



## Status of Women Council of the NWT

P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Status of Women Council of the NWT support efforts to keep child care facility in Fort Smith open.**

**Contacts:** Gerri Sharpe-Staples ,President, Inuvik 678-2553 or 777-2619  
Lynn Brooks, Director, Yellowknife 920-4088

Council has been following with interest and support the viability of the Rainbow Child Care & Development Centre” in Fort Smith. As the closing date fast approaches (Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>) “it is very disappointing to see a lack of concern from community leaders and the GNWT” says Council President Gerri Sharpe-Staples.

Council has frequently expressed the need for more child care spaces and for revisions to the subsidies allocations. Over six years ago a centre was closed for exactly the same reasons being addressed in Fort Smith. Like the Rainbow centre many of its clients were children of students. While the centre was open those students were able to complete their education and go on to further education or employment to support their families.

It is time for the government to step up to the plate and declare that their statements on the value of children being our future are supported through a full policy statement to guide the development of government child care programs. In the mean time day care centres must be supported to stay open, pay fair and equitable wages to the employees and be accessible to students and working women.

Through a letter to the Premier, Ministers Dent and Miltenberger, Mayor Martsellos, Dennis Bevington, Aurora College and College President Maurice Evans, the Council strongly urges these parties to take collective action now to keep the Fort Smith Centre open and for the government to revise the funding formula to meet the needs of our children and parents.

A brief history of Council's work is enclosed.