



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

Advisory Council on the
Status of Women

PO Box 2000
Charlottetown
Prince Edward Island
Canada C1A 7N8

**SUBMISSION FROM THE PEI ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
TO THE POLICING STANDARDS CONSULTATION.**

April 3, 2025

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEIACSW) is a nine-member, government-appointed arms-length government agency with a mandate to advise government and educate the public on matters that relate to the status of Prince Edward Island women.

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

We acknowledge that 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 today and since time immemorial. Epekwitk is covered by the historic treaties of Peace and Friendship.

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to the consultation on Policing Standards. PEI must have a set of comprehensive policing standards based on best practices, and it is essential that these standards are put into place as soon as possible. However, it is difficult to make a conclusive assessment of the proposed standards without having access to the complete draft. While we are supportive of summaries being provided for knowledge translation, dissemination, and accessibility purposes, the complete draft should also be made available for those who wish to review any or all of its contents as part of the consultation process.

Since we have not seen the complete draft, comments will be limited to what were able to discern from the summary provided and our Executive Director’s participation in a presentation regarding the draft standards for the Justice Minister’s Advisory Committee on Crime Prevention and Policing, and, as such, will be limited in scope and specificity.

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women also took part in previous consultations regarding the current draft, and we expect that input provided will be reflected in the draft standards; the summary appears to incorporate perspective shared in the consultations.

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women supports implementing comprehensive policing standards in PEI as soon as possible. Standards must be implemented with clear mechanisms for enforcement, review, and evaluation, and these mechanisms must be outlined in the implementation plan. As part of the review and evaluation process, there should be a clear two-year compliance window, with effective plans to ensure the standards are met to the fullest degree.

Standards that remain to be developed regarding gender-based violence should include, at a minimum, standards for training on dynamics of gender-based violence and domestic assault, child sexual assault investigations, adult sexual assault investigations, and trauma-informed training and processes. Standards and training related to gender-based violence should include oversight by subject-matter experts, similar to survivor-led case review processes for sexual assault, but extended to domestic violence and other gender-based violence cases.

Policing standards should align with the Victims of Crime Act, as a minimum, and should evolve as victims' rights evolve, with attention to the Canadian Victims' Bill of Rights.

It is our understanding that third-party reporting in cases of adult sexual violence, which is a key action in the Creating a Culture of Care Strategy for Prevention and Responding to Adult Sexual Violence in PEI, and a key action called for in our 2026 Equality Report Card, could only be implemented following implementation of finalized policing standards, as standards are a precondition for third-party reporting. This is another argument for the efficient and effective implementation of the standards.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission. Please let us know if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



Jane Ledwell, Executive Director

cc: Hon. Jenn Redmond, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Michelle Harris-Genge, Director of the PEI Interministerial Women's Secretariat
Members and staff of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women