

**YUKON
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

2005 – 2006

Table of Contents

Message from the Chair.....	
Council Activities.....	
Presentations.....	
Meetings.....	
Financial Statement.....	
Membership.....	

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...will be a catalyst in promoting cooperation and building a broad public consensus aimed at achieving marked improvement in the quality of life in the Yukon.”

This annual report outlines activities undertaken by Council in 2005-2006 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 Council fosters cooperation and coordination in decision-making between the Departments of Health, Justice and Education. The assistance and dedication of all the members of this Council is appreciated. Thank you to all of you.

Sincerely,

Colleen Wirth
Chair

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Minutes from Council meetings are public documents and as such are posted on the Government of Yukon website. They can be accessed through the Health and Social Services link, within this site.

HEALTH INVESTMENT FUND

Council continued to have a representative on the Health Investment Fund Committee that reviews requests for funds, during 2005-2006. The Council representative attended all regular meetings and kept the Council updated.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Council continued to have a representative on the Professional Development Fund Committee that reviews requests for funds for non-YTG employees, during 2005-2006. The Council representative attended all regular meetings and kept the Council updated.

COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

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

- Names for appointment to the Council
- Palliative Care – training support
- Discussed the status of Yukon Drug Programs
- Discussed Canada Health Council's meeting in 2005
- Discussed the role of Doctors and nurse practitioners
- Anti-Poverty meeting
- Discussed coordinated approach for multi-care facilities
- Discussed Palliative Care
- Discussed WCB's Review Process
- Council Toured Young Offenders Facility

PRESENTATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

The following topics were brought forward and discussed by the Minister of H&SS or the Director of Policy and Program development:

- Drug Summit
- Children's Act Review Project
- Health Guide
- Operational Priorities for the Department of H&SS
- F/P/T Meetings
- Same Sex Legislation
- Anti-Poverty
- Development Assessment Process
- Integrated Resource Management Project
- Pipeline Committee
- Rail Study
- Compensation Discussion
- Emergency Measures Plan
- Early Learning & Child Care
- Fuel Rebate
- Youth Homelessness Study
- Ministers Responsible for Seniors
- First Ministers Meeting
- Child Care Funding
- Health Care Funding
- Territorial Access Fund
- Health Professionals
- Information Sharing
- Revenue Canada
- Program & Service Transfer Agreements
- Social Assistance
- Federal Legislative Changes
- Services to the Disabled
- Decision-Making Legislation
- Northern Strategy
- Health Fund

Departments of Justice & Education Updates

- Individual Education Plans
- Cultural Programs
- Math/English core areas
- Corrections Consultations
- Whitehorse Correction Centre Renovations
- Policing Review
- Substance Abuse Summit
- Enrollment
- Policy Work
- Education Reform
- Carmacks School
- New Partnerships
- Corrections Consultation
- Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan
- Problem Solving Court
- Yukon Safer Communities & Neighborhood Legislation
- Reading Program
- Literacy Action Committee

Palliative Care

The Palliative Care Development Coordinator provided an update on Palliative Care.

Children's Act Review Project

The co-chair of the project gave an update on the Children's Act Review.

Kwanlin Dun First Nation Health Program/Tour of Facility

The council traveled to KDFN's Health Center to tour the facility. Director of Health Programs, gave a brief history of KDFN's health programs. KDFN works closely with YTG's Director of Health Programs. Of their three million dollar health budget, only \$900,000 is core funding. KDFN services are open to everyone, including members of other first nations. When other first nations do receive services, KDFN is not compensated.

No Fixed Address Outreach Community

The Community Outreach Nurse gave an overview of this project. She discussed the Outreach Van and it's financial benefits, crime prevention benefits and health benefits.

Primary Health Care Transaction Fund (PHCTF)

The Coordinator of PHCTF and a Policy Analyst, provided updates to the Council about fund and the status and implementation of projects funded under this fund. The PHCTD Coordinator, outlined the approach to address areas of action as a continuum from wellness to illness under four themes; healthy living; health information addressing health issues; and coordination and collaboration. The goal of the fund is to improve the health of Yukon's population. Information technology is being used to support and improve the care provided.

Corrections Consultation

The co-chair of the Corrections Consultation Project and a Policy Analyst from the Council of Yukon First Nations discussed Corrections Consultation.

Decision as Deterrent to Crimes: Information

Chief Judge Faulkner, Territorial Courts noted that courts are currently dealing with a host of drug related crimes and it is not clear whether jail is a solution or deterrent. Though addiction treatment may be a solution, there are no designated funds for court ordered treatment. Judges are also in discussion with the Minister of Justice to establish a problem solving court, to deal with the specific problems of addiction, FASD and mental health related cases. Communities need to be mobilized and take responsibility.

Addictions Survey & Lessons Learned

The Senior Statistician from the Yukon Bureau of Statistics discussed the methodology of this survey and harm reduction.

Role of Communications Specialist, Council's Website & Press Release

Health and Social Services, Communications Specialist, discussed her role, the department's website and news releases.

Social Assistance Training Fund

Social Services' Coordinator of Employment Training and Employment Counselor discussed the Social Assistance Training Fund.

Palliative Care

The Palliative Care Development Coordinator explained that the report and its recommendations are complete. The report is undergoing a process of approval for public release.

Health Canada: Role in the North

Roselyn Woodcock, Manager, Northern Secretariat, explained Health Canada's role in health, mission, vision and partnerships with governments. The Northern Secretariat was created in 1998 to provide a coordinated and equitable approach to First Nations and Inuit Health Branch program delivery in the three northern Territories. The Secretariat's objectives are to strengthen the presence of Health Canada in the territories, develop and communicate key policies, research findings through a northern policy lens and collaborate with territorial governments, First Nations, the Inuit and the communities. The Northern Secretariat provides services to First nations and Inuits, with regards to addictions, capacity development, children, chronic disease, HIV/AIDS strategy, community health, environmental health, population health and non-insured health benefits.

Adult Probation Intensive Supervision Project

Probation Officer from the Department of Justice, provided an overview of the "Intensive Supervision Project".

Services for Seniors and Adult Protection

The Adult Protection Coordinator gave an overview of Services for Seniors and Adult Protection.

Pandemic Planning

Brian Kitchen, Director of Policy, Planning and Program Development, explained how the Contingency Plan is build on the core emergency plan and how it identifies and addresses unique circumstances. The Department of H&SS has had a Pandemic Plan since 2001, however events such as SARS have resulted in changes to the information. The impact of the next pandemic depends on factors such as virulence of the strain, age groups affected, attack rate and speed of spread from country to country. Roles of all levels of governments have been charted out in planning.

Anti-Poverty Coalition

Members from the Coalition discussed Women in Poverty, Homelessness, Focus Groups and an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Whitehorse General Hospital

The Chair of the Hospital Board discussed fundraising, emergency services usage, Specialists, the Thompson Centre and other Hospital Concerns.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS 2005-2006

The Council made the following recommendations to the Government during 2005/2006:

The Council recommended that Government consider changing the name for the Young Offenders Facility to enhance the image of the facility and its residents.

The Council recommended that the Social Services Act & Regulations be reviewed and amended in a manner that encourages and supports the recipients to move out of poverty and on to self-reliance.

MEETINGS

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

In 2005-2006, four regular meetings took place on the following dates”

June 9 & 10, 2005

September 9 & 10, 2005

December 1 & 2, 2005

March 3 & 4, 2006

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2005-06
AS TO MARCH 31, 2006**

YUKON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

BUDGET:		\$40,000.00
	Honoraria	\$17,100.00
	Travel Costs	\$11,893.28
	Meeting Expenses	\$3,522.01
	Advertisement/Community Awareness	\$2,082.93
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$34,598.22

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AS AT MARCH 31, 2006

- Colleen Wirth – Chair
- Glenis Allen – Co-chair
- David Ravensdale
- Iris Cormier
- James Allen
- Margaret Titus
- Shirley Laverdure
- Phil Dyke
- Rosemary Rowlands

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information on the Yukon Health and Social Services Council, please contact:

Yukon Health and Social Services Council
Attention: Amar Dhillon, Secretariat
Box 2703 (H-1)
Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 667-5770 or Toll free: 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5770

Fax: (867) 667-3096