

## Annual Report 2018–2019

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

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April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019

## ABOUT THE COVER ART



*A Walk Along French River Shore*

*PEI, 2018*

watercolour, 20" x 24"

by Susan Christensen

**Susan Christensen**, born in Summerside, PEI, has a deep love for her Island home which is clearly evident in her artwork. Extensive travel has highlighted for her the beauty and serenity of her Prince Edward Island home. Communion with nature is the essence of her inspiration, and it is this exploration of her personal responses that produces artwork that is known internationally and nationally, as well as locally. Her photo etchings have shown in Japan on numerous occasions. Her image "Beach Walk, PEI" was chosen to represent PEI at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. Susan manages and runs her own business, Studio 4, which encompasses her visual art, graphic design, and illustration. From June to October each year, you will find Susan painting in her gallery Susan Christensen Art Gallery located at 11 Grand Pere Point Road. You can also see her work at [www.susanchristensenart.com](http://www.susanchristensenart.com).

## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



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Advisory Council on the  
Status of Women

PO Box 2000  
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Prince Edward Island  
Canada C1A 7N8



September 9, 2019

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

Dear Minister Compton:

I am pleased to present you with the 2018–2019 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements and a summary of the Advisory Council's activities, publications, projects, and collaborations with government and the community from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019.

The Advisory Council continues to play a very important role in both community and government-supported initiatives. During the months of April and May we were busy preparing and finalizing the Equality Report Card which assesses the PEI government's progress towards women's equality. We also hosted our Chairs Circle (made up of present and past chairs) during this time in order to further discuss and add input to the Equality Report Card. The final Report Card grade ended by being a B-. This shows us that some progress is being made towards gender and equality.

During the year I had the pleasure of meeting with Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Paula Biggar to present the Equality Report Card, to update the minister of our participation on government consultations, and to discuss the dynamics of our Council, our projects, and our members.

Some of the highlights of the year included attending the National Coalition of Advisory Councils on the Status of Women meeting held in Halifax in June, with women from seven provinces or territories. In October, I had the honour of speaking at the Sisters in Spirit Vigil and attending the Indigenous Justice Forum, and these provided me with a tremendous amount of respect and information regarding PEI Mi'kmaq and other Indigenous peoples. Later in the fall, I enjoyed attending the PEI Famous Five 25th Anniversary Conference held at UPEI, along with the theatrical event "To the Power of Five" at the Harbourfront Theatre in Summerside. The Purple Ribbon Campaign, one of our most important events, requires a lot of work and coordination with various groups and is always at the forefront of our activities. The December 6th Memorial Service, where we pause to remember the women killed in the Montreal Massacre and PEI women killed since 1989, is a very sombre event that tends to remind us of the ever-present violence against women. In March, International Women's Day enables us to celebrate with women on an International level and reminds us of how far we have come, but then also how much further we can go.

In conclusion, the many meetings and various sessions attended by either staff or members are numerous but they also show that we, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, care, and we are devoted to representing women. Our work can sometimes be tedious but oh so rewarding! The past year has certainly been a busy one, and I wish to thank all Council members for their support. A very special thanks to our staff Jane, Michelle and Becky; it is such a pleasure to work with them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Yvonne Deagle".

Yvonne Deagle, Chairperson to September 9, 2019



# CONTENTS

<b>ABOUT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL</b>	<b>4</b>
Vision, Mission, and Mandate	4
Council Meetings & Strategic Planning	5
Advisory Council Members	6
Advisory Council Staff	9
National Coalition of Advisory Councils	10
<b>ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT: POLICY &amp; RESEARCH</b>	<b>11</b>
Equality Report Card	11
Other Research & Policy Work	12
<b>PUBLIC INFORMATION &amp; EDUCATION</b>	<b>13</b>
Media	13
Newsletters & Activities Updates	14
New Media & Social Media	14
Meetings & Correspondence with Government	16
Community Consultations	17
Chairs Circle 2018	18
Inquiries & Referrals	19
<b>ENGAGEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY</b>	<b>20</b>
Community Events	20
Partnerships	22
<b>LEADERSHIP IN ANNUAL EVENTS</b>	<b>25</b>
Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence	25
International Women's Day – March 8	28
Bursaries for Women	29
<b>PUBLICATIONS LIST</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	<b>30</b>

### Vision, Mission, and Mandate

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

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

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

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

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

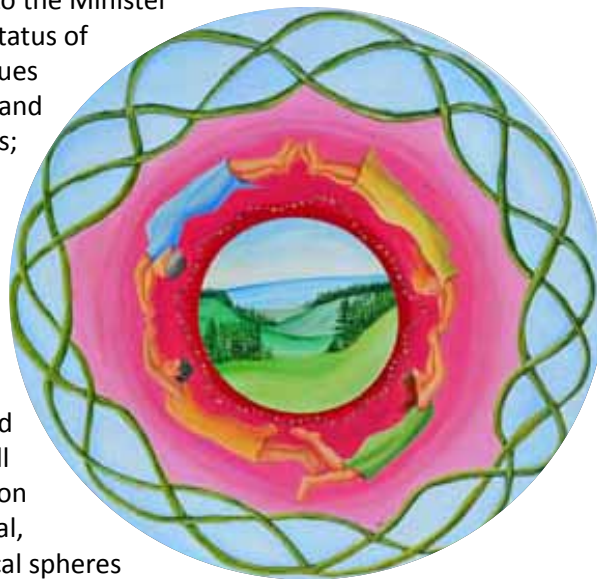
#### **Vision: Working for gender equality for all Islanders**

#### **Mission**

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

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

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



*"Seeds" by past Council Chairperson Mari Basiletti.*

*This artwork was commissioned by and hangs in the waiting room of the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre.*

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



### Council Meetings & Strategic Planning

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

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

#### Advisory Council Meetings & Highlights, 2018–2019:

- **158th meeting: May 7, 2018, Summerside, PEI**  
*Equality Report Card Grade-Setting Workshop*  
In an intensive, consensus-building workshop, Council set draft grades for the Equality Report Card and discussed and selected the analysis to support the grades in each category. Council Vice-Chairperson led this workshop.
- **159th meeting: June 27, 2018, Cornwall, PEI**  
*2018 Equality Report Card Launch*  
In a public news conference with guests from community organizations and government, Council members launched the 2018 Equality Report Card. During the meeting portion of the day, Council also made plans for the 2018-2019 year's Purple Ribbon Campaign.
- **160th meeting: October 3, 2018, Charlottetown, PEI**  
*Gender Presentation & Policy Review*  
Guest speaker Angele DesRoches from PEERS Alliance shared a presentation on gender norms, in development to be part of the curriculum of the "Microphone" Project. Council members spent the rest of their meeting time to update and renew the Council and Staff policy handbooks, to put our principles into practice.
- **161st meeting: December 6, 2018, Charlottetown, PEI**  
*Montreal Massacre Memorial Service*  
Council members helped to coordinate, attend, and participate in the annual Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.
- **162nd meeting: March 9, 2019, Charlottetown, PEI**  
*Council Planning*  
A February meeting was cancelled due to bad weather, so on March 9, Council members welcomed newly appointed members Caroline MacRae and Gina Younker for a facilitated Council planning session led by Sara Roach-Lewis. Council Executive followed up the session with action-planning later in the month.



*Roses at the December 6, 2018, Montreal Massacre Memorial Service*

### Advisory Council Members

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**Yvonne Deagle, Miminegash — Chairperson**

*Council term: 9 September 2014 to 9 September 2019*

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

*Chairperson's term: 23 January 2018 to 9 September 2019*

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



**Debbie Langston, Blooming Point — Vice-Chairperson**

*Council term: 22 March 2016 to 22 March 2021*

*Vice-Chairperson's term: 23 January 2018 to 22 March 2021*

Debbie and her sisters were raised by their mother in the UK. After leaving school Debbie worked for the Metropolitan Police Service, where she met her husband. They immigrated to Canada with their young family in 2004. Debbie graduated from the Holland College Child and Youth Care Worker course in 2009 and is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program at UPEI. She has worked in a variety of settings and is currently employed as a Youth Service Worker with the Public Schools Branch. Debbie is a passionate advocate for equality for women and the rights of other marginalized groups.



**Lalana Paul, Melville — Treasurer (to February 2019)**

*Council term: 20 September 2016 to 24 February 2019*

Lalana has been involved in Indigenous women's programs and supports since 2006. Much of her professional life has been working to assist women fleeing from violence. Currently she works with various Indigenous organizations providing human resources, policy, research and consultation. Lalana holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Prince Edward Island, where she studied English and Art History. She and her husband moved to the Island from Vancouver in 2011. Lalana left the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women to pursue work within the Department of Health and Wellness PEI.



**Cathy Rose, Fortune — Treasurer (from March 2019)**

*Council term: 23 January 2018 to 23 January 2021*

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



### Advisory Council Members, continued

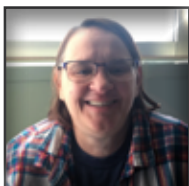
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**Caroline MacRae, Summerside — Member**

*Council term: 19 February 2019 to 19 February 2022*

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



**Regina "Gina" Younker, Charlottetown — Member**

*Council term: 19 February 2019 to 19 February 2022*

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



**Pamela Schurman-Montgomery, Summerside — Member**

*Council term: 20 September 2016 to 20 September 2019*

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



**Madison Blanchard, Charlottetown — Member**

*Council term: 20 September 2016 to 20 September 2019*

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

### Advisory Council Members, continued

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#### **Chris MacPhail, Canoe Cove — Member**

*Council term: 23 January 2018 to 23 January 2021*

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



#### **Diana Lariviere, Argyle Shore — Member**

*Council term: 28 July 2015 to 28 July 2018*

Diana Lariviere, C.Arb., is a chartered arbitrator with an extensive background in Human Resource Management. Her experience in HR includes policy writing and presenting training and information sessions on a wide range of HR-related issues. Diana served as Chair of the PEI Social Assistance Appeal Board from 2012 to 2015, during which time she had the opportunity to highlight areas of concern relating to women. A longtime volunteer, Diana serves on several other volunteer boards and is an active member of the Argyle Shore Women's Institute. Diana's current focus is on freelance writing and, as a licensed PEI Marriage Commissioner, on performing civil marriages and baby-naming ceremonies across the province.



#### **Susan Yinan Sun, Charlottetown — Member**

*Council term: 23 January 2018 to 2 August 2018*

Susan Yinan Sun is an educator with more than 15 years' experience working as a trainer, facilitator, consultant, and coach in settings from university to multi-national companies. In her current role as the founder of Unicorn Education Solutions, Susan is committed to supporting high school students and their families by applying a strengths-based, personalized and systematic approach to university preparation and the admissions process. Susan earned her Masters degree in Psychology from Peking University. She is currently a Masters student in the Global Education program at University of British Columbia. Susan is also an associate member of the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA) and in the process of applying for Canadian professional counseling licensure. She is particularly dedicated to women's professional development and young adults' occupational education and mental well being. Susan left the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women to pursue graduate studies in British Columbia.



*New members who began in 2018, Chrissy MacPhail, Cathy Rose, and Susan Sun.*

### Advisory Council Members, continued

#### Council Member Highlights & Changes, 2018–2019:

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

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

In February 2019, two new members, Caroline MacRae and Regina Younker, were appointed and took part in orientation sessions prior to their first meeting in March 2019.

In the 2018–2019 fiscal year, member Diana Lariviere completed her term and was recognized with a service award. Member Susan Yinan Sun moved to British Columbia for graduate studies and regretfully resigned in August 2018. Treasurer Lalana Paul began a new job that led to her regretful decision to resign in February 2019. Council members elected Cathy Rose as treasurer in March 2019, to fill the vacancy on executive left by Lalana.



*Chairperson Yvonne Deagle welcomes new members who joined in 2019, Caroline MacRae of Summerside and Regina Younker of Cornwall.*

#### Advisory Council Staff

The Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time permanent staff members in 2018–2019.



**Jane Ledwell**  
— Executive Director

Jane joined Council staff in June 2004 and has been

Executive Director since September 2012. She works full-time.



**Becky Tramley**  
— Office Manager

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



**Michelle Jay**  
— Program Coordinator

Michelle was hired as Program Coordinator in

September 2012 and works full-time.

#### Staff Development, 2018–2019:

- The staff and chairperson meet regularly to plan and review their work and to take opportunities for team-building together.
- This year, all staff took part in training on records management (July 14). The Program Coordinator and ED took part in leadership training at Organize to Lead: Provincial Symposium for Women (May 24–26) and both updated First Aid certification (January). Program Coordinator Michelle Jay participated in a training cohort of the Leadership Development Program for Women in Politics (April to March). Executive Director Jane Ledwell attended a collaborative training workshop (May 31) and engaged in leadership coaching with SRL Solutions.



*Council staff with Yvonne at her home in Miminegash, July 2018.*

### National Coalition of Advisory Councils

The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy. The PEI Advisory Council is joined in the Coalition by similar women's government advisory bodies from other regions of Canada.



#### List of Major Coalition Activities, 2018–2019:



*Some members of the National Coalition with Nova Scotia's Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Hon. Kelly Regan at the June 2018 annual meeting.*

- The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women held its annual meeting in Halifax June 5 to 6. The meeting ended with a new partnership between the Coalition and the Canadian Women's Foundation and a renewed commitment to advancing women's leadership in Canada.
- The meeting was hosted by the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women and participants discussed current challenges in achieving gender equality in our respective provinces and territories, while sharing resources and best practices.
- The Coalition discussed current issues and emerging best practices in supporting women's leadership, addressing harassment, and ending gender-based violence. Participants learned about two specific models in Nova Scotia, the domestic violence court program and legal advice for sexual assault survivors.
- Paulette Senior, CEO and president of the Canadian Women's Foundation, was a guest speaker and provided Coalition members with her advice on how women's leadership can strengthen women's voices in Canada. She also discussed the recently formed Gender Equality Network Canada, and their work to develop a national Gender Equality Action Plan.
- Michelle Kelly, the Coalition's chair, led the group in strategic planning and identifying next steps and future directions for the Coalition. Ms. Kelly is the president of the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women and a partner with Cox & Palmer, practising in commercial and insurance litigation. She is originally from Summerside, PEI. She completed her time as Coalition Chair in March 2019.
- The National Coalition has an account on Twitter: @CPTACW.



## Equality Report Card

In a variety of forms, Council makes recommendations to government for changes in policy and legislation to benefit the lives of Island women, girls, and their families. The Equality Report Card assesses the PEI government's progress towards implementing recommendations related to women's equality. Council released a pilot Report Card in 2008. Subsequent Equality Report Cards were published in 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015.

The Equality Report Card follows up on recommendations and advice made by the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women through the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and other officials in correspondence, briefings, submissions, and meetings, either independently or in partnership with equality-seeking organizations.



*Ten years of Equality Report Cards, 2008 to 2018.*

### 2018 Equality Report Card:

- The Advisory Council 2018 Equality Report Card was released June 27, 2018, and awarded the PEI government a grade of “B–” for work from May 2015 to December 31, 2017, to address the equality goals of women and under-represented groups on the Island.
- The “B–” grade on the Equality Report Card demonstrated important, but still uneven, progress towards women’s equality goals in PEI. The grade was the highest for a government since 2011, when they were credited for major improvements in early childhood care and education.
- Some highlights in the report included
  - the establishment of the Women’s Wellness Centre and sexual health services for all genders;
  - achieving gender parity on applications and appointments to Engage PEI agencies, boards, and commissions;
  - increasing support for youth mental health, such as student well-being teams in schools; and
  - continuing support for projects in the community sector.
- On the negative side, Council noted that it will take some time and continued commitment before women and families see the effects of new programs and gender-sensitive plans in their day-to-day lives.
- The year 2018 marked the tenth anniversary of the Equality Report Card. Over 10 years, the Council tracked tremendous progress on some issues, such as using gender and diversity analysis, but very little progress on other files, such as a domestic violence court option or Island-wide public transit.
- The Equality Report Card was made possible with collaboration of the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Hon. Paula Biggar, and every department of government. All departments of government were commended for the reports they provided to inform the Report Card. The project required a great deal of volunteer work by Advisory Council members and also brought in the voices of focus group participants and many community organizations.
- The next Equality Report Card will assess the government elected in April 2019. The processes, assessment criteria, priority action areas, and timelines for this project will be determined by Council members in consultation with government. The Advisory Council is committed to continuing to collaborate with government to help them achieve high grades on the next Equality Report Card.



*Vice-Chairperson Debbie Langston, Executive Director Jane Ledwell, and Chairperson Yvonne Deagle at the June launch of the 2018 Equality Report Card.*

## Other Research & Policy Work

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



Covers of the Government of Prince Edward Island's Housing Action Plan and Poverty Reduction Action Plan: Council representatives participated in numerous consultations towards these plans.

### Highlights of Other Research & Policy Work, 2018–2019:

- **Participation in Provincial Consultations**

*Adoption Act Review:* The Chairperson and ED participated in a consultation with the Department of Family and Human Services, the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, and consultants on the Adoption Act Review into opening adoption records (April 25).

*Poverty Reduction Action Plan:* Staff and Council were encouraged to complete an online survey regarding poverty reduction (May). The Program Coordinator assisted consultants in organizing a focus group of women to advise on poverty reduction (for May 15). The Program Coordinator and, later, the ED, participated in service-provider consultations regarding the Poverty Reduction Action Plan (May 23 to August 7). The Chairperson (O'Leary, June 14) and ED (Charlottetown, June 12) took part in public meetings to develop the poverty reduction plan. The ED later took part in a CIHR "Best Brains Exchange" on implementing the Poverty Reduction Action Plan (November 7).

*Mental Health Well-Being Continuum:* Council's ED participated in a day-long workshop on a mental health well-being continuum (May 9) and a mental health and addictions collaboration day (November 28).

*Housing Action Plan:* The ED was a member of the co-development team for the provincial housing action plan, attending consultations (May 29).

*Campus Sexual Violence Act:* The Program Coordinator and ED participated in a consultation regarding the Campus Sexual Violence Act, legislation to govern post-secondary sexual violence policies (July 17).

*Amendments to the Employment Standards Act:* The ED consulted with the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention and the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income in the preparation of written input into Employment Standards Act amendments (August).

*Workplace Harassment Regulations:* Council submitted written feedback regarding draft regulations regarding updated workplace harassment definitions in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (March 1) and the ED took part in a consultation on the draft regulations (March 12).

*Responses to Surveys on Other Topics:* Sustainable Transportation (December 14); gender and diversity issues in Agriculture and Fisheries (December 14); Welcoming Communities (January 7 – with a follow-up interview January 24).

- **Written Submissions to Provincial Government Consultations**

- Input on Employment Standards Act Regulations, August 27, 2018

- Input into the Food Awareness Act, November 20, 2018

- **Provincial Perspectives in Federal Consultations**

- Federal consultation on implementing a National Pharmacare program (September 20); feedback to a federal consultation on Human Trafficking (September 28); response to a survey from Status of Women Canada (October 12).



## Media

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

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

The Advisory Council began producing occasional video news releases in-house in September 2011 and has a channel at [vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen](https://vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen).



Vice-Chairperson Debbie Langston and Chairperson Yvonne Deagle at the news conference to launch the 2018 Equality Report Card in June 2018.



Program Coordinator Michelle Jay is fourth from the left, back row, in this photo from the launch of the first "Microphone" module. Photo credit: Province of PEI.

### News Releases, 2018–2019:

- Past Chairs Recognize Community Sector Contributions to Equality / Les anciennes présidentes reconnaissent les contributions du secteur communautaire à l'atteinte de l'égalité (June 20)
- PEI Provincial Government Earns a "B–" for Work on Women's Equality / Le gouvernement provincial reçoit un B– pour son travail en matière d'égalité des femmes (June 27)

### Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2018–2019:

- Letter re. changing legislative sitting hours / changement des heures de séances à l'Assemblée législative (April 19)
- Update PEI's Sex-Ed Curriculum – Let Us Help, commentary submitted with PEERS Alliance and Women's Network PEI (July 28)
- Commissioned *Guardian*/Saltwire guest opinion by ED Jane Ledwell for special regional series "#MeToo: What Next" (for October 1)
- Difficult Questions re. teacher Roger Jabbour sexual misconduct case, commentary submitted with Women's Network PEI and PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre (October 9)
- Be Ready to Prevent Violence Against Women - Time to Step Up / Soyons prêts à prévenir la violence faite aux femmes. Il est temps de faire sa part (December 6)
- International Women's Day 2019 - #BalanceforBetter / Journée internationale des femmes 2019 - #BalanceforBetter (March 8)

### News Conferences, 2018–2019:

- News conference to launch the 2018 Equality Report Card, Cornwall, PEI (June 27)
- Launch of the first module of the "Microphone" project, organized by Communications PEI, Stonepark Junior High (November 6)

### Interview Requests, 2018–2019:

- **CBC Radio and/or Television:** with Women's Network PEI, re. need for updated sexual health education curriculum (July 28); Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (December 5); Femicide in Canada report (February 1)
- **Radio-Canada radio/télévision:** Equality Report Card (June 28); Montreal Massacre Memorial (December 6); Women's March (January 22)
- **Private radio:** Equality Report Card (June 28)
- **Eastern Graphic:** Lily Levesque's poem, "The Wolf" (January 3)
- **Charlottetown *Guardian*:** Equality Report Card (June 27); basic income and children's health event (February 5)
- ***La Voix Acadienne*:** Equality Report Card (June 27); Poverty Reduction Strategy (November 13)

## Newsletters & Activities Updates

Members of the Advisory Council's traditional (snail mail) mailing list numbered over 700 by the end of the fiscal year. They receive *Activities Updates* and special Council publications and promotions.

As a free community service, subscribers to the weekly e-newsletter receive submitted listings of community notices.

### E-Newsletter, 2018–2019:

- The Advisory Council on the Status of Women e-news sent out **41 campaigns** in 2018–2019, from April to June and September to March.
- More than **325** people subscribe to the e-news, a stable number over the past two years. Our e-newsletter with community events and notices about upcoming events, activities, or items of interest for women in the community is sent directly to our subscriber list usually every Thursday and is also available at a link from our blog at [peiacsw.wordpress.com](http://peiacsw.wordpress.com).
- Subscriptions are welcome at <http://eepurl.com/rQH6P>.

### Activities Updates and Other Mailouts, 2018–2019:

- *Activities Update*, Fall/Winter 2018 and Purple Ribbon Campaign materials (November 2018)
- *Equality Report Card*, to a selected mailing list of about 300 (July 2018)



## New Media & Social Media

Advisory Council on the Status of Women staff members independently manage content of the Advisory Council's official website at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>. Whenever possible, news releases and publications are made available on-line on the website as they are released.

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



### Wordpress Blog, 2018–2019, <http://peiacsw.wordpress.com>:

- People made about **4,260** blog visits, an average of about **355** a month.
- Top posts included pinned posts promoting the Purple Ribbon Campaign and International Women's Day. Galleries of photos from events such as the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service and International Women's Day are of particular interest.
- The blog continues to be a good space to share the e-newsletter for non-subscribers and to highlight events and issues.

### Twitter, 2018–2019, @peiacsw:

- At March 31, about **70** tweets had been posted the previous year, resulting in an average of **4,250** tweet impressions per month. We had about **2,520** followers, a gain of about **70** over the previous year. Our organization was mentioned in about **70** tweets by others. We continued to be less active on Twitter in 2018–2019 because the platform is too tolerant of trolling and misogyny.
- Highlights included tweets about events such as the Equality Report Card, the Purple Ribbon Campaign, Family Violence Prevention Week, and International Women's Day and partnerships such as our National Coalition of Advisory Councils and the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability. *The Employment Journey* newspaper regularly publishes articles with a gender lens and promotes work for women and women in the workforce in a variety of fields, and we are often, and happily, tagged in their posts.

### Videos, 2018–2019, at <http://vimeo.com/peistatusofwomen>:

- No new videos posted in 2018–2019.

## New Media & Social Media, continued



*Promoting a Family Violence Prevention Week Lunch and Learn in O'Leary in February 2019, using the Make It Your Business video series.*



*Michelle speaks about the challenges of migrant women at a rally for migrant worker rights, 2018.*

### Facebook, 2018–2019, <http://facebook.com/peistatusofwomen>:

- At March 31, the Facebook page had **1,045** “likes,” up from **925** “likes” in the 2017–2018 year.
- There were **273** total posts by the ACSW Facebook page in 2018–2019, with a total reach of **133,120** and total impressions of **212,580**
- More than **40** posts reached over 1,000 Facebook users. Together, these 44 posts reached 67,870 Facebook users and had over 100,200 impressions. Top posts included those referencing International Women’s Day, the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, male responsibility for toxic masculinity, PEI’s outdated sexual health curriculum, confronting sexual violence against women and children, the legislation of sexual violence policies at all PEI post-secondary institutions, and the interconnection of gender and poverty.
- Other posts that reached over 1,000 dealt with: women in political, social and economic leadership; reproductive rights and sexual health; homelessness; 2SLGBTQ+ rights; pay equity; body shaming; racism and Islamophobia; food insecurity; migrant workers’ rights; and local sexual assault trials and sentencing.
- The most-viewed post of the year referenced International Women’s Day, with a post detailing and promoting March 8 IWD events.
- Stories commemorating women’s successes, especially Island women’s successes, continued to appeal to Facebook users.



*Promoting the Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee.*



*Materials from the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability at the December 6 memorial service.*



## Meetings & Correspondence with Government

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



*Yvonne and Hon. Paula Biggar at the Legislature following a statement by the Minister in November 2018.*



*Yvonne Deagle meets Hon. Paula Biggar to present the 2017-2018 Annual Report.*

### Meetings with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, 2018–2019:

- Council Chairperson Yvonne Deagle met with Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Hon. Paula Biggar once by phone and twice in person. Meetings are supported by a memo outlining issues. The ACSW ED and Program Coordinator regularly participate in the meetings, as does the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
  - **June 19:** Topics included the presentation of the first advance copy of the 2018 Equality Report Card and of Council's research related to dress codes in schools.
  - **August 23:** Topics for this meeting in Tyne Valley included Council vacancies and gaps in diversity, and Council's participation and advice to government in consultations from April to August 2019.
  - **January 30:** Topics included the national report on femicide in Canada in 2018; Council business and budget; support for the PEI Pharmacists' Association bid to prescribe for birth control and uncomplicated UTIs; community concern about sentencing of sex offender and former teacher Roger Jabbour; and comments on government's Poverty Reduction Action Plan and new office of the Children's Commissioner and Advocate.
- Jane attended debate in the Legislature of Min. Biggar's Motion 32 to make sitting hours more family-friendly; Yvonne and Jane attended the Legislature for house statements by Min. Biggar about eliminating violence against women, on November 27.

### Other Selected Meetings with Officials, 2018–2019:

- Check-ins and collaboration with the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat (regular).
- Site visit and consultation with Status of Women Canada Parliamentary Secretary Terry Duguid and officials (July 24) and meeting with Status of Women regional representatives about the Report Card (August 15).

### Selected Correspondence, 2018–2019:

- Letters to members of PEI's Executive Council included an open letter to government, signed by PEIACSW, PEERS Alliance, and Women's Network PEI, calling for updates to PEI's sexual health curriculum (July 28).
- Letters to provincial officials included a letter to the Director of Child and Family Services about home renovation support for prospective foster families and caregivers (April 17).
- Other letters included letters of support for organizations seeking funding for equality projects; letters of reference for women associated with our work; nominations of Island women for awards and honours, including a nomination for the Therese Casgrain award for volunteers, a nomination for the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, and a successful nomination of Ann Sherman for a Senior Islander of the Year Award; and cards of recognition from the Council Chairperson to women who achieve notable things.

## Community Consultations

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



*Chairperson Yvonne Deagle and her daughter were among the group that took part in the very powerful Kairós Blanket Exercise to learn about history of colonization from an Indigenous perspective at the Organize to Lead conference. Photo credit Coalition for Women in Government.*



*Our friends and allies Jillian Kilfoil, Becka Viau, and Dawn Wilson represent PEI at the Gender Equality Network of Canada (GEN-C). Photo credit Women's Network PEI.*

### Community Consultations, 2018–2019:

- The Chairperson took part in a survey to help guide Coalition for Women in Government strategic planning (June).
- The Chairperson, ED, and Program Coordinator met with Prince Edward Island members of the new Gender Equality Network of Canada: Dawn Wilson, Jillian Kilfoil, and Becka Viau on September 11. In March 2019, Women's Network PEI held an update session on GEN-C, in which Council representatives participated (March 15).
- The ED took part in a UPEI task force to advise on a stand-alone sexual violence policy for the university. The task force finished providing its input in May 2018.
- The ED took part in several monthly professional development-oriented casual meet-ups with executive directors of not-for-profit organizations for sharing information and strategies.
- The ED attended focus groups such as one set up by Elizabeth Powers, a local woman seeking to establish a foundation in support of people affected by barrenness (June 18) and one held by Creative PEI (Dec 12).
- The ED participated in community-led consultations organized by Lisa Donovan and the Federation of Labour, leading to the Eric Donovan Bill to include psychological workplace harassment in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (August to October).
- The ED and Program Coordinator took part in consultations regarding holding space for survivors of sexual violence (December 11 and 13) and assisted with a Women's Network-led project proposal for Justice Canada Victims and Survivors of Crime Week. Council financially supported survivor-led pre-events in preparation for a training event planned for May 2019.
- The ED and Program Coordinator, as part of the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income, participated in a consultation with the Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning's acting Deputy Minister Brad Colwill and Director of Labour Relations Patricia MacPhail regarding good process for a review of the Employment Standards Act (December 18).

### Panels and Presentations, 2018–2019:

- Presentations on gender, diversity and electoral systems for a plenary session at the Organize to Lead conference (May 26), the Voluntary Resource Centre's New Horizons for Seniors course (October 4), and a Seniors College class (November 26).
- Presentations on panels on gender equality and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, at the Atlantic Centre for International Cooperation's Together 2018 conference (November 5) and ACIC's International Development Week forum at UPEI (February 6); recorded for use in an online UPEI course on Family Law and Social Policy.
- Presentation via videoconference to members and staff of the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women regarding the Equality Report Card (March 29).

## Community Consultations, continued



### Community Consultations, continued:

#### The “Microphone” Project: Educational Resources

- Program Coordinator Michelle Jay was proud to be part of a task team creating resources to address consent and sexual assault geared to PEI’s grade nine health curriculum. Assigned by the Premiers Action Committee Youth Engagement Working Group and led by the Director of the Interministerial Women’s Secretariat, the Program Coordinator and staff from PEERS Alliance, PEI Rape and Sexual Assault, and the Curriculum Specialist in Health for the province spent many hours developing four classroom resources on consent, gender norms, sexual assault, and the bystander role. Ten task team meetings of a full day or half day took place from April 2018 to February 2019.
- The impetus and centrepiece for all the resources was KINLEY’S song and video “Microphone,” written about her sexual assault at an Island grad party and her feelings and experiences surrounding that event. The task team worked closely with KINLEY and her creative team, as well as with a group of health educators, to ensure their relevance and efficacy with students. A soft launch of the first module on consent took place on November 6, 2018. All four resources are being translated into French and will officially be launched in September 2019.

## Chairs Circle 2018

In 2018, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women held its 7th annual roundtable of past and present Advisory Council Chairpersons. Through facilitated discussion, they reflected on ACSW challenges and achievements over the decades. The Chairs Circle is an opportunity to share collective knowledge and experience among long-time women’s equality advocates.



### Chairs Circle, 2018:

- The 2018 Chairs Circle took place on May 22, 2018, at the Advisory Council on the Status of Women office in Charlottetown. Chairperson Yvonne Deagle hosted and six amazing past Chairpersons took part.
- The 2018 Chairs Circle participants reviewed the draft Equality Report Card and offered insights and suggestions to strengthen the report. Some of their comments were incorporated into the report. Others were released as a news release. Others inspired collaborations, such as a project unrolling in 2019 to hear the voices of sexual violence survivors and to improve services to support them in the justice system.



*Back, left to right: Colleen MacQuarrie, Anne Nicholson, Sharon O’Brien, and Kelly Robinson. Front: Mari Basiletti, Yvonne Deagle, and Kirstin Lund.*



## Inquiries & Referrals

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

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



Council's new pop-up banner for events.

### About Inquiries, 2018–2019:

- **Relationship endings:** The end of an intimate partner relationship is an especially vulnerable time for women and children, risking physical, emotional, and financial well-being. Council staff heard about challenges in accessing social assistance, legal aid, childcare subsidies, maintenance enforcement, mental health and addictions supports, and affordable housing. Several inquiries related to the challenges of shared parenting when a relationship dissolves. Requests continued but were fewer than in years past, for our publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship*. This booklet is being updated.
- **#MeToo:** The impact of the #MeToo movement continues, with women speaking out about sexual harassment and sexual assault. A high percentage of inquiries are about unwanted sexual contact experienced by women themselves or outrage on behalf of other women in the community, including cases of indecent exposure, sexual harassment, sexual violence, childhood sexual assault, sentencing decisions, etc. The effects of trauma are compounded by wait lists or other barriers to mental health services. There are also real concerns about responses to sexual assault from police, justice, and the medical community.
- **Common issues:** Several inquiries dealt with inadequate access to affordable and accessible housing and residents'/tenants' rights, especially in Charlottetown. Women were fearful of losing custody of their children due to inadequate housing options. Mothers also expressed concern about their own and their children's timely access to mental health and addictions services. Access to appropriate and respectful general health and sexual health services was a common issue. Council heard a variety of views about opening adoption records on PEI. Inquirers expressed anger that the Progressive Conservative leadership campaign gave a platform to an anti-choice and anti-trans candidate. With surgical and medical abortions now available, there continued to be a decrease in requests for help with abortion access, except for women with specific barriers and intersecting challenges.
- **Other topics** included calls concerning the R. Jabbour sexual assault trial and responses by the education and justice systems. There was much support for the new Blooming House homeless shelter for women. Other concerns included lack of livable wages; affordability of medications; need for more provincial support for trans health and rights; disability supports and freedom of movement in assisted living; sentencing for sexual assault; services for sex workers on PEI; and the precarious rights of female migrant workers.
- **Programs:** Numerous inquiries were for information about our own programs and events and related information or statistics.
- **Referrals:** Staff members refer inquirers to appropriate services, including Family Violence Prevention Services, PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, PEI Human Rights Commission, PEERS Alliance, and IRAC. Frequent referrals are made to Community Legal Information Lawyer Referral or to counselling services.

## Community Events

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



Showing off the new Feminist PRIDE banner at the Charlottetown Pride Parade 2018, Eileen Conboy, Michelle Jay, Debbie Langston, and Ellie Langston.



August visit to Lennox Island First Nation. Min. Robert Henderson, Band Councillor Mary Moore Phillips, Min. Tina Mundy, Jane Ledwell, Min. Paula Biggar, Chief Matilda Ramjattan, and Chairperson Yvonne Deagle.

### Community Events, 2018–2019:

- Home and School Federation Annual General Meeting (April 14)
- Gender and Sexuality Awareness conference at UPEI (April 21)
- “In Her Shoes” project on women’s immigration experiences (April 21)
- Living and Thriving: Migrant Workers on PEI Forum (April 27)
- “No Choice” book launch by Kate McKenna (May 6)
- Confronting Gender-Based Cyberviolence against Women in Politics panel (May 24)
- Organize to Lead: Provincial Symposium for Women, Charlottetown (May 25 & 26) – ACSW as members of the PEI Coalition for Women in Government planning committee, ED as a conference presenter
- Lieutenant Governor’s reception and celebration in honour of the PEI Famous Five (June 6)
- Atlantic Council for International Cooperation public keynote, Sheila Watt-Cloutier (June 21)
- Pride PEI: The Program Coordinator and ED organized feminist allies to create a banner for the 2018 Pride parade, which took place in Charlottetown on July 28. ASCW staff and Council members, along with their children, walked in the parade, demonstrating their long-standing and ongoing support for the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Staff also attended other events organized by Pride PEI throughout the week of July 22 – 28, including: the Evolution of LGBTQ2+ Rights legal presentation (July 25) and the OUTspoken Pride Poetry Slam (July 26).
- FVPS Fundraiser organized by Ellie Langston (August 2)
- Atlantic Summer Institute panel on youth mental health (August 22)
- PEI Literacy Alliance AGM (September 19)
- Hilda Ramsay Fundraiser for women in politics (September 28)
- Installation of Hon. Catherine Callbeck as the 9th Chancellor of the University of Prince Edward Island, UPEI (September 29)
- Kim Devine’s mayoral campaign launch (September 30)
- Sisters in Spirit Annual Vigil for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (October 4) – *Council Chairperson as a speaker*
- Retirement celebration for outgoing Community Legal Information Association ED, David Daughton (October 11)
- Indigenous Justice Forum (October 19)



The year 2018 marked 25 years since PEI’s Famous Five women held the highest positions in PEI, the only time before or since. In 1993, Nancy Guptill was speaker, Pat Mella was Opposition leader, Libbe Hubley was deputy speaker, Marion Reid was Lieutenant Governor, and Catherine Callbeck was premier. Photo credit Women’s Network PEI.

## Community Events, continued



Women community leaders at P.E. Trudeau Foundation Future Forum in Charlottetown, December 2018. Left to right: Shannon Pratt, Andrea MacDonald, Foundation president Pascale Fournier, Jane Ledwell, and Michelle MacCallum.



Council colours at the 2019 Women's March in Charlottetown.



Ringin' in the new year at the Coalition for Women in Government Levee, January 2019, at Upstreet Craft Brewery.

### Community Events, 2018–2019, continued:

- 25th Anniversary of the PEI Famous Five conference and workshop, UPEI, Charlottetown (October 30)
- “To the Power of Five” theatre production about PEI’s Famous Five, Harbourfront Theatre (November 4)
- Celebrate Island Women, fundraiser for Women’s Network PEI (November 6)
- Wake and Reception for our friend and former Interministerial Women’s Secretariat director Sandy Bentley (November 10)
- Book launch of JoDee Samuelson’s Cove Journal (November 15)
- Vice-Chairperson Debbie Langston represented Council at the FVPS fundraiser held in Harmony House Theatre (November 17)
- Book launch of Colleen MacQuarrie’s *Crossing Troubled Waters* (November 19)
- Trans Day of Remembrance flag-raising and exposition (November 20)
- Symons Lecture by Margaret MacMillan at Confederation Centre of the Arts (November 24)
- Native Council of PEI’s Strengthening Our Resilience performance (November 30)
- Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation Future Forum on leadership and inclusion (December 5)
- Holiday Open Houses: Voluntary Resource Centre (December 13); Community Legal Information Association (December 14); Women’s Network PEI (December 14)
- PEI Coalition for Women in Government Levee (January 3)
- Rally in solidarity with migrants (January 10)
- Women’s March 2019 (January 19)
- Women’s Network PEI celebration of outgoing Chairperson Beti Andric (January 19)
- Children’s Health and Basic Income Guarantee event (February 5)
- Installation of PEI Poet Laureate Julie Pellissier-Lush (February 11)
- Community Sector Network launch (February 14)
- “Linking Together” PEERS Alliance LGBTQ2S+ community centre (February 16)
- NDP International Women’s Week celebration (March 1)
- Dr. Evelyn Forget’s public lecture, “The Basic Income Path to a Healthier, Happier, More Secure Life for All” (March 13) and basic income guarantee discussion at UPEI (March 14) — ACSW representatives played a role in planning and hospitality in partnership with the St. Dunstan’s University Board of Governors
- Roundtable on Masculinities, Women’s Network PEI (March 27)
- Retirement celebration for Rape and Sexual Assault Centre ED Sigrid Rolfe (March 29)



## Partnerships

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



*Chairperson Yvonne Deagle and Minister Responsible Paula Biggar at the Aboriginal Women's Association Sisters in Spirit Vigil, October 2018.*



*Michelle Jay with Aboriginal Women's Association Executive Director Samantha Lewis on International Women's Day.*

### List and Description of Partnerships, 2018–2019:

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

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

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

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



*The Canadian Femicide Observatory's arresting collage of Canadian women murdered in the first eight months of 2018.*

- **International Women's Day (IWD) Committee:** Council's Program Coordinator brings together and leads this committee to plan and present events for International Women's Day.
- **It Takes a Village Project:** Council's Program Coordinator sits on the advisory committee for this Women's Network PEI-led, Status of Women Canada-funded project to examine childcare needs as they relate to gender equality in Prince Edward Island.

*ACSW role:* Contribute gender analysis from Council and share understanding of provincial issues and concerns.

## Partnerships, continued



Council representatives (far right) with representatives of groups funded for Violence Against Women Prevention Grants, with Min. Paula Biggar in the centre. Photo credit: Province of PEI.



The PAC Youth Engagement Working Group led a consultation with youth experts, educators, and curriculum specialists for the "Microphone" project.



Volunteers, including from the PAC Family Violence Prevention Week planning committee, pin ribbons at the 2018 Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee at Confederation Centre Public Library.

### List and Description of Partnerships, 2018–2019, continued:

- IWS Grant Adjudication Committees:** Council's ED sits on this committee to review applications and advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women on violence against women prevention grants and community grants, awarded by the Province where the organizations, principles, objectives, and activities of applicants support the legal, health, social, and economic equality of women.  
**ACSW role:** Adjudicating applications and reviewing communications.
- Justice Options for Women:** The Council's Program Coordinator serves on the advisory committee for this project. Justice Options creates opportunities for community dialogue and input into justice policy regarding the issues of violence against women and the impact on and of restorative justice. Justice Options developed Circles of Safety and Support for women at high risk of violence and is currently working on a project on government/community response to violence against women.  
**ACSW role:** Participating in meetings; helping develop project plans and funding applications; reviewing products and publications.
- Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council's ED sits on this task force which works with the Charlottetown community on family violence prevention initiatives funded by the City of Charlottetown, under the banner "Peace Begins at Home" and incorporating the purple ribbon symbol. In 2018–2019, newly elected Mayor Philip Brown committed to continuing the task force's work.  
**ACSW role:** Consulting, planning, and assisting with projects and events.
- PAC – Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council's ED is appointed by the Premier to sit on this committee and its Administrative Group. PAC's mandate includes coordinating implementation of the provincial Family Violence Prevention Strategy. The ED also chairs the Evaluation Working Group and serves on the Family Violence Prevention Week Working Group. The Program Coordinator serves on the Youth Engagement Working Group. In 2018–2019, the ACSW managed distribution of resource materials for Family Violence Prevention Week.  
**ACSW role:** Attending full group, administrative, and working group meetings; reviewing documents; advocating for a focus on violence against women and children; providing insights on gender and equality roots of violence; participating in projects, publications, and events.
- PEI Coalition for Proportional Representation:** This Coalition formally wound down in May 2018. Previously, Council's ED sat on the reference group, founded in September 2015 to support movement towards proportional representation in PEI's electoral system. A core principle for the Coalition is promoting electoral systems that increase the diversity of elected representatives, including better gender balance.  
**ACSW role:** Assisting with wind-down.

## Partnerships, continued



Top and above: The PEI Coalition for Women in Government's Organize to Lead conference. Photo credit Coalition for Women in Government.



Michelle Jay, guest speaker Dr. Heather Morrison, and Ryan Murray at an event on income and children's health hosted by the Working Group on Livable Income with the Public Health Association of NB-PEI. Photo credit The Guardian.

### List and Description of Partnerships, 2018–2019, continued:

- PEI Coalition for Women in Government:** Council's ED sits on the steering committee of this non-partisan organization dedicated to advancing women's leadership in the political, civic, and democratic life of PEI. The Council's ED also sits on the Advisory Committee for a Status of Women Canada-funded Equity in Governance project, to increase women on boards and in leadership; and the Status of Women Canada-funded Engaging Women for Political Action project.  
*ACSW role:* Helping to develop and execute workplans; contributing to creating and disseminating research, media work, and publications; participating in meetings and events.
- PEI Food Security Network:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator participate in this action and education network to improve Islanders' food security. The Network was not publicly active in 2018–2019.
- PEI Literacy Alliance:** The Council is a member of this provincial alliance dedicated to creating a culture of literacy and learning and delivering programs to support adult learners, families, and children in improving their literacy and essential skills.  
*ACSW role:* Attending annual and semi-annual meetings when possible; support and collaboration in our shared office space.
- PEI Working Group for a Livable Income:** Council's ED and Program Coordinator serve on this coalition of a dozen community organizations that are active in working to eliminate poverty and advocate for a livable income for all Islanders to live in good health and with dignity. The Working Group is actively advocating for a pilot project on basic income guarantee (BIG) for PEI.  
*ACSW role:* Participating in meetings and special events; contributing perspectives on women's poverty; taking our turn with other organizations to take minutes and draft publications, correspondence, media releases, and briefs to government.
- Street Harassment Project Advisory Committee:** Council's Program Coordinator takes part in this new Women's Network PEI-led, Interministerial Women's Secretariat-funded project to understand street harassment from a PEI perspective.  
*ACSW role:* Participating in meetings and contributing advice and analysis.
- Victim Services Advisory Committee:** Council Vice-Chairperson Debbie Langston represented Council on this committee until March 2019, when she stepped down and Council member Chrissy MacPhail was appointed. The Advisory Committee's purpose is to exchange information on current and emerging issues related to victims and to help develop policy, programs, services, and legislation and report to the Attorney General and government officials on the needs of victims of crime.  
*ACSW role:* Sharing information, especially from a gender perspective; identifying and bringing issues to the table for discussion.



## Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence

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

### Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2018–2019:

- Theme: Time to Step Up. Be ready to prevent violence against women.



- Distribution of more than **18,000** bilingual bookmarks and ribbons province-wide, and **213** Teachers' Guides requested and delivered to the Department of Education for distribution.
- Multilingual poster featuring nine commonly spoken or traditional languages of PEI. The PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, the Aboriginal Women's Association, and provincial translation services translated the theme.
- A public pinning bee took place at the Confederation Centre Public Library, organized in conjunction with the PAC Family Violence Prevention Week planning committee, on November 14, 2018.

### Purple Ribbon Teachers' Guide 2018:

- This year's Purple Ribbon Teachers' Guides for teachers and students made connections between the Purple Ribbon Campaign theme and curriculum for Grades 7, 8, and 9 Social Studies, Grades 7, 8, and 9 Health, and high school family life education. English as Additional Language instructors and school counsellors also requested resources.
- Handouts for classrooms included background on the campaign and the year's theme; information and an infographic about being a positive bystander; resources on consent and healthy relationships; a fact sheet on ways youth can prevent violence from the Premier's Action Committee; a purple ribbon and a bookmark; and a multilingual poster.
- Resources for teachers included links on trauma-informed teaching; resources from PAC; information about the "Microphone" Project and FVPS *Make It Your Business* video resources; and specific curriculum connections to the theme "Time to Step Up."
- The relationship we have developed with Maribeth Rogers, Health Curriculum Specialist, is invaluable in finalizing and distributing the guides. Teachers' guides are also available to the public; almost 50 Guides were requested by individuals and community groups.



*Teachers Guide resources on display at the December 6, 2018, Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, with silent witnesses.*

### Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence, continued



#### International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 2018:

- The ACSW annual Purple Ribbon Campaign officially launched on the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 25, 2018. The Minister Responsible for the Status of Women read a supporting statement in the PEI Legislature on November 27.

#### Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, 2018:

- The PEIACSW organized the Charlottetown Memorial Service held on December 6th in Memorial Hall at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. Advisory Council members assisted with hosting the event, with more than 200 people attending the Charlottetown noontime service.
- Elder Julie Pellissier-Lush offered an opening prayer and song and provided guidance for dressing the table with representations of the Seven Sacred Teachings.
- Guest speaker Paxton Caseley has been a strong advocate for institutional accountability when sexual violence occurs on campuses, and was successful in ensuring that the PEI Legislature mandate all PEI post-secondary institutions to pass sexual violence policies. Her December 6th address, "Stepping Up Against Gender Violence," was a challenge to each of us to speak up against daily micro-aggressions against women and girls.
- Lily Levesque, an Island spoken word artist, performed "The Wolf." Her poem is a powerful account of the lasting impact and inadequate response she experienced when sexually assaulted as a teen.
- Candle-lighters included Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Paula Biggar, a representative of Lennox Island band council, the Deputy Mayor of Charlottetown, RCMP, City Police, and representatives from women's and equality-seeking groups in the community. Candles were also lit by family or friends of PEI women who have been murdered.
- The service included silhouettes of murdered PEI women from the Silent Witnesses project, sponsored and coordinated by UPSE.



*Top: Elder Julie Pellissier-Lush sings and drums during a Mi'kmaw welcome.*

*Middle: Guest speaker Paxton Caseley.*

*Bottom: Lily Levesque performs her poem, "The Wolf."*



*Above: Jane Ledwell and Lalana Paul read during the candlelighting ceremony. Right: Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Hon. Paula Biggar, lights a candle at the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.*



## Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence, continued



The women of O Beautiful Gaia sing at the 2018 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service.

### Montreal Massacre Memorial Service, continued:

- Dylan Menzie provided piano music to accompany the service, including the candle-lighting. O Beautiful Gaia women's chorus sang two selections, "My Heart Is Moved" (lyrics by Adrienne Rich, music by Carolyn McDade) and "Spirit of Life" (Carolyn McDade).
- Council Chairperson Yvonne Deagle's commentary "Be Ready to Prevent Violence Against Women - Time to Step Up" was published in the Guardian newspaper on December 6th.

### Purple Ribbon Campaign Sponsorship and Thanks, 2018:

- Financial and in-kind contributors to the Purple Ribbon Campaign included the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Premier Wade MacLauchlan's office, the City of Charlottetown, Confederation Centre of the Arts, and the Interministerial Women's Secretariat.
- Special volunteer efforts and support to the Campaign came from the Federated Women's Institutes, Anderson House, and many volunteers who pinned ribbons to bookmarks.



Above: Michelle Jay and Yvonne Deagle in snowy O'Leary during Family Violence Prevention Week.

### Family Violence Prevention Week, February 10–16, 2019:

- ACSW staff work closely with the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention to support FVP Week.
- The ACSW office coordinated province-wide distribution of family violence prevention resources from PAC and member organizations. In total, more than **21,125** resources were distributed across the province.
- During the lead-up to FVP Week, the ACSW distributed **6,500** additional ribbons and over **185** posters and infographics.
- Council representatives attended the launch of FVP Week and of new web resources to engage men and boys on February 11. Program Coordinator Michelle Jay gave a presentation on healthy relationships for New London Community Centre's Family Violence Prevention Week activity (February 11). PAC's Charlottetown Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence on Wear Purple Day, February 14, was cancelled due to poor weather. Staff members took part in the Moment of Silence at Charlottetown City Hall that was rescheduled for the next day.
- On February 15, the Chairperson and Council staff hosted a well-received lunch-and-learn in O'Leary using the *Make It Your Business* video series.



## International Women's Day – March 8

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

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

### International Women's Day Highlights, 2019:

- The international theme for IWD 2019 was “Better the Balance, Better the World.”
- A small but committed committee of women joined the Program Coordinator to organize a free, accessible, celebratory, welcoming slate of activities for people of all ages and genders. Challenges and inequities for women worldwide were also highlighted. The ACSW's IWD event is specifically aimed to increase our connection and engagement with newcomer women in the community, especially those most vulnerable – temporary migrant workers.
- Following greetings from the province by Minister Biggar, ACSW Chairperson Yvonne Deagle read her Guardian opinion piece “International Women's Day 2019 – #BalanceforBetter.”
- Samantha Lewis, ED of the Aboriginal Women's Association, led attendees in a beautiful Indigenous Round Dance. Women shared their experiences as FVPS shelter workers (Jan Devine), as migrant workers and new immigrants to PEI (Paola Flores), and as a recent graduate working in the trades (Jenna MacNeill). Cynthia Dennis led attendees in gentle yoga postures. Tuli Porcher and Jessie Periard roused the crowd with traditional fiddle and guitar music, while participants danced to Helen Gough-Conboy's calling of Irish country dancing.
- Kate Dempsey wrapped up the afternoon by leading the audience in singing the IWD anthem “Bread and Roses.” Farahnaz Rezaei served again as the capable emcee for the late afternoon activities.
- The decorated hall at Trinity United Church, including our new ACSW and IWD banners, created a colourful and festive atmosphere. Volunteer Megan Dorrell was stellar at managing the kids station, and everyone enjoyed the homemade bread, fruit and cheese, and IWD cookies on offer.
- Financial and time resources were contributed by local unions, women's, and social justice organizations, specifically CUPE, PSAC, UPSE, and the PEI Federation of Labour; PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada; Women's Network PEI; Coalition for Women in Government; Interministerial Women's Secretariat; Family Violence Prevention Services; and Cooper Institute.



Top: Farahnaz Rezaei emcees the program.

Middle: A joyful Indigenous round dance.

Bottom: Megan Dorrell and Jaime Griffin of Women's Network PEI.



### Bursaries for Women

In 2015, the Advisory Council revised and updated the criteria for its bursary program for women. The deadline to apply for bursaries is October 15 each year. Forms are available in English and French from [gov.pe.ca/acsw](http://gov.pe.ca/acsw).

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

#### Bursary Recipients, 2018:

- **Diane Kays Memorial Bursary (\$500)** is available to a woman-identifying student who is a resident of PEI and registered full-time at the University of Prince Edward Island, Holland College, or Collège de l'Île.  
**2018 Winner:** Walaa Nasry (UPEI)
- **Inge Blackett Memorial Bursary (\$500)** is for a woman-identifying PEI resident who entered Canada as a refugee and is pursuing further education.  
**2018 Winner:** Rosette Bobo (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.  
**2018 Winner:** Olivia Cox



Yvonne Deagle with bursary recipients Walaa Nasry (top) and Rosette Bobo (bottom).

## PUBLICATIONS LIST

The following is a summary list of publications mentioned throughout this report. These publications are usually available in hard copy from the Advisory Council or in electronic copy on its Website at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>.



- **Prince Edward Island Equality Report Card 2018 | Fiche de rendement sur l'égalité des femmes 2018** (June 2018). *The 2018 Equality Report Card assesses the Prince Edward Island Government's progress on gender equality goals during the period May 2015 to December 31, 2017. Categories assessed in the 2018 Equality Report Card are making equality a priority, women in decision-making, violence prevention, access to justice, women's health, supports for caregivers, adult education and training, diversity and inclusion, and women's economic status. La version française est un résumé du rapport intégral.*
- **Purple Ribbon Campaign Resource Guide for PEI Teachers | Guide de ressources pour les enseignant(e)s, Campagne du ruban violet contre la violence** (November 2018). *A bilingual, multi-grade guide for teachers, for use with the 2018–2019 Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence. Includes bilingual bookmarks with ribbons; a multilingual poster; handouts for students on sexual consent, healthy relationships, and being ready to prevent violence against women by being a good bystander; and resources for teachers such as a backgrounder, curriculum connections for Grade 7 Social Studies, Grades 8 & 9 Social Studies, Grade 9 Health, Family Living 621 and Family Life 421A, resources on trauma-informed teaching, promotional flyers for curriculum programs, and resources from the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention.*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Management's Report

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

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

  
Jane Ledwell  
Executive Director

November 29, 2019



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

Île-du-Prince-Édouard  
Bureau du  
vérificateur général  
C.P. 2000, Charlottetown PE  
Canada C1A 7N8

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

I have audited the financial statements of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2019, and the statements of operations and accumulated deficit, changes in net debt, and cash flow for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2019, and the results of its operations, changes in net debt, and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

### Basis for Opinion

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

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

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

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

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

Tel: 709 / 862-3664 x1200 Fax: 709 / 862-3664 x1200

-2-


## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

  
B. Jane MacAdam, FCPA, CA  
Auditor General

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island  
November 29, 2019

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash	5,309	8,782
Accounts receivable	1,922	1,851
	<u>7,231</u>	<u>10,433</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 3)	13,640	18,310
<b>Net Debt</b>	(6,409)	(7,877)
<b>Non Financial Assets</b>		
Prepaid expenses	1,076	1,047
<b>Accumulated Deficit</b>	(5,333)	(6,830)

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

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

  
Council Chair

  
Council Member



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Statement of Operations and Accumulated Deficit  
for the year ended March 31, 2019

	Budget 2019	2019	2018
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Revenues</b>			
Grants - Province of Prince Edward Island (Note 6)	210,000	214,117	202,532
Program revenue	<u>5,400</u>	<u>2,378</u>	<u>3,348</u>
	<u>215,400</u>	<u>216,495</u>	<u>205,880</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration	10,694	9,587	8,180
Contracts	4,200	4,200	6,700
Council meetings/business	32,424	31,530	26,183
Equipment	-	895	750
Materials and supplies	8,010	10,580	9,546
Salaries and benefits	<u>160,072</u>	<u>158,206</u>	<u>157,072</u>
	<u>215,400</u>	<u>214,998</u>	<u>208,431</u>
<b>Annual Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<u>-</u>	1,497	(2,551)
Accumulated Deficit, beginning of year		<u>(6,830)</u>	<u>(4,279)</u>
<b>Accumulated Deficit, end of year</b>		<u>(5,333)</u>	<u>(6,830)</u>

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

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Statement of Changes in Net Debt  
for the year ended March 31, 2019

	Budget 2019	2019	2018
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Net Debt, beginning of year</b>	(7,877)	(7,877)	(5,381)
<b>Changes in year:</b>			
Annual surplus (deficit)	-	1,497	(2,551)
Change in prepaid expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>(29)</u>	<u>55</u>
<b>Change in Net Debt</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,468</u>	<u>(2,496)</u>
<b>Net Debt, end of year</b>	<u>(7,877)</u>	<u>(6,409)</u>	<u>(7,877)</u>

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

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Statement of Cash Flow  
for the year ended March 31, 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Cash (used) provided by:</b>		
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Annual surplus (deficit)	1,497	(2,551)
<b>Changes in:</b>		
Accounts receivable	(271)	172
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(4,670)	4,042
Prepaid expenses	<u>(29)</u>	<u>55</u>
<b>Cash (used) provided by operating activities</b>	<u>(3,473)</u>	<u>1,718</u>
Cash, beginning of year	<u>8,782</u>	<u>7,064</u>
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<u>5,309</u>	<u>8,782</u>

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

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Notes to Financial Statements  
March 31, 2019

### 1. Purpose of the Organization

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

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Accounting

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

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

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

#### a) Cash

Cash consists of balances on deposit at a financial institution.

#### b) Accounts Receivable

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

#### c) Prepaid Expenses

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

#### d) Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

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

#### e) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at cost provided the threshold of \$3,000 is met and are amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of five to fifteen years. Tangible capital asset purchases that do not meet the threshold are expensed. No capital assets have been recognized because purchases did not meet the threshold for capitalization. During the year, equipment totalling \$895 (2018 - \$750) was expensed.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Notes to Financial Statements  
March 31, 2019

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

#### f) Revenues

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

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

#### g) Expenses

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

#### h) Financial Instruments

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

#### i) Use of Estimates and Measurement Uncertainty

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

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

#### j) Contributed Materials and Services

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

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Notes to Financial Statements  
March 31, 2019

### 3. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Accounts payable	4,719	7,981
Accrued vacation and overtime	8,921	10,329
	<u>13,640</u>	<u>18,310</u>

### 4. Employee Benefits

#### a) Sick Leave

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

#### b) Pension Benefits

Permanent employees of the Council participate in the Province of Prince Edward Island Civil Service Superannuation Pension Plan (the Plan) which is a multi-employer contributory defined benefit pension plan. The Plan provides a pension on retirement based on two percent of the average salary for the highest three years times the number of years of pensionable service for service to December 31, 2013, and two percent of the career average salary indexed with cost-of-living adjustments for service after 2013. Indexing is subject to the funded level of the plan after December 31, 2016. The Plan is administered by the Province of Prince Edward Island. The Council's annual portion of contributions to the Plan of \$12,311 (2018 - \$11,769) was paid by the Province and not reflected in these financial statements. Any unfunded liability of the Plan is the responsibility of the Province and therefore no liability has been recognized in these financial statements. For additional information on the Plan, see the Province's consolidated financial statements.

### 5. Contractual Obligation

A photocopier is leased until January 15, 2020, with annual lease payments of \$2,900 plus applicable taxes.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Notes to Financial Statements  
March 31, 2019

### 6. Related Party Transactions

The Council received the following grants from the Province:

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Operating grant	210,000	198,000
Other grants	<u>4,117</u>	<u>4,532</u>
	<u>214,117</u>	<u>202,532</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.

### 7. Financial Management

The Council's risk exposure, as a result of the financial instruments on its statement of financial position at March 31, 2019, is limited to liquidity risk. The Council's financial instruments are not subject to significant market or credit risk.

#### Liquidity Risk

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

### 8. Budgeted Figures

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

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**Back cover photo collage, left to right from top left:** Women's Network PEI ED Jillian Kilfoil and Jane Ledwell at CBC PEI, photo credit CBC PEI; Becky Tramley and Yvonne Deagle in Miminegash, PEI; participants in a round dance at International Women's Day celebrations 2019; Michelle Jay and friends with the "Feminist Pride" banner, Pride Parade 2018; red dresses hang in remembrance of missing and murdered Indigenous women at the Sisters in Spirit Vigil 2018; supported by a friend, a daughter lights a candle for her murdered mother at the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service; Yvonne Deagle and Michelle Jay at the Sisters in Spirit Vigil 2018; Yvonne Deagle at the podium of the Montreal Massacre Memorial Service; (left cluster, far left) Yvonne Deagle at the podium at the Equality Report Card launch; (left cluster, top) Angele Desroches and Yvonne Deagle following Angele's presentation on gender norms at an Advisory Council meeting; (left cluster, middle) closing circle at the Organize to Lead women's symposium, photo credit Coalition for Women in Government; (left cluster, bottom) Minister Responsible Paula Biggar and Chairperson Yvonne Deagle at the Legislature, photo credit Province of PEI; (centre bottom) Lalana Paul, Jane Ledwell, and Yvonne Deagle at the Purple Ribbon Pinning Bee 2018; (right cluster, top) Vice-Chairperson Debbie Langston, Chairperson Yvonne Deagle, and Jane Ledwell at the Equality Report Card launch; (right cluster, bottom) Michelle Jay carrying the ACSW colours at the Women's March 2019; (right cluster, far right) Jane Ledwell presenting at the Organize to Lead symposium, photo credit Coalition for Women in Government; (bottom, centre) the ACSW's freshly redrawn logo in purple.

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For additional copies of this report:

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