



## Saying Goodbye



Irene Savoy  
Office Manager

With SWC from:  
Month 20XX - May 2012

Irene is heading for the beautiful east coast with the love of her life. She will be greatly missed by all of those that have been graced with her presents in Yellowknife.

Irene was a strong member of the Council's team for many years and will be impossible to replace. She made coming to work a pleasure each day. We wish her luck on her new life in New Brunswick and all her future prospects.

"Some people come into our lives and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never ever the same."  
~ Flavia Weedn



## Setting A Path: Consultation

The Council held a two-day consultation with women that have campaigned or expressed interest in political office in the past two years. These women were considered women of influence in the NWT and through their campaigning gained valuable insight into the concerns of women from the regions. The Council wanted their opinions and ideas at the table in order to determine community priority areas around family violence in the NWT. With the sunseting of the Family Violence Action Plan: Phase II in March 2012, the results and recommendations from these key women could help focus what is important to community women.

The Consultation was held on March 27-28, 2012 with 11 participants attending. Five communities were represented: Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith and Inuvik. Two GNWT observers attended, one from the Department of Justice and the other from the Department of Health & Social Services. The staff from the Status of Women Council NWT were also in attendance.

During the consultation we learned the main priority areas for community women were:

- Education and Awareness Campaigns to Change Attitudes
- Ongoing Family Violence Action Plan within GNWT
- Addressing long-term effects of family violence
- Accountability for Men Who Choose Violence - Implementing Program for Men
- Address Financial Barriers to Leaving Abusive Relationships: Bridging system that recognized income security policies, recognize issues/provide contingencies and affordable housing

Throughout the consultation the women established a valuable new network they strongly indicated that they would work together in the future to meet new goals. The group achieved a better understanding of the cost (economic, social and health) of violence in the NWT. There was also an increased awareness among participants on the current priorities and actions that the Coalition Against Family Violence is addressing. Participants learned about which programs are having the greatest impact in each of the regions and identified key service gaps that could be addressed by a client-focused Service Navigator position. The consultation as a whole was very productive and allowed a more in depth understanding of what community women face each day. It allowed for the successes in the past to shine and explored the areas that need more focus and resources.



## Wise Women Awards 2012

Photo Front Row: Tina Gargan (for Margaret Vandell), Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Therese (Dollie) Simon, Greta Anne Marie Sittichinli, Marsha Argue. Back Row: Dianne Howe, Annette Poitrois, Irene Savoy, Annemieke Mulders, Lorraine Phaneuf, Samantha Dechief, Gail Cyr.

The Wise Women Award has been given to 93 women in the north over the past 20 years and we hope to see this award continue well into the future. It is important that we take this time to reflect on all the women in our lives that have the strength and compassion to continue in the work they do. Women that are choosing to live healthy lifestyles and role model values that are important for community change while teaching traditional ways is imperative for our society to move forward. This award was created to recognize all the women that are behind the scenes working tirelessly to make a difference for their families and their communities, so that future generations have role models to aspire to and current generations have women to look up to.

This year's winners were as follows: North Slave, Marsha Argue; Beaufort/Delta, Greta Anne Marie Sittichinli; Sahtu, Ethel Blondin-Andrew; South Slave, Therese (Dollie) Simon; Deh Cho, Margaret Vandell.

The award was presented by the Council's new president Tina Gargan, a past recipient of the award herself. It was held during the annual Bread and Roses Luncheon. The original Bread & Roses campaign resulted from the lyrics of a marching song the bread symbolized economic justice and roses represented quality of life. This year in honour of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary that the Status of Women have been hosting the luncheon each person that comes gets a cupcake (bread) with a decorative rose on top.

## Honouring Our Wise Women From the North

In honour of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wise Women Awards the Status of Women Council NWT produced a book featuring all the past recipients of the award. The book is available in digital format on our website at [www.statusofwomen.nt.ca](http://www.statusofwomen.nt.ca) or you can order your very own hard copy from our office, while supplies last.

Call us or send us an email to [council@statusofwomen.nt.ca](mailto:council@statusofwomen.nt.ca).



Honouring Our Wise Women from the North

## Promo Available

Promotional items are available to anyone that would like them while supplies last.

This year the Council is addressing Safe Sex with the Funding and Support Team and will be putting together a small kit with a DVD from Behchoko on STIs, small promotional items (i.e. condoms, bag clips, key chains, etc.) and information on safer sex.

We also have family violence awareness items and will be producing a kit in partnership with the Coalition Against Family Violence this fall.

If you would like more information on what is available please just call our staff and they would be happy to help.

Don't forget we still have a video resource library for anyone to use.

"You don't have to be anti-man to be pro-woman."

~Jane Galvin Lewis