

ACT UP IVITIES DATE



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

FALL/WINTER 2020



CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Today, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, I am grateful that the PEI Advisory Council on the

Status of Women is able to launch its annual Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence, albeit with adaptations. We hope you will be able to join our Council in the vital and relentless work to support survivors and end violence against women and children.

This year, 2020, a pandemic has lifted the veil on inequalities that have remained "hidden in plain sight" for a long time. COVID-19 has exposed a flawed patriarchal system where discrimination and oppression flourish.

Meanwhile, as households experienced lockdown, forms of relationship violence that many worked to bring to light became hidden once more, locked indoors. In neighbouring Nova Scotia, intimate partner violence emerged explosively when a violent man took 22 lives in Portapique and neighbouring communities. While still grieving and reeling from this tragedy, families and advocates still had to fight for a full inquiry and a feminist lens.

At the same time, we have had to adapt all our Council's programs for violence prevention and public education on gender equality issues. We have worked very hard to respond to challenges with creativity, and compassion for the exhaustion we all face as we work to keep each other healthy and safe.

This year, as the global pandemic highlighted injustices, I worked with the Council and staff in the context of the Black Lives Matter and the Indigenous Lives Matter movements to address the need for racial justice and equity in PEI. We know better now just how much work is needed to eliminate both gender and racial discrimination in all our laws and systems in PEI and across Canada.

Over the past 12 months, the Council was more on-call than ever before to advise government in consultation processes. We provided advice on issues as diverse as the Residential Tenancy Act and the Intimate Images Protection Act, as well as responding to every opportunity to advise on the response to the pandemic of COVID-19. We are grateful to Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Natalie Jameson and many of her colleagues in the PEI Legislature for consistently asking for Council's input and following up on our recommendations.

I would like to thank the courageous and strong members of Council. I am especially proud of their contributions to our historic report, *Gender and COVID-19 in Prince Edward Island*, released in October.

Council staff, Jane, Michelle, and Becky deserve special credit for their adaptability and hard work ensuring we could continue to advise government and educate the public on issues that affect the status of PEI women.

Wishing everyone warmth and peace as the winter solstice approaches.

Debbie Langston

QUICK LINKS TO THE 2020-2021 PURPLE RIBBON CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLENCE

Purple Ribbon Badges:

Look for display boxes at local libraries or businesses, distributed by PEI Federated Women's Institute branches ~or~ request a box of badges to distribute by emailing info@peistatusofwomen.ca.

Support Survivors Multi-lingual Posters:

Download and print PDFs from peistatusofwomen.ca/purple-ribbon-campaign.

Resources for Teachers:

Visit peistatusofwomen.ca/purple-ribbon-campaign/resources-for-teachers for links to five English/French bilingual slideshows for educators and others.

Montreal Massacre Memorial Video Commemoration:

Visit peistatusofwomen.ca/purple-ribbon-campaign/montreal-massacre-memorial-service and register through Eventbrite to watch the video commemoration along with others at 12:00 noon on Sunday, December 6 ~or~ look for the video at vimeo.com/peiacsw on Sunday, December 6 or after.



MEMORIALS FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

First mourn, then work for change



Elder Julie Pellissier-Lush

For decades we have gathered in our communities on December 6 to honour the lives of women that have been lost to violence: PEI women, the women of l'École Polytechnique, and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. This year, while we cannot be together physically, a video commemoration is being compiled in partnership with Zenith Pictures for online broadcast at noon, Sunday, December 6, via Zoom.

Special contributors appearing in the memorial video will include

- Elder Julie Pellissier-Lush, Indigenous Opening
- Debbie Langston, Chairperson of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- Roxanne Carter-Thompson, Guest Speaker
- Singer-Songwriter Jenn Grant, Sirens Choral Ensemble, and pianist Todd MacLean, musical performances

Political leaders, front-line service representatives, anti-violence community organizations, and families and loved ones of murdered women will light candles in memory of victims of violence in a private ceremony we will document for the video.



Singer-songwriter Jenn Grant

Charlottetown Video Commemoration Broadcast

12:00 noon, Sunday, December 6

If you would like to participate with others in a Zoom broadcast of the video commemoration, please register using Eventbrite. All are welcome to join. Tickets are free: www.eventbrite.ca/e/montreal-massacre-memorial-service-tickets-129317079867

The memorial video will also be available on and after December 6 at vimeo.com/peiacsw



Roxanne Carter-Thompson (left) and Debbie Langston (right)

You are encouraged to have a candle or light in the space with you when you watch the video.

A downloadable, printable program will be available online on Friday, December 4 and after.

More info: 902-368-4510

info@peistatusofwomen.ca

peistatusofwomen.ca/purple-ribbon-campaign/montreal-massacre-memorial-service/

Summerside Commemoration

In Summerside, EPWIC (East Prince Women's Information Centre) and Actions Femmes Î.-P.-É. will remember murdered women in a private ceremony. Anyone may also visit the monument to victims of the Montreal Massacre in Heather Moysé Heritage Park.



PURPLE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

Purple Ribbon Badges

The thousands of purple ribbons that were distributed annually across PEI have been replaced with thousands of badges to wear in support of survivors. Women's Institute branches across PEI are assisting in distribution. Badges are available for contactless pickup through the ACSW office for others who want to distribute them in their workplaces or communities.



Multilingual Poster

This year's multilingual 11"x17" poster highlights the Purple Ribbon Campaign theme "Support Survivors" in eleven languages, the founding and most commonly spoken languages of our province.



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

Posters are available by request or at peistatusofwomen.ca.

Chairperson's Commentary

Look for PEIACSW Chairperson Debbie Langston's commentary for December 6, "Where Violence Persists, What Women Do," in local media and at peistatusofwomen.ca.

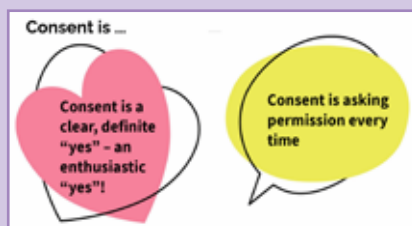
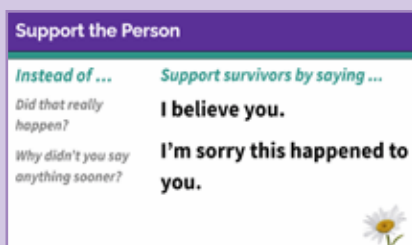
RESOURCES MOVE ONLINE



Purple Ribbon Campaign resources for teachers and students (and other educators and learners!) have been transformed this year from handouts into [slideshows](#), available in English and French:

- [Background: Purple Ribbon Campaign | Historique : Campagne du ruban violet](#)
- [How to Support Survivors | Comment appuyer les survivantes](#)
- [What Is a Healthy Relationship? | Qu'est-ce qu'une relation saine?](#)
- [Consent Is | Le consentement c'est](#)
- [Ways Youth Can Help | Les jeunes peuvent aider](#)

Also updated: Our guide to how the resources connect to PEI curriculum outcomes in various courses.



ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS 2020: HIGHLIGHTS

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

January 18, 2020, Charlottetown, PEI Gives and Gets

Council spent some time getting to know each other and making plans together. This was the first regular meeting for four new members who had been thrown directly into Montreal Massacre Memorial Service work at their first meeting. Council reviewed the new Equality Report Card model, spent some time in facilitated planning with consultant Sara Roach-Lewis, and appreciated a demonstration of Taoist Tai Chi.



Members of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, June 2020

March 6, 2020, Cornwall, PEI Partnership Review

Council members discussed emerging issues and outlined the partnerships, networks, and coalitions through which the Council achieves much of its work on central issues such as poverty, violence prevention, access to justice, women's health, and women's leadership.

May 13, 2020, via teleconference hosted from Charlottetown, PEI Wellbeing Check-In

Chairperson Debbie Langston brought Council members together via videoconference to check in on everyone's wellbeing. Council members provided feedback to the Province on questions they had put forward about family violence prevention response during COVID-19 and on emergency leave provisions proposed for the Employment Standards Act for job protected leave for those following public health or emergency measures.

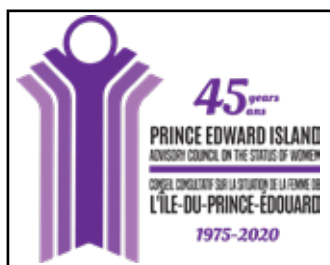
June 29, 2020, Summerside, PEI Gender Impacts of COVID-19

Chairperson Debbie Langston welcomed members to a socially and physically distanced, but in-person meeting, at Eptek Centre in Summerside. Members held a roundtable on the gendered effects of the global pandemic of COVID-19 and the public health measures taken to prevent its spread. This discussion contributed to a Council publication on gender and COVID-19 being prepared for fall 2020.

October 2, 2020, Charlottetown, PEI Release of *Gender & COVID-19*

Council gathered in Charlottetown using physical distancing protocols for a business meeting, and we celebrated the launch of the report *Gender and COVID-19 in Prince Edward Island: In the Words of Women-Identifying Islanders*. The group welcomed Emma Chilton from Community Legal Information for an informative discussion of CLI's tenant support program.

Next meeting: December 3, 2020, in Charlottetown, PEI. Council members will help to prepare and participate in the Montreal Massacre Memorial video commemoration for broadcast in a Zoom event on December 6, 2020.



From top left: 2020 Purple Ribbon Campaign resources, complete with hand sanitizer; special edition Feminist PRIDE t-shirts modelled by Gail Carter-Jay and Leslie Jay, with Teddy—order your own tee at iconicartspei.com; Chairperson Debbie Langston and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Natalie Jameson pre-COVID at International Women's Day 2020; Council staff Michelle Jay, Becky Tramley, and Jane Ledwell in June 2020; Debbie and Min. Jameson physical distancing in July 2020; and our celebratory 45th anniversary logo for 2020.

2020 Publications available at peistatusofwomen.ca

- Gender and COVID-19 in Prince Edward Island: In the Words of Women-Identifying Islanders, March to July 2020 (October 2020)
- Annual Report 2019-2020

2020 News Releases and Opinion Pieces

- Dear Lisa: Black Lives Matter by Debbie Langston (June 2020)
- Survivors Tell Us How to Support Them | À l'écoute des survivants et survivantes comment faire pour les appuyer? by Debbie Langston and Jane Ledwell (May 2020)
- What COVID-19 Reveals About Gender Inequality by Debbie Langston (April 2020)
- Courage in Her Veins: International Women's Day 2020 | Courage dans ses veines : Journée internationale des femmes 2020 by/par Debbie Langston (March 2020)



2020 Selected Submissions to Government Consultations

- Insights for Policy for the Premier's Council for Recovery and Growth | Perspectives pour les politiques pour le Conseil du premier ministre de la reprise et la croissance (September 2020)
- Input on Proposed Temporary Foreign Workers Protection Legislation (August 2020)
- Response to the Land Matters Project Survey (August 2020)
- Input on Emergency Leave Provisions to Be Added to the Employment Standards Act (May 2020)
- Input on Proposed Changes to the Residential Tenancy Act (March 2020)
- Feedback on the Consultation Report on Reform of Family Law in Relation to Children (March 2020)

Council Members

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

Staff

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

Contact

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 Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8
 Phone: 902-368-4510
 Email: info@peistatusofwomen.ca

Location

Sherwood Business Centre
 161 St. Peter's Road, Charlottetown
 Open by appointment due to COVID-19

On-line

Website: peistatusofwomen.ca
 Facebook: [facebook.com/peistatusofwomen](https://www.facebook.com/peistatusofwomen)
 Videos: [vimeo.com/peiicsw](https://www.vimeo.com/peiicsw)
 Twitter: twitter.com/peiicsw

Weekly e-Newsletter

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

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

Apply for Membership

Apply to be appointed to the PEIACSW through Engage PEI, Government of PEI: princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/executive-council-office/engage-pei