

2022-2023



ANNUAL REPORT

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

About the Cover



Last year, 2022, marked the centennial of non-Indigenous PEI women winning the right to vote.

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the PEI Coalition for Women in Government were delighted to unveil a poster to celebrate a 100-year journey of PEI women voting, with art and design by artists Mari Basiletti and JoDee Samuelson.

The poster depicts the story of gender being removed as a barrier to voting, but not as though 1922 marked the ending to a finished story. The poster includes many waystations on the pathway to inclusion and democracy for women, systemically excluded groups, and women from systemically excluded groups. The poster features an image for each of the ten decades of the last hundred years, including some individual figures and recognizable milestones, but also alluding to ordinary women in the community and ongoing struggles.

Mari Basiletti is a past Chairperson of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women (2016 to 2018). She is an accomplished artist who has retired from a career as an occupational therapist. **JoDee Samuelson** is an award-winning filmmaker of animated films, an artist/illustrator, and an author. They live in Canoe Cove.

Chairperson's Message

Dear Minister Jameson:

I am pleased to present you with the 2022–2023 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The Annual Report contains a summary of the Advisory Council's activities, publications, projects, and collaborations with government and community from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, and includes our final financial statements for that period.



I was proud to be appointed by your government as Chairperson of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women as of January 24, 2023. For most of this past year, I served as Vice-Chairperson, with Cathy Rose serving as Chairperson until January 23, 2023. I would like to thank Cathy for her leadership and mentorship during her time as Chair. In particular, Council members and I are grateful for her work on a new strategic plan for 2022-2024. This Annual Report is newly organized to highlight the priorities that emerged from our planning together.

Serena Smith

Chairperson

Some highlights of 2022–2023 included these:

- Release of a specially commissioned poster for the centenary of gender being removed as a barrier to voting.
- A new bursary, for a woman-identifying PEI resident who has been a “temporary foreign worker.”
- One in-person Lunch and Learn for Family Violence Prevention Week, with PEERS Alliance, and two Zoom lunch and learns on national issues, with speakers Dr. Evelyn Forget and Hannah Owczar, and Stacey Gomez.
- Visible presence at PRIDE events and ongoing support and allyship with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- The Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence Against Women, focused on “Restoring Community,” with the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service returning to an in-person ceremony on December 6.

We closed out the year with celebration, by collaborating with other women's and community organizations and unions to gather for International Women's Day, March 8. It was a joy to be together in person again, with music, snacks, and laughter – and brief, high-impact speeches.



Outgoing Chairperson Cathy Rose and incoming Chairperson Serena Smith.



Serena Smith, Garima Mishra, Cathy Rose, Barb McDowall, Gaylene Carragher, and Gina Younker, as Cathy receives her term-end service award.

The Council continued to be called on frequently to advise government in consultation processes, including participating in pre-budget consultations. We were pleased to be part of consultations that led to PEI's first health strategy for women and people who are gender diverse and, another first, the strategy for preventing and responding to adult sexual violence. This year, Council also placed an important focus on providing input to the comprehensive review of the Employment Standards Act. When possible, we also take part in surveys, public meetings, or discussions.

The Advisory Council continues to play an important role in both community and government-supported initiatives, especially with community groups actively working on eliminating poverty, ending gender-based violence, supporting caregivers, and improving mental and physical health and well-being. Thank you to the projects, networks, and coalitions that welcome our participation.

None of this is possible without the dedicated and knowledgeable staff. On behalf of Council, I would like to thank Jane, Michelle, and Becky.

Minister Jameson, thank you for your engagement and your genuine commitment to advancing justice and equality for all women in your role as Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. I look forward to meeting with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SS' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Serena Smith,
Chairperson

About the Advisory Council

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 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.



Quillwork: "Ma'kit," by Melissa Peter Paul

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is committed to working with feminist principles and process.

We acknowledge all women-identifying people in our understanding of "women," including cis women, trans women, and gender minorities.

The work of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women takes place on the island district of Epekwitk in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq and their home since time immemorial.

Our Core Purpose

We are a catalyst and collective voice for equity, passionate about advancing women's equality, health and wellbeing, and full participation in the social, cultural, economic, and political life in PEI through

- Public policy analysis and advice
- Advocacy and public education
- Research and consultation
- Remembering and celebrating women

Our Vision

Gender equality for all Islanders

Our Values

- Respect
- Love and Compassion
- Inclusiveness
- Integrity



Serena Smith, Summerside

Chairperson 2023-01-24 to 2024-11-01

Vice-Chair 2021-03-30 to 2023-01-23

Member 2019-10-29 to 2024-11-01

Serena Smith is originally from PEI but grew up across Canada. She returned to PEI to begin her career as a lawyer with Cox & Palmer. Prior to law school she completed a social work and joint history and political science undergraduate degree. Serena is passionate about social entrepreneurship and the equality of women and marginalized groups, which is reflected in her volunteer positions. In addition to her work on the Advisory Council, she serves on the Board of the PEI Literacy Alliance, and is active with the PEI Canadian Bar Association (Women's Forum Chair) and Law Society.



Garima Mishra, Charlottetown

Vice-Chair 2023-01-24 to 2024-03-30

Member 2021-03-30 to 2024-03-30

Garima was born and raised in India and moved with her husband to Canada and PEI in 2017. An Engineer by qualification, she has been working as an IT professional for the past 11 years. Garima feels fortunate to be living with her husband and two-year-old among very diverse communities in PEI, as there's a lot to learn from each one of them. She strongly believes that we all can progress and succeed together if we enable and support each other. Garima is excited to contribute by being a part of this Council. She is delighted to be part of this esteemed group of women who are striving to make our society a happier, more equitable place.



Serena chaired her first Council meeting in March.



Garima Mishra was appointed as Vice-Chairperson in January.



Emily Rutledge, Charlottetown

Treasurer 2023-01-24 to 2024-11-01

Member 2019-10-29 to 2024-11-01

Emily is a single mom who works outside the home as a counsellor in a group practice. She has lived in the Maritimes most of her adult life. Originally from Toronto, she moved to Halifax to study art and moved further east to complete a psychology undergrad at UPEI. She next completed a Masters in Community Psychology and another in Counselling and is now happy to call the Island her home. Working as a 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.



Hsiao-Yu (Kathren) Liu, Charlottetown

Member 2023-01-24 to 2026-01-24

Originally from Taiwan, Hsiao-Yu and her family immigrated to Canada in 2007. She gained additional Bachelor and Master degrees from UPEI, and became an educator for Island public schools, UPEI, and Holland College. She has also instructed at Community Mental Health Association (CMHA). Hsiao-Yu has been a volunteer with Immigrant and Refugee Services Association (formerly PEIANC) and the PEI Action Team for Migrant Workers. Her thesis and joint research projects consider the opportunities for diversity in PEI, through which she realized there is much to be done in Atlantic Canada to address issues rooted in gender in equality, racial discrimination, and international migration.



Council presented Michelle with a 10-Year Service Award in October.



Hsiao-Yu with Jane and Michelle at her orientation session.



Gaylene Carragher, Stanhope

Member 2019-10-29 to 2024-11-01

Gaylene is very honoured and excited to be working as a member of Council. She is a mother to three and lives in Stanhope with her husband. She has worked at Holland College for more than 25 years and has taught sessionally at UPEI for twelve years. She is currently the Director of Retention, Part-time Studies & Career Services at Holland College. Gaylene's educational background includes an MEd, an MBA, and a diploma in human resources – she is a committed lifelong learner and is passionate in helping others achieve their educational goals!



Regina (Gina) Younker, Charlottetown

Member 2019-02-19 to 2024-03-29

Gina is an Islander by choice; she has lived in PEI for over 30 years and is proud to have recently become a Canadian citizen! She is a local anti-poverty advocate who has been involved with the Adventure Group and Women's Network PEI (specifically the Paths to Prosperity project). Gina currently serves on PEI's Poverty Reduction Advisory Council and was previously a member of the provincial housing council. She is the proud mother of three grown children and grandmother to Savannah, Spencer, Stella, and Roy. Gina lives in Charlottetown with her cockapoo, Oliver.



Facilitator Sari LaBelle led strategic planning discussions in May.



Council met with ED Haley Zavo at the Kings Playhouse in June.



Caroline MacRae, Summerside

Member 2019-02-19 to 2024-03-29

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 enrolled in the Masters of Nursing-Nurse Practitioner program at UPEI, and works as a Registered Nurse in Summerside. In addition to her work on the Advisory Council, she serves on the boards of PEI Family Violence Prevention Services and the PEI Coalition for Women in Government.



Barb McDowall, Charlottetown

Member 2019-10-29 to 2024-11-01

Barb McDowall has been an Islander by choice since her arrival in 2015 to this remarkable place of spiritual and cultural transformation and change. She gratefully offers her unique skills and perspective as a conscious living and dying coach wherever she is guided. Barb is thankful to have the opportunity to serve on the Advisory Council with such a brilliant, intergenerational group of women.



A QEII Platinum Jubilee Medal for Jane, presented by L-G Antoinette Perry, nominated by MLA Karla Bernard.



Staff-Chair team-building took place in Eastern PEI.



Cathy Rose, Fortune

Chairperson 2021-03-30 to 2023-01-23

Vice-Chair 2019-10-29

Member 2018-01-23 to 2023-01-23

Cathy owned and operated Creative Esthetics Dental Lab for 23 years. She went on to become a Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) and later obtained her Executive Masters in Business (MBA). She worked for 10 years in disability management, five at UPEI as Coordinator of Accessibility Services. Cathy is passionate about capacity building for rural and Indigenous communities and women's economic rights and empowerment. She teaches business entrepreneurship in communities across PEI. Cathy adores her time at the cottage with her husband, three daughters, three stepsons, and their families.



Chrissy MacPhail, Canoe Cove

Treasurer 2019-10-29 to 2023-01-23

Member 2018-01-23 to 2023-01-23

Chris 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 their caregivers as well as being a strong voice on environmental issues.



Cathy receives a service award from staff at the end of her term.



Chrissy receives a service award from Jane at the end of her term.

COUNCIL STAFF

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, where she got a BA, and the University of Waikato in New Zealand, where she got an MPhil. 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. Jane lives in Charlottetown with her family.



Michelle Jay - Program Coordinator

Michelle has been Council's Program Coordinator since September 2012 and works full time. She is a proud Mom, a proud lesbian, and a proud social justice activist. Michelle has identified as a feminist and an advocate for racial and cultural inclusion since her teen years, since growing up in Indigenous communities in Manitoba and Zambia and volunteering with refugees in Guatemala and Mexico. 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-1980s. Michelle lives with her daughter in Charlottetown.



Becky Tramley - 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 more than thirty-five years and is the Council's living institutional memory. Currently, she is in the role of Office Manager. 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.



Council Meetings

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. They invite resource people who offer opportunities for learning and analysis. Council sets strategic planning objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process, with expert facilitation whenever this is possible.



● **182nd MEETING: MAY 27, 2022**

Strategic Planning, Central Bedeque

The beautiful Rural Women's Business Centre in Central Bedeque, PEI, hosted a full-day strategic planning session for Council members, who participated in person and virtually in setting out strategic priorities for the coming two years.

● **183rd MEETING: JUNE 23, 2022**

Community Development, Georgetown

Council met at the historic Kings Playhouse in Georgetown where Executive Director Haley Zavo provided a tour and a talk on the link between community development, equity, and the arts. Council established a new bursary for women who entered Canada as migrant workers and prepared for a government consultation on legislation related to vital statistics and changes of name.

● **184th MEETING: OCT. 22, 2022**

Council Retreat, Charlottetown

Council's planned fall retreat was cancelled due to the effects of post-tropical storm Fiona, so Council members had a team-building day at the new Charlottetown Library and Learning Centre and covered topics including after-school care, paid sick leave, prescription drug access, and school board elections. Michelle Jay received a 10-year Service Award for her work as Program Coordinator.

185th MEETING: DEC. 6, 2022

Montreal Massacre Memorial, Charlottetown

Council members assisted with the first fully in-person Montreal Massacre Memorial Service since 2019. The service was very moving. Council also checked in on progress on the strategic plan and followed up on topics of continued interest.

186th MEETING: JAN. 12, 2023

Employment Standards, Charlottetown

At her final meeting as Chairperson, Cathy Rose received a Service Award for her five-year term; retiring member Chrissy MacPhail received her award later in the month. Members discussed equity issues and labour standards, in preparation for the Employment Standards Comprehensive Review.

187th MEETING: MAR. 18, 2023

New Chairperson Welcome, Charlottetown

Serena Smith led her first meeting as the Council's new Chairperson as members gathered in Charlottetown. The meeting, held during the election period, focused on members' observations of gender equality needs in the community.



Between meetings, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women continues to advise government and educate the public using consensus-building processes. An important government consultation Council members turned their attention to was the provincial pre-budget consultation. Council members reviewed a draft submission (January 6) and had opportunities to make input through email, a Zoom meeting, and a survey to develop a collective, consensus-based response to the Province's call for policy input. Council representatives participated in one of the Province's virtual consultations (January 9) and took advantage of the opportunity to share the main themes of our submission. Our written submission (January 10) emphasized the priority areas for advocacy in our strategic plan.

MEETINGS WITH THE MINISTER

Hon. Natalie Jameson, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

The Council Chairperson leads the Council's relationship with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. Then-Council Chairperson Cathy Rose met with Minister Responsible Hon. Natalie Jameson once and provided advice to government in correspondence on a number of priority topics.



Barb McDowall, Michelle Jay, Chrissy MacPhail, and Minister Jameson at the Coles Building.

August 30: Memo

Topics included Council's strategic planning priorities; "Votes for Women" Centennial poster; appointments and reappointments; current and upcoming gaps in Council diversity; recent consultations; emerging issues including ultrasound options for people with dense breasts and improved delivery options for people on social assistance benefits.

November 2: Meeting

Topics included expanded resources for Council work; Chairperson nomination; Purple Ribbon Campaign invitations; upcoming Legislative sitting; paid sick leave; recent consultations; and emerging issues, including universal after-school programs.

Correspondence

April 27, 2022: Letter regarding EESAS

Letter following up on overview training by Dr. Cathy Carter-Snell on Enhanced Emergency Sexual Assault Services, to reinforce recommendations.

February 9, 2023: Gender & Diversity Guidelines

Letter in support of Gender and Diversity Guidelines in schools, in light of hateful anti-2SLGBTQIA+ rhetoric and actions in the community.

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women directs its input on public consultations to the Minister Responsible for Status of Women in correspondence, including, for example,

- Change of Name & Vital Statistics Act (June 30)
- Pre-Budget Submission (January 10)
- Submission to the Employment Standards Act Comprehensive Review Panel (January 31)

Minister Roundtables

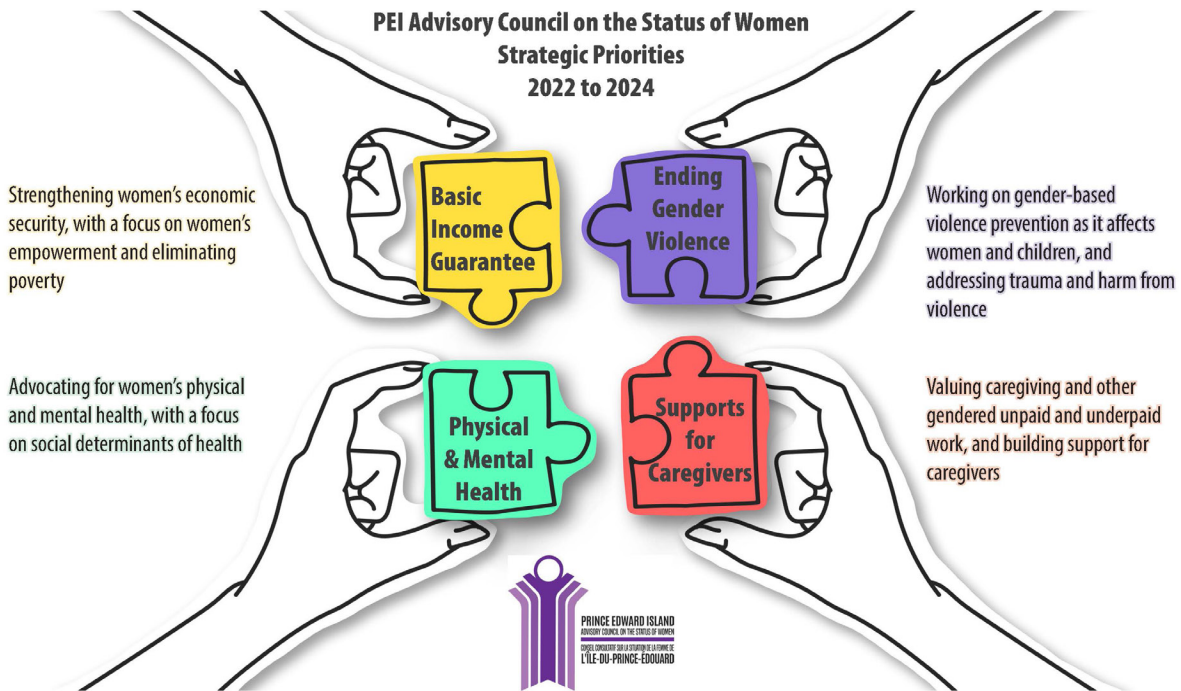
June 14, 2022

Minister Jameson invited Council's ED and representatives from gender-equality organizations for a check-in on emerging equality issues. This initiated more formal roundtables.

October 25, 2022

Council's ED took part in Min. Jameson's roundtable with representatives of gender-equality organizations that receive core funding from her department. Council's four priority issues were well-expressed around the table, along with the need for increased operational funding for equity-deserving groups.

PRIORITY ISSUES 2022-2024



Basic Income Guarantee

Strengthening women's economic security, with a focus on women's empowerment and eliminating poverty



Ending Gender Violence

Working on gender-based violence prevention as it affects women and children, and addressing trauma and harm from violence



Physical & Mental Health

Advocating for women's physical and mental health, with a focus on social determinants of health



Supports for Caregivers

Valuing caregiving and other gendered unpaid and underpaid work, and building support for caregivers

Basic Income Guarantee

Through the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is playing a key role in local, regional, and national efforts to eliminate poverty through a Basic Income Guarantee.

Inspired by the groundswell of community support in PEI, and buoyed by the multi-partisan accomplishments of the Special Committee on Poverty in PEI, a national group, Coalition Canada basic income revenu de base, has developed *A Proposal for a Guaranteed Basic Income Benefit for Prince Edward Island*, which is gaining credibility and advancing conversations among political leaders. They provided an orientation to their proposal for local advocates (February 3).



Advisory Council members discuss Employment Standards legislation at the January 2023 meeting.



The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women's key partnership for poverty elimination is the *PEI Working Group for a Livable Income*. The Working Group met with PEI MLAs and federal leaders, MPs, and Senators and with national advocates to promote a vision and plan for a basic income guarantee demonstration project that could launch province-wide in PEI and scale up to all of Canada.

Policy highlights related to eliminating poverty:

- Council's submission to the Employment Standards Act Comprehensive Review Panel (January 31) included important messages about poverty elimination and measures.
- Council's Program Coordinator co-led preparing and presenting the Working Group for a Livable Income submission to the Employment Standards Comprehensive Review (February 7).
- The need for Basic Income Guarantee came up as a topic several times during a Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention roundtable with Premier King (January 30).
- The Advisory Council advocated for a question on Basic Income Guarantee to be included in the Leaders' Forum on Equity Issues (March 16), and 3 of 4 leaders made clear statements of support.

According to the Special Committee on Poverty in PEI, almost

40%

of PEI residents had income low enough that they would receive a partial or full basic income benefit under the model they costed.

BIG Lunch & Learn Links Gender & Income

Dr. Evelyn Forget and Hannah Owczar, authors of *Radical Trust*, connect precarious work, “women’s work,” and unpaid labour as pointing to the need for livable income. “Young people, newcomers, racialized people and women are more likely to be working low-paid precarious work with little security,” they told our Lunch & Learn. “At-home care is still largely considered women’s work and much of this is provided unpaid by daughters, wives, sisters, and mothers.”



Working Group for a Livable Income members met with federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh on April 23 to promote a Basic Income Guarantee.



The Working Group and friends met with Sen. Kim Pate July 26. She is championing a Senate bill to create a framework for Basic Income Guarantee.



Working Group reps met with MP Leah Gazan September 8. She is championing a bill in the House of Commons identical to the Senate bill for a BIG framework.

Public education on poverty elimination by the Advisory Council included a well-received commentary by Michelle Jay and Jane Ledwell, “Prince Edward Island Is Ready for a Basic Income Guarantee,” published by *The Guardian/Saltwire* November 18.

Atlantic region efforts are gaining momentum through events such as the Tamarack Institute’s Basic Income Atlantic Summit, which Council promoted to local leaders and Jane attended (November 9).

Council member and anti-poverty advocate Gina Younker took part with Council ED Jane Ledwell in a Food Banks Canada roundtable on poverty in PEI (July 5). They were the sole participants.

Michelle Jay attended a “Poverty through the Lens of the Social Determinants of Health” online consultation organized by Face of Poverty Canada (October 17). She helped Working Group member Laurie Michael prepare to present on the panel.

Using a slide presentation developed by Council reps for the Working Group for a Livable Income, Council staff shared public talks on poverty elimination. Jane Ledwell co-presented a Q&A for St. Paul’s Anglican Church (April 24); Michelle Jay presented to the LAMP education forum (May 15).

With a rep of Revenu de base Quebec, Jane presented on PEI’s basic income campaign to Quebec Senators (May 18 & 19).

Physical and Mental Health

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women was proud to contribute meaningful input into the Province of PEI's first health strategy for women and people who are gender diverse.

The effects and after-effects of the pandemic and of post-tropical storm Fiona have had significant impacts on physical and mental health across PEI. Those impacts are influenced by intersecting social determinants of health, including gender and income. Emboldened threats to women's reproductive rights and to 2SLGBTQIA+ identities and lives were high on Council members' radar.



Post-tropical storm Fiona's September devastation had effects on mental and physical health.



In 2022, the Province of PEI launched *Awareness to Action: A Health Strategy for Women and Islanders Who Are Gender Diverse 2022-2027*. The Advisory Council on the Status of Women took part in consultations in the lead-up to the launch of the strategy and is represented on the Women's and Gender Diverse People's Health Council that will advise on implementation of the strategy.

In addition to assisting with work on the Province's first gender health strategy, **policy highlights** related to women's health included the following:

- Change of Name and Vital Statistics Act: Council's input and advice to consultations on the Change of Name and Vital Statistics Act focused on allyship with trans and other 2SLGBTQIA+ people and newcomers (June 30).
- Health Priorities: Council provided an organizational response to a survey requesting input on strategic priorities in health (July 6).
- Prescription Drug Access: At their October meeting, Council members discussed the need for expanded access to prescription drugs and Council's ED shared their comments with consultants in an interview (October 28).

According to Statistics Canada, during the pandemic in 2020,

45% to 67%

of women who had visible minority identities, were Indigenous, had a disability, were recent immigrants, or were young experienced discrimination.

Mental Health and Addictions Summits

The Province resumed hosting multi-sectoral Mental Health and Addictions Summits in 2022. The Advisory Council's Executive Director took part in two, one focused on reconnecting across sectors and training for psychologically safe workplaces (June 22) and one focused on reducing stigma for people with substance use disorders (November 21).



PEI's gender health strategy was released June 8. Council's ED provided a quotation for the Province's news release.

The first meeting of the Women's and Gender Diverse People's Health Council took place October 11.

The Advisory Council participates in other active partnerships focused on health.

The Abortion Rights Network was working on collaborative projects in 2022-2023.

The Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities has a project on investing upstream for child and youth mental health, looking through the lens of health in all policies. Council is represented on the advisory committee.

Public education on women's health by the Advisory Council included a media interview by Council Executive Director Jane Ledwell with CBC Radio about community reaction to threats to Roe vs. Wade in the USA (May 6) and with Radio-Canada about five years of access to in-province abortion care in PEI (June 29).

Council representatives participated in two initiatives related to fetal alcohol syndrome spectrum disorders (FASD).

Council's ED took part in an interview with Memorial University researchers on Atlantic initiatives regarding FASD (September 8) and a session on "Alcohol, Women's Health, and FASD Prevention" put on by Public Health Canada and PEI Public Health (November 16).

Learning opportunities related to health and gender included an introduction to "Our Landing Place" queer counselling option (May 19) and a webinar "Health in All Policies Approaches in Canada" (February 21).

We participated in a workshop on "Creating Connections" hosted in Summerside by the new PEI Alliance for Mental Well-Being (August 4) and the Chief Public Health Office's Alcohol Policy Forum (January 25 to 26).

Ending Gender-Based Violence

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women coordinates the annual Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence Against Women and the annual Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

The purple ribbon symbol is widely known and worn across PEI to signify taking a stand against violence against women and all gender-based violence and family violence. The theme of the Purple Ribbon Campaign for 2022-2023 was “Restoring Community,” with emphasis on hope for survivors ~ help for abusers ~ healing, accountability, and equality for all.



The Advisory Council on the Status of Women's key partnership for ending gender-based violence is the *Premier's Action Committee (PAC) on Family Violence Prevention*. In 2022-2023, the Council took part with the full provincial group, the administrative committee, and working groups. Premier Dennis King met with PAC January 30 to discuss emerging issues and priority actions.

In the last year, **policy highlights** related to eliminating gender-based violence included these:

- Council representatives attended the Legislature on the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25) to hear statements by Minister Jameson and other MLAs.
- In advance of the release of the Province's first strategy to prevent and address sexual violence against adults, Council's Executive Director participated in a review of the draft strategy and provided input (January 17).
- Council's submission to the Employment Standards Act Comprehensive Review Panel (January 31) included recommendations regarding gender-based violence.

Of 112 cases referred to Victim Services in 2020-2021 for sexual assault matters

85%

identified as female. From April 2009 to March 2021, referrals to Victim Services for sexual assault matters ranged from a low of 51 to a high of 133.

Family Violence Prevention Week 2022

In 2022, PEI's Family Violence Prevention Week shifted to May. In addition to helping coordinate distribution of 20,000 resources, PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women representatives attended the Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence and Wear Purple Day (May 11), and co-hosted a lunch-and-learn with PEERS Alliance (May 12). The lunch event helped participants learn about programs PEERS offers to support 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.

Some PAC members with Premier Dennis King, January 2023.



Council's program coordinator serves on PAC's Sexual Assault Response Working Group to help coordinate awareness week events like Take Back the Night.

Council's Executive Director chairs PAC's Evaluation Work to evaluate programs, trainings, and events such as Family Violence Prevention Week.

As a member of PAC Admin, Council's Executive Director took part in a Justice and Public Safety stakeholder consultation regarding "Exploring the Development of PEI Community Justice Centres" (February 3).

Council's Executive Director participated in a day of PAC-sponsored training on the "Safety and Repair Approach" to working with people who have used violence, led by Tod Augusta-Scott (March 7) and coordinated training evaluation.

Council's Program Coordinator Michelle Jay participates on other partnerships that relate to ending gender-based violence including the **Victim Services Advisory Committee** (where she replaced Council member Chris MacPhail); **Justice Options for Women**, an access to justice collaboration; and **Pathways to Thrive**, a project led by Women's Network PEI with the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre exploring alternative healing modalities for survivors. Through this project,

Michelle took part in a day with Catalyst trainers, "Caring for the People Who Create and Sustain Community" (March 24). Nationally, Michelle Jay participates on the National Taskforce Policy & Advocacy committee of the **Canadian Centre for Women's Empowerment**. Council's Executive Director Jane Ledwell serves on the expert panel of the **Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability**.

Local learning opportunities on gender-based violence included a PAC information session on impacts of family violence on children and youth during Family Violence Prevention Week (May 12); a presentation by Sunny Mariner on violence against women advocates case reviews, as part of the PEIRSAC AGM (June 15), and a presentation by Marlee Liss on "Restorative Justice for Sexual Harm" during Sexual Violence Awareness Week (September 21).

Ending Gender-Based Violence: Purple Ribbon Campaign



Public Education Highlights

Public education on gender-based violence took place through the 33rd annual Purple Ribbon Campaign. Resources for distribution for 2022-2023 included the following:

- 12,000 purple ribbons pinned to bookmarks by volunteers, featuring the theme “Restoring Community: hope for survivors ~ help for abusers ~ healing, accountability, and equality for all.” Again this year, Women’s Institute branches did much of the pinning.
- Hundreds of buttons with the purple ribbon image or this year’s rose and hand image.
- Slideshows, handouts, and other materials developed for use by teachers and students, available on our website.
- Multilingual posters featuring the “Restoring Community” message in 12 languages (historical and current usage in PEI).



Presentations, media, and public education events included these:

- Program Coordinator Michelle Jay presented on the topic of consent for Kensington Intermediate Senior High Grade 12 students (April 14).
- The Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee at the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre (November 7) was filled to capacity with Council members and volunteers. A volunteer from the REACH Foundation made a presentation about their programs with youth in recovery.
- Chairperson Cathy Rose wrote a commentary for *Saltwire* and our website for December 6.
- CBC, the Charlottetown *Guardian* and *La Voix Acadienne* covered the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (December 6).
- Cathy Rose provided an interview with the *Graphic* and Executive Director Jane Ledwell provided an interview with *Radio-Canada* for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (for November 25).



Multilingual “Restoring Community” poster featuring 12 languages.



Volunteers at the Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee in November 2022.

Ending Gender-Based Violence: Montreal Massacre Memorial Service



The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is grateful for Purple Ribbon Campaign supporters.

Funding Sponsors: Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention; City of Charlottetown
Memorial Service Venue Sponsor: Confederation Centre of the Arts

In-kind Partners: Women's Institutes (Purple Ribbon pinning & distribution); Priscilla Giroux and PSAC Western PEI Regional Women's Committee; Family Violence Prevention Services, with special thanks to Western region staff; PEI Coalition for Women in Government (technical support); Janine Gallant; Brandy Beazley; Eileen LeClair, UPSE, and the Atlantic Police Academy: Silent Witness Program; and volunteers and supporters across PEI.

The annual December 6 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service returned to being a fully open public event again in 2022. Held in Memorial Hall in the Confederation Centre of the Arts, the service commemorated the victims of the Montreal Massacre and PEI women killed by men who knew them, with candle-lighting and ceremony.

The 2022 Memorial Service program was emceed by Advisory Council Chairperson Cathy Rose.

Piano Music

Todd MacLean

Indigenous Opening Ceremony

Elder Julie Pellissier-Lush, Mi'kmaq Confederacy & Poet Laureate of PEI

Welcoming Remarks and Comments

Cathy Rose, Chairperson of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Candle-Lighting for Victims of the Montreal Massacre

Readings by Jane Ledwell, PEI ACSW

Guest Speaker: "Restoring Community After Sexualized Violence"

Eileen Conboy, Counsellor and Advocate

Mi'kmaw Prayer

Elder Thirly Levi, Mi'kmaq language teacher

Candle-Lighting for PEI Murdered Women

Candles lit by family members and friends of murdered women, community-sector leaders, and front-line workers with victims/survivors of violence

Poem: "Restoring Community"

Written and performed by Tanya Davis

Closing Instrumental Music

Bass improvisation by Carlie Howell



Left to right, Dec. 6 2022: Elder Thirly Levi says a prayer; Status of Women Minister Natalie Jameson lights a candle, Elder Julie Pellissier-Lush sings; Eileen Conboy speaks; Tanya Davis performs a commissioned poem.

Supports for Caregivers

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women's work on gender and COVID underscored the reliance on caregivers for a well-functioning society. Women continue to carry heavier burdens of family and community caregiving.

Supports for caregiving and caregivers are essential to advancing equality. Council works to model family-friendly policies and supports for caregivers in our day-to-day work, for example ensuring International Women's Day events have activities for children with appropriate supervision. In 2022-2023, the Council's focus was on policy recommendations on caregiving, and efforts will extend partnerships and programming in the coming year.



Council member Emily with her child at a Council event.

Input to Public Consultations

- **Employment Standards Comprehensive Review:** Supports for caregiving leaves, including paid and unpaid sick leave and job protections for people requiring time away from work for family caregiving, were the focus of Council's submission to the Employment Standards Act Comprehensive Review Panel. Council's ED made a verbal presentation of themes to the panel (January 16) and Council submitted a full report with recommendations (January 31).
- **Vulnerable Sector Checks:** Council provided a submission to the Standing Committee on Education and Economic Growth on an Act to Amend the Early Learning and Childcare Act, encouraging government to continue to require vulnerable sector checks for those connected to work in early childhood centres (February 15).

Council Discussions

Council discussions on supports for caregiving focused on two topics:

- **Expanding after-school care:** Council examined a resolution proposing accessible and universal after-school programming for all PEI students in grades K-6.
- **Need for improvements to paid sick leave:** Council examined an Opposition bill (later defeated) to increase entitlement to paid sick leave for PEI employees.

Council members' viewpoints were included in correspondence to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.



In PEI, in 2020, during COVID-19 lockdowns, the number of women employed in the workforce decreased by

5.7%

while there was no change in the employment rate for men. Analysis suggests caregiving pressures as a factor.

Zoom Lunch & Learns

During restrictions on gathering due to COVID protocols, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women initiated a series of online Lunch and Learn events on priority issues. These virtual events invited national-calibre feminist leaders to share their knowledge and experience, with a PEI focus for local audiences. Council members were asked to play particular roles during the Lunch & Learns, which increased their knowledge and engagement.

BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE

Dr. Evelyn Forget & Hannah Owczar

September 13, 2022

Dr. Evelyn Forget and Hannah Owczar, authors of *Radical Trust: Basic Income for Complicated Lives*, presented a lunch and learn on the need for a basic income guarantee and provided examples of the difference a livable income would make in the lives of women and Prince Edward Islanders in particular. There were 34 participants, including the two presenters. Council members emceed, offering the land acknowledgement, introductions, and thank-yous for the event. Evelyn has a close connection to the basic income work of WGLI and is a proponent of a national basic income program beginning in PEI.

MIGRANT WORKER RIGHTS

Stacey Gomez

March 14, 2023

Stacey Gomez, founder of the organization No One Is Illegal - Nova Scotia, shared perspectives on the challenges migrant workers in the Atlantic region face and solutions that allies can advocate for. There were 24 participants, with Council members Serena Smith, Barb McDowall, and Hsiao-Yu Liu emceeding, offering the welcome and land acknowledgement, and thanking the speaker. Stacey advocated for migrant workers being granted the same protections as other Canadian workers, to lessen the abuses that often occur with employment restricted to one employer. She shared that some provinces are granting health coverage to migrant workers on arrival, something PEI could choose to do.



Council-Led Special Projects



The Centennial Poster was unveiled on May 7, at the Coalition for Women in Government's event, "Centennial of Women Getting the Vote." During Women's History Month, in October, Council posted on our website a slideshow and discussion guide (in English with a summary in French) featuring the Centennial poster images with context and questions for use by educators and community groups.



Centennial Poster Project

With the Coalition for Women in Government

Because 2022 marked the 100th anniversary of gender being removed as a barrier to voting, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and PEI Coalition for Women in Government collaborated to produce a poster to mark the occasion. The poster features images for each of the ten decades since non-Indigenous women gained the right to vote in PEI. (The image to the left represents the 1990s.) Artists Mari Basiletti and JoDee Samuelson (below) created the striking images and poster design.



Past Chairs Consultation

Chairs Circle Discusses Votes for Women

Council invited past Chairpersons for an annual consultation (June 13). The 2022 focus was "100 Years of Votes for Women," using the Centennial Poster project as the focus for discussion. Chairperson Cathy Rose welcomed four past Chairs for a spirited discussion, including project artist and past-Chairperson Mari Basiletti, who spoke about the inspiration behind the images. Past Chairs reflected on 100 years of struggles for equality.

Bursaries for Women

Annual deadline to apply: October 15

Diane Kays Memorial Bursary (\$500) 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.

2022 Winner: Kiera Gallant, UPEI

Inge Blackett Memorial Bursary (\$500): for a woman-identifying PEI resident who entered Canada as a refugee and is pursuing further education.

2022 Winner: Nehad Alharir, Steps to Success



Cathy Rose congratulates the first recipient of the Migrant Worker Rights Bursary, Marisela Prior Ortiz, who also lit a candle at the Dec. 6th Memorial Service.

New Bursary Introduced in 2022

Migrant Worker Rights Bursary (\$500): A new bursary for a woman-identifying PEI resident who has been designated a Temporary Foreign Worker and is pursuing further education:

2022 Winner: Marisela Prior Ortiz, 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. Information about this bursary is available from the University of Prince Edward Island.
2022 Winner: Victoria Keefe

Inspiring a New Organization

Chairs Circle for Gender Equality, Inc.

Inspired by the annual gathering of past Chairpersons of the Advisory Council, and recognizing a gap in capacity among gender equality organizations, Cathy Rose brought together past Chairpersons of the Council, Women's Network PEI, and the Coalition for Women in Government to incorporate the *Chairs Circle for Gender Equality*, a new organization with charitable purpose. Pictured here is the inaugural board of directors.



Some Community Collaborations



Cathy Rose, Minister Jameson, and Barb McDowall muster for the 2022 PRIDE Parade in Charlottetown.

PRIDE Week

Lead: PRIDE PEI

Program Coordinator Michelle Jay coordinated PRIDE parade participation for Council and among other women's organizations. At the July 23 parade, Council members Cathy Rose, Caroline MacRae, and Barb McDowall took part. Council had feminist signs made and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Natalie Jameson accepted the invitation to walk with us and wear a matching "Feminist PRIDE" t-shirt.

PRIDE Advocacy All Year

Lead: PEERS Alliance

Allyship with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community continues all year. Council co-hosted a Family Violence Prevention Week lunch and learn with PEERS Alliance (May 12). Council representatives attended the Trans Awareness Week flag-raising at the Coles Building (November 18). In early February, in the wake of growing hateful rhetoric and actions against 2SLGBTQIA+ neighbours and friends, Council advocated to Min. Jameson in support of the Gender Diversity Guidelines in schools (February 9).



PEERS Alliance staff Vanessa Bradley, Anastasia Preston, and Angele DesRoches present about youth programs.



Coalition staff Kari Kruse, Sweta Daboo, and Sarah Outram at their March Women's Leadership Symposium.

Boosting Women Leaders

Lead: Coalition for Women in Government

Supporting women in leadership is ongoing work for the Advisory Council. When the Senate of Canada put out a call for applications for PEI's two vacant Senate positions, Council staff collaborated with the PEI Coalition for Women in Government to send notes of encouragement to about two dozen women we admire, to urge them to put their names forward. We offered help and support with applications when possible. Response was very positive.

Black Women's History

Lead: Interministerial Women's Secretariat

When Debbie Langston was Chairperson of the Advisory Council, as our first Black Chair, she initiated a project to create curriculum resources for PEI schools, to highlight PEI Black history, with a focus on women. The project is now led by Debbie through the Interministerial Women's Secretariat with the Department of Education and Black Cultural Society. Research, content creation, and community consultation continue towards a fall 2023 launch.



"Songs for Peace" singers getting soggy for peace.

For Charlottetown's first International Day of Peace after signing on as a City of Peace, Council staff planned a "Sunrise Songs for Peace" participatory event at Victoria Park (September 21). It was a very rainy morning, but Council staff, International Cities of Peace advocates Selvi Roy and Jolene Chan, and Mayor of Charlottetown Philip Brown bravely sang songs of peace in the rain for passing dog-walkers and cruise ships. International Day of Peace fell during Sexual Assault Awareness Week, and we used events to raise awareness of gender-based violence as part of peace-building. Council ED Jane Ledwell moderated a "Together in Peace" panel.



Linda Hennessey, descendant of Black Islanders, holds an artifact recreated from her stories from her ancestors.

International Day of Peace

Lead: International Cities of Peace

In 2022, a group of diverse and gentle community members brought together by Selvi Roy successfully advocated for the City of Charlottetown to be recognized as an International City of Peace: to support peace-building, work towards UN sustainable development goals, and make peace a consensus value. Eliminating gender-based violence is a core value. Beyond Charlottetown, the group hopes to make PEI a region of peace.



Participants in a panel discussion for the International Day of Peace.

International Women's Day

International Women's Day, March 8, 2023, was a much-welcome opportunity for the community to gather in person to reunite and reignite for gender equality! IWD is a day to celebrate the achievements, strength, and worth of women, and also a day to advocate for safety, equity, and protection of human rights for women and girls globally.

Every Woman Counts Chaque femme compte

To celebrate International Women's Day in PEI, we created an inclusive, accessible, welcoming, participatory, diverse, and free of charge feminist event!

Women, women-identifying and non-binary folks were given the stage to demonstrate their talents, skills, and efforts towards community healing and gender equality.

Highlights included Alicia Toner and her rocking Northern Lights band, Indigenous round dancers Sophia and Ellie Bourque, and PEI Poet Laureate Tanya Davis performing her poem "Restoring Community."

Allies spoke compellingly about their work with a diversity of survivors of trauma, offering a peer counselling service, establishing the first Community Fridge in PEI, and working with the Francophone community.

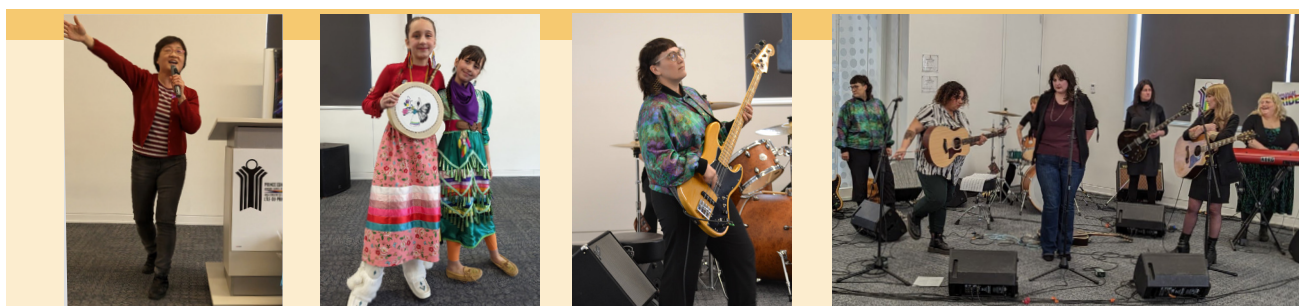
Chairperson Serena Smith wrote a commentary



entitled "International Women's Day 2023: Every Woman Counts," which we read on her behalf.

We ended the afternoon with a rousing version of "Bread and Roses" led by Shannon Scales.

Council members took responsibility for helping to organize the event - thanks to Barb McDowall for her wisdom and beautiful land acknowledgment, to Hsiao-Yu Liu for her delightful energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to assist, and to Garima Mishra for her thoughtful, practical perspective and engaging trivia questions.



Left to right, March 8, 2023: Hsiao-Yu Liu, round-dance leaders Sophia and Ellie Bourque; Charlie Howell on bass; Northern Lights Charlie Howell, Joce Reyome, Brielle Ansems, Robin Ettles, Alicia Toner, and Laura Oakie.

Consultations & Events

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women participates in consultations and community events related to our mandate and mission. Items that are not easy to categorize under our strategic plan categories for action are included below and in the pages that follow. Some projects and events help advance another strategic priority set by Council members: to take part in energizing events.

OTHER CONSULTATIONS

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is part of the New Museum Advocacy Group, which met with the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation (July 26) to consider a draft report from consultants Barker Langham re: options for future museum development in PEI and also met throughout the year.

In another heritage-related consultation, Council was also represented in an education-focused session to review Green Gables Heritage Place draft management plan (May 10).

Council representatives took part in a PEI Literacy Alliance member survey and stakeholder consultation (February & March) as part of their strategic planning.

Council representatives as individuals responded to a survey re: the provincial Climate Change Adaptation Plan (May) and the City of Charlottetown's Climate Action Discovery survey (February).

A Council representative also took part in the City of Charlottetown's Food Assessment survey and responded to questions from researchers (March).

SPEAK UP PROJECT

Women's Network PEI is coordinating the "Speak Up" project to bring together not-for-profit leaders in the gender and equality-seeking community. Organizational representatives meet quarterly and share resources and strategies for speaking up and speaking out on equity issues and to develop skills for collaborating and organizing.

SOME COMMUNITY EVENTS

Turn on the Lights PEI "Wear Teal Day" for childhood sexual abuse awareness (April 16)

Enhanced Emergency Sexual Assault Service Training Overview with Dr. Cathy Carter-Snell (April 22)

Book launch for *Fragments of Faith* by Michelle Harris-Genge (May 25)

Emancipation Day events (August 1)

Hilda Ramsay Dinner, with MP Leah Gazan (Sept. 8)

Lunchtime paper-crane event at Holland College and "Together in Peace" panel discussion for International Day of Peace (September 21)

Confederation Centre of the Arts Symons Lecture by Shelagh Rogers: "Shut Up and Listen: Changing Our Story" (October 13)

Launch of PEI Human Rights Commission SHIFT project and Community Legal Information RISE program video resources on workplace sexual harassment (November 22)

PEI Alliance for Mental Well-Being community showcase & funding announcement (November 25)

New Year's Levee of the PEI Coalition for Women in Government (January 12)

Installation of Tanya Davis as PEI's Poet Laureate, at Government House (February 16)

Election Forum on Equity Issues organized by the PEI Coalition for Women in Government (March 16)

Book launch of *Íjè: An Immigrant's Voyage into Prince Edward Island Life*, a collection by Elizabeth Iwunwa (March 16)

Human Rights Commission screening of the film *Tori et Lokita* for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21)

Communications

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women submits news releases and opinion pieces to media and responds to media requests. Ordinarily, spokespersons on behalf of the Council are the Chairperson, the Executive Director, and the Program Coordinator. The Council provides a weekly e-newsletter as a free community service. Subscribers receive submitted listings of community notices. Council staff members independently manage content of the official website at peistatusofwomen.ca and a social media presence on Facebook to educate and engage.



Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, December 2022.

WEBSITE

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women website at peistatusofwomen.ca is updated regularly. Analytics highlights included over 9,216 page views by over 3,800 users, 784 fewer page views but 500 more users compared to last year. Users were mostly in Canada, with over 27% in Charlottetown, PEI. The home page was most visited, followed by pages about the Purple Ribbon Campaign, members and staff, bursaries, resources for teachers, and International Women's Day.

E-NEWS

The Advisory Council e-news sent out 39 campaigns in 2022–2023, from April to June and September to March. Campaigns included at least 493 notices. Our e-newsletter was sent to our subscriber list of 353 members usually every Thursday and listings were also available at a link on our website or at the following link: <http://eepurl.com/rQH6P>

COMMENTARIES

"Commentary: Setting the Grade for Gender Equality in PEI" by Cathy Rose (April 7)

"Prince Edward Island Is Ready for a Basic Income Guarantee, by Jane Ledwell and Michelle Jay for the Working Group for a Livable Income (November 18)

Restoring Community after Domestic Violence: Therapeutic Court Options | Rétablir la communauté après un événement de violence familiale : Options judiciaires thérapeutiques" by Cathy Rose (Dec. 6)

"International Women's Day 2023: Every Woman Counts" | "Journée internationale des femmes de 2023 : Chaque femme compte" by Serena Smith, Chairperson (March 8)

MEDIA REQUESTS

Interview with CBC Radio/TV re: Department of Agriculture gender and diversity plan (April 21); same topic with Radio-Canada (May 10)

Interview with CBC Radio about community reaction to threats to Roe vs. Wade in the USA (May 6)

Interview with Radio-Canada about five years of access to in-province abortion care in PEI (June 29)

Interview with the *Graphic* and interview with Radio-Canada for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (for November 25)

Interview with CBC *Island Morning* about International Women's Day (March 3)

Interview with *La Voix Acadienne* about women's representation and the provincial election (March 10)

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Council's only current presence on social media is facebook.com/peistatusofwomen. A snapshot of ACSW Facebook page analytics as of March 31:

- Total posts: 229
- Total followers: 1,898. Our audience is 87% women, mostly between the ages of 35-55.
- Total reach: 12,017, a decrease from last year.

Six (6) posts or themes received more than 1,000 likes this year: our Basic Income Lunch & Learn (Sept. 6); feminist PRIDE posts (July 18-26); Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence (Aug. 10-Nov. 8); December 6 Montreal Massacre Memorial (Dec. 5-13); International Women's Day (Feb. 16-March 16); and Jane receiving the Queen's Jubilee medal (Feb. 10). An additional 12 posts reached between 500-1,000 users: KINLEY'S advocacy for sexual assault survivors, Debbie's Langston's commentary for Emancipation Day; the success of Abegweit's salmon fish hatchery; PEERS Alliance youth programming, the Centennial poster commemorating voting rights; WGLI meeting with Jagmeet Singh; and a presentation on consent to Kensington Intermediate Senior High students.

PRESENTATIONS

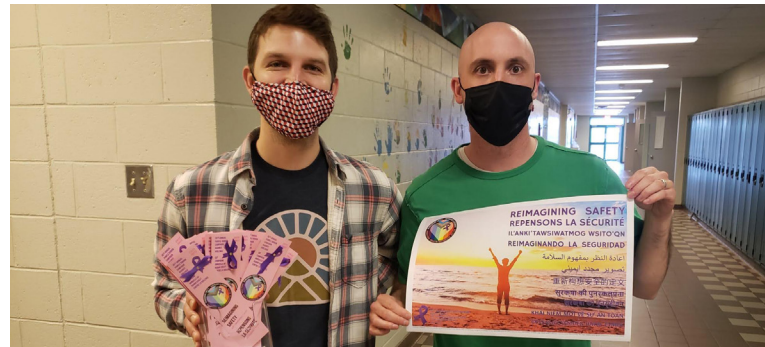
Council's Program Coordinator presented on the topic of consent for Kensington Intermediate Senior High Grade 12 students (April 14)

Council's ED co-presented on Basic Income to St. Paul's Anglican Church (April 24)

Council's Program Coordinator presented on Basic Income to the LAMP education forum (May 15)

Council's ED and Program Coordinator presented on women's rights as human rights for Grade 9 classes at Birchwood Intermediate (May 4)

Council's ED presented on the Equality Report Card project to participants in the Governor General's Leadership Conference (June 7)



Educators from Kensington Intermediate High School.



Governor General's Leadership Conference participants.



Michelle Jay and Jane Ledwell at Birchwood school.

Learning from Community

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women participates in continuous learning and professional development: formally, through webinars by subject-matter experts; informally, by hearing the voices of lived and living experience. The Council responds to inquiries from individuals, groups, and government. The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individuals.



Multilingual welcome sign.



Shannon Scales sings “Bread and Roses,” at IWD.



Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence, May.

WEBINARS ATTENDED

We Have the Courage to Act: National Collaboration to Address GBV at Post-Secondary Institutions in Canada, Western University CREVAWC (May 3)

Gender-based violence and traumatic brain injury, Women at the Centre (June 20)

Emancipation Day webinars on racism, diversity, and inclusion experiences of the BIPOC community in Atlantic Canada (August 1)

Raising Canada 2022: When Kids Thrive, Canada Thrives, Children First Canada (October 6)

Economic Injustice Summit, Canadian Centre for Women’s Economic Empowerment (November 15)

Closing the Gap: Intersectional Perspectives for Realizing Economic Justice, Equal Futures Network (November 3)

Lessons from a Rural Inquest: Taking Action to Support the Recommendations from the Renfrew County Inquest, VAW Learning Network (Nov. 17)

Understanding Coercive Control Against Children: Impacts and Supportive Responses, VAW Learning Network (November 22)

Femicide and Intersectionality: The Role of the Media, WomenatthecentrE and York University Centre for Sexual Violence Response (December 6)

Living with Coercive Control: Youth Perspectives, VAW Learning Network (December 13)

Intentionally Marginalized Communities: Violence in Relationships, Families, and Systems, Learning Network and Knowledge Hub (January 18)

Gender-Based Violence in Schools and the Intersectional Experiences of Black-Canadian Girls, Learning Network and Knowledge Hub (March 15)

INQUIRIES

The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services to or to advocate for individuals. 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 issues. When possible, the Chair raises concerns from inquiries with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. Inquiries were received related to the following: migrant worker rights, financial abuse and coercive control, sexual violence, police response to complaints of sexual assault, lack of accountability by sexual predators in the community, access to justice, intimate partner violence and family/justice repercussions, the intersection of poverty and violence, lack of affordable and safe housing, access to reproductive rights, a mother denied access to her child, gender-affirming care, childhood sexual assault, the complex mental health needs of racialized international students, social and financial isolation of seniors, lack of affordable physical health options for senior women, and a call expressing frustration that “manels” – all male panels of experts - are still representing all people on electoral issues. There were also requests for presentations on healthy relationships and for Purple Ribbon Campaign resources, requests for Centennial posters, and requests for assistance with Senate applications by PEI women.

Inquiries helped inform Council input on women's and gender diverse people's health, migrant workers' rights, the Child Protection Act, a national economic abuse survey, and the sexual violence strategy.

Referrals were made to service providers such as Victim Services, Charlottetown Mutual Aid, Blooming House, Family Violence Prevention Services, Women's Network, PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, and Community Legal Information. More information is available through 211 PEI.

NATIONAL EVENTS

The Equal Futures Network Gender Equality Summit 2022 took place in Ottawa, Ontario, June 7 & 8. Program Coordinator Michelle Jay attended in-person as a part of Women's Network PEI's delegation. We are grateful to Women's Network! Chairperson Cathy Rose and both the ED and Office Manager participated in selected conference events virtually from back in Charlottetown.

Local events planned for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (September 30), Treaty Day (October 1), and the Sisters in Spirit Vigil (October 4) were cancelled this year as a result of storm and disaster recovery efforts.



PEI participants in the Equal Futures Network Summit.



Michelle Jay, right, listens to another participant in the Equal Futures Gender Equality Summit in Ottawa.

Financial Statements

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023
(Unaudited)



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BDO Canada LLP
107 Walker Avenue
PO Box 1347
Summerside PE C1N 4K2 Canada

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women that comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in net financial debts, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility 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.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women as at March 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Summerside, Prince Edward Island
June 27, 2023

1.


BDO Canada LLP, a Canadian limited liability partnership, is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
MARCH 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

	2023	2022
Financial assets		
Cash	\$ 14,604	\$ 11,361
Accounts receivable	2,233	1,773
	16,837	13,134
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 4)	17,840	20,513
Deferred revenue	5,000	-
Net debt	(6,003)	(7,379)
Non-financial assets		
Prepaid expenses	1,265	1,296
Accumulated deficit	\$ (4,738)	\$ (6,083)

On behalf of the Council

 Council Chair

 Council Member

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND DEFICIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

	Budget	2023	2022
Revenue			
Grants - Province of Prince Edward Island (Note 7)	\$ 230,000	\$ 233,278	\$ 235,501
Program revenue	11,078	8,661	1,537
	241,078	241,939	237,038
Expenses			
Administration	12,440	13,090	10,027
Contracts	5,336	5,336	5,082
Council meetings/business	32,000	27,125	32,804
Equipment	-	1,912	2,269
Materials and supplies	11,850	14,676	10,731
Salaries and benefits	179,452	178,455	177,912
	241,078	240,594	238,825
Annual surplus (deficit)	-	1,345	(1,787)
Accumulated deficit, beginning of year	(6,083)	(6,083)	(4,296)
Accumulated deficit, end of year	\$ (6,083)	\$ (4,738)	\$ (6,083)

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, 2023

	Budget	2023	2022
Annual deficit	\$ -	\$ 1,345	\$ (1,787)
Change in prepaid expenses	-	31	(22)
Increase(decrease) in debt	-	1,376	(1,809)
Net debt, beginning of year	(7,379)	(7,379)	(5,570)
Net debt, end of year	(7,379)	(6,003)	(7,379)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

	2023	2022
Operating activities:		
Cash received from operating activities	\$ 246,479	\$ 236,446
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(243,236)	(233,660)
	3,243	2,786
Increase in cash position	3,243	2,786
Cash, beginning of year	11,361	8,575
Cash, end of year	\$ 14,604	\$ 11,361

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2023
(Unaudited)**

1. Nature of 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. Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the Council are representation of management and have been prepared in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles for local governments as recommended by the Public Sector Accounting Board ("PSAB").

Significant accounting policies adopted by the Council are as follows:

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using Canadian accounting standards for the public sector. These statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

(b) Revenue Recognition

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.

(c) Government Transfer

Government transfers are recognized as revenue in the financial statements when the transfer is authorized and any eligibility criteria are met, except to the extent that transfer stipulations give rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability. Transfers are recognized as deferred revenue when transfer stipulations give rise to a liability. Transfer revenue is recognized in the statement of operations as the stipulation liabilities are settled.

(d) 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 totaling \$1,912 (2022 - \$2,269) was expensed.

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(e) Contributed Materials and Services

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

(f) Financial Instruments

Cash and equity instruments quoted in an active market are measured at fair value. Accounts receivable are measured at cost or amortized cost. The carrying amount of each of these financial instruments is presented on the statement of financial position.

For financial instruments measured using amortized cost, the effective interest rate method is used to determine interest revenue or expense.

All financial assets are tested annually for impairment. When financial assets are impaired, impairment losses are recorded in the statement of operations.

Transaction costs are added to the carrying value for financial instruments measured using cost or amortized cost. Transaction costs are expensed for financial instruments measured at fair value.

(g) Non-financial assets

Non-financial assets are not available to discharge existing liabilities and are held for the use in the provision of services. They have useful lives extending beyond the current year and are not intended for sale in the normal course of operations. The change in non-financial assets during the year, together with the excess of revenues over expenses, provides the consolidated change in net debt for the year.

3. Change in accounting policy

Effective April 1, 2022, the Council adopted new Public Sector Accounting Handbook Standard, PS 3450, Financial Instruments. The standard requires all applicable financial instruments be subsequently measured at either fair value or amortized cost. This change in accounting policy has been applied retroactively without restatement of prior periods as there were no required changes to the financial statements as a result of the adoption of the new standard.

4. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

	2023		2022
Accounts payable	\$ 5,245	\$	7,386
Accrued employee wages and benefits	2,631		2,241
Accrued vacation and overtime	<u>9,964</u>		<u>10,886</u>
	\$ <u>17,840</u>	\$	<u>20,513</u>

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5. Government Funding

a) Sick Leave

Employees of the Council are granted a base amount of 18 days of paid sick leave each fiscal year. Sick time is earned on the basis of 1 hour for each 14.44 work hours. Staff are granted one quarter of their sick time in advance at the beginning of each quarter of the 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 Public Sector 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 \$13,683 (2022 - \$13,491) 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.

6. Contractual Obligation

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

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7. Related Party Transactions

The Council received the following grants from the Province:

	2023		2022
Operating grants	\$ 230,000	\$	230,001
Other grants	<u>3,278</u>		<u>5,500</u>
	\$ <u>233,278</u>	\$	<u>235,501</u>

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.

8. Budgeted Figures

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

PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women



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