



MEETING AOC 52-20-24

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

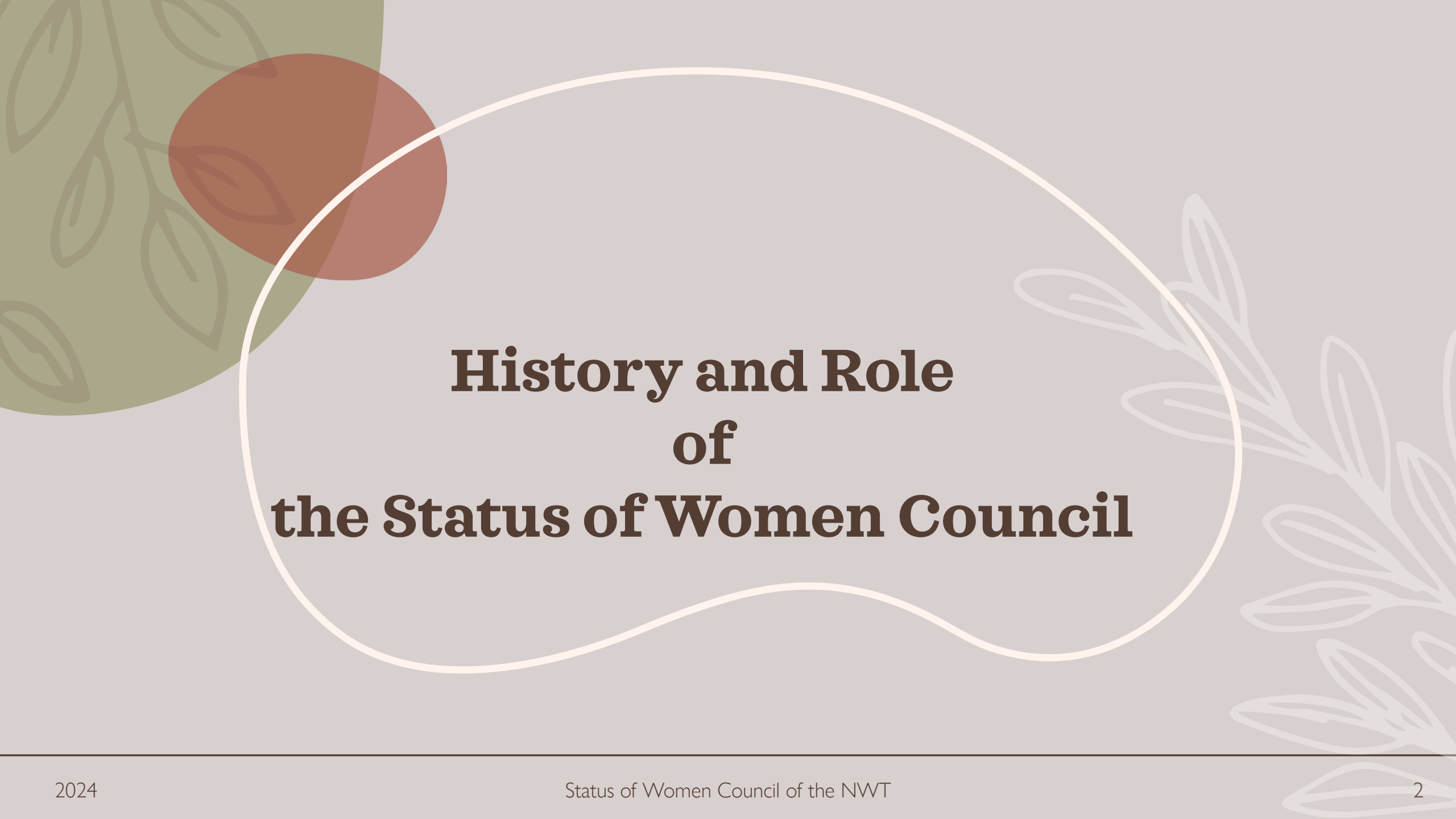
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024
DET'ANCHOGH KÙÉ - EAGLE ROOM / ZOOM
9:00 AM**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. In Camera Matters:
 - a. Confidential Correspondence:
 - i. 2024-08-20 – Correspondence – Premier of the Northwest Territories
 - ii. 2024-09-13 – Correspondence – Minister of Infrastructure
 - iii. 2024-09-13 – Correspondence – Minister of Finance
 - iv. 2024-09-19 – Correspondence – Government House Leader
 - b. Internal Briefing
 - i. Session Planning
 - ii. Chair Discussion and Processes
6. New Business
 - a.
7. Public Matters:
 - a. Presentation from Status of Women Council
 - b. Speaking Notes
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Call of the Chair
9. Adjournment



Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories



History and Role of the Status of Women Council

A legacy of Advocacy and Change

1983: THE NWT ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ACT WAS ENACTED

1982: THE GNWT APPOINTED ITS FIRST MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN

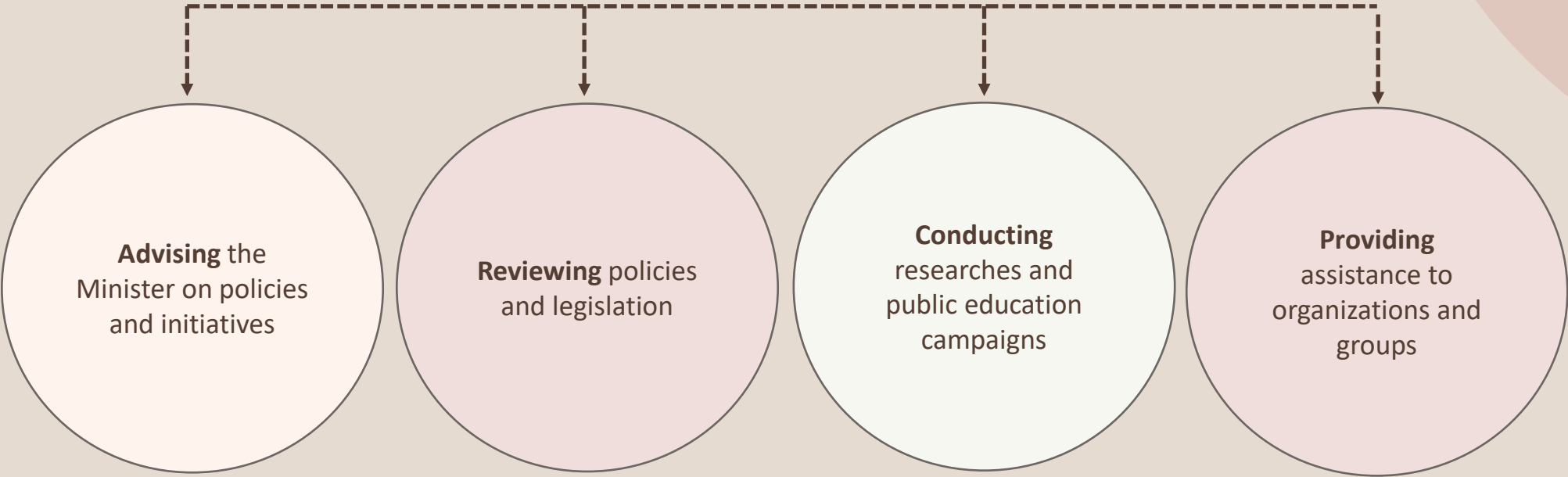
1984: THE COUNCIL WAS RENAMED THE WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT

1989: THE GNWT ANNOUNCED PLANS TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL FROM THE SECRETARIAT

1990: THE SWCNWT WAS OFFICIALLY CREATED UNDER THE STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL ACT

Key Contributions and Activities

Since its creation, the Council has focused on:



Key Programs and Initiatives

• Events and campaigns

- Leadership Gathering for Women
- Wise Women Awards
- Family Violence Prevention Month
- December 6th Vigil

• Public Education

- Workplace Sexual Harassment Education
- Changing the lens and language around violence
- Providing resources and a library for community agencies
- Posters, pamphlets, booklets, kits

• Program Development

- Women in Leadership / Campaign School (notably contributing to the record number of women elected in 2019)
- Northern Women in Mining, Oil, and Gas
- Trauma-Informed Approaches and Safety Planning

• Research writing for Recommendations and submissions:

- Canadian Heritage Consultations
- Aurora College Transformation, changes to the Employment Standards Act, changes to the Apprenticeship Act, and in support of the Midwifery program
- ECE Strategic Plan 2005-2015
- Childcare, poverty,
- Taxi Safety Survey
- Intimate Partner Violence report “We Hear You”



Adapting to Change in Recent Years

2021: Creation of the Gender Equity Division (GED)

The GNWT introduced the GED as a division aiming to

“Coordinate cross-departmental action on gender issues and promoting gender equity and leadership at senior levels”.

In practice

The Division is responsible for advancing **women’s equality issues (...)** by **maintaining close contacts with women’s group and agencies (...)**.

This ensures that **women’s equality issues are taken into consideration** during government decision-making and that the GNWT responds quickly and effectively to concerns raised by women’s groups and agencies at the Territorial and national level.

Source: <https://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/en/gender-equity-division>

The Review of the Status of Women Council Act

Initiated in 2018, this review aimed to modernize the Act and address gaps.

- The Council supports many of the proposed changes, **BUT** there are concerns about shifting the Council's name, vision and mission.
- The renaming of the Status of Women Council to the "Council for Women and Gender Diversity" raises fundamental questions about its purpose.
- Including "gender diversity" in the Council's scope risks overlapping with existing organizations dedicated to 2SLGBTQIPA+ advocacy. Asking the *Council for Women* to also serve as a council for gender diversity could compromise its focus on the unique struggles faced by women.

Key area for clarification in the Act

We believe the Act should include a preamble that outlines a high-level principled statement about **the Council's purpose**, ensuring inclusivity while retaining its focus on women's issues.

The Council does much more than *“promoting gender equality in government policies and programs”*. Its activities include:

- **Advocacy:** Championing systemic change
- **Education and Training:** Empowering the community
- **Research:** Conducting studies to inform policies
- **Public Awareness:** Raising the profile of key issues
- **Collaboration:** Working with other organizations to advance gender equality
- **Policy Review and Reporting:** Monitoring government initiatives and providing feedback



The Way Forward

Strategic Plan for 2024-2028

In response to evolving needs, the Council has developed its Strategic Plan for 2024-2028, with a refreshed vision, mission, and goals to address today's challenges.

Vision

To build a society free from harm where all women and girls can thrive.

Mandate

Advocate for change through initiatives that raise awareness, advance equity, and empower women and girls.

Goals

RAISE AWARENESS
AND
ADVOCATE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS
AND
NETWORKS ACROSS COMMUNITIES

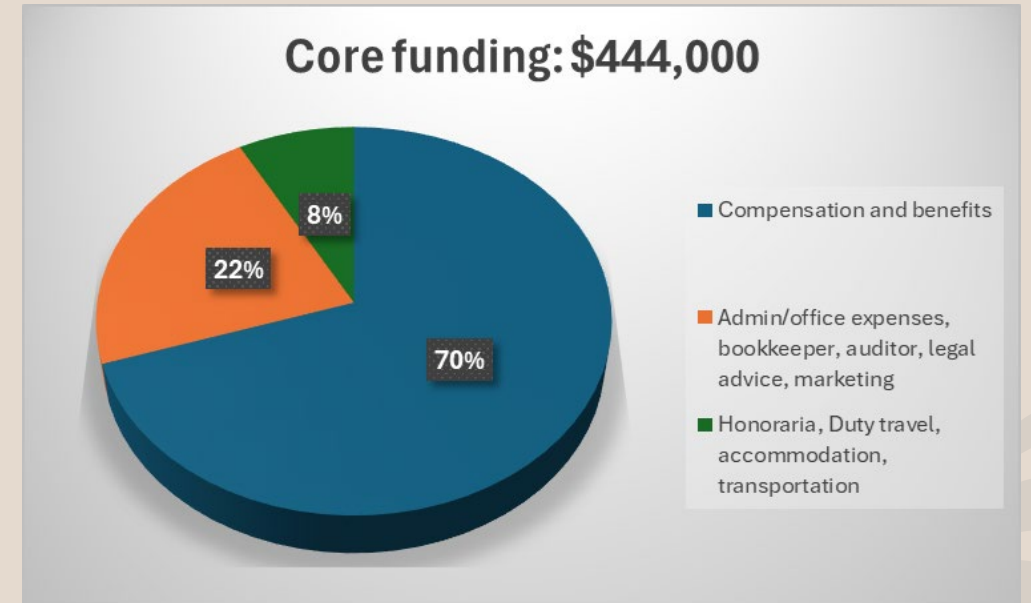
EMPOWER WOMEN
AND GIRLS
TO THRIVE.

MAKE NWT COMMUNITIES SAFER
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONAL
STRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL
SUSTAINABILITY

Consolidate the Council's Financial Resources

- The Council is funded through a multi-year agreement with the GNWT, receiving \$444,000 annually from April 2021 to March 2026.
- The Council employs three staff members:
 - Executive Director
 - Project Coordinator
 - Community Engagement and Development Coordinator
- Need to seek external funding to support the development of our programs, resources, and research projects.



Rebranding

- In an effort to strengthen the Council's visibility and modernize its image, we've been working on a new website and a new logo to reaffirm our identity as the Council for women.




NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
COUNCIL for **WOMEN**



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
COUNCIL
for **WOMEN**

Bringing stakeholders together

- **Strengthening NGO Collaboration:** The Council is about to launch the “Framework for Impact: Building a Stronger NGO Sector” project funded by Women And Gender Equality Canada (\$404,880 over the next two years) to unite NGOs, pool resources, foster cooperation, and amplify influence in policy discussions.
- **Building Equal Partnerships with Government:** Advocating for a shift from a top-down government approach to an equal partnership, ensuring policies are informed by NGO expertise and aligned with community needs.



Mársı | kinanāskomitin | Thank you | Merci | Hąj' | Quana |
Qujannamiik | Quyanainni | Máhsı | Máhsı | Masi

Status of Women council of the NWT

execdir@nwtwomen.ca

nwtwomen.ca