



Chairs Circle for  
Gender Equality PEI

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2024



# 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). Anne was also the first woman appointed as Chairperson of the PEI Human Rights Commission in 2010.

It has been a busy second year of operations for the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality.

Our group has used our time over the last year hosting and sponsoring events, supporting women's and gender-equality organizations, and revising our goals somewhat.

We decided this past year to postpone application for charitable status with the Canada Revenue Agency, despite receiving detailed communications from CRA with an explanation of what would be needed to submit a successful application. We chose to withdraw our application and can take all the time we need to revise and resubmit as we see fit. We contacted two experienced consultants to investigate our options and decided not to rush into a new application, but to pursue new partnerships.

This report describes our activities and events this past year in addition to exploring ways to support feminist philanthropy in PEI.

I want to thank my fellow members of the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality. We look forward to welcoming new members as well as an active year advancing gender equality in every way we can.

*Anne Nicholson*

# About Us



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 Board



## 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.

## Our Board

The board of directors of the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality as elected at our 2024 AGM:

- Anne Nicholson, President
- Dianne Porter, Treasurer
- Jane Ledwell, Secretary
- Mari Basiletti, Member
- Jillian Kilfoil, Member
- Sarah Outram, Member

# 2024 Meetings

10Jan

2024



## Regular Meeting

Regular meeting of Board members to ring in the new year.

14&26Feb

2024



## Information Meeting & Regular Meeting

Preparation for our AGM and International Women's Day and the remainder of our 2024 year.

13Mar

2024



## Regular Meeting

Regular monthly meeting following our AGM for the prior year. We welcomed Sarah Outram as a new member of the Board.

10April

2024



## Regular Meeting

Consultation with Community Sector Network and United Way of PEI regarding philanthropic options for groups with or without charitable status.

7May

2024



## Regular Meeting

Regular business and collaboration on correspondence to expert consultants on charitable status applications.

12&26June

2024



## Regular Meeting & Check-in

Regular business and follow-up on correspondence.

22Aug&11Sept

2024



## Regular Meetings

Summer social (Aug), planning and next steps.

9Oct, 13Nov &

11 Dec 2024



## Regular Meetings

Debrief of public events, year in review, and planning strategic direction for partnerships in 2025.

# Women's History Month



Through a day-long workshop and an open house on November 1, 2024, in St. Paul's Church Hall in Charlottetown, the Chairs Circle showcased often-hidden history of women, non-binary people, and traditionally excluded groups in PEI's heritage, to prepare community members to tell broader, more inclusive stories of PEI's past and future.

**The Chairs Circle for Gender Equality is grateful that Bringing to Light Hidden Heritage was sponsored by the Innovation PEI Community Celebration Fund.**

**Building on October's national celebration of Women's History Month, the Chairs Circle welcomed locals and visitors to events to bring to light the hidden heritage of women's contributions to Island culture and history.**

Workshop activities for 25 participants took on the theme of "Bringing to Light Hidden Heritage." Thanks to a partnership with the Department of Education and Early Years, social studies teachers who participated in the workshop day received professional development credit. The morning focused on using the Black Women's History Project and was led by Jack Headley and Debbie Langston with the Department. Their presentations provided an overview of the project's curriculum resources on Black women's history in PEI and they led participants in-depth through one of the project's lesson plans. Stella Shephard, a descendant of Black Islanders, participated in the workshop as a resource person. Archives to support the workshop were provided by Linda Hennessey, another descendant.

Lunch was provided by Makena Ambassa, an Islander originally from Mikinduri, Kenya. Mama Makena is featured in Black Women's History project resources, and she provided an overview of the African origins and cross-cultural connections of the lunch she prepared.

# Hidden Heritage



In the afternoon, the workshop focused on Exhibiting Hidden Heritage. Samantha Kelly with the Museum and Heritage Foundation shared the process of creating the Museum's Black Islander exhibition and shared the exhibition panels from

the exhibit. Charlotte Stewart, coordinator of the PEI Heritage Fair, introduced the Heritage Fair and the opportunities to engage youth in sharing hidden heritage. Jane Ledwell from the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality led a closing conversation on bringing to light hidden heritage and closed with evaluation.

Following the conclusion of the workshops, from 3:00 to 5:00, the hall at St. Paul's Church was opened up to guests from the wider community. Chairs Circle President Anne Nicholson welcomed guests and provided information and background on the Chairs Circle for Gender Equality. In particular, Anne welcomed newly appointed Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Hon. Jenn Redmond, and representatives from the Interministerial Women's Secretariat as special guests. Students from the Holland College School of Performing Arts provided a program of music, including original compositions.

Throughout the day, a display featured a variety of projects and offered free resources for participants in the workshop and open house to peruse, enjoy, and take away.

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- Heritage fair: new information
- Meet-the-author conversation with Dianne Porter
- Educator interaction with members of the public

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- Connecting Black Women's History Project and the Black Islanders exhibit
- Knowing how students are learning/ how teachers are teaching

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- Chance to bring lived experience back to the classroom
- Collaborating with community
- Good-news stories in education

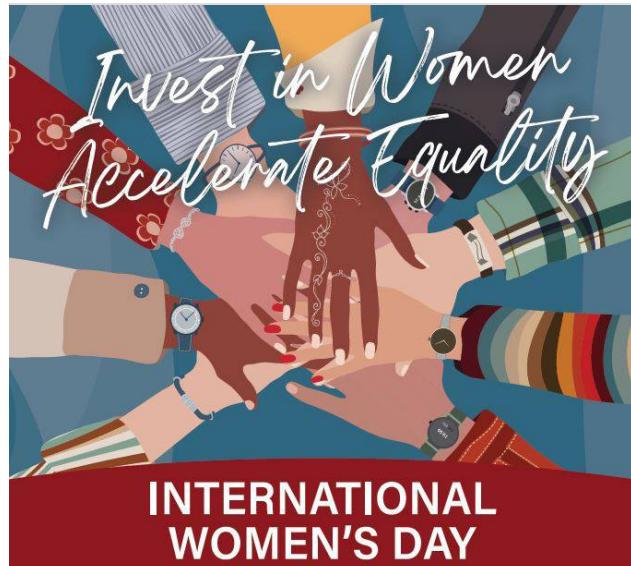
# International Women's Day

The Chairs Circle for Gender Equality was proud to take responsibility in 2024 for managing the budget for collaborative planning and events to celebrate International Women's Day in PEI. The Chairs Circle will ensure year-to-year that a celebration takes place on or around March 8 and features strong international themes and participation and includes education for gender equality in PEI.

The 2024 theme for International Women's Day was *Invest in Women: Accelerate Equality*.

Coordinated by volunteers through the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the March 8 2024 IWD event held in the Charlottetown Library was a joyous opportunity for the community to gather in person to accelerate gender equality! It was an inclusive, accessible, diverse, participatory, and free-of-charge feminist celebration where a women-identifying, non-binary folks and men were welcomed.

A variety of performers shared their music, dance, and traditions, beginning with Wolastoqì sisters Sophia and Ellie Bourque leading Indigenous Round Dance. Monelli Rahmatian demonstrated Persian dance, the PEI Sikh community shared their unique music and ritual, and Carlie Howell played original music on upright bass. Community organizations shared their initiatives to engage and advance women and girls, and individuals spoke of human rights challenges as trans women. Shannon Scales led the singing of "Bread and Roses."



Some of the volunteer planners (above) and celebrators (below) of International Women's Day 2024.



# Opportunities for Education



Kal Ross is a nonbinary white settler born and raised on Epekwitk. They are a self-taught printmaker and zine maker whose art primarily focuses on their queerness and political issues important to them. They love crafting and creating and using their art as activism.

## HOMAGE TO THE WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

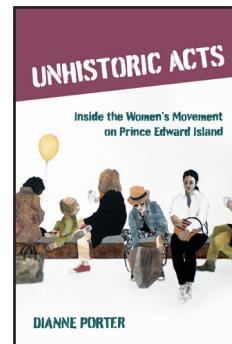
The Chairs Circle for Gender Equality was proud to sponsor a workshop on zine-making during Women's Network PEI's 2024 homage to the Women's Festival, May 17 and 18.

The Festival was a time for socializing, plotting, learning from each other, and celebrating Women's Network PEI's 40th Anniversary! Participants included women and non-binary folk of many ages and backgrounds from across PEI.

Partly funded by the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, this event brought together community members to learn, connect, and honour the Island's change-makers and activists from the past 40 years. Women's Network looked back at past festivals and the history of the feminist movement in PEI, and there were workshops, panel discussions and performances.

## RESOURCE SHARING

The Chairs Circle was proud to offer free educational resources for participants in events we sponsored, including founding member Dianne Porter's book, *Unhistoric Acts: Inside the Women's Movement on Prince Edward Island*, published by Pownal Street Press.



## MENSTRUAL HEALTH EDUCATION

The Chairs Circle is happily support education on menstrual health wherever free menstrual products are made available. The PEI Period Pantry is a grassroots effort working to aid in distribution of free menstrual products across PEI with an emphasis on access in public spaces.



# Special Thanks



## SPECIAL GUESTS

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

- Sarah Outram, Executive Director of PEI Coalition for Women in Government (later, Coalition for Women's Leadership), before officially becoming a member
- Alexia Riche, Executive Director, Community Sector Network of PEI, and Andrea MacDonald, Executive Director, United Way of PEI (later Vice President, Community Impact Strategy, United Way Maritimes)
- Michelle Jay and Caroline Galloway, PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

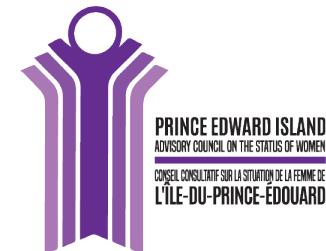
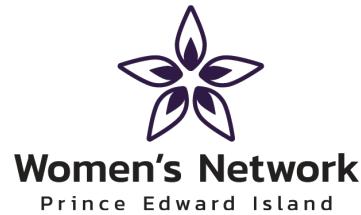
The Chairs Circle's work would not be possible without in-kind support from these partners.

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

## MEMBERSHIPS

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

- Community Sector Network of PEI
- Voluntary Resource Centre



# Financial Statements



**ArsenaultBestCameronEllis**  
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Member of The AC Group of Independent Accounting Firms

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March 1, 2025

## 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, 2024, the statements of changes in net assets and 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

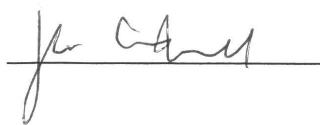
**Chairs Circle for Gender Equality PEI Inc.**

Compiled Statement of Financial Position

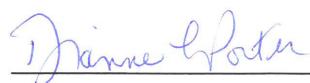
As at December 31, 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash	6,334	1,856
Accounts receivable	1,157	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,491	1,856
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	982	750
<b>Net Assets</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,509	1,106
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,491	1,856

Approved by the Board


 Member

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 Member



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

Compiled Statement of Changes in Net Assets  
**For the year ended December 31, 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Net assets - Beginning of year</b>	1,106	-
Excess revenue for the year	<u>5,403</u>	<u>1,106</u>
<b>Net assets - End of year</b>	<u>6,509</u>	<u>1,106</u>

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

Compiled Statement of Operations  
**For the year ended December 31, 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	6,402	3,954
Government assistance	2,000	2,000
Donations - in kind	-	1,787
Memberships	-	50
	<u>8,402</u>	<u>7,791</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising and promotion	569	873
Cheques	-	96
Entertainment for gala	750	750
Honorariums	100	575
Interest and bank charges	39	39
Library rental	-	265
Professional fees	345	3,790
Workshops	<u>1,196</u>	<u>297</u>
	<u>2,999</u>	<u>6,685</u>
<b>Excess revenue for the year</b>	<u>5,403</u>	<u>1,106</u>

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

Note to Compiled Financial Information  
**December 31, 2024**

### **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, 2024 and the compiled statements of changes in net assets and operations for the year then ended is the historical cost basis and reflects cash transactions with the addition of the following:

- ◆ accounts receivable
- ◆ accounts payable and accrued liabilities



## Contact Us

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