Deagle at the June 2019 Council meeting in Summerside.

ABOUT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory Council Staff

The Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time permanent staff members in 2019–2020.



Jane Ledwell — Executive Director

Jane joined Council staff in June 2004 and has been Executive Director since September 2012. She works full-time.

Jane grew up in rural PEI and studied English literature at Mt. Allison University in New Brunswick and the University of Waikato in New Zealand. A writer and editor in her spare time, she has published three books of poetry and has contributed to a number of other books, with a special focus on historical women writers connected to PEI. Prior to working with the PEIACSW, Jane worked at UPEI as a teacher and with the research- and policy-focused Institute of Island Studies. Jane lives in Charlottetown with her family.



Michelle Jay — Program Coordinator

Michelle was hired as Program Coordinator in September 2012 and works full-time.

Michelle is a proud Mom, a proud lesbian, and a proud social justice activist. She has identified as a feminist and an advocate for racial and cultural inclusion since her teen years. Michelle grew up in Indigenous communities in Manitoba and Zambia, and volunteered with refugees in Guatemala and Mexico as a young adult. Her formal post-secondary education was from Mt. Allison University and UPEI, where she eventually received a BA in Psychology. She has called PEI “home” with varying degrees of (dis) comfort since the mid-80’s. Michelle lives with her daughter in Charlottetown.



Becky Tramley — Office Manager

Becky joined Council staff in October 1986 and works part-time as Office Manager.

Becky joined Council staff full-time in October 1986 and has worked part-time since 1993. She has served in a number of administrative roles over thirty years and is the Council’s living institutional memory. Becky grew up in Nova Scotia and PEI and is the youngest of seven children brought up in a mother-led family. Her studies have included attendance at UPEI and Holland College. She lives in Charlottetown with her husband and two cats.

Staff and Chair Development, 2019–2020:

- The staff and chairperson meet regularly to plan and review their work and to take opportunities for team-building together.
- This year, the ED followed up on leadership training with regularly scheduled dedicated planning time.
- Jane, Michelle, and Chairperson Yvonne all completed Women’s and Gender Equality Canada’s GBA+ training certification, as did some Council members. Michelle provided an introduction to the training for Council members at the June 2019 Council meeting.
- Chairperson Yvonne completed a collaborative conflict resolution course (May and June)
- Becky received some individualized photography training (November 4)
- Workshops put on by community or government listed under consultations and events are often training and learning opportunities.



Becky Tramley, Yvonne Deagle, Jane Ledwell, and Michelle Jay at North Cape, PEI, during the summer of 2019.

Equality Report Card

In a variety of forms, Council makes recommendations to government for changes in policy and legislation to benefit the lives of Island women, girls, and their families. The Equality Report Card assesses the PEI government's progress towards implementing recommendations related to women's equality. Council released a pilot Report Card in 2008. Subsequent Equality Report Cards were published in 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2018. The Equality Report Card follows up on recommendations and advice made by the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women through the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and other officials in correspondence, briefings, submissions, and meetings, either independently or in partnership with equality-seeking organizations.

Preparing for a Next Equality Report Card:

- Council members deliberated in June 2019 and decided to continue the Equality Report Card with a new assessment model, designed to make government's work in reporting and Council's work in assessing progress simpler and more transparent. The new model will focus on sustaining equality measures PEI has achieved and will also reward new progress towards equality.
- In September 2019, Council members workshopped category statements and finalized the list of equality goals they would like to see sustained and will assess.
- In March 2020, Debbie Langston presented the new model to Minister Natalie Jameson. In light of the uncertainty created by the global pandemic, all timelines for the next Equality Report Card will be revisited in coming months.



Ten years of Report Cards, 2008 to 2018.

Leaders' Forum on Women's Issues:

- The April 4, 2019, pre-election Leaders' Forum on Women's Issues hosted by the PEI Coalition for Women in Government and the Holland College Student Union drew all its pre-planned themes and questions from the 2018 Equality Report Card, and all leaders received a copy of the 2018 report prior to the forum.
- The event was live-tweeted on Twitter from the @peiactsw account, and, on the Forum Facebook livestream, the Program Coordinator posted summaries for each question from the Equality Report Card, outlining what we would hope to hear in leaders' responses.
- Council Executive Director Jane Ledwell served as moderator of the forum (see photo to the left), Chairperson Yvonne Deagle posed a question with Women's Network's Jill Kilfoil (see photo at centre), and Program Coordinator Michelle Jay managed the microphone for the open Q&A period (see photo at right, with Elder Judy Clark posing a question).



Other Research & Policy Work

Whenever possible, the Advisory Council submits briefs to public consultations on issues of concern to women and families. Council's submissions build on past policy recommendations to government. They are developed in consultation with Council members and often include consultation with community members or organizations.



Video still from a presentation by Debbie Langston and Jane Ledwell to the Standing Committee on Health and Social Development in February 2020. Credit: Legislative Assembly of PEI.

Highlights of Other Research & Policy Work, 2019–2020:

- **Participation in Provincial Consultations**

Women's Corrections: The Program Coordinator participated in a stakeholder consultation on the new Women's Corrections Unit being built at Sleepy Hollow (August 5).

Post-Secondary Institutions Sexual Violence Policies Act Regulations: The ED and Program Coordinator took part in a stakeholder consultation to develop regulations (September 24).

Consultation on the Child and Youth Advocate Act: Vice-Chairperson Debbie Langston took part in a stakeholder consultation (August 28) and ED Jane Ledwell attended a public consultation (October 9).

Mental Health and Addictions: Council's ED participated in regular Mental Health and Addictions summits, on collaboration for mental well-being (June 19) and trauma-informed practice (November 13).

Health PEI Strategic Planning: The ED took part in a community partner consultation (November 26) and members and staff were encouraged to complete individual surveys (December) to reinforce gender analysis.

Residential Tenancy Act Consultation: Members and staff were encouraged to complete individual surveys (March) to reinforce gender analysis and key Council messages that had been discussed in meetings.

- **Written Submissions to Provincial Government Consultations**

- Input on the Rules of the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly for the Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges (October 2)

- 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 Consultation Draft Regulations for the Post-Secondary Institutions Sexual Violence Policies Act (December 16)

- Feedback on the Consultation Report on Reform of Family Law in Relation to Children (March 6)

- Input on Proposed Changes to the Residential Tenancy Act (March 31)

- **Presentations to Legislative Committees**

- Presentation to the Special Committee on Poverty in PEI, by ED Jane Ledwell with Cooper Institute's Ann Wheatley, on behalf of the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income (September 19)

- Presentation by Debbie Langston and Jane Ledwell to the Standing Committee on Health and Social Development regarding the Equality Report Card project (February 26)

- **Provincial Perspectives in Municipal and Federal Consultations**

- Participated in a survey re. professionals working on family violence in the context of family law projects (December 11)

- Participated in Parks Canada consultation on the redevelopment of Province House Historic Site (February 27)

- Completed City of Charlottetown survey on food security (March 10)

Meetings & Correspondence with Government

Advisory Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Often, what Council learns in these meetings helps set priorities for Council. Sometimes, in lieu of meeting with officials, the Advisory Council offers analysis in correspondence.



Michelle Harris-Genge, Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, and then-Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Hon. Darlene Compton at the Coalition for Women in Government New Year's levee, January 2020.



Chairperson Debbie Langston and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Hon. Natalie Jameson at the International Women's Day event, March 2020.

Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Meetings:

- Then-Council Chairperson Yvonne Deagle met with then-Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Hon. Darlene Compton, in August 2019. The meeting was supported by a memo outlining issues. New Council Chairperson Debbie Langston planned to meet the new Minister Responsible, Hon. Natalie Jameson, in March 2020 but the in-person meeting was cancelled; instead she sent a memo and exchanged emails. The ED and Program Coordinator regularly participate in the meetings, as does the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
 - **August 13, with Min. Compton:** Topics included congratulations, follow up from the Chairs Circle, Council appointments and reappointments, and major projects such as the Equality Report Card and Purple Ribbon Campaign.
 - **March 29, with Min. Jameson (virtual meeting):** Topics included congratulations, violence prevention in a time of self-isolation and social distancing, the Equality Report Card, updates on our participation in government consultations, and emerging issues.
- The ED attended debate in the Legislature on November 22, for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Other Selected Meetings with Officials, 2019–2020:

- Check-ins and collaboration with the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat (regular)
- Site visit and consultation with Women and Gender Equality Canada, including a presentation to the Atlantic office team regarding the Equality Report Card (July 11); updates with the Coalition for Women in Government (November 15)
- Staff meetings with Official Opposition Status of Women critic Karla Bernard, by her request (June 3, January 30)
- Consultation with Deputy Minister of Health, with Women's Network PEI and Dr. Colleen MacQuarrie, re. the Survivor Voices project (July 5)
- Consultation with Department of Education health curriculum specialist about proposed changes to the sexual health curriculum (August 6)
- Attendance at and support for PAC Chairperson Ann Sherman's meeting with Premier Dennis King on family violence prevention (October 31)
- Meeting with Department of Health and Wellness officials, along with Women's Network PEI, about women's health initiatives (January 30)

Selected Correspondence, 2019–2020:

- Letters of congratulations and follow-up to Hon. Darlene Compton when appointed as Minister Responsible (May 9 and June 13)
- Other letters included letters of support for organizations seeking funding for equality projects; letters of reference for women associated with our work; nominations of Island women for awards and honours, including selection to the delegation of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (which was cancelled); and cards of recognition from the Council Chairperson to women who achieve notable things.

Newsletters & Activities Updates

Subscribers to the Advisory Council's receive weekly listings of community-submitted notices as a free community service. Council is phasing out its traditional snail-mail mailing list.

E-Newsletter, 2019–2020:

- The Advisory Council on the Status of Women e-news sent out **41 campaigns** in 2019–2020, from April to June and September to March.
- More than **350** people subscribe to the e-news, a stable number over the past two years. Our e-newsletter with community events and notices about upcoming events, activities, or items of interest for women in the community is sent directly to our subscriber list usually every Thursday and was previously available at a link from our blog and at year-end shifted to our new website at www.peistatusofwomen.ca.
- Subscriptions are welcome at <http://eepurl.com/rQH6P>.

Activities Update, 2019–2020:

- *Activities Update*, Fall/Winter 2019, electronic mailing only.

New Media & Social Media

Advisory Council on the Status of Women staff members independently manage content of the Advisory Council's website. The longtime website at www.gov.pe.ca/acsw was discontinued at March 31 and a new site was launched at www.peistatusofwomen.ca. Whenever possible, news releases and publications are made available on-line on the website as they are released.

The Advisory Council also uses social media to educate and engage. The Council has maintained a blog since September 2007. A presence on social networking sites Facebook and Twitter started in March 2012.

Wordpress Blog, 2019–2020, peiacsw.wordpress.com:

- People made about **5,400** blog visits, an average of about **450** a month.
- Top posts included pinned posts promoting the Purple Ribbon Campaign and International Women's Day. Galleries of photos from these events were also of particular interest.
- The blog continues to be a good space to share the e-newsletter for non-subscribers and to highlight events and issues. Later in 2020, blog posts will be integrated into the website www.peistatusofwomen.ca.

Twitter, 2019–2020, @peiacsw:

- At March 31, about **179** tweets had been posted the previous year, most during the Leaders' Forum on Women's Issues. Tweets resulted in **56,600** impressions during the Leaders' Forum and then an average of **3,300** tweet impressions per month. We had about **2,585** followers, a gain of about **65** over the previous year. Our organization was mentioned in about **105** tweets by others. We continued to be less active on Twitter because the platform is too tolerant of misogyny.
- Highlights included live-tweets during the Leaders' Forum on Women's Issues and around the Purple Ribbon Campaign, Family Violence Prevention Week, and International Women's Day and sharing information from the Canadian Femicide Observatory, @CAN_femicide.

Videos, 2019–2020, at vimeo.com/peiacsw:

- Support Survivors - Comments by Debbie Langston, vimeo.com/379052990
- Supporting Survivors in PEI: A Remembrance - Dawn Wilson, vimeo.com/380500138
- Stepping Up Against Gender Violence - Paxton Caseley, Dec. 2018, vimeo.com/379087309
- These three videos received over 2,000 impressions and over 200 views.
- Communications PEI video with Debbie Langston for Family Violence Prevention Week: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O_yrS8r2WY



New Media & Social Media, continued



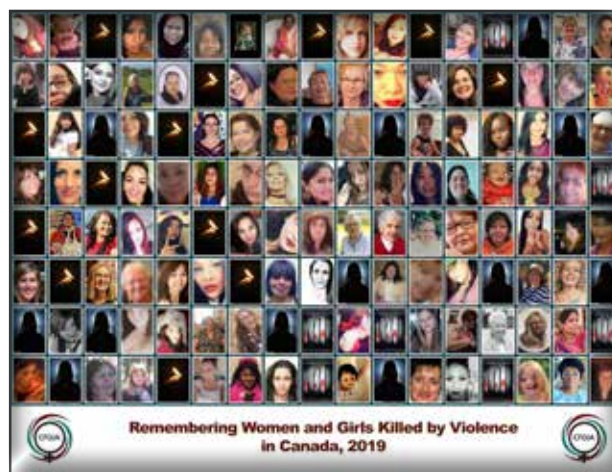
Poster promoting the annual Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee, 2019.



Video still from Debbie Langston's Family Violence Prevention Week promotion for Communications PEI, February 2020. Credit: Province of PEI.

Facebook, 2019–2020, <http://facebook.com/peistatusofwomen>:

- At March 31, the Facebook page had **1,194** “likes,” up somewhat from 1,045 “likes” at the close of the 2018–2019 year.
- There were 301 total posts by the ACSW Facebook page in 2019–2020, with a total reach of 126,647 and total impressions of 163,463.
- More than 18 individual posts reached more than 1,000 people. Together, these 18 posts reached 34,700 Facebook users. (The number of posts topping 1,000 users and the total reach of those 18 posts were down by about 40% from the previous year reported).
- Top posts included those referencing ACSW-led programs and events: International Women’s Day celebrations, Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence Against Women, and December 6th Montreal Massacre Memorial Service. As well, there was marked interest in noting the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in PEI.
- Other posts that reached over 1,000 dealt with issues of (in)justice in sentencing for men convicted of murder (Joel Clow) and the sexual abuse of young female students (Roger Jabbour). A Survivor Voices workshop that amplified the voices of women who were sexually assaulted received



Collage of women murdered in Canada in 2019, from the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability.

- great interest. Posts related to Indigenous rights (Abegweit off-reserve voting) and the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Sisters in Spirit vigil) were very popular among Facebook users. The theme of reconciliation through art was supported with interest in the Montreal Massacre 30th anniversary art commission commemorating MMIWG, and other artwork created by and of Indigenous PEI women.
- Stories commemorating local people, like the tragic death of Josh Underhay and his son Oliver and the educational success of a woman who began as a migrant worker in PEI, continue to be popular. A post celebrating PRIDE Week and another de-crying the housing crisis in PEI also received over 1,000 likes.

Media

The Advisory Council regularly submits news releases and opinion pieces to the media. The Council also responds to requests for comment on issues that affect women and families.

Ordinarily, approved spokespersons on behalf of the Council are the Chairperson, the Executive Director, and the Program Coordinator.



Photos from Michelle Jay's presentation to community members at the Milton Community Hall in Miltonvale Park during Family Violence Prevention Week 2020.

News Releases, 2019–2020:

- Yvonne Deagle was quoted in a news release put out by the PEI Pharmacists' Association on women's health (April 11)

Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2019–2020:

- Supporting Survivors for an End to Violence Against Women | Appuyer les survivantes pour mettre fin à la violence contre les femmes, Debbie Langston (December 6)
- Courage in Her Veins: International Women's Day | Courage dans ses veines : Journée internationale des femmes, Debbie Langston (March 8)

Interview Requests, 2019–2020:

- **CBC Radio and/or Television:** highlights of provincial budget (June 25); follow-ups to a recorded but not yet aired interview re. Roger Jabbour sexual misconduct case (aired October 2019); domestic violence leave coming into force (October 18); history and importance of *Common Ground* magazine (November 1); importance of an independent child/youth advocate (November 4)
- **Radio-Canada radio/télévision:** Leaders' Forum on Women's Issues (April 11); Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (December 6)
- **Charlottetown Guardian:** Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee and Montreal Massacre (November 5)
- **Halifax Chronicle Herald:** history of fight for abortion care (May 29)
- **La Voix Acadienne:** Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (December 6); violence prevention in time of COVID-19 (March 24)
- **Communications PEI:** video statement for Family Violence Prevention Week (February 4); quotation for International Women's Day (March 8)

Public Panels and Presentations, 2019–2020:

- Presentation by the ED on a panel at UPEI on gender equality and sustainable development goals, for International Development Week (February 4)
- Presentation by the Program Coordinator on violence against women, for Miltonvale Park Family Violence Prevention Week event (February 10)
- Keynote presentation by the ED following the Charlottetown Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence (February 12)
- Presentation by the ED on gender equality at the Aboriginal Women's Association Networking Gala (February 14)
- Keynote address by Chairperson Debbie Langston at the Black Cultural Society Women's Luncheon (February 15)
- Presentation by the Program Coordinator on Basic Income Guarantee for a VRC seniors' initiative public symposium on BIG (February 22)
- Presentation by Chairperson Debbie Langston at Wisdom, Truth, and Failure: Stories of Black Island Women (February 26)

Inquiries & Referrals

The Advisory Council responds to inquiries from individuals, groups, and government. These range from requests for information to crisis calls and requests for advocacy. People make inquiries in person or by telephone, e-mail, or correspondence. Inquiries are often complex and often come from women who have unsuccessfully tried to get service elsewhere.

The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individual women. We offer support with information, referrals, and, at times, interventions with formal systems. The concerns women raise in individual inquiries often lead to policy analysis by Council to address underlying systemic discrimination.



Council's new pop-up banner for events.

About Inquiries, 2019–2020:

- **Relationship endings:** The dissolution of an intimate partner relationship is an especially difficult and vulnerable time for women and children, risking physical, emotional and financial well-being. Staff heard about challenges in accessing social assistance, legal aid, childcare, and maintenance enforcement, mental health and addictions supports, and affordable housing. Several inquiries related to managing shared parenting responsibilities when a relationship dissolves. Requests continued but were fewer than in past years for our publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship*. This booklet is being updated.
- **#MeToo:** The reverberations of this worldwide movement continue to be significant as women and men both continue speaking out about their experiences of sexual assault and sexual harassment. Council staff received many inquiries about unwanted sexual contact, sexual violence, and childhood sexual assault. The effects of trauma are compounded by wait lists and multiple other barriers to mental health and recovery services, and a failure of systems to respond appropriately. There was often disbelief and rage expressed about lenient sentencing for convicted predators and killers in the community, as well as very real concerns about responses from police and medical practitioners to sexual assault disclosures.
- **Common issues** included lack of access and appropriate services for women and children needing mental health and addictions services; questions about gender identities and non-binary identity resources; inadequate and unaffordable housing options; emotional toll of surviving trauma and supporting other survivors; disability and caregiving responsibilities; and burn-out in the non-profit sector.
- **Other topics** included sexist language in the “NO to proportional representation campaign”; concerns about and support for Becka Viau, who was violently targeted by those who oppose her vocal pro-choice stance; an inquiry about the New Green Deal; sexual discrimination by a local Lions Club; financial difficulty experienced by an international student; sexualized violence that is prevalent in the military; end of life options; Canadian Human Rights case; raising bi-racial children in PEI.
- **Programs:** Numerous inquiries were for information about Advisory Council programs and events, and related details of statistics.
- **Referrals:** Staff members refer inquirers to appropriate services, including Family Violence Prevention Services, PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, PEI Human Rights Commission, PEERS Alliance, REACH Foundation, Addictions and Mental Health resources, and IRAC. Frequent referrals are made to Community Legal Information Lawyer Referral or to counselling services.

Community Consultations

The Advisory Council staff, Chairperson and Council members consult with many individuals, organizations, and sectors on a variety of issues related to the status of women on PEI.



Debbie Langston, at centre front with her arm on the table, after her keynote presentation to the Black Cultural Society's women's luncheon during Black History Month 2020. Credit: Isabella Zavarise, CBC PEI.

Community Consultations, 2019–2020:

- Chairperson Yvonne took part in a consultation carried out by the Institute of Island Studies for the Community Foundation towards the Vital Signs PEI report (June). Later, the ED contributed a text box on sexual violence for the final report (January).
- Chairperson Debbie played a special role in Black Cultural Society events for Black History Month in February, including giving a keynote address at their Black women's luncheon (February 15). Debbie also visited the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women (January).
- Council member Caroline MacRae represented the Council in a PEI Council of People with Disabilities focus group (May 10).
- The full staff team met with Rachael Crowder not long after she came in as ED of the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre (October 22).
- The ED and Program Coordinator together met regarding sexual violence response with the UPEI sexual violence response and education coordinator (June 4); consulted with staff from the Women's Wellness Centre and Sexual Health program through the Abortion Rights Network (June 24); met with Women's Network, Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, and parent representatives regarding the aftermath of the Roger Jabbour sexual exploitation and abuse case (November 4); took part in introductory conversations with Community Legal Information (November 15) and the PEI Human Rights Commission (February 27) about their projects on workplace sexual harassment; met with Aboriginal Women's Association President and ED for partnership (February 3); welcomed new Actions Femmes ED Johanna Venturini (February 6); and visited EPWIC staff (February 6).
- The ED took part in consultations to review provincial election results with the PEI Coalition for Women in Government, Women's Network PEI, and PEI Council of People with Disabilities (April 23 and 24); and had ongoing consultations with the Coalition and WNPEI (May 8). She participated in community-led consultation hosted by the Federation of Labour, following up on inclusion of psychological workplace harassment in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Nov. 5); presented to the Voluntary Resource Centre's training course for seniors (Nov. 7); met with representatives of the PEI Midwives Association (Nov. 21); and served on a Community Foundation of PEI adjudication panel for their PEI Pilot Fund for Gender Equality (January).
- The Program Coordinator consulted with the UPEI Mawi'omi Centre (October 2), the Aboriginal Women's Association, Eptek Centre, and the Confederation Centre Public Library in preparation for a study group that had been planned for March but had to be postponed. She also gave presentations to partner groups such as Women's Network PEI PropELLE participants about the Purple Ribbon Campaign (October 2).
- Council representatives attended AGMs of partner organizations whenever possible, including PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre (June 12), Family Violence Prevention Services (June 19).

Community Consultations, continued



An image from the Interministerial Women's Secretariat's CyberSafeCare website.

Participation in Community Consultations led by the Interministerial Women's Secretariat

- The Program Coordinator took part with other community organizations to provide input into the Interministerial Women's Secretariat publication *Perimenopause, Menopause and You* (May 22, June 19). The ED also provided editorial suggestions on a draft.
- The Executive Director provided revising, editing, and additional writing, for the manuscript *In Their Own Words*, IWS's book about PEI's Famous Five (fall 2019).
- The Executive Director took part with other community organizations to provide input into the IWS website CyperSafeCare (January 15)

Survivor Voices Project

- Advisory Council staff collaborated with Women's Network PEI and community leaders on a Justice Canada-funded project called "Survivor Voices: Stories and Solutions from Islanders" for Victims and Survivors of Crime Week.
- Council staff helped with planning, survivor engagement, and recording at the powerful and effective workshop day held May 28 in Charlottetown. The Council ED participated in follow-up meetings to share survivors' messages about the need for appropriate survivor-centred responses to sexual violence, in justice and medical systems.

Chairs Circle 2019

In 2019, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women held its 8th annual roundtable of past and present Advisory Council Chairpersons. Through facilitated discussion, they reflected on ACSW challenges and achievements over the decades. The Chairs Circle is an opportunity to share collective knowledge and experience among long-time women's equality advocates.



Chairs Circle, 2019:

- The 2019 Chairs Circle took place on May 24, 2019, at St. Peter's Cathedral Hall in Charlottetown. Chairperson Yvonne Deagle hosted and 7 amazing past Chairpersons took part.
- In the wake of an election and a new government coming to power, 2019 Chairs Circle participants shared their experiences building positive relationships with new governments and their best practices for advising various Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women over the years.



Left to right: Dianne Porter, Anne Nicholson, Sharon O'Brien, Colleen MacQuarrie, Isabelle Christian, Kirstin Lund, Mari Basiletti, and Yvonne Deagle.

Community Events

The Advisory Council staff, Chairperson, and Council members continue to consult informally with a variety of individuals, organizations, and sectors. The Chairperson, Executive Director, and Program Coordinator played a role in a number of events.



Showing our feminist pride colours at the 2019 PRIDE Parade, July 2019.



Dr. Olive Bryanton with Debbie Langston and Yvonne Deagle at the 100th anniversary celebration for the Canadian Federation of University Women.

Community Events, 2019–2020:

- PEERS Alliance workshop: Diving Deeper: Harm Reduction and Trauma-Informed Community Capacity Building (April 4)
- Book launch of *Return of the Wild Goose* by Jane Ledwell (April 4)
- Leaders' Forum on Women's Issues (April 11) – *ED as moderator, Chairperson Yvonne as a question-poser, PC coordinating Facebook responses and Q&A*
- Women's Network/UPEI Diversity and Social Justice Studies student presentation on intersectionality (April 15)
- Atlantic Immigration Summit (April 24)
- May Day Rally, with a focus on Migrant Workers' Rights (May 1) – *PC as a speaker on PEI women migrant workers*
- Restorative Justice Symposium (May 10)
- Mother's Day panel at Confederation Centre Art Gallery in response to "Who's Your Mother?" art exhibition (May 12) – *ED as a panelist*
- Canadian Federation of University Women 100th Anniversary Celebration (May 13)
- Reducing Stigma: STBBIs and sexual health workshop (May 17)
- 2SLGBTQ+ Intimate Partner Violence Workshop (May 17)
- Charlottetown City Hall PRIDE flag-raising for the International Day Against Homophobia (May 17)
- Survivor Voices: Stories and Solutions from Islanders, Victims and Survivors of Crime Week (May 28)
- Council of People with Disabilities Peter Doucette Memorial Award presentation (May 29)
- Livestreamed closing ceremonies of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, at UPEI (June 3)
- PEI Coalition for Women in Government celebration for Engaging Women in Political Action cohorts (June 25)
- CASHRA: Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies 2019 human rights conference (June 25 to 27)
- Funeral for Elder Alma MacDougall, President of the Aboriginal Women's Association (July 5)
- Training on Structured Decision-Making in Child and Family Services (July 9)
- PRIDE Parade with other women's and gender organizations (July 27)
- Pride Forward presentation (July 30)
- Island Fringe Festival production *Bessie Carruthers Study Club* (August 4)
- L'Acadie Repensée, Sommet des Femmes, Congrès mondial acadien 2019 (August 11 to 12)



Jane Ledwell and Yvonne Deagle at the Sommet des Femmes in Mill River, PEI.

Community Events, continued



Above: Drummers lead a healing walk at the 2019 Sisters in Spirit Vigil in Charlottetown.

Below: Michelle Jay, speaking at the Sisters in Spirit Vigil.



Sandy Kowalik, Anne McCallum, and Michelle Jay at Women's Network PEI discussing Common Ground Magazine. Credit: Isabella Zavarise, CBC PEI.

Community Events, 2019–2020, continued:

- Book launch for Michelle Harris-Genge's *Avril's Phoenix* (August 19)
- Atlantic Summer Institute luncheon "The Power of Us: Stewards of Our Environments Today!" (August 21)
- Community of Interest Restorative Justice book launch (September 17)
- Global Climate Strike rally (September 27)
- Public Forum on Basic Income Guarantee with Hon. Hugh Segal (October 2)
- Sisters in Spirit Vigil (October 4) – *PC as a speaker*
- United Way PEI event, "United by Song" (October 16)
- Indigenous Justice Forum (October 18)
- Breaking the Silence "Justice for the 36" (October 28)
- Women's History Month tea at Fanningbank (October 31)
- Symons Lecture by Sen. Murray Sinclair, "Confederation: We Could Have Done Better" (November 1)
- Chief Public Health Office annual Health Promotion Conference (November 6)
- Women's Network PEI "Celebrate Island Women" fundraiser (November 13)
- Launch of the Community Foundation of PEI's *Vital Signs* report (November 19)
- PEIRSAC's "Trauma-Informed Practices for Trauma-Exposed Workplaces" workshop (November 20)
- PEI Coalition for Women in Government New Year's Levee (January 2)
- 35th Anniversary celebration of Community Legal Information (January 28)
- International Development Week panel on gender equality and sustainable development goals (February 4) – *ED as a speaker*
- International Development Week workshop on gender and climate change (February 5)
- Family Violence Prevention Week launch (February 10)
- Black Cultural Society Women's Luncheon (February 15) – *Chairperson Debbie as keynote speaker*
- Voluntary Resource Centre's Seniors Basic Income Guarantee Symposium (February 22) – *PC as a speaker*
- Wisdom, Truth, and Failure: Stories of Black Island Women (February 26) – *Chairperson Debbie as a speaker*
- Women's Network PEI launch of *Common Ground* magazine special issues (March 12)

Partnerships

The Advisory Council is committed to participating in the work of relevant coalitions, task forces, research projects, or other community-led activities. Council contributes in-kind work and expertise in gender-based analysis to our partner groups. Council members gain access to research, new perspectives, follow-up on advocacy, and more.



President Marlene Thomas and members of the Aboriginal Women's Association at the Sisters in Spirit Vigil, October 2019.



Behind the scenes work at the International Women's Day event, March 8, 2020: Gina Younker, Debbie Langston, Farahnaz Rezaei, and Michelle Jay.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2019–2020:

- **Aboriginal Women's Association of PEI:** In 2014–2015, the Advisory Council became a member-at-large of this provincial association. Together, our two organizations have collaborated on projects including the annual Sisters in Spirit vigil, two study groups, a focus group for the Equality Report Card, content for the Purple Ribbon Campaign teachers' guide, and ceremony for the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.
- **Abortion Rights Network:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator sit on this committee, which came together to advocate for equitable abortion services and to ensure women have accurate and accessible information about where and how to access abortion services.

ACSW role: Attending meetings, examining provincial policies; assisting with communication strategies; participating in projects and events.

- **Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability:** Council's ED was appointed in 2017 to serve on the national expert advisory panel of this observatory. The CFOJA is a web-based research and information centre which aims to conduct, mobilize, exchange, and promote research and knowledge to prevent femicide and other forms of gender-based killings in Canada.

ACSW role: Consult on current activities and communications of the CFOJA, especially as they relate to Prince Edward Island.

- **International Women's Day (IWD) Committee:** Council's Program Coordinator brings together and leads this committee to plan and present events for International Women's Day.
- **IWS Grant Adjudication Committees:** Council's ED sits on these committees to review applications and advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women on violence against women prevention grants and community grants, awarded by the Province where the organizations, principles, objectives, and activities of applicants support the legal, health, social, and economic equality of women.

ACSW role: Adjudicating applications and reviewing communications.

- **Justice Options for Women:** The Council's Program Coordinator serves on the advisory committee for this project. Justice Options creates opportunities for community dialogue and input into justice policy regarding the issues of violence against women and the impact on and of restorative justice. This is a necessary next step in encouraging and developing safe and effective responses to violence against women in PEI. Justice Options developed Circles of Safety and support for women at high risk of violence and is currently working on a project on government/community response to violence against women.

ACSW role: Participating in meetings; helping develop project plans and funding applications; reviewing products and publications; providing support through coordinator and governance transitions.

Partnerships, continued



Members of the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention with Premier Dennis King, 2019. Credit: Province of PEI.



The final product of the PAC Youth Engagement Working Group's "Microphone" project: curriculum resources inspired by KINLEY's song, "Microphone." Michelle Jay was part of the task team on this project.



The Coalition for Women in Government New Year's levee also celebrated the launch of colouring pages with PEI women leaders, including Hon. Catherine Callbeck (third from left) and Leti LaRosa (far right).

List and Description of Partnerships, 2019–2020, continued:

- National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women:** The National Coalition was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy. The National Coalition did not have an annual in-person meeting in 2019–2020.
ACSW role: Check-ins with members; coordinating a needs assessment.
- Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council's ED sits on this task force which works with the Charlottetown community on family violence prevention initiatives funded by the City of Charlottetown, under the banner "Peace Begins at Home" and incorporating the purple ribbon symbol. The Task Force did not have an active project in 2019–2020.
- PAC—Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council's ED is appointed by the Premier to sit on this committee and its Administrative Working Group. PAC's mandate includes coordinating implementation of the provincial Family Violence Prevention Strategy. The ED also chairs the Evaluation Working Group and serves on the Family Violence Prevention Week coordinating committee. The Program Coordinator serves on the Youth Engagement Working Group.
ACSW role: Attending full group, administrative, and working group meetings; reviewing documents; advocating for a focus on violence against women and children; providing insights on gender and equality roots of violence; participating in projects, publications, and events.
- PEI Coalition for Women in Government:** The Council's ED sits on the board/steering committee of this non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing women's leadership in the political, civic, and democratic life of PEI. The Council's ED also sat on the Advisory Committee for a Status of Women Canada-funded project on Engaging Women for Political Action, which completed its work in 2019–2020.
ACSW role: Helping to develop and execute workplans; contributing to creating and disseminating research, media work, and publications; participating in meetings and events; supporting the activities of the working board during a staff transition.
- PEI Literacy Alliance:** The Council is a member of this provincial alliance dedicated to creating a culture of literacy and learning and delivering programs to support adult learners, families, and children in improving their literacy and essential skills.
ACSW role: Attending annual and semi-annual meetings when possible; support and collaboration in our shared office space.

Partnerships, continued



Ann Wheatley (left) and Jane Ledwell (right) presenting to the Special Committee on Poverty in PEI, on behalf of the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income, September 2019. Credit: Legislative Assembly of PEI.



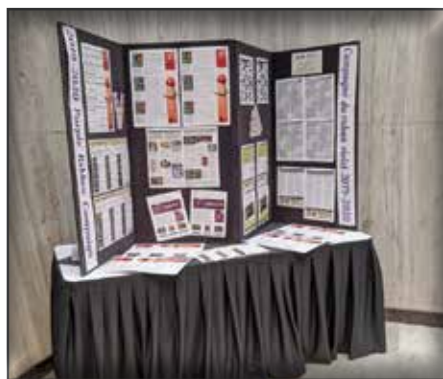
The PEI Working Group for a Livable Income created doorhangers to leave for doorknocking politicians during the 2019 federal election. The doorhangers raised issues of poverty and basic income guarantee.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2019–2020, continued:

- PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre “Take Back the Night” Project:** The Council’s Program Coordinator sits on the advisory committee for this PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre–led, Interministerial Women’s Secretariat–funded project to revitalize Take Back the Night events in Prince Edward Island to prevent and address sexualized violence.
ACSW role: Participating in meetings and contributing advice and analysis.
- PEI Working Group for a Livable Income:** Council’s ED and Program Coordinator serve on this coalition of a dozen community organizations that are active in working to eliminate poverty and advocate for a livable income for all Islanders to live in good health and with dignity. The Working Group is actively advocating for a pilot project on basic income guarantee (BIG) for PEI.
ACSW role: Participating in meetings and special events; contributing perspectives on women’s poverty; taking our turn with other organizations to take minutes and draft publications, correspondence, media releases, and briefs or presentations to government.
- Victim Services Advisory Committee:** Council Treasurer Chris MacPhail represents Council on this committee. The Advisory Committee’s purpose is to exchange information on current and emerging issues related to victims and to help develop policy, programs, services, and legislation and report to the Attorney General and government officials on the needs of victims of crime.
ACSW role: Sharing information, especially from a gender perspective; identifying and bringing issues to the table for discussion.
- Women’s Network PEI “It Takes a Village” Project:** Council’s Program Coordinator sat on the advisory committee for this Women’s Network–led, Status of Women Canada–funded project to examine childcare needs as they relate to gender equality in Prince Edward Island. The project advisory committee held its final meeting in June 2019.
ACSW role: Contribute gender analysis from Council and share understanding of provincial issues and concerns.
- Women’s Network PEI “Street Harassment” Project:** Council’s Program Coordinator takes part in this new Women’s Network PEI–led, Interministerial Women’s Secretariat–funded project to understand street harassment from a PEI perspective.
ACSW role: Participating in meetings and contributing advice and analysis.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence

November 25 is the annual International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action to commemorate the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. Every year, the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign involves volunteers Island-wide in an effort to distribute ribbons and information cards with facts and statistics about family violence. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near December 6, and again during Family Violence Prevention Week in February, to remember all women who are victims of violence. The Advisory Council also organizes and participates in the annual noontime Montreal Massacre Memorial Service in Charlottetown.



Teachers Guide resources on display at the December 6, 2019, Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2019–2020:

- **Theme: Support Survivors. Support the person. Involve the community. Right the world.**



- More than 18,000 bilingual bookmarks and ribbons were distributed province-wide, and 210 Teachers' Guides were requested and delivered to the Department of Education for English and French instructors.
- Multilingual poster featuring ten (10) commonly spoken or traditional languages of PEI was produced and distributed. The PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, the Aboriginal Women's Association, and provincial translation services translated the theme.
- A well-attended pinning bee took place at the Confederation Centre Public Library on November 5, 2019.

Purple Ribbon Teachers' Guide 2019:

- This year's Purple Ribbon Teachers' Guides for teachers and students made connections between the Purple Ribbon Campaign theme and curriculum for Grades 7, 8, and 9 Social Studies, Grades 7, 8 and 9 Health, and high school Family Life Education. English as an Additional Language instructors and school counsellors also requested resources.
- Handouts for classrooms included "30 Years Since the Montreal Massacre. We Remember" (interviews with 3 diverse women reflecting on the 30th anniversary); "How to Support Survivors" – as individuals, as community, and in society; resources on consent and healthy relationships; a fact sheet on ways youth can prevent violence from the Premier's Action Committee; background on the Campaign theme; a purple ribbon and bookmark; and a multilingual poster in 10 languages.
- Resources for teachers included "Remembering the Montreal Massacre" – commemorations from PEI and other parts of Canada; information on *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*; "Creating Consent Culture," a student activity created by the PAC Youth Engagement Working Group; information promoting KINLEY's Microphone project modules on sexual assault; and specific curriculum connections to the theme of supporting survivors.
- The relationship we have fostered with the Public Schools Branch Health and Curriculum Specialist is invaluable in ensuring the guides are distributed. Teachers' Guides are also available to the public; an additional 55 were requested by individuals and community groups.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence, continued



Top: Chairperson Debbie Langston shares a commentary on survivors.

Middle: Guest speaker Dawn Wilson.

Bottom: Representatives of the Aboriginal Women's Association light a candle together.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 2019:

- The ACSW annual Purple Ribbon Campaign officially launched on the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 25, 2019. The Minister Responsible for the Status of Women in PEI read a supporting statement in the Legislature on November 22.

Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, 2019:

- The PEIACSW organized the Charlottetown Memorial Service held on December 6th in Memorial Hall at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. Council members assisted with hosting the event, with more than 250 people attending the noontime service.
- Elder Julie Pellissier-Lush and her daughter Brittany Pellissier offered opening and closing prayers and songs. The centre table was dressed with images representing the Indigenous Seven Sacred teachings.
- Feminist leader Dawn Wilson gave a powerful address, "Supporting Survivors on PEI – A Remembrance." Dawn interwove her personal experience as a child growing up in a violent household in rural PEI with reflections and analysis of gender-based violence as an adult. Her words were especially stirring to those who heard her speak during the service. She offered advice for supporting survivors to overcome the trauma or violence and thrive: "It starts with hearing the stories of survivors about what they needed at the time, what they need now, and what they see needs to change – and changing it."
- Candle-lighters included MLA Natalie Jameson on behalf of Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Darlene Compton, Premier Dennis King, representatives of Lennox Island Band Council and the Native Council of PEI, the Mayor of Charlottetown, RCMP, City Police, and representatives from women's and equality-seeking organizations in the community. Candles were also lit by family or friends of PEI women who have been murdered.
- The service included silhouettes of murdered PEI women from the Silent Witnesses project, sponsored and coordinated by UPSE.
- Todd MacLean provided piano music to accompany the candle-lighting portion of the service. Kate Dempsey, Allison Kelly and Marlee Saulnier, members of Sirens women's choral ensemble sang a moving and memorable version of "Warrior" (Kim Baryluk).
- Council Chairperson Debbie Langston emceed the service and also read her commentary "Supporting Survivors for an End to Violence Against Women," published in the Guardian newspaper on December 6th.



Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence, continued



Top: Silent Witnesses flank the entry to Memorial Hall on December 6, 2019.

Middle: Candles and roses at the 2019 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

Bottom: Artist Patricia Bourque presents artwork commissioned for the 30th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.



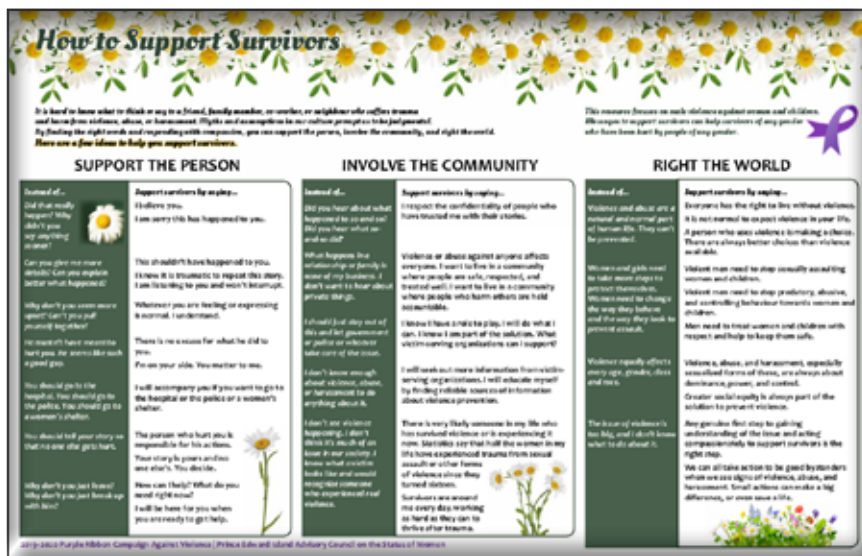
Jill Kilfoil and Amy Clerk from Women's Network PEI with Jane Ledwell and Michelle Jay from the ACSW at the Family Violence Prevention Week Support Survivors Lunch and Learn.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Sponsorship and Thanks, 2019:

- Financial and in-kind contributors to the Purple Ribbon Campaign included the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, the City of Charlottetown, Confederation Centre of the Arts, CUPE, UPSE, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
- Outstanding volunteer efforts and support for the Campaign came from the Federated Women's Institutes, REACH Foundation, Holland College Child and Youth Care program, the Confederation Centre Public Library, and many volunteers who pinned thousands of ribbons to bookmarks.

Family Violence Prevention Week, February 9–15, 2020:

- ACSW staff work closely with the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention to support FVP Week.
- The Advisory Council staff provided generous support to the province-wide distribution of family violence prevention resources from PAC and member organizations. In total, more than 21,125 resources were distributed across the province.
- During the lead-up to FVP Week, 7,500 additional ribbons and bookmarks and over 130 "How to Support Survivors" resource and multilingual posters were distributed.
- The Chairperson and Council representatives attended the launch of FVP Week on February 10. Program Coordinator Michelle Jay gave a presentation on senior women and violence for Milton Community Centre's FVP Week activity (February 10). Executive Director Jane Ledwell gave an outstanding keynote address about supporting survivors to a large crowd following PAC's Charlottetown Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence on Wear Purple Day, February 12.
- Together with Women's Network PEI, Council staff co-hosted a well-attended and well received lunch-and-learn in Charlottetown on February 11 using the "How to Support Survivors" resource.



International Women's Day – March 8

United Nations-declared International Women's Day (IWD) takes place on March 8th each year. Events on International Women's Day and the week surrounding it recognize women's ongoing struggle for equity.

The Advisory Council activities balance advocating for equality with celebrating the resilience and achievements of women – globally, nationally, and locally.



Top: Participants in the Indigenous round dance led by Elder Julie Pellissier-Lush.

Middle: Jaime Griffin of Women's Network PEI with a button-maker.

Bottom: Mame Faty Sarr speaking on behalf of Actions Femmes.

International Women's Day Highlights, 2020:

- The theme for ACSW's International Women's Day in PEI was "... like a woman," intended to highlight the strength and resilience of women despite the gender inequalities and misogyny faced worldwide. A capacity crowd filled Trinity Hall to recognize the international day.
- The Program Coordinator invited a committee of women to join in organizing a celebratory, inclusive, free, and accessible slate of activities for people of all ages and genders that would also address continuing challenges and inequities. The ACSW's IWD event aims to increase our connection and engagement with newcomers in the Island community, especially those most vulnerable like migrant workers and international students.
- Greetings from the province were graciously delivered by Hon. Natalie Jameson, the newly appointed Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, and attendees heard from the Hon. Antoinette Perry, PEI's Lieutenant Governor. She spoke of her mother's example to her and her position on the ACSW many years ago. Chairperson Debbie Langston read her Guardian newspaper commentary "Courage in Her Veins: International Women's Day 2020."
- Julie Pellissier-Lush and two of her children, Brittany and Sean led the crowd in a spirited Indigenous Round Dance. Claire Byrne and Cameron Cassidy created a rousing and participatory piece building on the Chilean women's resistance movement against sexual assault. Selvi Roy of Atlantic Council of International Cooperation spoke of gender and development. Mame Faty Sarr represented Action Femmes, and Rosanna Kressin from the HIVE UPEI, spoke of IWD's roots in labour and class advocacy. Holland College School of Performing Arts graduate Reequal Smith led participants in Caribbean dance.
- Megan Dorrell was once-again an outstanding volunteer, managing the children's station and many participating kids with happy energy and skill. Jaime Griffin managed the popular button-making station, volunteering time and materials from Women's Network PEI. Carol Stevenson-Seller wrapped up the afternoon by leading the audience in singing the IWD anthem "Bread and Roses." Many, many thanks to Farahnaz Rezaei who was a lovely emcee for the annual event.
- Financial and time resources were contributed by local unions, women's and social justice organizations: CUPE, PSAC, UPSE, and PEI Federation of Labour; Women's Network PEI; Cooper Institute; Family Violence Prevention Services; PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada; the Coalition for Women in Government; and Interministerial Women's Secretariat.



Debbie Langston reads her commentary for IWD 2020.

Bursaries for Women

In 2015, the Advisory Council revised and updated the criteria for its bursary program for women. The deadline to apply for bursaries is October 15 each year. Forms are available in English and French from peistatusofwomen.ca.

The University of Prince Edward Island also administers an internal bursary named in our honour, awarded to a woman studying Engineering. Information about this bursary is available from the University of Prince Edward Island.

Bursary Recipients, 2019:

- **Diane Kays Memorial Bursary (\$500)** is available to a woman-identifying student who is a resident of PEI and registered full-time at the University of Prince Edward Island, Holland College, or Collège de l'Île.
2019 Winner: Julia Dunn, UPEI
- **Inge Blackett Memorial Bursary (\$500)** is for a woman-identifying PEI resident who entered Canada as a refugee and is pursuing further education.
2019 Winner: Daka Egail, Holland College
- **PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Engineering Bursary:** Administered by UPEI, named in our honour, and awarded to a woman studying engineering.
2019 Winner: Hemisha Bhangeeruthee



Top: Bursary winner Julia Dunn with Debbie Langston.

Bottom: Bursary winner Daka Egail lights a Memorial Service candle.

Commemorative Art Commission

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, the ACSW put out a public call to the artistic community for the creation of a visual art piece addressing the shame and tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada.

Art Commission

- After Council members decided to mark the 30th anniversary of the Montreal Massacre with a special art commission, an adjudication committee comprised of Chairperson Debbie Langston, former Council member Lalana Paul, and former staffperson Sandy Kowalik, all artists themselves, gave creative direction to the project and selected from among proposals.
- Mi'kmaw photographer Patricia Bourque was the artist chosen to create an original piece. She captured a strong and beautiful image. Patricia's photograph remembers missing and murdered



Indigenous women and girls with a red dress (a symbol frequently used to represent missing and murdered Indigenous women), a highway (a location from which many Indigenous women have gone missing or been murdered), and a woman in traditional regalia expressing her protest, resilience, and strength – to honour missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The art commission was unveiled during the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service on December 6th, and will be displayed publicly whenever possible.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Financial Statements
March 31, 2020

Management's Report

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and the integrity and objectivity of these statements are management's responsibility. Management is responsible for the notes to the financial statements and for ensuring that this information is consistent, where appropriate, with the information contained in the financial statements.

Management is responsible for implementing and maintaining a system of internal control to provide reasonable assurance that reliable financial information is produced.

The Advisory Council members are responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control. The Council members review internal financial reports on a regular basis and externally audited financial statements annually.

The Office of the Auditor General conducts an independent examination, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards and expresses their opinion on the financial statements. The Office of the Auditor General has full and free access to financial information and management of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women to meet as required.

On behalf of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women


Jane Ledwell
Executive Director

June 17, 2020



Prince Edward Island Île-du-Prince-Édouard

Office of the
Auditor General
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

Bureau du
vérificateur général
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE
Canada C1A 7N8

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the financial statements of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020, and the statements of operations and accumulated deficit, changes in net debt, and cash flow for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2020, and the results of its operations, changes in net debt, and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless an intention exists to liquidate or cease the operations of the Council, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

-2-

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.


Gerri Russell, CPA, CA
Audit Director

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
June 17, 2020

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Financial Assets		
Cash	7,077	5,309
Accounts receivable	1,157	1,922
	<u>8,234</u>	<u>7,231</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 3)	16,073	13,640
Net Debt	(7,839)	(6,409)
Non Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	1,424	1,076
Accumulated Deficit	(6,415)	(5,333)

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

Approved on behalf of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women


Council Chair


Council Member

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN Statement of Operations and Accumulated Deficit for the year ended March 31, 2020

	Budget 2020	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$
Revenues			
Grants - Province of Prince Edward Island (Note 6)	210,000	212,000	214,117
Program revenue	4,000	1,701	2,378
	<u>214,000</u>	<u>213,701</u>	<u>216,495</u>
Expenses			
Administration	7,493	8,721	9,587
Contracts	4,400	4,400	4,200
Council meetings/business	27,319	24,228	31,530
Equipment	1,950	1,951	895
Materials and supplies	8,010	9,227	10,580
Salaries and benefits	164,828	166,256	158,206
	<u>214,000</u>	<u>214,783</u>	<u>214,998</u>
Annual (Deficit) Surplus	-	(1,082)	1,497
Accumulated Deficit, beginning of year		<u>(5,333)</u>	<u>(6,830)</u>
Accumulated Deficit, end of year		<u>(6,415)</u>	<u>(5,333)</u>

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN Statement of Changes in Net Debt for the year ended March 31, 2020

	Budget 2020	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$
Net Debt, beginning of year	(6,409)	(6,409)	(7,877)
Changes in year:			
Annual (deficit) surplus	-	(1,082)	1,497
Change in prepaid expenses	-	(348)	(29)
Change in Net Debt	-	<u>(1,430)</u>	<u>1,468</u>
Net Debt, end of year	(6,409)	(7,839)	(6,409)

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN Statement of Cash Flow for the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash provided (used) by:		
Operating Activities		
Annual (deficit) surplus	(1,082)	1,497
Changes in:		
Accounts receivable	765	(271)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,433	(4,670)
Prepaid expenses	(348)	(29)
Cash provided (used) by operating activities	<u>2,850</u>	<u>(3,473)</u>
Cash, beginning of year	5,309	8,782
Cash, end of year	<u>7,077</u>	<u>5,309</u>

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2020

1. Purpose of the Organization

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women is a government appointed provincial advisory agency. The Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, and political spheres of life. The Council is a non-taxable entity under the provisions of the federal *Income Tax Act*.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Since the Council has no material unrealized remeasurement gains or losses attributed to foreign exchange, derivatives, portfolio investments, or other financial instruments, a statement of remeasurement gains and losses has not been prepared.

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements.

a) Cash

Cash consists of balances on deposit at a financial institution.

b) Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are recorded at cost less any specific provision when collection is in doubt.

c) Prepaid Expenses

Prepaid expenses are charged to expense over the periods expected to benefit.

d) Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities are recorded for all amounts due for work performed and goods or services received during the year.

e) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost provided the threshold of \$3,000 is met and are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of five to fifteen years. Tangible capital asset purchases that do not meet the threshold are expensed. No capital assets have been recognized because purchases did not meet the threshold for capitalization. During the year, equipment totalling \$1,951 (2019 - \$895) was expensed.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2020

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued...)

f) Revenues

Revenues are recognized in the period in which the transaction or event that gave rise to the revenue occurred. All revenues are recorded on an accrual basis, except when the accruals cannot be determined with a reasonable degree of certainty or when their estimation is impracticable.

Transfers (revenues from non-exchange transactions) are recognized as revenues when the transfer is authorized, any eligibility criteria are met, and a reasonable estimate of the amount can be made.

g) Expenses

Expenses are recorded on an accrual basis in the period in which the transaction or event that gave rise to the expense occurred.

h) Financial Instruments

Financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and accrued liabilities. Due to their nature, financial instruments are carried at cost or amortized cost, less any provision on accounts receivable, which approximates their fair value.

i) Use of Estimates and Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Items requiring the use of significant estimates are accrued liabilities.

Estimates are based on the best information available at the time of preparation of the financial statements and are reviewed annually to reflect new information as it becomes available. Measurement uncertainty exists in these financial statements. Actual results could differ from these estimates and the difference could be material.

j) Contributed Materials and Services

Contributed materials and services, which include volunteer hours and non-monetary contributions for programs and events, are not recorded.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2020

3. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Accounts payable	4,553	4,719
Accrued employee wages and benefits	1,149	-
Accrued vacation and overtime	10,371	8,921
	16,073	13,640

4. Employee Benefits

a) Sick Leave

Employees of the Council are granted a base amount of 18 days of paid sick leave on April 1 of each fiscal year. Unused sick days may be accumulated to a maximum of 36 days. The use of accumulated sick days for sick leave compensation ceases on termination of employment and there is no obligation to settle these amounts with cash payments. A liability has not been calculated or recognized in these financial statements based on an analysis which indicated the liability was not significant.

b) Pension Benefits

Permanent employees of the Council participate in the Province of Prince Edward Island Civil Service Superannuation Pension Plan (the Plan) which is a multi-employer contributory defined benefit pension plan. The Plan provides a pension on retirement based on two percent of the average salary for the highest three years times the number of years of pensionable service for service to December 31, 2013, and two percent of the career average salary indexed with cost-of-living adjustments for service after 2013. Indexing is subject to the funded level of the plan after December 31, 2016. The Plan is administered by the Province of Prince Edward Island. The Council's annual portion of contributions to the Plan of \$12,625 (2019 - \$12,311) was paid by the Province and not reflected in these financial statements. Any unfunded liability of the Plan is the responsibility of the Province and therefore no liability has been recognized in these financial statements. For additional information on the Plan, see the Province's consolidated financial statements.

5. Contractual Obligation

A photocopier is leased until February 1, 2025, with annual lease payments of \$3,180 plus applicable taxes.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2020

6. Related Party Transactions

The Council received the following grants from the Province:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Operating grants	210,000	210,000
Other grants	2,000	4,117
	212,000	214,117

Certain costs incurred by the Province of Prince Edward Island on behalf of the Council are not reflected in these financial statements. These costs include rental of office space, related office expenses, and certain employee benefits.

7. Financial Management

The Council's risk exposure, as a result of the financial instruments on its statement of financial position at March 31, 2020, is limited to liquidity risk. The Council's financial instruments are not subject to significant market or credit risk.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will not be able to meet all its cash outflow obligations as they come due. This risk is mitigated by monitoring the level of financial assets in relation to amounts due and implementing fiscal restraint when necessary.

8. Budgeted Figures

Budgeted figures have been provided for comparative purposes and were derived from estimates approved by the Council.

Back cover photo collage, left to right from top left: Feminist Pride at the 2019 PRIDE Parade in Charlottetown; then-Chairperson Yvonne Deagle showing off her GBA+ certificate; Jane Ledwell speaking at the Charlottetown Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence during Family Violence Prevention Week in February 2020; Michelle Jay, Becky Tramley, and Jane Ledwell, with then-Chairperson Yvonne Deagle; Michelle Jay speaking at the May Day Rally for migrant workers' rights 2019; Chairperson Debbie Langston speaking at the December 6 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service; Elder Julie Pellissier-Lush and Brittany Pellissier drumming and singing at the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service; Aboriginal Women's Association and allies walk in memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls at the Sisters in Spirit Vigil, October 2019; Vice-Chairperson Cathy Rose, Chairperson Debbie Langston, and Council friend Michelle Buttery at the Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee in November 2019; practitioners of Taoist Tai Chi offer Council members a demonstration at the January 2020 Council meeting; around the Council table at the December 2019 meeting; Council members greet arriving participants at the 2019 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service; the PEIACSW's 45th anniversary year logo; Council member Caroline MacRae and friends at the Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee; Jane Ledwell and Amy Clerk behind the scenes at the International Women's Day celebration March 8, 2020.

For additional copies of this report:

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
902-368-4510
info@peistatusofwomen.ca
<http://www.peistatusofwomen.ca>

