



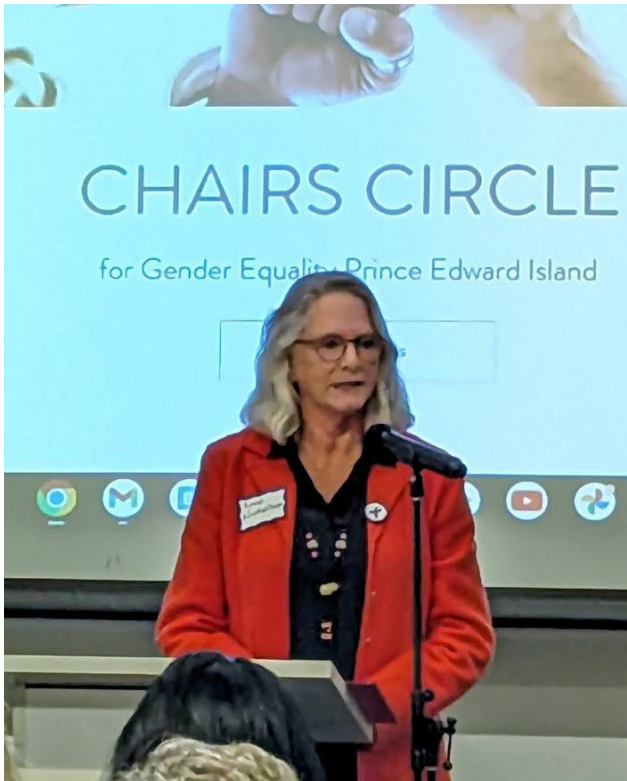
Chairs Circle for  
Gender Equality PEI

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023



# President's Message



## Anne Nicholson

Anne Nicholson is the first and founding President of the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality. Anne has a long history in the gender equality movement, including a term as Chairperson of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women (1993 to 1996.)

It has been an exciting and challenging first year of operations for the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality.

Our small but powerful group of leaders from the women's equality seeking groups has incorporated, met regularly, become a non-profit, set up bank accounts, joined the Community Sector Network and the Voluntary Resource Council, held workshops and launched ourselves into the community.

We also pulled together to submit an application for charitable status with Canada Revenue Agency. Despite forming with charitable purpose, it is a challenging process to apply for and achieve charitable status. We, of course, will not give up easily.

Meanwhile, we are planning events for 2024 and looking at all options open to us if indeed we do not achieve charitable status.

I want to thank my fellow members of the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality for their dedication and optimism. This is a wonderful group to work with and I am proud to have the opportunity to chair in the first year of our organization.

*Anne Nicholson*

# About Us

## Gala Reception

Friday, October 27

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Rotary Auditorium, Charlottetown Library and Learning Centre (please use the Pownal Street entrance)  
No admission fee. All welcome.



The Chairs Circle for Gender Equality was founded in 2022-2023 by past Chairpersons of Prince Edward Island equity-seeking organizations. It is an incorporated not-for-profit committed to using education to advance equality and inclusion of people and groups excluded as a result of systemic inequality, in the province of Prince Edward Island.

Chairs Circle members recognized the need for a new organization focused on gender equality and inclusion with the charitable purpose to advance education projects and initiatives in the community, with an intersectional, feminist lens and approach.

The Chairs Circle intends to undertake projects and events that complement and support the work of existing organizations working for equality and inclusion in Prince Edward Island, to advance substantive gender equality for women-identifying, non-binary, and gender minority people.

## Our Vision

Using education to contribute to a vibrant Island community where equality and inclusion thrive.

## Our Mission

To support the equity movement by using education to advance people and groups systemically excluded by inequality.

## Our Values

Learning. Equality. Connection. Social Justice.  
Cooperation. Respect.



# Our Founding



## Our Board

The founding board of directors of the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality at one of their inaugural meetings.

Back row, left to right, Sweta Daboo, Mari Basiletti, Jane Ledwell (Secretary), and Dianne Porter (Treasurer).

Front row, left to right, Cathy Rose, Jillian Kilfoil, and Anne Nicholson (Founding President).

## Our Principles

Our work to support education and educational initiatives in PEI will be built on strong principles, especially these:

- Working across Epekwitk (PEI), the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people, with a commitment to reconciliation, peace, and friendship.
- Advancing inclusion of people and groups excluded as a result of systemic inequality.
- Working for gender equality, including women-identifying, non-binary, and gender minority people in PEI.
- Aiming to counter and eliminate activities that are sexist, homophobic, racist, encourage religious intolerance, or that may discriminate against human rights.
- Applying models of asset-based community development, in the belief that communities can create local social change and economic development themselves by identifying and mobilizing existing, but often unrecognized, assets.

# 2023 Meetings

18 Jan 2023		<b>Inaugural Meeting</b> Adoption of our bylaws and appointment of the founding Board of Directors.
25 Jan 2023		<b>Special Meeting</b> With guests Hon. Catherine Callbeck and Myrtle Jenkins-Smith, who helped inspire the group's incorporation.
22 Feb 2023		<b>Regular Meeting</b> Development of our first applications for funding to support projects.
27 April 2023		<b>Regular Meeting</b> Planning, branding, togetherness.
31 May 2023		<b>Regular Meeting</b> Regular business, planning, and team-building.
16 June 2023		<b>Regular Meeting</b> Regular business and celebration of Dianne Porter's new publication, <i>Unhistoric Acts: Inside the Women's Movement on PEI</i> .
20 Sept 2023		<b>Regular Meeting &amp; Visioning</b> Facilitated visioning of our vision, mission, values, and principles, with guest facilitator Michelle Jay and guest Sarah Outram.
16 Nov 2023		<b>Regular Meeting &amp; Year in Review</b> Debrief and celebration after our first public event and launch.

# PEI 150 Project



**Building on October's national celebration of Women's History Month, the PEI 150: Women Making History events welcomed locals and visitors to two dynamic showcase events to celebrate 150 years of PEI women's contributions to Island culture and history.**

A day-long program featured hands-on, participatory workshops on women's history and a public reception that brought to life women's history with entertainment by local performers and interactive displays highlighting exciting provincial history projects.

A gala reception celebrated the inception of the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality, our brand-new equity-education organization that emerges from decades of community work and history.

The activities engaged partners from equity-seeking organizations and participants and, in addition to looking at accomplishments of the past, looked to the future: how to make sure PEI's history includes all genders and more diverse content, advancing equity and inclusion of people and groups excluded as a result of systemic inequality.

**The Chairs Circle for Gender Equality is grateful that PEI 150: Women Making History was sponsored by the Innovation PEI Community Celebration Fund.**



## **WORKSHOPS FOR EDUCATORS & THE PUBLIC Remaking the Fabric of Island History October 27, 2023**

Thanks to a partnership with the Department of Education and Early Years, social studies teachers who participated in the workshop day received a professional development credit. (October 27 was a PD day for educators.)

A morning workshop was led by Debbie Langston (photo above), Diversity Consultant with the

# Women Making History



Department of Education, “Introducing the Black Women’s History Project.” Presentations provided an overview of the project’s curriculum resources on Black women’s history in PEI. Jason MacNeil from the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation led participants in a show-and-tell activity with artifacts to accompany the lesson plans. He then led a walk through the historical Bog, with support from Linda Hennessey, a descendant of Black Islanders who worked on the project team.

An afternoon workshop led by Michelle Jay (PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women) and Sarah Outram (PEI Coalition for Women in Government) focused on “Votes for Women: The Next 100 Years.” The presentation shared educator resources associated with a “Votes for Women | 1922-2022 | Votes pour les femmes” graphic poster created for the 100th anniversary of gender being removed as a barrier to voting in PEI. The poster includes 10 images from 10 decades, painted by Mari Basiletti and JoDee Samuelson. A slideshow and discussion guide for educators add to this poster resource.

Two “pop-up” workshops also took place, on the theme of piecing gender and diversity into the historical record.

The first pop-up was a presentation and display led by the Public Archives and Records Office on how and what to donate to the archives. The second pop-up was a presentation on “Ghost Mothers” by Kari Kruse of the PEI Coalition for Women in Government, looking at historical and present-day trends in photography and family photo albums that may exclude women, especially mothers.

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- Day was so informative and great variety of content and activities
- Challenged me to do better in classrooms

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- Calibre of material and diversity of groups appreciated
- Reminder of what this province has been and can be

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- Power in diversity of voices/perspectives
- Thank you for classroom tools
- Replicate this regularly

# PEI 150: Gala Reception

On October 27, as part of the PEI 150: Women Making History Project, a Gala Reception at the Rotary Auditorium in the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre served as the public launch of the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality.

Chairs Circle founding board member Cathy Rose emceed the event and shared some history behind the Chairs Circle on Gender Equality.

Elder Judy Clark offered ceremony (prayer and song) and gave a very moving presentation linking Mi'kmaq History Month and Women's History Month, closing with a reflection on the role of elders and grandmothers in truth and reconciliation and addressing the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Chairs Circle President Anne Nicholson spoke about the future hopes for the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality and engaged those present in the vision for the future.

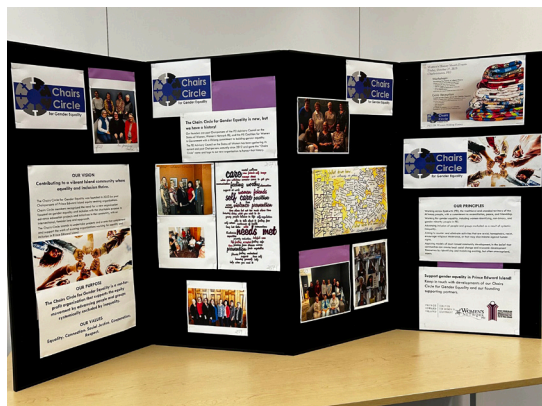
The entertainment for the evening featured excerpts from the musical-theatrical production *The Bessie Carruthers Study Club* about the suffragist movement in PEI and around the world. Accompanied by pianist Stephanie Cole, vocalist Suzanne Campbell brought to life the character of Bessie Carruthers and performed mirthful songs about the gender equality movement of more than 100 years ago.

The event closed with appreciations of the founding members of the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality.





# Opportunities for Education



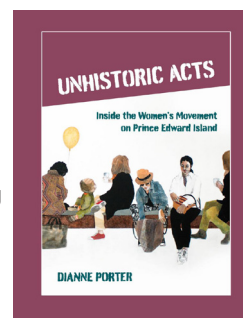
## GALA RECEPTION DISPLAYS

Educational displays on PEI history were a feature at the Gala Reception to launch the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality at the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre. These included the PEI Museum and Heritage exhibit created for the centennial of gender being removed as a barrier to voting; a display of resources from the Black Women's History Project from the Department of Education; a display of resources from the "Votes for Women" poster from the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the PEI Coalition for Women in Government; a historical timeline from the PEI Working Group for a Livable Income; historical information from Women's Network PEI, including copies of the magazine *Common Ground*; and a display about the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality.



## BOOK LAUNCH: UNHISTORIC ACTS

The Chairs Circle for Gender Equality was proud to be included in the program at the book launch of founding member Dianne Porter's book, *Unhistoric Acts*:



*Inside the Women's Movement on Prince Edward Island*, published by Pownal Street Press. The launch included a moderated panel discussion entitled, "State of the Union: Feminism on Prince Edward Island" which featured contributors to the women's movement on PEI, including President Anne Nicholson, who spoke about the origins of the Chairs Circle.

**IN THE NEWS:** On October 22, 2023, founding President Anne Nicholson spoke to CBC PEI's "Island Morning" about the Chairs Circle.

# Special Thanks



## SPECIAL GUESTS

The Chairs Circle thanks special guests to meetings in our founding year.

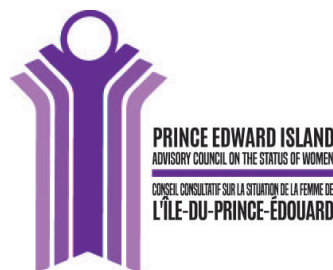
- Hon. Catherine Callbeck and Myrtle Jenkins-Smith
- Michelle Jay, PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, guest facilitator
- Sarah Outram, PEI Coalition for Women in Government, at regular meetings that Sweta Daboo could not attend



## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The Chairs Circle's work would not be possible without in-kind support from these partners.

- Women's Network PEI
- PEI Coalition for Women in Government
- PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women



## MEMBERSHIPS

The Chairs Circle is proud to be a member of collaborative organizations.

- Community Sector Network
- Voluntary Resource Centre



# Financial Statements



Member of The AC Group of Independent Accounting Firms

Chartered Professional Accountants &  
Business Advisors  
8 MacLeod Crescent  
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island  
Canada C1E 3K2  
Telephone (902) 368-3100  
Fax (902) 566-5074  
www.acgca.ca

January 31, 2024

## Compilation Engagement Report

### To the Management of Chairs Circle for Gender Equality PEI Inc.

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the statement of financial position of Chairs Circle for Gender Equality PEI Inc. as at December 31, 2023, the statement of operations for the year then ended, and note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, Compilation Engagements, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

*ArsenaultBestCameronEllis*

Chartered Professional Accountants

# Chairs Circle for Gender Equality PEI Inc.

Compiled Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2023

	\$
<b>Asset</b>	
<b>Current asset</b>	
Cash	1,856
<b>Liability</b>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	750
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	1,106
	1,856

Approved by the Board

Dianne Porter Member

(2)

Jade Holme Member

 Arsenault Best Cameron Ellis  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS



**Chairs Circle for Gender Equality PEI Inc.**

Compiled Statement of Operations

**For the year ended December 31, 2023**

	\$
<b>Revenue</b>	
Donations	3,954
Government assistance	2,000
Donations - in kind	1,787
Memberships	50
	<u>7,791</u>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Professional fees	3,790
Advertising and promotion	873
Entertainment for gala	750
Honorariums	575
Workshops	297
Library rental	265
Cheques	96
Interest and bank charges	39
	<u>6,685</u>
<b>Excess revenue for the year</b>	<u>1,106</u>

**Chairs Circle for Gender Equality PEI Inc.**

Note to Compiled Financial Information

**December 31, 2023****1. Basis of accounting**

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled statement of financial position of Chairs Circle for Gender Equality PEI Inc. as at December 31, 2023 and the compiled statement of operations for the year then ended is the historical cost basis and reflects cash transactions with the addition of the following:

- ♦ accounts payable and accrued liabilities



## Contact Us

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