



Status of Women NWT

NORTHERN WOMEN TALK NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women

Issue #6 December 1987

GREETINGS from the Advisory Council on the Status of Women:

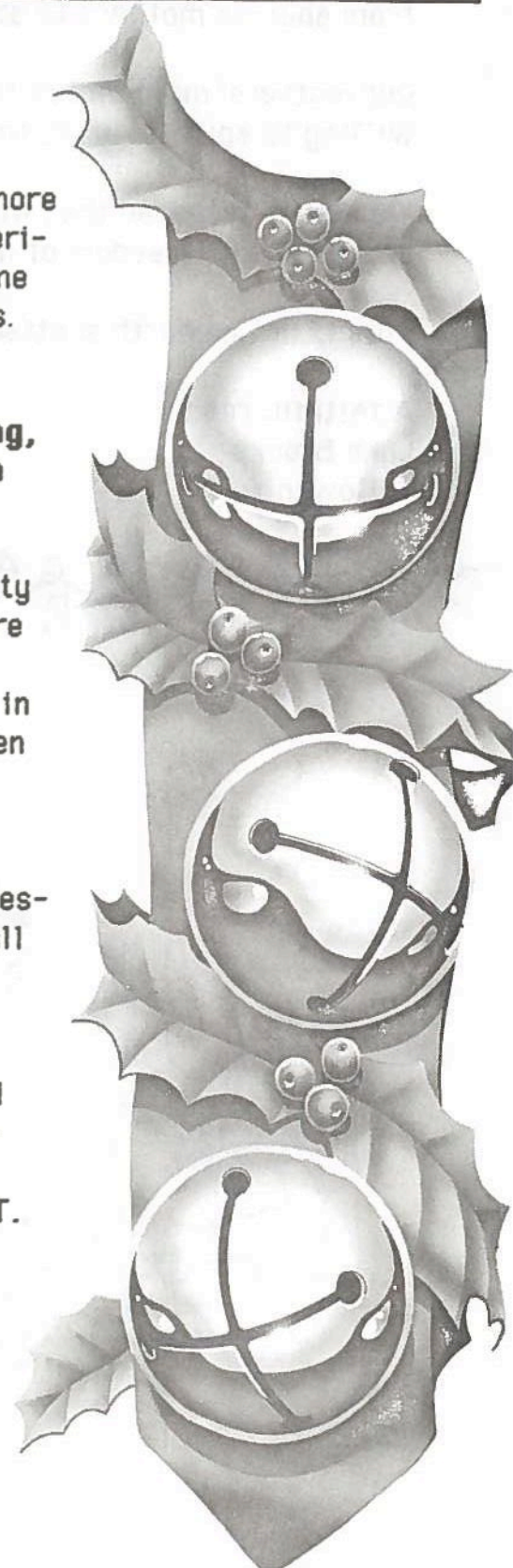
Over the past months the Advisory Council has been attempting to bring issues of concern to women forward more frequently and more publicly. We feel that we have experienced some measure of success. During the election some candidates committed themselves on issues raised by us. Now it is time to hold them **ACCOUNTABLE**.

At this time of year one's thoughts turn to **wish-making**, and in keeping with past tradition, I have made my **wish list**.

1. I wish that women could live without fear of brutality and aggression from those they love and those who are total strangers to them;
2. I wish that women could give birth to their children in circumstances and surroundings that respected women and the awesome process they undergo;
3. I wish that women could work and be paid for their contributions fairly;
4. I wish that childcare facilities that were safe, progressive and affordable were available to all parents in all places;
5. I wish that women could be recognized as that - **WOMEN** - not what other people choose to label us;
6. I wish that there was no need for an Advisory Council on the Status of Women, that women were heard, respected and understood without it being politically expedient or a necessary evil, but because it is **RIGHT**.

I wish all of you a safe, peaceful and loving Season and may all your wishes come true.

Kathy Peterson



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Friends:

This is something I want to share. Last evening over dinner a friend of mine and I went on a journey of discovery, as friends over dinner and wine often do. We knew we had survived abusive marriages, but what we did not know was that we had both gone from abusive mothers to abusive husbands.

Our mothers' main aim in life seemed to be manipulate and control us. They were willing to spindle, bend, fold and mutilate our body and soul to achieve that purpose.

We also discovered that what we most cherish in our daughters and will fight to preserve is their freedom of mind, body and spirit.

This is not an earth shattering revelation but I believe it is progress.

A faithful reader
Lynn Brooks
Yellowknife



"I'm afraid I don't have time to bring you a drink, sir.
I have to fly the plane."

from New Woman, April 1984

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COMMUNITY NEWS FROM COPPERMINE

The Coppermine Women's Group celebrated Canada Day this year by holding a major show of sixty-nine sealskin tapestries.

Naja Bolt, President of the group, was pleased to report that just over half of those were sold to local people and several visitors in Coppermine.

The project was started in 1986 to assist some of the women sewers in Coppermine to improve their income. There is a great deal of creativity and humor shown by local women in their finished products. In one tapestry there was a spirit igloo with eyebrows, eyes and a mouth in the appropriate blocks of ice to make it look like a face. A couple of humorous tapestries had tongues actually protruding from the work. Harp and sealskins are used interchangeably. There were tapestries on display in Inuvik and Cambridge Bay for a few weeks, the majority of which have been sold. The group recently presented a tapestry to the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife. This project is just one of many achievements of the Women's Group.

Others have included pressing the department of Social Services for a very much needed group home as well as an awareness centre which is being funded by drug and alcohol.

The Women's Group shares office space with a local youth group in the old government office.

There are two large tapestries on display in the Women's Secretariat Office in

Yellowknife and interested people are invited to drop in and see them.

RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS DECISIONS STOP DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Decisions in 1986 by Boards of Inquiry under Human Rights Codes in two provinces came out against discrimination against women.

In Ontario, it was ruled that a painting company was wrong when it refused to hire a woman because it thought she would be harassed on the job by male workers of other companies. The ruling said that this constitutes stereotyping of women as unable to fit in and take care of themselves. It also said that sexual harassment on the job violates the Human Rights Code and the worker or the company can bring a case to the Board if it occurs. The woman, Ingrid Anderson, was awarded \$862 in lost wages.

In Saskatchewan, a woman who was fired for being pregnant was awarded \$972 in lost wages and \$750 for humiliation by a Board of Inquiry. The Board ruled that "It is important to recognize that equality for women must include freedom from discrimination because they are pregnant or have an illness related to their pregnancy."

(Canadian Human Rights Advocate
November 1986)

SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN - COMING OUT OF THE CLOSET

Like other forms of family violence such as spousal assault, the sexual abuse of children is becoming more talked about and recognized.

This abuse may be defined as the sexual exploitation of a child who is not capable of understanding or resisting it, or of a child or adolescent who may be socially or psychologically dependent on the abuser. It can take many forms such as: touching or fondling of the private parts, oral or vaginal sex, sodomy or exhibitionism with or without pornography. The abusers are often members of the child's family and then it is usually called incest.

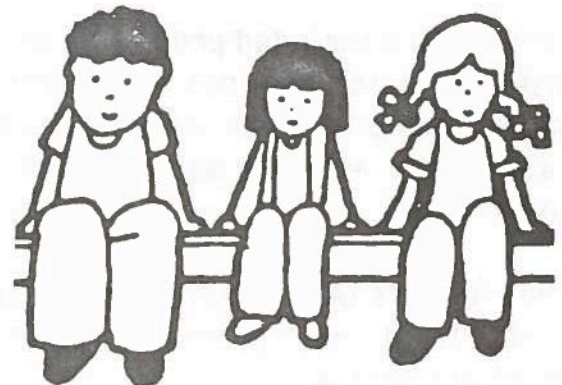
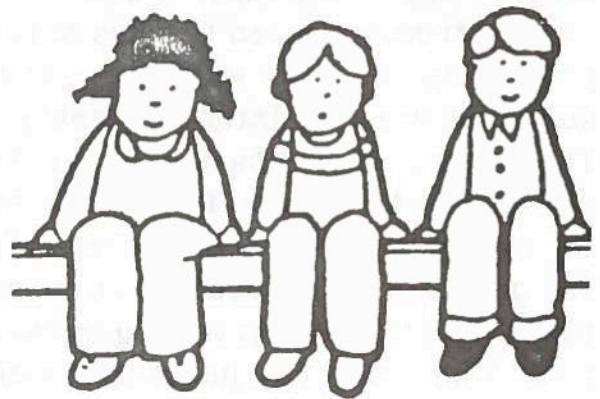
It always involves force of some kind. It can be physical force or threats of punishment, withdrawal of affection or harm to another family member. It can be very subtle as the abuser is often in a position of trust and the child feels powerless and trapped by fear and shame.

Sexual abuse of children is against the law, but abusers are rarely caught or prosecuted. It is up to the family to confront the abuse instead of ignoring it and to support the child in talking about it. This is very hard to do and can take years of therapy. It is also up to other people who know the child, such as teachers, social workers and friends, to report any suspicion of abuse and to encourage the child to talk about his or her feelings

Even if the abuser is caught and punished,

the child still has to deal with the fear and shame. If he or she does not talk about it, it will come out later in life. Many victims of sexual abuse as children have problems in sexual relationships and parenting as adults. Many also become abusers themselves. Only by bringing it out of the closet and talking about it openly in our families and our communities can we hope to stop this cycle of sexual abuse and violence.

(This article is based on information in an article in the July 1987 issue of Common Ground. There is more information on incest and sexual abuse of children in the Women's Secretariat Resource Library.)



WHAT IS C.R.I.A.W?

What is C.R.I.A.W.? It stands for the **Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women**. It is an organization of women across Canada who are involved in research projects for and about women.

In 1989, C.R.I.A.W. will be holding its annual general meeting in Yellowknife. They will be discussing issues that are important to northern women and they want northern women to participate. They will also be funding some northern women's research projects between now and the meeting.

If you are interested in finding out more about this research or in going to the meeting, please contact:

Rosemary Cairns
Yellowknife
(403) 873-5461 (home)

or

Cynthia Hill
Inuvik
(403) 979-7132 (work)



OH Our Backs/USA

Both Sides Now

*For every man who is tired of acting strong when he feels vulnerable,
There is a woman who is tired of acting weak when she knows she's strong.*

*For every woman who is tired of being called an emotional female,
There is a man who is denied the right to weep and be gentle.*

*For every man for whom competition is the only way to prove masculinity,
There is a woman who is called unfeminine when she competes.*

*For every woman who is tired of being a sex object,
There is a man who must worry about his potency.*

*For every man who is denied the full pleasure of shared parenthood,
There is a woman who feels tied down by her children.*

*For every woman who is denied meaningful employment or equal pay,
There is a man who must bear full responsibility for another human being.*

*For every man who was not taught the satisfaction of cooking,
There is a woman who was not taught the intricacies of an automobile.*

*For every woman who takes a step toward her own liberation
There is a man who finds the way to freedom has been made a little easier.*

ELECTION REPORT.....

Nellie Courneyea (Nunakput) and **Jeannie Marie-Jewell** (Slave River) will sit as the only two women in the 11th Legislative Assembly. They were two out of seven women who ran in the October 5th election. The others were **Frieda Martselos** (Slave River), **Arlene Hache** (Yellowknife South), **Mary Carpenter-Lyons** (Nunakput), **Bertha Allen** (Mackenzie Delta) and **Eliza Lawrence** (Tu Nede). Congratulations to all these women. We hope that all of them, elected or not, will continue to be active on issues that concern women and families, at the community, regional and territorial levels.

A FIRST FOR YELLOWKNIFE

During the recent territorial election campaign, there was an all-candidates forum held in Yellowknife on issues of concern to women and families. It was sponsored by the N.W.T. Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the N.W.T. Child Care Association, the N.W.T. Native Women's Association, the Yellowknife Business and Professional Women's Association and Y.W.C.A.

Six of the eight candidates in the three Yellowknife ridings attended, along with about 100 members of the public. Candidates answered questions from representatives of the sponsoring groups and from the audience and the meeting lasted for over three hours. It was also broadcast live on CKNM to thirteen communities in the Mackenzie Valley as well as Yellowknife.

Everyone involved thought that it was a great success. Many of the candidates did their homework before the forum and were well informed on the issues. LET'S HOPE THEY KEEP IT UP OVER THE NEXT 4 YEARS!

ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIVE IN ELECTION

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women was very active in the campaign leading up to the October 5, 1987 territorial election. The Council asked each candidate to answer a series of questions on issues of concern to women and families. It also co-sponsored an all-candidates forum in Yellowknife with a number of other groups. (See article on this page for more on this forum.)

The questionnaire was distributed to candidates by publication in the seven weekly northern newspapers. It had to be done this way because of the short campaign period and the slow mail service to many communities. This included a full printing in Inuktitut in the Nunatsiag News. The questions covered the topics of representation of women on boards, affirmative action, maternal health care, family law reform, family violence, maternity leave and financial assistance to child care. The answers were edited and published in the same newspapers the week before the election.

Of the sixty-six candidates in twenty-four ridings, sixteen responded, including two who were acclaimed. Answers came by telephone, mail, fax and hand. Six of those who responded were elected on October 5th. All the answers in full have been compiled into a report that is available from the Advisory Council office in Yellowknife.

It is important that women keep track of the performance of these MLA's now that they were elected, and in particular those who are Ministers. Some of the more interesting answers that may prove important over the next few years are:

- **Mike Ballantyne** on family law reform... "Family Law is now a pressing priority of our government and we are committed to focusing our resources on this complex and very important area of law. The G.N.W.T. Department of Justice will work co-operatively with the NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women ... and other groups interested in this area of law reform."

- **Dennis Patterson** on funding for child care... "GNWT assistance will depend on federal schemes being developed. I would like to see day care facilities built into school designs, and day care linked to pre-school preparation."

- **Peter Ernerk** on maternal health care would support... "greater support by government authorities of nurses within communities in terms of staff, moral support, equipment and facilities; better training programs for nursing assistants and midwives in communities; and establishment of regional health centres and

clinics to better serve people in the communities."

- **Ted Richard** on maternity leave... "The N.W.T. is the only jurisdiction in Canada which does not guarantee the right to maternity leave in its legislation. I support such a guarantee."

Just because the election is over does not mean that we should forget about these issues for another four years. If we want to see significant progress by the time of the next election, we have to keep pressing our M.L.A.'s and reminding them that these issues are important. This can be done by individual women and also by various organizations.



**STAND TOGETHER
WORK TOGETHER**

FAIRNESS IN FUNDING ? ? ? ?

Many women's groups receive funding from the Secretary of State Women's Program. This program was recently reviewed by a committee of parliament. The committee heard from groups across the country, including the NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Hay River Women's Coalition and the Society Against Family Abuse from the N.W.T. The recommendations of the committee include the following:

- that the program be continued at the minimum of the current funding level, including increases for the cost of living.
- that rural and northern women's groups be considered for priority funding, with realistic transportation and communication costs included in their grants.
- that Secretary of State officials be decentralized so as to better serve smaller committees.
- that a wide range of women's groups be consulted in setting priorities for the program.

The report was generally very positive about the program, but is not yet government policy. If you are concerned about the Women's Program funding and would like to see these recommendations put into practice, call or write to your M.P. (Dave Nickerson or Thomas Suluk) or to the Minister Responsible for Secretary of State (David Crombie). Letters can be sent postage-free to each of them at the House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario. A

copy of the Committee's report, entitled "Fairness in Funding" is available in the Women's Secretariat Resource Library.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Inuit Management Development, or Atii,

is offering a series of training courses this year. They include Personnel Management, Financial Management, Decision-making & Problem Solving and Planning & Evaluation and will be offered a number of times during the period November 1987 to March 1988. Locations will be Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit and Ottawa, and where possible instruction will be in Inuktitut. Participants should be currently employed in administrative or supervisory positions.

For more information, contact:

Simona Arnetiq-Barnes
Co-ordinator, Atii
c/o Inuit Tapirisat of Canada
176 Gloucester St. 3rd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0A6
(613) 238-8181



LIBRARY UPDATE

LIBRARY UPDATE

The resource library at the Women's Secretariat has been re-organized over the summer. Books, reports, magazines and catalogues are available for borrowing. There is information on topics such as housing, family planning, child care, pensions, affirmative action, family violence and health. Call or drop by if you need information on these and other issues of concern to women.

FUNDING AVAILABLE to March 31/88

The Women's Secretariat has \$20,000 left in contribution funding for

WOMEN'S INITIATIVES

Non-profit women's and community groups are encouraged to send in a proposal.

Call or write for the criteria:
Box 1320,
Yellowknife, NWT, X1A 2L9
Tel: (403) 920-8775



ADVISORY COUNCIL HOLDS REGULAR MEETING

The Advisory Council met October 24-25 in Yellowknife. Four out of the seven members attended.

The Council reviewed its activities during the recent territorial election campaign. These included a leaflet on **Women and Politics, a questionnaire** to the candidates on issues of concern to women and families, and co-sponsorship of an **All-Candidates meeting** in Yellowknife. Although only two women were elected, the profile of issues such as child care, affirmative action and family law reform was raised.

Council President, **Kathy Peterson**, will be seeking a meeting with the new Minister Responsible for the Status of Women as soon as possible. She will be looking for action on these issues, and also asking that the two empty positions on the Council be filled.

The previous Minister had declined to make these appointments which are important in order for the Council to be active and representative of all regions.

The issue of maternal health - community births and midwifery was discussed during the meeting. The Council heard from a representative from the Dept. of Health and also from one member Peepellie Nuturak, who talked about community births. It was agreed to support the research projects on traditional midwifery being done by the NWT Native Women's Association and the Inuit Women's

Association. It was recommended that more pre-natal education and nutrition and the dangers of smoking and abuse of alcohol, drugs and solvents is needed, as well as better sex education. The Council will communicate with the Dept. of Health on these issues, and may undertake a research project of its own.

The members also agreed to start research on the:

- Arts and Crafts Industry,
- Women in the correctional system
- Progress on the Five-Year Action Plan on Equality for Women.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for late January 1988 in Cambridge Bay. If you are interested in suggesting an agenda item or in making a presentation to the Council on an issue of concern to your community, contact Kathy Peterson (873-4556) or Ruth Utatnaq at the Advisory Council Office (920-6177).



WE WANT WOMEN.....WE WANT WOMEN.....WE WANT WOMEN

There are two empty seats on the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. There are currently only seven members although nine can be appointed.

You should be willing to travel to at least three meetings a year and be interested and active on issues that concern women and families. You should also be willing to do some work in their region in between meetings, so you should not be committed to too many other activities.

Appointments are made the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, often on the advice of MLA's. If you are interested submit your name to your MLA and to the Minister's Office in Yellowknife. You should also let the Advisory Council office know. Feel free to call or drop in if you have any questions about the role of the Council members.

**REMEMBER
A STRONG ADVISORY COUNCIL
NEEDS STRONG MEMBERS**



ANOTHER FIRST.....WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Did you know that by 1990 half of all small businesses in Canada will be owned by women? The 100 participants to the **Women Mean Business** Conference held in Yellowknife, October 25-26 intend to make this forecast a reality. They came from various communities in the NWT and from all walks of life to learn about starting and managing their own business and to meet other women with similar interests.

This was the first conference of its kind held in the NWT and received an overwhelmingly positive response from the participants. Not only did the majority rate it as excellent, they indicated that they would like the event scheduled again.

There were many speakers on varied topics such as:

So You Want to Start a Business; Hiring, Firing and Keeping them Happy; In Search of Money; How to Prepare a Business Plan; plus numerous others.

The co-sponsors: Federal Development Business Bank, Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce, Yellowknife Business and Professional Women's Assoc. and the Women's Secretariat, GNWT will certainly be looking into holding a similar conference in 1988.

Produced by:

NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women

P.O. Box 1320

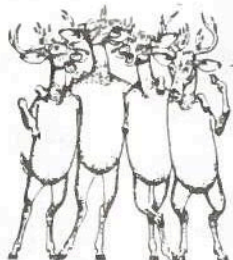
Yellowknife, NWT

X1A 2L9

Tel: 920-8775

with the assistance of:

THE WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT



HAVE YOU SUBMITTED OUR NAME TO THE TALENT BANK FOR WOMEN YET?

The Women's Secretariat is looking for women who are interested and willing to serve on Territorial Boards and Councils. We are also asked to suggest women for Federal Government Boards as well as National Organizations.

Please circle the boards from this list you are interested in working on. Complete the rest of the form on pg. 14 and return to the Women's Secretariat.

1. Akaitcho Hall Advisory Board
2. Alcohol & Drug Coordinating Council
3. Apprentices & Trades Certification Board
4. Arctic College Board of Governors
5. Arts Advisory Council
6. Baffin Regional Health Board
7. Beaufort/Mackenzie Delta Regional Planning Commission
8. Business Loan Fund Advisory Board
9. Commissioner's Award Committee
10. Eskimo Loan Fund Advisory Board
11. Fort Smith Health Centre Board of Management
12. Highway Transport Board
13. Inuvik Long Term Care Facility
14. Labour Standards Board of the NWT
15. Legal Services Board of the NWT
16. Liquor Licensing Board
17. Medical Registration Committee
18. Mine Occupational Health & Safety Board
19. NWT Advisory Council on the Status of Women
20. NWT Affirmative Action Advisory Committee
21. NWT Business Council
22. NWT Housing Corporation Board of Directors
23. NWT School Health Program Development Committee
24. NWT Social Assistance Appeal Board
25. NWT Teacher Certification Board
26. NWT Water Board
27. Public Records Committee
28. Public Utilities Board of the NWT
29. Regional Business Loan Board
30. Science Institute
31. Special Rural Development Act (ARDA) Committee
32. Stanton Yellowknife Hospital Board of Management
33. Student Financial Assistance Review Board
34. Territorial Hospital Insurance Services Board
35. Trades Advisory Committees
36. Workers' Compensation Board of Directors

WOMEN'S TALENT BANK FOR GNWT BOARDS AND COUNCILS

Please feel free to nominate yourself or share a copy with another women.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: home _____ work _____

Postal Code _____

- WHAT KIND OF COMMUNITY OR VOLUNTEER WORK HAVE YOU DONE OR ARE YOU DOING NOW?

- IF YOU HAVE A JOB, PLEASE ENCLOSE A RESUME, IF NOT, GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PAID WORK.

- MOST BOARDS MEET THREE OR FOUR TIMES A YEAR FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL MEMBERS ON THE BOARD TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS. DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN MAKE THIS COMMITMENT?

Please circle your answer YES NO

- PER DIEM HONORARIUM RANGES FROM \$100 TO \$275 PER DAY DEPENDING ON THE STATUS OF THE BOARD. TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS ARE PAID ALSO FOR EACH MEETING YOU ATTEND.

- DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT BEING APPOINTED TO A BOARD OR COUNCIL IN THE NWT?

RETURN TO: WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT, GOVERNMENT OF THE NWT
P. O. Box 1320 Yellowknife NWT X1A 2L9