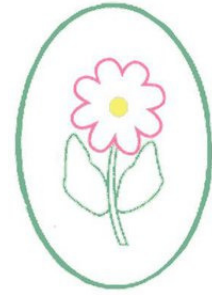




Status of Women Council  
of the NWT



Native Women's Association  
of the NWT

May 3, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Response to United Nations Recommendations

The United Nations (UN) has issued a judgment with recommendations on a housing issue regarding an aboriginal woman in the NWT. The Status of Women Council NWT and Native Women's Association NWT would first like to commend Ms. Cecilia Kell for her perseverance and due diligence in her case. Both groups agree with the UN's recommendations that:

- Ms. Kell be provided a house similar in size and quality as the one she was deprived of and that she should be financially compensated for material and moral damages she suffered;
- The government recruit and train more aboriginal women to provide legal aid to other women from their communities, including issues such as domestic violence and property rights; and
- The government reviews its legal aid system to ensure aboriginal women who are victims of domestic violence have effective access to justice.

We are pleased that the Honourable Bob McLeod stated in an interview earlier yesterday "We take these recommendations seriously and will respond and deal with the issue". Equality needs to be sought after and implementing change in policy and process is a step forward. We look forward to seeing a shift in a new direction when the written report from the government is presented to the UN in six months.

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