

**YUKON
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

2004 – 2005

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Mission Statement of the Council, as adopted in August, 1992 is,

**“TO RECOMMEND AND PROMOTE ACTION
THAT IMPROVES THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
OF YUKON PEOPLE”**

“The Yukon Health and Social Services Council...is a forum for ongoing public participation in the movement towards healthy communities.” (Terms of Reference May 1990). This annual report outlines activities undertaken by Council in 2004-2005 in its efforts to meet its legislated mandate in working collaboratively with interest groups, agencies, government and the public at large to improve the health of our population.

“The *I* in illness is isolation, and the crucial letters in wellness are *we*.”

Author unknown as quoted in Mimi Guarneri, *The Heart Speaks: A Cardiologist Reveals the Secret Language of Healing*

This past year has involved numerous sub-committee volunteer activities on the part of many members. Thank you to each of you for your strong commitment, participation and action aimed to improve the health and well-being of Yukon people.

Sincerely,

Colleen Wirth
Chair

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- Announcements of Council meeting dates and members' names and phone numbers are placed in both local newspapers and the French newspaper; Council received and accommodated requests from Yukon residents to bring presentations to Council.
- The minutes of Council meetings as public documents are posted on the YG web and circulated to individuals and organizations upon request.
- Council's Co-Chairs were invited and attended a Whitehorse General Hospital Board meeting to form linkages and discuss Council's mandate.
- Chair and Council member invited and attended the Sustainable Indicators Workshop organized by the Yukon Council on Economy and Environment. Dr. Ronald Coleman of GPI Atlantic was the invited guest speaker.
- Member attended International Youth Substance Abuse Conference in Prince George May 9-12, 2005

HEALTH INVESTMENT FUND

- Council continued to have a representative on the Committee that reviews requests for funding from the Health Investment Fund throughout 2003-2004. The Council representative attends all regular meetings and provides updates to the Council.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

- In 2004-05 Council had a representative on the Committee that reviews requests for funding from the Professional Development Fund for non-YTG employees. The Council representative attends all regular meetings and provides relevant Council updates.

COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

- At the request of the Minister of Health and Social Services, sub-committees were established to address specific issues. Based on sub-committees' work, Council reviewed and provided comments on the following:

- Social Assistance

- Children's Act Review

- Pharmaceutical Programs

- Health Forum

- Young Offender's Facility

- Northern Strategy

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

CANADA HEALTH COUNCIL

Violet VanHees, Policy Analyst, H&SS, updated Council on the status of the Canada Health Council - part of the First Ministers' efforts to improve accountability within the health care system and a key commitment of the First Ministers' Health Accord stemming from recommendations in both the Romanow and Kirby reports on health care. The six priority areas being reviewed are: wait times, pharmaceuticals, primary health care, aboriginal health care, home care and health human resources. The Council will report back to Canadians on these six priority areas in January 2005. Donna Hogan is Yukon's representative. At a later meeting, Donna Hogan, Yukon's Representative, provided an update on her involvement with and activities of the Council. The CHC hosts five meetings per year; the September 27th & 28th meeting will be held in Whitehorse.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bill Wilcox, Manager, Labour Service, Dept. of Community Services discussed minimum wage in Yukon in comparison to minimum wages in various jurisdictions in Canada. Of note is the absence of the information of how minimum wage stacks up with the cost of living and the cost of a *food basket*; to date this has never been compared. The process of reviewing the minimum wage was discussed.

Noreen McGowan, ADM Community Justice & Public Safety presented Justice's responses and implementation status to the recommendations contained in "*Update on Status of Implementation of Recommendations from the Research Framework for a Review of Community Justice in Yukon.*" Council was informed that the government will be basing the Whitehorse Correctional Centre (WCC) consultation on the *Children's Act Review* project model and presented the "*Corrections Consultation Model*" to Council for review and information.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SA)

Michael McCann, Director Social Services and Tim Brady, Manager, Adult Services, provided a history and brief overview of the Social Assistance (SA) program including variations in different jurisdictions. Income support, employment and training, services to persons with disabilities, Appeal Committee and Appeal Board process, verification and investigation and Senior's services were discussed.

TOUR OF COPPER RIDGE FACILITY

Council members were provided an inclusive tour of the Copper Ridge Facility followed by an informative session by Cathy Morton-Bielz, Director of Continuing Care, on the delivery of extended care; dementia care and respite care to seniors, adults and children

provided at the facility. The five levels of care provided by Multilevel facilities in Yukon was discussed; Multi-level facility needs assessments are being conducted in Watson Lake, Haines Junction and Teslin.

DECISION MAKING, SUPPORT AND PROTECTION TO ADULTS ACT

Jan Langford, Policy Analyst, H&SS, provided an update on the implementation of the *Decision Making, Support and Protection to Adults Act*, passed by the Legislature in December. The Act, focusing on health care decisions, personal care decisions and financial and property decisions, will be brought into force when regulations and educational materials are developed. Forms and brochures are being developed for each of the three separate but interdependent acts: Adult Protection and Decision Making Act, Care Consent Act and Public Guardian and Trustee Act.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TRANSITION FUND

Lindsay DeHart & Jan Horton, Policy Analysts, HSS, provided updates on PHCTF activities. The Health Status Report (HSR) was released in March 2004; responses from respondents are being reviewed and will be taken into consideration for the next HSR. Jan outlined the PHCTF approach being adopted to address action areas on a continuum from wellness to illness under four themes: healthy living; health information; addressing health issues and coordination and collaboration. Chronic disease management, a priority identified in the planning forum is another priority being worked on in the PHCTF as is increased usage of information technology by mental health and the expectation that community nursing will develop a client registry and a drug information registry. Further updates included Health living, active living and parenting information; Health Information in the guise of the Yukon Health Guide, Web access and program information; addressing health issues including ambulatory care reporting system at WGH, Alcohol & Drug – FAS Prevention early diagnosis and intervention, supplement to the Alcohol and Drug Survey, chronic disease support, continuing care and Cooperation and Collaboration initiatives in the form of information technology and information management.

CHILDREN'S ACT REVIEW

Anne Westcott and Victoria Fred provided updates to Council on the review. Common themes emerging through the consultations include power of Director; process of placing children in care; permanent care and custody and length of time for temporary care of children; flexible options in the legislation to maintain connections with families; enhanced family support and disparity between costs spent on children once they are in care and to parents with children who are not in the care of the Director. Much discussion ensued on the disproportionate representation on First Nation children in the system and the dire need for new legislation to address this fact. Council was assured that the new five-stage process mandated the Children's Act Review project to consult with First Nations, has a strong effort to collaborate and includes trust building with First Nations to address specific concerns that First Nations have had for a long time. Council

agreed to ongoing communication with the Project Team as well as input from the HSSC sub-committee.

WHITEHORSE GENERAL HOSPITAL/YUKON HOSPITAL CORPORATION

Marny Ryder, Chair Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC), Judy Gingell, Chair of First Nations Health Committee and YHC Board member and Ron Browne, CEO, Whitehorse General Hospital (WGH) provided an overview of the mandate and objectives of the YHC and WGH. This presentation included the fact that WGH could provide integrated health and social services and that this option is included in the Hospital Act and the Health Act. A general discussion ensued regarding the details provided in this presentation; Council agreed that more information is required prior to considering any recommendation regarding integration of services.

CANADA WINTER GAME 2007 & H&SS SERVICES

Chris Morrissey, General Manager of Canada Winter Games (CWG) 2007 provided a power point presentation on the CWG 2007. This pan-northern event will require approximately 4500 volunteers and is an amazing opportunity to showcase the North and provide information on resources, businesses, and services available. A “mini-hospital” is to be established at Yukon College. Recruitment for a Chief Medical Officer will be handled through the Canada Games Council in Ottawa; medical professional licensing requirements, emergency transportation, medical education and public health issues are all being considered and contingency plans put in place.

ROLE OF OMBUDSMAN/INFORMATION & PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

Hank Moorlag, Ombudsman and Information Privacy Commissioner (IPC) presented an in depth overview of the roles of these two portfolios in Yukon. The IPC conducts approximately 20 reviews per year. IPC commented that the ATIPP Act is in need of review and suggested that a review model similar the Children’s Act may be the best way to review the ATIPP Act. It is noted that the ATIPP Act is not adequate to deal with health information; the federal legislation, Personal Information Protection & Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) applies only to commercial health information.

COUNCIL FORUM

Discussion was held regarding the idea of Council hosting a Health Forum. A Forum sub-committee was established. The sub-committee will bring a draft plan to the December meeting.

FEDERAL HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING

Violet VanHees, Policy Analyst, informed that a significant amount of the money to be received under this fund will come with strings attached, in terms of funds being

allocated only for specific services and programs. The remaining discretionary funds will be needed to support programs and activities much required in Yukon. The Department has identified the management of wait times, home care, prescription drug coverage, catastrophic drug coverage, health promotion and urgent requirements in diagnostic and medical equipment as areas of potential priority for new funds.

NATIONAL EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

Christine Paradis, Policy Analyst advised Council of this recently announced federal initiative. \$5 billion will be phased in over the next five years to the provinces and territories. The four principles of quality, universally inclusive, accessible and developmental will guide this initiative. The Department will be consulting with the Yukon Child Care Board to determine how new monies can be used most effectively.

ALCOHOL & DRUG AWARENESS/CRIME PREVENTION

Sr. Sgt. Tim Walton, Department Commander, explained that the work done by the RCMP in the areas of alcohol and drugs is based on Canada's National Drug Strategy (1987). This strategy now includes harm reduction and focuses on awareness, prevention, enforcement, education, treatment and rehabilitation. The RCMP provide numerous program specific to youth such as; School Liaison Officer, DARE Program; Whole Child Project; SASSY; PARTY and the Annual Bison Hunt. The Federal Drug Section focuses on the importation of drug trafficking and organized crime. Currently, more young people seem to be using/abusing drugs. Following a ten year decline, use is up since 1993 and more drugs are being smoked.

RENOVATION OF WHITEHORSE CORRECTION CENTER (WCC)

A contract was awarded to Narrow Gauge Contracting Ltd. in June 2004 to complete safety requirement renovations. Completion of this work has required extraordinary efforts by staff as the facility was not closed during this time; the work is targeted for completion by March 2005.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Bill Bennett, Coordinator, Alternative Education provided an informative report on the planned Alternative School. Council was please to hear of the community driven approach and the broad representation involved in the school.

REFUGEES & FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY

Leslie Row, Citizenship & Immigration Officer provided copies of "*Flow Chart: Overview of the Process*" and "*The Refugee Process.*" This was followed by a presentation of the process of Refugee Protection Hearings.

PHASE I AND PHASE II HEALTH TRANSFER

Cheryl McLean, Director First Nations Relations/Aboriginal Languages Services presented a one-day informative synopsis on the Phase I and II Health Transfer. Lesley McCullough, Director of Mandate & Policy, provided copies of Self-government Agreements for members and discussed some of the details of the Self-government Agreements and the Umbrella Final Agreement. Numerous questions and discussion ensued.

PALLIATIVE CARE

Sharon Specht, Palliative Care Development Coordinator stated that all Canadians have the right to quality end-of-life care that allows them to die with dignity. At this time the PHCTF has provided funds to develop a Yukon wide Palliative Care Program. The goal of this program is to establish a model of care which supports Yukoners where they are. A further goal of the program would be to link program partners in a circle of care. Three models that this program can be base around are: 1) Primary Resource Team model; 2) Solo practitioner model and 3) Geographic model.

DRUG PROGRAMS: BRIEFING

Sherri Wright, A/Director Health Insurance & Hearing Programs and Dianne Tait, Manager, Extended Benefits & Pharmaceutical Programs, provided an in-depth overview of the three drug-related programs delivered by the Health Services Branch: Pharmacare and Extended Benefits for seniors; Chronic Disease and Children's Drug and Optical Program. Health Services is looking to establish links between the programs; this will take time due to privacy and confidentiality issues needing to be addressed through legislation.

INTRODUCTION & VISION OF RCMP SERVICES IN Yukon College

Superintendent/Chief Commander Dave Schewchuk and Inspector Tracy Hardy, RCMP discussed details of how the RCMP is education its members so when the holistic plan is being implemented, they will have the tools to carry it through. This plan involves communities and the judiciary for the belief is that when communities get involved, things start to happen.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

Dr. Wayne MacNicol, President, Yukon Medical Association (YMA) presented details of YMA's role and recruitment and retention issues currently facing Yukon. YMA is lobbying nationally regarding relationship between doctors and pharmaceutical companies who are set out to make money; hence the stringent patent protection. Dr. MacNicol will raise the issue of voice mail in Dr.'s offices with YMA. The discussion of alternative medical care, expanded role of nurse practitioners, community nurse practitioner and other providers took place. Department of Health and Social Services are looking at funding an alternative model and are in discussions with YMA regarding this.

NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Hazel Booth, VP Yukon Registered Nurses Association (YRNA) and Cathy Bradbury, Coordinator of Regulatory Programs, YRNA described the level of education and scope of practice for a nurse practitioner (NP). In Yukon, there are three resident NP's who are unable to practice due to lack of NP legislation. YRNA believes that collaboration between doctors and NPs will definitely provide better health services and meet people's needs for health care.

COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS 2004-2005

The Council made the following recommendations to the Government during 2004/2005:

1. Whereas substance abuse continues to be a major problem in Yukon, and education and prevention is key to reducing injury/death related to substance abuse, and; whereas the Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) program has documented success in other jurisdictions as well as Yukon; the Health and Social Services Council fully endorses the PARTY program to be delivered to all secondary schools in Yukon.
2. Whereas Yukon's current Primary Health Care Transition Fund (PHCTF) programs came into being based on Yukoners' identified health priorities from two Health Summits, council recommends that all discretionary funding from the new federal health funding be put into the continuum of PHCTF programs beyond 2006.
3. Whereas, there is shortage of physicians in Yukon; and
Whereas greater than 2000 Yukoners are without a family physician; and
Whereas best practices in medical collaboration have been successful in meeting these challenges in a cost effective manner;
The Council recommends that Government take immediate measure to legally recognize the expanded role of nurse practitioners and then establish a

- collaborative practice health service delivery model in Yukon. In this regard, Government is to commence dialogue with all health care professionals.
4. Whereas substance abuse in the Yukon is in a state of emergency due to the arrival of drugs such as crystal meth and crack cocaine;
Whereas the fact is that even the first use of crystal meth can lead to instant brain damage and addiction;
The Council recommends that ongoing complacency towards drug use is unacceptable and that an imminent development of a comprehensive drug strategy is critical.

MEETINGS

Under the Operating Procedures, the Yukon Health and Social Services Council is committed to holding at least four meetings a year.

In 2004-2005, four regular meetings took place on the following dates:

June 4 & 5, 2004

September 10 & 11, 2004

December 2, 3 & 4, 2004

March 4 & 5, 2005

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2002-03
AS AT MARCH 31, 2003**

YUKON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

BUDGET:		\$40,000.00
Honoraria	\$26,600.00	
Travel Costs	9,029.87	
Meeting Expenses	4,271.65	
Advertisement/Community Awareness	2,736.34	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		(\$42,637.86)

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AS AT MARCH 31, 2003

- Colleen Wirth - Chair
- Glenis Allen - Co-Chair
- Stanley Noel
- Iris Cormier
- Dorothy John
- David Ravensdale
- James Allen
- Renee Alford
- Lynn Harris
- Niall Sheridan
- Sandra Beckman

CONTACT ADDRESS

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