



Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues

Annual Report 2018-2019



Message from the Chair

Much has changed since the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues (YACWI) was established in 1987. 32 years later and our work is not done. I would like to thank all Yukoners who advocate for policy changes, create community-based projects, and build inclusive intersectional leadership. YACWI continues to work with the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, Jeanie Dendys, along with community partners in order to ensure we play an effective role in promoting change and public awareness on issues that impact women.

In 2018, I was part of the adjudication team for the Prevention of Violence against Aboriginal Women Fund. Four Yukon organizations received funding for their prevention of violence programs. Gender-based violence remains a barrier in Yukon and Indigenous women and girls are particularly vulnerable.

I had the privilege of attending the National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women's annual meeting in Halifax in 2019. There were open and productive discussions about the challenges facing gender equality in the provinces and territories, as well as the opportunity to share resources and best practices.

This year, YACWI had discussions and made recommendations to assess the Government of Yukon's progress in implementing initiatives related to gender equality; as well as recommendations to change policies and legislation to benefit the lives of women, girls and the LGBTQ2S+ Yukoners. YACWI's discussions touched on all areas of women's lives including health, education, legal rights, paid and unpaid work, suicide prevention, domestic violence, housing and homelessness, economic development, leadership and much more. YACWI keeps in regular communication with the Women's Directorate and women's organizations in Yukon in order to ensure we stay up to date on emerging issues.

YACWI commends Minister Dendys for her ongoing work to make Yukon a more inclusive place. Let us work together to advocate for policy changes, identify gaps in services, and take collective action to advance gender equality in our community.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Clarke, YACWI Chair

About the Council

The Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues (YACWI) was established by the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Act in May 1992. The Council is comprised of eight members appointed by the Commissioner of Yukon. At least 50 per cent of members must be from rural areas and 25 per cent must be Yukon First Nations.

The Act mandates YACWI to:

- develop public awareness issues affecting the status of women;
- promote a change of attitudes within Yukon so that women may enjoy equality of opportunity;
- encourage discussions and expressions of opinion by Yukon residents on issues affecting the status of women;
- review policies, programs and legislation affecting women as directed by the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate;
- advise the Minister with respect to such issues as the Minister may refer to the council for its consideration;
- advise the Minister with respect to such issues as the council considers advisable, and
- encourage organizations and groups that promote the equality of Women.

Meetings

In June of 2018, the Chair of YACWI attended the Annual Meeting of the National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women in Halifax. In addition, YACWI held three meetings during the 2018–19 fiscal year. All meetings included updates regarding the work of the Women's Directorate as well as roundtable discussions about recent activities or concerns of Yukon women and gender equality seeking organizations. Highlights from YACWI meetings include:

June 15 to 16, 2018

The Women's Directorate provided updates and held discussions YACWI regarding the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls expert hearings. Yukon Status of Women Council provided a presentation on the findings from the "Not Your Fantasy" research project, focused on sex trafficking in Yukon.

September 7 to 8, 2018

The Health Promotion Unit from Health and Social Services delivered a presentation on Yukon's Sexual Health Curriculum and how it is provided in Whitehorse and rural communities. YACWI members engaged in discussions around a possible YACWI forum and potential topics.

November 16 to 17, 2018

Discussion and planning continued for a possible YACWI forum.

Members

- Yvonne Clarke, Whitehorse, YT
- Karen Keenan, Teslin, YT
- Michelle Carmichael, Dawson, YT
- Joyia Chakungal, Whitehorse, YT
- Judy Hartling, Whitehorse, YT
- Rose Caesar, Watson Lake, YT

Administration

2018-19 expenses

- Travel: \$9,522.88
 - Honoraria: \$5,093.75
 - Food: \$1,817.31
 - Room Rental: \$1,080.00
 - Printing: \$122.50
- Total expenses: \$17,636.44

Contact Us

For more information about YACWI, contact the Women's Directorate at (867) 667-3030 or toll free at 1-800-661-0408 ext. 3030.

