

**YUKON  
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2006 – 2007**

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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...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 2006-2007 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 2006-2007. 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 2006-2007. 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:

- Children's Act Review
- Forum Planning and sub-committee meetings
- Council Action Plan

## **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:

- Forum Council Planning
- F/P/T Meetings for Ministers of Health and Western Premiers'
- Child Care
- Collaborative Health Service Delivery
- Pandemic News Release
- Children's Act
- Water Regulations
- Primary Health Care Transition Fund
- New Director of Risk Management & Quality Assurance
- Platform commitments will lead to new focuses for upcoming year
- Canadian Agency for Drugs & Technologies in Health
- Yukon Environmental Socio-Economic Assessment
- Canada Winter Games
- Midwifery
- Child Care

### Departments of Justice & Education Updates

- Field Trip Policy
- Volunteers in School Policy
- Correctional Re-development
- Whitehorse Community Wellness Court
- Correction Action Plan
- Policing Review
- Substance Abuse Action Plan
- Effect of Federal Budget
- Whitehorse Correctional Centre
- Northern Institute of Justice

### Tour of Alternative School

Principal of Alternative School gave a tour of the school and spoke about how his satisfaction at being able to provide help for those students who need it. Bill also spoke about the innovative approach to integrating students who drop out of regular school.

### Yukon Learn: Program Information

Debbie Parent, Executive Director, provided background information on the Yukon Learn Society. Its mandate is to promote free adult literacy services throughout the Yukon. The society currently has about 200 members. Numerous administrative improvements have occurred within Yukon Learn, all which help to serve clients better. The Society has also taken on a “self-advocacy for women in the legal system” program, as there was evidence that women are increasingly representing themselves in the legal system.

### Foster Parent Program

Members of the Foster Care Team, gave insight into the Foster Parent Program

### Conflict of Interest Policy

Heather Finton explained Yukon Government’s confidentiality policy towards governments and agencies and how it may apply to the Council. With regards to ATIPP’s coverage over the Council, this depends on how far the arm’s length relationship is between the Council and any government department. The Council has already received legal advice that the Council does not fall under these policies, however it is felt that the Council may need farther legal advice.

### Holistic Wellness Models for Nation Building

Presentation by David Ravensdale, focused on various issues and included the following points:

- Understanding the Western world view and reduction in science
- Western worldview does not reflect Native values
- Our worldview is based on individualism and survival of the fittest
- 83% of resources are controlled by 5% of the people on this planet
- The nuclear family has started to break down
- Need to make linkages between Health, Education, Human Resources and Economic Development Departments
- Clan culture is becoming more acceptable

### Hepatitis C Presentation

Farley Hayes, President, Hepatitis C Council of Yukon, presented an overview of Hepatitis C in the Yukon. There are between six to seven hundred people diagnosed with Hep C in the Yukon. Pharmaceutical treatments of Hep C are very costly. There are two major challenges faced by people with Hep C. Firstly, the disease is difficult to diagnose and often times the sufferer may be treated for isolated symptoms for some time before the diagnosis becomes apparent. Secondly, Hep C is associated with HIV and there is thus a social stigma attached with the disease.

#### Primary Health Care Transition Fund

Coordinator of the Primary Health Care Transition Fund, explained that the fund has been closed and most of its projects have been completed.

#### Understanding Pandemics

The Medical Health Officer provided the Council with an introduction to virology and the nature of the influenza virus. He went on to outline the impact of a future pandemic.

#### Mental Health Services Presentation

Clinic Manager of Mental Health Services presented a status of Mental Health Services. She also made announcements with regards to changes that were enabled through the Territorial Health Access Fund.

#### Pandemic Preparedness

The Director of Policy and Program Development gave an updated presentation on the Yukon Pandemic, which was originally developed in 2000. Building on the presentation given by the Medical Health Officer, pandemic planning for Emergency Health Services response was outlined.

#### School Health Presentation

A position for a school health coordinator has been created to strengthen the prevention efforts taken by the Departments of Education and Health.

#### Addressing Drug Issues

RCMP Constable presented an overview of current issues on the drug scene in the Yukon. Issues of enforcement were also discussed.

#### Pre-Hospital Care Presentation

Director of Emergency Medical Services gave an overview of Pre-Hospital Care.

### Outreach Van

Staff and Management from Yukon Family Services Association provided a history and overview of the Outreach Van.

### ATIPP Presentation

Corporate Information Manager from H&PW explained the legal framework concerning privacy issues and access to information.

### Second Opinion Society (SOS) & Canadian Mental Health Association

Brian Eaton, of the Second Opinion Society provided a brief history of the Second Opinion Society. The main premise behind the organization is that people with mental health issues have a right to dignity and their human rights. SOS stresses the “recovery model” in its view of mental health issues. It is a self-help group of survivors, which focuses on non-conventional methods of support. The organization is non-hierarchical and is very successful in developing community links.

### Family and Children’s Services

The Director of Family and Children’s Services, together with a Policy Analyst provided an overview of the review process from 2003 on the Children’s Act and Child Welfare League’s Recommendations.

### Communicable Disease Program

Colleen Hemsley, Communicable Disease Officer, provided information on Yukon Communicable Disease control programs, which include prevention, surveillance, containment, management and education. Strategies applied to the general population for the purpose of preventing occurrences are primarily prevention based. Methods utilized to educate the general public regarding immunizations include, pamphlets, media (radio, newspapers), letters to individuals, one-to-one counseling and presentations to the public.

## **COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS 2006-2007**

The Council did not forward any recommendations to the Government during 2006/2007:

## MEETINGS

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

In 2006-2007, four regular meetings took place on the following dates”

June 2 & 3, 2006

September 9, 2006

December 1 & 2, 2006

March 16 & 17, 2007

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2006-07  
AS TO MARCH 31, 2007**

**YUKON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL**

**BUDGET:** **\$40,000.00**

Honoraria \$23,900.00

Travel Costs \$ 4,810.16

Meeting Expenses \$3,254.23

Advertisement/Community \$4,499.22  
Awareness

Report/ Contract \$2,710.00

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** **\$39,173.61**

## **COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AS AT MARCH 31, 2007**

- Colleen Wirth – Chair
- Glenis Allen – Co-chair
- David Ravensdale
- Iris Cormier
- James Allen
- Margaret Titus
- Shirley Laverdure
- Phil Dyke
- Rosemary Rowlands
- Jane McIntyre
- Naresh Prasad
- Penny Ferbey
- Darcy Tkachuk
- Maxwell Rispin

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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