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**WOMEN**  
PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON THE STATUS OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR



*Annual Report*  
2006-2007

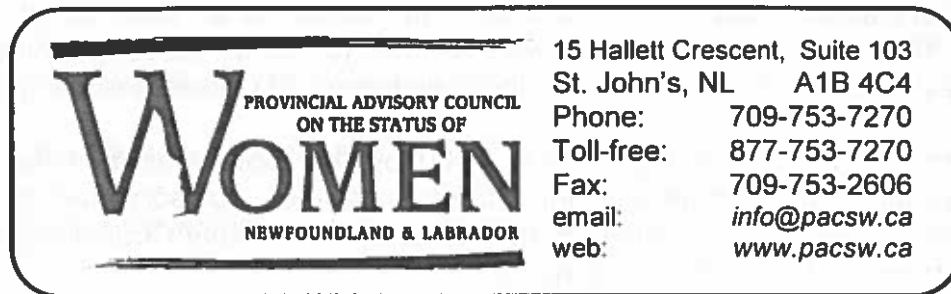
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## 1.0 Letter of Transmittal

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October 22, 2007

Honourable Joan Burke  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
P.O. box 8700  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Burke:

As President/CEO of the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women, it is my pleasure to submit the annual report for the 2006-2007 fiscal year on behalf of the Council Members and in accordance with the *Guidelines for Annual Performance Reports for Category 2 Government Entities*.

This report was prepared under my direction and my signature reflects Council Members' accountability for the progress and accomplishments of the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women from April 1, 2006, to March 31, 2007.

Sincerely,

Leslie MacLeod  
President/CEO

## 2.0 Organizational Overview

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The Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women is an arms-length, advisory body to the Provincial Government. It was created to advise Government on issues affecting the status of women and raise public awareness of women's equality issues.

The Advisory Council was established in 1980 by the Government of the day and received legislative standing through the *Status of Women Advisory Council Act*. The Women's Policy Office is responsible for the Act and the Advisory Council reports to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women.

The Advisory Council consists of eleven members, including a President/CEO and Vice President. Members are selected by Government through an open nomination process and are appointed to three-year terms by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

The President/CEO is a full-time, salaried position filled through an open public service competition and subsequent appointment by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Council members live in different regions of the Province, providing expertise from both urban and rural perspectives. The members bring a rich diversity of experience and analysis to the work of the Advisory Council and a shared commitment to advancing the status of women in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Operating within a feminist framework, the Advisory Council works closely with women, women's groups and other equality-seeking groups to advance the equality of women.

<b>2006-2007 Advisory Council Members</b>	
Leslie MacLeod, St. John's - President/CEO	Carolyn Lavers, Port au Choix
Phyllis Artiss, St. John's - Vice-President	Vanessa MacArthur, Port aux Basques
Mary Pia Benuen, Sheshatshiu	Michelle Murdoch, St. John's
Jackie Jenkins, Grand Falls-Windsor	Phyllis Seymour, Little Bay Islands
Yamuna Kutty, St. John's	Hilda Whelan, Whitbourne
Vacancy*	

\*The eleventh seat was designated for an Inuit representative. Unfortunately, this seat remained vacant during the year.

## **2.1 Mandate, Vision and Mission**

### **Mandate**

The Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women is mandated by the *Status of Women Advisory Council Act*.

"3. The advisory council shall

- (a) *advise the minister on those matters relating to the status of women that the minister refers to the advisory council for consideration;*
- (b) *advise the minister on those matters relating to the status of women that the advisory council feels appropriate; and*
- (c) *bring before the government and the public matters of interest and concern to women; and*
- (d) *establish the general policies that will govern the organization, administration and operation of the advisory council."*

### **Vision**

- Equality, equity and inclusion for women in Newfoundland and Labrador.

### **Mission**

- To provide for Newfoundland and Labrador women and women's equality-seeking groups an organization which works for the social, cultural, economic, legal and political equality of women.

## **2.2 Values**

As an equality-seeking feminist organization, it is essential the work of the Advisory Council be grounded in a set of well thought-out values. The following values were developed and adopted in 2006-2007:

<b>Commitment:</b>	Each individual applies feminist principles when asserting equality and challenging inequality, thereby affecting social change.
<b>Responsiveness:</b>	Each individual responds to requests in a time-efficient manner, meeting the changing needs of the women's community as issues emerge.
<b>Inclusiveness:</b>	Each individual works to ensure that all opinions and knowledge are considered so that the strength that exists in the collective voice of women is sustained and enriched by the diversity of women's perspectives.
<b>Learning:</b>	Each individual continues to educate herself about women's inequality as a means of fulfilling her responsibility as a feminist leader.
<b>Safety:</b>	Each individual contributes to the creation of a respectful environment that ensures women have a safe place to speak openly about inequities
<b>Celebration:</b>	Each individual acknowledges both the challenges and the joys of working with and for women and celebrates our collective achievements.

### 2.3 Physical Location

The Advisory Council was located at 131 LeMarchant Road in St. John's until March 26, 2007, at which time we moved to a temporary office at 39 Pippy Place in St. John's.

### 2.4 Lines of Business

2006-2007 was a transitional year for the governance of the Advisory Council. The previous planning cycle ended in March 2006. As newly appointed Council Members, we focused our work in the following strategic areas:

- Advising Government on issues affecting the status of women.
- Community outreach and consultation.
- Public education and awareness.
- Governing the organization, including the development of a Business Plan for 2007-2008.

## **Advising Government**

The President/CEO meets regularly with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and the Women's Policy Office to discuss issues related to women's equality. On an ongoing basis, the Advisory Council is asked for recommendations on changes to, or the creation of Government legislation, policies, programs and services. The Advisory Council also brings emerging women's equality issues and concerns to Government. In addition, the Advisory Council participates in Government consultations and information sessions, and participates on a variety of committees.

## **Outreach and Consultation**

The Advisory Council consults with women's equality-seeking organizations in order to identify issues and develop recommendations to advance the status of women. We host conference calls and meetings, and participate in workshops, conferences and networking sessions.

We maintain connections with national women's equality-seeking organizations, including the National Association of Women and the Law, the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action.

In addition, the Advisory Council is an active member of the Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women.

## **Public Education and Awareness**

The Advisory Council engages in public education and awareness on issues of women's social, legal, economic, political and cultural equality. We use media releases and interviews as a means to publicly discuss our analysis of, and reactions to, issues affecting women. The Advisory Council also participates in various public events on women's issues.

## **Governance**

The Advisory Council engages in a variety of governance activities designed to keep the organization running smoothly as well as meet Government obligations under the Transparency and Accountability Act.

## **2.5 2006-2007 Advisory Council Staff**

The day-to-day work of the Advisory Council was carried out by a dedicated team of women in three core staff positions:

- Sandy Abbott – Administrative Assistant.
- Leslie MacLeod – President/CEO.
- Michelle Smith – Community Liaison and Communications Director (leave of absence February - March 2007).
- Elaine Wychreschuk – Community Liaison and Communications Director (interim February – March 2007).

The Advisory Council was also fortunate to have the assistance of three summer students in 2006:

- Jaime Huggett, Office Assistant.
- Kate Reid-Shute, Communications Assistant
- Onar Usar, Research Assistant.



### **3.0 Shared Commitments**

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In order to fulfill our mandate and mission, the Advisory Council works in partnership with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, the Women's Policy Office, women's organizations, other equality-seeking community agencies, and Provincial Government departments and agencies.

The Advisory Council meets regularly with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and the Women's Policy Office, bringing forward issues and concerns, providing analysis and making recommendations to advance the status of women.

In addition, we provide other Government departments, ministers and senior officials with advice and analysis on policies, programs, services, budget allocations and legislation that may affect the status of women in Newfoundland and Labrador. We also provide analysis and recommendations on Government initiatives and strategies such as the 2006-2012 Violence Prevention Initiative and the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

The Advisory Council shares a deep commitment to advancing equality with women and women's organizations throughout the Province, including Status of Women Councils, Transition Houses, Shelters, Regional Coalitions against Violence, Women Interested in Successful Employment, Transition House Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, Women in Resource Development Committee, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre.

For over 20 years, the Advisory Council worked closely with the local Status of Women Canada Office. The Federal Government closed this office permanently on March 31, 2007, eliminating a vital federal link for women in our Province. The Federal Government also made significant changes to the mandate and funding programs of Status of Women Canada, which have negatively affected women's organizations and women's advocacy work. In partnership with women's organizations within the Province and across the country, we publicly voiced our clear opposition to all of the cuts and changes.

## **4.0 Highlights and Accomplishments**

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### **4.1 Governance**

Members of the Advisory Council were appointed on March 6, 2006. We quickly established ourselves as a committed group, determined to bring forward issues and advance the status of women. We developed a consensus style of decision making and established communication mechanisms which enable all members to participate in our work throughout the year. Council members and staff are fully engaged in identifying issues, developing positions and bringing forward recommendations.

The Advisory Council held four, two-day, in-person meetings during the year:

- May 15-16, 2006
- October 2-3, 2006
- December 14-15, 2006
- March 8-9, 2007

We also established the following four committees to manage various aspects of the organization during 2006-2007:

- Building Committee
- Governance Committee
- Finance Committee
- Personnel Committee.

### **4.2 Moving Forward**

The Advisory Council identified barriers to women's participation in the organization, including an inaccessible office and website and the absence of a toll-free phone line. We set out plans to remove those barriers and increase the inclusion and participation of women in our organization.

As a new team, the Advisory Council determined a number of priorities for the year, including: participating in Government consultations, connecting with other women's groups and equality-seeking organizations, and responding publicly to issues affecting women's equality.

We met with women's organizations throughout the Province and worked in partnership on some shared issues. We collaborated with national women's equality-seeking organizations and worked with other Provincial/Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women.

## 5.0 Governance Issues

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As mentioned earlier, 2006-2007 was a transition year for the Advisory Council. The outgoing Council Members had worked within a strategic plan which ended in March 2006. The newly appointed Council Members set a number of goals and objectives for 2006-2007 which were in keeping with the mandate, lines of business and governance issues of the Advisory Council.

### 5.1 Representation to Government

**Goal:** To advise Government on issues affecting the status of women.

**Objective:** To participate in Government consultations and committees with respect to advancing the status of women.

**Progress and Accomplishments:**

The Advisory Council participated in a wide range of Government consultations during the year, including:

- Activities related to the Violence Prevention Initiative
- Newfoundland and Labrador Immigration Strategy
- Provincial Pre-Budget Roundtable
- Proposed Mental Health Care and Treatment Act
- Proposed Health Information Act
- Proposed Mandatory Exit Time from Liquor Establishments
- Stakeholder Roundtable on Turner Review and Investigation
- Proposed Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmaceutical Act
- Healthy Aging Strategy
- Premier's Meeting on the Fishery (Fishery Summit)
- Expanded Prescription Drug Program
- Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Commission Consultation
- Poverty Reduction Strategy

We also participated in a limited consultation on the proposed Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act, voicing serious objections to the concept.

We were active on the following Government - Community committees:

- Justice Minister's Committee on Violence against Women
- Family Violence Protection Act Evaluation Committee
- Working Committee on Workforce Adjustment (Fishery)
- Violence Prevention Initiative Social Marketing Campaign: Prevention of Violence against Older Adults

The Advisory Council met with Ministers and officials of the Departments of Health and Community Services, Justice, and Human Resources, Labour and Employment to discuss issues related to women's poverty and access to justice services.

On the federal scene, the Advisory Council was selected as a witness in the first Hearing of the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women on December 6, 2007. The purpose of the Hearing was to gather responses from women's organizations to Status of Women Canada administrative cuts, mandate changes, and changes to the funding guidelines of the Women's Program. These cuts and changes dealt a massive blow to women's equality work across Canada.

The Advisory Council also participated in a community consultation on violence against women held by Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

## 5.2 Outreach and Consultation

There are many women's organizations around the Province providing critical services to women. They are familiar with the problems women face when trying to access a range of services, including housing, child care, income support and justice services. They understand the depth of women's poverty and barriers to education and employment. And they are strong advocates for women's equality.

**Goal:** To actively engage with women and women's equality-seeking organizations.

**Objective:** To meet, consult with, and learn from, a wide range of women's organizations by March 31, 2007.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

Throughout 2006-2007, the Advisory Council met with women's organizations in several communities around the Province, including Gander, Corner Brook, Stephenville, Port aux Basques, Burin, Grand Falls-Windsor, Labrador City, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The President met with each of the eight Status of Women Councils at their respective Women's Centres, as well as a number of

Transition Houses, Coalitions against Violence, women involved with the Canadian Federation of Students and individual women.

The Advisory Council co-hosted several community events, including: Labrador West Women's Centre Open House, Mokami Status of Women Council Community Lunch and Learn, Central Status of Women Council Lunch and Learn, St. John's Status of Women Council International Women's Day Breakfast and the Outliving Homophobia Week at Memorial University.

The Advisory Council coordinated conference calls and meetings with representatives from women's organizations around the Province on a variety of shared issues, including: use of personal records in court proceedings; information on the Access to Information and Privacy Act; organizational funding issues; women's access to justice services; cuts and changes to Status of Women Canada; the cancellation of a promised nationally-funded child care and early learning program, and an information session about Oxfam Canada's women's agenda.

The Advisory Council continues to provide women with information, referral, and assistance with advocacy issues. Many of the contacts with individual women during 2006-2007 were related to violence and abuse, inadequate housing and income, problems accessing civil legal aid and family justice services, child custody and access, child support, and workplace discrimination and harassment. The issues brought forward by individual women help us to identify systemic discrimination, prepare recommendations to Government and advocate for change.

During the past year, the Advisory Council participated in a number of workshops and conferences, including: the first Provincial Aboriginal Women's Conference; Multicultural Women's Organization of NL Speaker Series, annual Violence Prevention Stakeholder Conference, St. John's Status of Women Centre Women's Risk of Homelessness Workshop, Navigating Anti-Violence Work in a Culturally Sensitive Way workshop, and the 2007 Inuit Women's Conference and spoke at a Women's Network Dinner on current challenges in women's equality.

We are represented on the Board of Directors of Women Interested in Successful Employment and the Women in Resource Development Committee. These links provide valuable insight into the barriers women continue to experience in accessing training, education and employment.

The Advisory Council actively participated in meetings of the Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women discussing issues of mutual concern.

We hosted three public events: a reception for Aboriginal Women on the Move; a reception to honour Joyce Hancock, recipient of the 2006 Governor General's Person's Award; and a Farewell reception for 131 LeMarchant Road.

In addition, the Advisory Council supported a number of initiatives developed by other organizations during the year, including: NL Sexual Health Centre, Multicultural Women's Organization of NL, the Women's Resource Centre at Memorial University, Femmes Equite Atlantique Project, Transition House Association of NL, Atlantic Centre for Excellence for Women's Health and the Muriel McQueen Ferguson Centre.

The Advisory Council also continued to host an electronic listserv which provides a forum for women throughout the Province to share information and discuss equality issues.

### **5.3 Public Education and Awareness**

**Goal:** To engage in public education and awareness on issues related to advancing women's equality.

**Objective:** To respond publicly on matters of importance to women.

#### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

In 2006-2007, the Advisory Council spoke in the media about many issues affecting the status of women, including: violence against women, the value of the Violence Prevention Initiative, women's right to access abortion, the need for additional annual funding for Women's Centres, the need for an end to harassment and bullying in St John's City Hall, positive human rights by-law amendment at St. John's City Hall, the negative implications of the elimination of the promised national child care and early learning program by the Federal Government, factors in declining birth rate, the need to include women's reality in fishery adjustment programs, negative implications of the Federal cuts and changes to Status of Women Canada and the loss of local Federal Status of Women Office on women's equality, the shameful treatment of a female held in a Labrador jail, the importance of gender inclusive analysis in Poverty Reduction Strategy, issues related to a repeat sex offender, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Status of Women hearings on changes to Status of Women Canada, the need for Provincial Government to increase funding for social issues, International Women's Week and the Cervical Screening Program.

The Advisory Council participated in several public events, including: International Women's Week, Take Back the Night March, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, Person's Day Rally protesting Federal Government cuts to equality and social spending, a child care demonstration,

World AIDS Day Breakfast and AIDS Committee Annual Walk, the opening of St. John's Pride Week, a national protest rally against Federal social spending cuts and the elimination of funding for equality work, and the 15th Anniversary of the Central Committee Against Violence.

We also placed advertisements in various newspapers in support of local International Women's Day celebrations and provided letters of support for the nominations of women to a variety of awards.

#### **5.4 Women's Access to the Advisory Council**

**Goal:** To improve women's access to the Advisory Council.

**Objective:** To identify and begin eliminating barriers to the Advisory Council by March 31, 2007.

#### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

**Toll-Free Line:** The Advisory Council added a toll-free telephone line in April 2007 to enable women and community-based women's groups to connect with us at no charge to them.

**Accessible Office Space:** In 1987, the Advisory Council purchased a building located at 131 LeMarchant Road, causing a bit of a furor in the House of Assembly at the time. In the face of Government opposition, President Anne Bell and Council Members of the day stood firm on the decision to own their own building. This was a lively and proud time for feminists in our Province and this location continued to be the home of the Advisory Council for the next 20 years.

Unfortunately, the building was not physically accessible. While the newly appointed members were determined to eliminate barriers to the Advisory Council, we were also mindful that the building meant a great deal to the women who worked and gathered in this charming old Victorian building over the years. The Building Committee explored a variety of options for increasing the physical accessibility of our office. At the end of the day, we chose to put the building up for sale and seek accessible leased office space.

An agreement of sale was reached in March 2007. With the assistance of the Government Accommodations Division, Department of Transportation and Works, a public tender was issued for long-term leased accessible office space. In late March, while awaiting the tender decision and subsequent renovations, we moved to temporary accessible leased space. On the eve of this move, women gathered to share their memories and bid farewell to 131 LeMarchant Road.

**Website:** The Advisory Council website posed barriers to women. We began redesigning the site in an accessible format, employing appropriate technologies prior to the end of March 2007.

## **5.5 Business Plan 2007-2008**

**Goal:** To develop a Business Plan for 2007-2008 in keeping with the priorities of the Advisory Council and Government requirements.

**Objective:** To work with the Transparency and Accountability Office to develop a formal Business Plan for 2007-2008 by December 2006.

### **Progress and Accomplishments:**

The Advisory Council established a Governance Committee to draft a Business Plan with the assistance of the Transparency and Accountability Office. The final plan was approved by the Advisory Council during the December 2006 in-person meeting. The plan is posted on the Advisory Council and Provincial Government websites. Print and electronic copies are available from our office. In addition, the Governance Committee completed preliminary work toward the development of the 2008-2011 Business Plan.



## 6.0 Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

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As we reflect on the work of the past year, we recognize a great deal remains to be done in order to advance women's economic, social, legal, cultural and political equality.

Women face many challenges, including continued poverty, violence, barriers to education and employment discrimination. Women in many communities are struggling to find adequate, safe, affordable housing or maintain their homes. Traditional areas of women's work such as child care, home support and the service sector are underpaid and undervalued. Women continue to experience great difficulty accessing legal services for family law matters and we remain under-represented in leadership roles. Employment Insurance maternity and parental leave wage replacement programs are inadequate. Child care and early learning programs remain out of reach for many families.

In order to move women's equality forward, it is essential we collectively understand the complexities faced by all women, including Aboriginal women, women with disabilities, young women, senior women, lone parents, immigrant and refugee women, and women living in both urban and rural areas of the Province.

The Advisory Council remains committed to improving the status of women in Newfoundland and Labrador. We will do this in collaboration with women's groups, other equality-seeking organizations and Government. We will continue to build partnerships with diverse women's groups, including union women and Aboriginal women, as well as Government departments and agencies. We will create opportunities to deepen our analysis of the effects of inequality and develop ways to ensure we respond to issues in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.

At every opportunity, we will continue to advocate for the development of policies, practices, programs and legislation based on a solid analysis of women's experiences.

## 7.0 Audited Financial Statements

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OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL  
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

### AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors  
Provincial Advisory Council on the Status  
of Women - Newfoundland and Labrador  
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

I have audited the balance sheet of the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women - Newfoundland and Labrador as at 31 March 2007 and the statements of revenues, expenses and surplus, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Council's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Noseworthy".

**JOHN L. NOSEWORTHY, CA**  
Auditor General

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador  
3 July 2007

PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN -  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

BALANCE SHEET

31 March

2007

2006

ASSETS

Current

Cash	\$ -	\$ 3,332
Accounts receivable	3,048	7,721
Prepaid expenses	2,078	1,247

5,126 12,300

Capital assets (Note 2)

30,749 21,300

\$ 35,875 \$ 33,600

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

Current

Bank indebtedness	\$ 1,354	\$ -
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	9,690	16,635
Long-term debt payable within one year (Note 3)	14,857	4,959

25,901 21,594

Long-term debt (Note 3)

- 14,895

25,901 36,489

Surplus (Deficit)

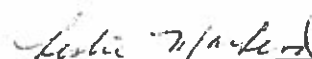
9,974 (2,889)


\$ 35,875 \$ 33,600

Commitments (Note 4)

See accompanying notes

Signed on behalf of the Council:

  
President

  
Member

Office of the Auditor General

**PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN -  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND SURPLUS  
For the Year Ended 31 March**

	2007	2006
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Province of Newfoundland and Labrador operating grant	\$ 297,600	\$ 317,142
Emerging Women's Group funding	-	46,487
Miscellaneous	9,154	12,241
Interest	2,594	-
	<u>309,348</u>	<u>375,870</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Amortization	4,229	3,377
Council meetings	29,599	38,340
Feminist Coalition Project	-	42,081
Interest on long-term debt	836	1,010
Moving expenses	3,913	-
Operating expenses	58,955	60,714
Outreach	11,376	15,885
Salaries and employee benefits	187,577	210,037
Women's Provincial Conference	-	14,693
	<u>296,485</u>	<u>386,137</u>
<b>Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)</b>	<b>12,863</b>	<b>(10,267)</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit), beginning of year</b>	<b>(2,889)</b>	<b>7,378</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit), end of year</b>	<b>\$ 9,974</b>	<b>\$ (2,889)</b>

*See accompanying notes*

Office of the Auditor General

**PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN -  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
For the Year Ended 31 March**

	2007	2006
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	\$ 12,863	\$ (10,267)
Adjustment for non-cash items		
Amortization	4,229	3,377
	17,092	(6,890)
Changes in non-cash working capital		
Accounts receivable	4,673	(2,007)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(6,945)	9,629
Deferred revenue	-	(30,000)
Prepaid expenses	(831)	-
	13,989	(29,268)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Repayment of long-term debt	(4,997)	(4,823)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(13,678)	-
Net decrease in cash	(4,686)	(34,091)
Cash, beginning of year	3,332	37,423
Cash (bank indebtedness), end of year	\$ (1,354)	\$ 3,332

*See accompanying notes*

Office of the Auditor General

PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN -  
 NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 31 March 2007

Authority

The Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women - Newfoundland and Labrador (the Council) was established under the *Status of Women Advisory Council Act*. The purpose of the Council is to advise the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, the Government and the public on matters of interest and concern to women. Its affairs are managed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

1. **Significant accounting policies**

These financial statements have been prepared by the Council's management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Outlined below is the significant accounting policy followed.

Capital assets

All capital assets are capitalized at cost at the time of acquisition. Land and building have been financed by debt and were amortized, except for the capital cost of the land, over the term of the original debt. Amortization for all other capital assets is calculated using the methods described below based on the expected future useful life of the assets as follows:

Furniture and office equipment	Straight line, 5 years
Computer hardware and software	Straight line, 3 years

2. **Capital assets**

	2007			2006
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
Land	\$ 21,300	\$ -	\$ 21,300	\$ 21,300
Building	99,752	99,752	-	-
Furniture and office equipment	2,475	495	1,980	-
Computer hardware and software	11,203	3,734	7,469	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 134,730</b>	<b>\$ 103,981</b>	<b>\$ 30,749</b>	<b>\$ 21,300</b>

Office of the Auditor General

PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN -  
 NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 31 March 2007

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3. Long-term debt

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Royal Trust first mortgage bearing interest at prime plus one percent with a capped rate of 5.875%, repayable in blended bi-weekly installments of \$224; maturing 1 July 2009.	\$ 14,857	\$ 19,854
Less: current portion	<u>14,857</u>	<u>4,959</u>
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 14,895</u>

The long-term debt is secured by land and building at 131 LeMarchant Road in St. John's. In April 2007, the building was sold and the outstanding amount on the mortgage was paid.

4. Commitments

In March 2007, the Council entered into a 6 month agreement for the lease of office space requiring monthly lease payments of \$3,840 and a 5 year agreement for the lease of office equipment requiring quarterly lease payments of \$1,026.

5. Pensions

Council staff are subject to the *Public Service Pensions Act*. Employee contributions are matched by the Council and remitted to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador Pooled Pension Fund from which pensions will be paid to employees when they retire. The Council's share of pension contributions for 2007 was \$12,428 (2006 - \$11,192).

6. Economic dependence

As the Council's revenue consists primarily of operating grants from the Province, its ability to continue viable operations is dependent upon the decisions of the Province.

7. Financial instruments

The Council's current financial instruments recognized on the balance sheet consist of accounts receivable, bank indebtedness, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The carrying values of these instruments approximate current fair value due to their nature and the short-term maturity associated with them.

The Council's long-term debt is comprised of a mortgage of \$14,857 at prime plus one percent with a capped rate of 5.875%. There is no rate risk associated with the mortgage and the carrying value of the debt approximates fair value.

Office of the Auditor General

**PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN -  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
31 March 2007**

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**8. Subsequent event**

In April 2007, the Council sold the building located at 131 LeMarchant Road for \$175,000. Proceeds from the sale totalled \$159,867 after commissions and closing costs. The outstanding mortgage was settled for \$15,310.

**9. Income taxes**

The Council is a Crown entity of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and as such is not subject to Provincial or Federal income taxes.





**WOMEN**  
PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON THE STATUS OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

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*Equity, Equality and Inclusion for Women*