



Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity

Annual Report 2024-25



About the council

The Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity was established under the *Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity Act* in 2024. The council has the following mandate:

- At the Minister responsible's direction or request, review and advise government ministers on policies, programs and legislation related to gender equity or equity for individuals who may face discrimination because of their sexual orientation.
- At the Minister responsible's request or at the council's discretion, advise government ministers on any issue related to gender equity or equity for individuals who may face discrimination because of their sexual orientation.

Membership criteria

- The council's membership is to be representative of diverse identity factors including gender identity, sexual orientation, Indigeneity, race, national and ethnic origin, age, place of residence and disability.
- The council's membership is to include individuals who have experience working or volunteering to advance gender equity or equity for persons who may face discrimination because of their sexual orientation.
- The council's membership is to include individuals who have worked or volunteered with individuals with diverse identities; served as directors or officers of a society or other not-for-profit organization; or provided advice to government.
- Each member must be a Yukon resident.

Recent changes to the council

The past fiscal year was a transitional year for the council, focused on recruiting and onboarding new members.

Prior to April 2024, this advisory body was called the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues (YACWI), with a legislated mandate centring on raising awareness and advising the Minister responsible on policies, programs, and issues impacting women. In April 2023, the Legislative Assembly passed Bill 22, the Act to Amend the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Act. The Act was brought into force in 2024. Members appointed under the YACWI Act continued to serve as MACWAGE members until their 3-year term ran out.

These legislative changes support the Government of Yukon's commitment to inclusivity for all genders and sexual orientations. The new legislation also fulfills a commitment the government made in the [2021](#)

[LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion Action Plan](#) to restructure the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues to include issues related to the Yukon's Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transexual, queer or questioning, intersex and asexual plus communities (2SLGBTQIA+).

Key changes include:

- Updating the Act's title to the *Minister's Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity Act* so that it better aligns with the updated title of the government's Women and Gender Equity Directorate.
- Updating the council's mandate so that it also aligns with the Women and Gender Equity Directorate's mandate, ensuring the council can advise on matters related to gender equity and sexual orientation, as well as women's issues.
- Expanding the scope of the council so that it can provide advice to all government ministers.
- Introducing a sub-committee structure with one sub-committee focused on gender equity for women, and one sub-committee focused on equity for people who are gender-diverse and people who may face discrimination because of their sexual orientation.
- Removal of membership criteria that restricted the membership to women.
- Adding a regulation making power to the Act so the process to change membership criteria in the future, if needed, is simplified.

Members

Véronique Maggiore

Véronique grew up on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin in Orléans, Ontario. She is a Franco-Ontarian of French settler background on her mother's side and a second-generation Sicilian immigrant on her father's side. Véronique and her partner settled in the Yukon in 2019. Her children were born in the Yukon and she proudly calls the territory her home. Véronique is a firm believer in grassroots governance and the value of lived experience. She has spent the past decade working in non-governmental organizations, mostly in the youth and gender-equity sectors. She currently works in First Nation education governance and is a Trustee for the Commission Scolaire Francophone du Yukon.

Cindy-Anne Naylor

Cindy-Anne is a lifelong Yukoner of Anishinaabe and Irish heritage, with deep personal and professional ties to the territory. She spent part of her childhood in the child welfare system in Whitehorse. It shaped her understanding of how it impacts women, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse people and families. After traumatic brain injuries from motor vehicle accidents sidelined her career for more than seven years, Cindy-Anne returned to work with a strengthened commitment to equity, accessibility and trauma-informed public policy. She holds a Master of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Management and has worked across the Government of Yukon in policy, justice, land claims, environment and energy roles. Her work has focused on gender-based violence, access to justice, the implementation of the Yukon First Nation Final and Self-Government Agreements, public engagement and Cabinet-level decision-making. She brings to the council both strong policy expertise and a lived, intersectional perspective grounded in northern realities, Indigenous identity, disability and gender equity.

Marian Horne

Marian returned to the Yukon in 1999 after being out of the Yukon for many years, living in various places throughout NWT, Ottawa, Churchill, Haida Gwaii, Calgary and Bermuda. She currently resides in Teslin. Marian's experience spans across many fields, including accounting, business ownership, property management; finance, justice, and mediation. She served as an Elder on the Teslin Tlingit Council and was elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in 2006. As a politician, Marian held the roles of Minister of Justice; Attorney General, and Minister responsible for Women's Directorate. She was later elected President of the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council and served as the representative for the Native Women's Association of Canada. Marian is a passionate advocate for women's rights, restorative and social justice.

Mirabel Sirois

Mira yearns to integrate her core values into everything she does as an Artist, Advocate, and Firebrand. She is the founder of the artist collective Milkweed Productions, and co-founder of BRIC — the Yukon’s first and only Trans Feminist organization.

Abigail Miller, Kelly Labine, and Michelle Parsons were also appointed to the council in 2024, although they were no longer involved with the council when this report was written. Members of YACWI continued to serve out their 3-year terms in the 2024-25 year during this transition period and were required to apply to the new council: MACWAGE.

Meetings

March 4, 2025

This was the first meeting of the Minister’s Advisory Council on Women and Gender Equity under the new mandate, and with newly appointed members. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Review of the council’s orientation guide
- Discussion on the scope of work and focus of the council
- Roles within the council, secretariat support from the Women and Gender Equity Directorate
- Frequency of meetings
- Member recruitment

Administration

2024–25 expenditures

Travel	\$ 335.15
Honoraria	\$ 375.00
Contracts	\$ -
Catering	\$ 103.00
Venue rental	\$ 400.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,213.15

Contact us

For more information, email the Women and Gender Equity Directorate at wged@yukon.ca or phone 867-667-3030, toll-free in the Yukon 1-800-661-0408, extension 3030.