

N.D.A.G. Letter to Farland (May 10, 1989)

May 10, 1989

Mr. Darrell Farland
Executive Director
Governor's Council on Human Resources
North Dakota Department of Human Services
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Mr. Farland:

Thank you for your April 24, 1989, note concerning the North Dakota Council on the Status of Women ("NDCSW"). According to your note the NDSCW is gathering information for use in a book and weekly profiles to be released concerning women in North Dakota. You inquire as to the legal authority of NDCSW to engage in this endeavor.

N.D.C.C. § 50-26-01 establishes a Governor's Council on Human Resources maintained within the Department of Human Services. The statute also states that the Governor's Council shall consist of several committees "and other committees having a related interest in human resources as may be appointed."

The Governor's Council on Human Resources has the responsibility for coordinating the activities of the various Governor's committees that have been established and serving as a clearinghouse for information concerning these committees. N.D.C.C. § 50-26-02. Members of the Executive Committee of the Governor's Council on Human Resources are authorized to "supervise all functions of any committee." N.D.C.C. § 50-26-04.

State law does not specifically provide for NDCSW. I am told that it is a committee established pursuant to the authority N.D.C.C. § 50-26-01 gives to the Governor's Council on Human Resources. As such, NDCSW is subject to the coordination and clearinghouse responsibilities of the Governor's Council on Human Resources and to the supervision authority of the Executive Committee of the Governor's Council on Human Resources.

Thus, the answer to your question rests not with the law but with the policy determinations made by the Governor's Council on Human Resources and the Executive Committee of the Governor's Council on Human Resources pursuant to the statutes noted above.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Spaeth

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