

Dawson Regional Women's Committee Meeting Oct. 6, 2004

Present: Louise Ranger, Jan Couture, Helen Winton, Nicola Walch

Meeting called to review the Whitehorse RWC summary (Jan. 13, 2004) of the Harassment and Training offered by YTG to see if we could use this as a starting point for something similar in Dawson. As well we reviewed the Notes of the RWC meeting with YTG Public Service Commission re: Respectful Workplace/Harassment Training of March 8, 2004.

It was found that though the notes and summary were of help that not having taken part in the initial discussion was impeding full understanding of what was discussed.

It was felt that suggestions that the Whitehorse RWC brought forward to the YTG PSC, were valid and constructive.

- 1) Need for clear and consistent "Corporate Values"
- 2) Training "towards a Respectful Workplace" rather than Harassment training
- 3) Adequate resources to provide restorative follow-up
- 4) Concern over "Mobbing"
- 5) Ongoing reinforcements
- 6) Accountability

During the ongoing discussion it became clear that each workplace deals with things differently and practices within the workplace are at different stages. It was concluded that we need to explore our own experiences more fully, as well, as drawing in women from other diverse workplaces (noted all of us presently work in places that are predominately female) before we can set a direction on how we might see a workshop on Respectful Workplaces developing. Question also raised that, although the building blocks of a respectful harassment free workplace are fairly standard, if living in a small isolated community might have different implications on how some situations might be handled as opposed to living in a larger northern community, such as Whitehorse, where one can distance oneself from the workplace and there are more resources that are readily available.

It was suggested that a good resource person for this workshop or information gathering session might be Lillian Mcguire from the Yukon Human Rights Commission.

Before having another meeting on this we will contact a more diverse cross-section of women to take part in that meeting.