

Breaking the Silence

A Coordinated Response to Sexual Violence in Nova Scotia

Hello again, and happy spring!

As many of you know, April was Sexual Assault Awareness month (SAAM). This month is dedicated to raising public awareness about sexual assault and how to prevent it. A huge thank you to all the community organizations and individuals who helped to educate and raise awareness about this serious issue – not just in April, but every day of the year.

SAAM also seemed like the perfect time to announce the 2016 recipients of the Sexual Violence Strategy (SVS) Prevention Innovation Grants! You may notice this newsletter is coming a little later than usual. We wanted to include all of the Prevention Innovation Grant recipients in April's newsletter and thus needed to wait until all of the media announcements wrapped up.

Selecting the 35 grant recipients was not an easy task. The evaluation team reviewed, discussed and evaluated the nearly 100 applications. Those that scored the highest were able to be funded this year.

If you do the calculations, you will notice that this year we were actually able to provide \$650,000 rather than the initial commitment of \$600,000. There was a bit of unallocated funding due to a change in timelines so we decided to commit extra to these amazing projects. All those that scored highest and above the baseline were offered the grant.



We are thrilled by the uptake in our call for grants and encourage everyone to apply again in the fall when another \$600,000 will be made available for innovative prevention projects. Together we will break the silence and work to prevent sexual violence.

And now for the drumroll.....this year's grant recipients:

Acadia Student Union	Acadia Student Union SVP Project This funding will enable ASU to develop and implement a campus-wide prevention strategy focused on consent and coercion.	Wolfville	\$26,430.00
AIDS Coalition	Totally Outright in Nova Scotia The AIDS Coalition will provide a four-day train the training session for 16-20 year-old GBTTQ men that is focused on healthy relationships and consent. These young men will be invited from across the province to attend the session.	Halifax	\$10,000.00
Alex Coley and Cameron Ure	Campus Sexual Violence Prevention Workshop Training These two young men will develop a training session – by students, for students – that will be delivered to Resident Assistants at Dalhousie University. The issues they will cover are related to primary prevention in a ‘train the trainer’ model.	Halifax	\$4,954.00
Ally Centre of Cape Breton	Safer Stroll, Sex Workers in the Know The Ally Centre will develop a sexual violence prevention and education working group with people involved in the sex industry.	Sydney	\$20,000.00
Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association	Girls Taking Action This grant will enable the AWRC & SASA to support Grade 8 girls in the development of social justice action projects.	Antigonish	\$5,000.00
Asia van Buuren	Addressing Gaps in Sexual Education with People with Disabilities Asia van Buuren will conduct research to identify gaps in sexual health education for people with disabilities.	Antigonish	\$4,988.00
Avalon Sexual Assault Centre	Stronger and Safer Together: A community mobilization project in Dartmouth North This project will engage community members and youth to prevent violence against women and girls in Dartmouth. It will also incorporate and expand Avalon's I Don't Owe You awareness campaign.	Dartmouth North	\$50,000

Boys & Girls Club of Whitney Pier	<p>The Project: Creative Solutions for Difficult Questions</p> <p>This project will provide a safer space where youth can engage in open conversations about sexual violence, media influence, healthy relationships and prevention strategies.</p>	Sydney	\$11,000
Canadian Red Cross	<p>Building Healthy Youth Relationships in Nova Scotia's First Nations Communities</p> <p>The Red Cross will work with multiple First Nations communities in the delivery of culturally sensitive, train-the-trainer sessions on healthy relationships, dating violence, and engaging youth facilitators.</p>	Province Wide	\$30,500.00
Central Nova Women's Centre	<p>Engaging Youth in a Violence Free Future</p> <p>This project will include small group discussions on issues such as consent, media, gender stereotypes, healthy sexuality and respect, to name a few. The discussions will take place within the SchoolsPlus network of schools, the Boys and Girls Club and at the Women's Centre.</p>	Truro	\$5,000.00
Centre for Housing and Residence Life, SMU	<p>SMU Res Consent Project</p> <p>This group will make student-made videos on topics such as alcohol, consent, and bystander interventions, and will be shown to students living in residence.</p>	Halifax	\$2,500.00
Chebucto Community Development Association (CCDA)	<p>Boys circles/Girls circles – Healthy Living 9</p> <p>This will build on the important work of the Boys Circles/Girls Circles Healthy Living 9 curriculum, and adapt and pilot the curriculum for grades 7 and 8.</p>	Halifax	\$40,000.00
École Secondaire de Clare	<p>Building healthy Relationships</p> <p>Young men will be invited to participate in the building of traditional hand drums and then have regular drum and discussion circles. Discussion topics will include respect for self, other and deep listening.</p>	La Butte	\$5,000.00

Federation des Femmes Acadiennes du Nouvelle-Ecosse (FFANE)	The Many Faces of Violence FFANE will develop a theatre production with students from the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) schools that will focus on healthy relationships and consent.	Dartmouth / Province-wide	\$50,000.00
Heartwood	Cultivating a Community Network for Working with Boys and Young Men The project will cultivate, support and nourish a network and community of people working with boys and young men in the province, including schools and sporting organizations. This work aims to provide tools to disrupt the mainstream masculine script, increase help-seeking behaviours and build healthy social connections.	Halifax	\$50,000.00
MacPhee Centre for Creative Learning	Inside Out – Graphic Novels and Journals This project will work with 15 to 19-year-olds to create their own comic books and graphic novels about sexual violence prevention. This project will run in Dartmouth as well as Lunenburg and Sydney.	Dartmouth	\$31,730.00
Mawio'miokuom Society	I Am a Kind Man Project & NWAC Youth Violence Prevention These two culturally specific programs will be offered to local youth, including one that focuses on healthy masculinity and engaging men and boys in ending violence.	Membertou	\$5,000.00
Middleton Regional High School	Middleton Regional High School Gender and Sexuality Alliance This project is a student-led research initiative to address sexualized violence against LGBTQ youth in schools.	Middleton	\$2,300.00
Millbrook Native Women's Association	Preventing Sexual Violence Against Mi'kmaw Youth Millbrook Native Women's Association will work with youth to develop a series of public service announcements to help prevent sexual violence.	Truro	\$5,000.00

Millwood High School	Bringing in the Bystander Grant funding will allow staff and Grade 12 students at Millwood High School to attend the Bringing in the Bystander training, a program that teaches tools on how to intervene in situations that could lead to or that directly involve sexual violence. It helps participants recognize inappropriate behavior and helps to foster a sense of responsibility for making change.	Lower Sackville	\$4,000.00
Music Liberatory	Women safe and sound This is a nine-week women's discuss and lyric writing program, which includes the opportunity to record songs and create accompanying music videos. The discussions will focus on topics such as healthy relationships, and hypersexualization.	Halifax	\$30,000.00
Northern AIDS Connection Society	LookOUT Photovoice LGBTQ youth will be able to explore healthy relationships and the impact of sexual violence in their lives through art.	Truro	\$12,000.00
Nova Scotia Native Women's Association - Sydney	Preventing Sexual Violence Against Mi'kmaq Women through Cultural Practices This project will provide culturally relevant programming to aboriginal women and girls in the Sydney area to enhance skills, bolster confidence and improve the community's ability to prevent sexual violence.	Sydney	\$36,363.00
Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation	Paqtnkek Warriors – Young men resist Violence This project will work with boys in Grades 7 and 8 to explore healthy relationships, consent and positive masculinity.	Paqtnkek	\$46,000.00
Sexual Health Centre Lunenburg County	Sex Talks: Sexual Violence Prevention This grant will support the creation of a video series for parents on how to talk with their children about healthy relationships, consent and media literacy.	Bridgewater	\$5,000.00

Sheet Harbour Sexual Health Center	Hot Talks Youth in the community will participate in 10 HOT Talk sessions on themes such as hypersexualization, media literacy and consent. These youth will then create videos that emerge from their discussions.	Sheet Harbour	\$5,000.00
South Shore Youth Advisory Committee	Got Your Back The members of the South Shore Youth Advisory Committee will write and record a song about taking care of yourself and others and share it throughout the SchoolsPlus network.	Bridgewater	\$5,000.00
The Youth Project	Educating LGBTQ+ Youth The Youth project will develop an education program specifically for LGBTQ+ youth that explores topics including healthy relationships and consent. It will be delivered primarily through the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) network.	Halifax	\$35,000.00
Valley African Nova Scotian Development Agency (VANSDA)	Stepping Up VANSDA will engage with young African Nova Scotian men to help them become advocates and leaders in preventing sexual violence.	Kentville	\$29,101.00
Waycobah First Nation / Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association	Community Engagement in Waycobah Funding will support a community engagement project on preventing and responding to sexual violence.	Waycobah / Antigonish	\$33,384.00
YMCA of South West Nova Scotia	Media Literacy & Digital Literacy YMCA of South West N.S. will develop media literacy and digital citizenship training to help youth between the ages of 12 and 18 become more aware of sexual violence and learn how to prevent it online.	Bridgewater	\$4,500.00
Youth Art Connection	Youth Arts Leadership Project YAC will work with youth aged 10-15 in sessions that incorporate discussion and art creation.	Dartmouth North	\$22,250.00

Youth Truth Matters/Tri-County Women's Centre	Making Your Mark Breaking the Silence To celebrate Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Youth truth matters organized a Clothesline Campaign, art installation and community event.	Yarmouth	\$3,000.00
YWCA	(YOLO-V) Youth On-line Overcome Violence / Girls Space 'Zine YWCA of Halifax is receiving grants for two separate and unique projects. The first is \$5,000 for a "Girls Space Zine". Young women will create the program content and activities that are specific to sexualized violence, and the youth will develop a 'zine about their process. The second grant is for \$15,000 to develop a peer-led, gender-based, anti-cyber violence education tool called "YOLO-V".	Halifax	\$20,000.00



Elder Doreen Bernard at the Mi'kmaq Community Engagement Gathering

Again, thank you to all those who applied and stay tuned for updates as these projects start to roll out.

SVS Mi'kmaq Community Engagement Gathering

Over 70 community members, leaders and service providers from First Nations communities in the province gathered in Truro over April 18 and 19 to share knowledge and collectively identify ways communities can prevent and respond to sexualized violence. Presentations and table discussions were focused on the themes of colonization and intergenerational trauma, youth leadership, community engagement and prevention. Participants brainstormed possibilities for how to respond to and prevent sexual violence in their own community and discussed the need to work more between communities. The Provincial Committee on Training also held a focus group to ensure that the education materials that are being developed are inclusive and culturally relevant. Stay tuned for a more in-depth report.

Provincial Committees

The Provincial Committee of Public Awareness took a little break while we worked on logistical elements for the campaign, but are getting back in gear so that we can launch the campaign this fall! Our hope is that it will lead to important conversations and a cultural shift, especially amongst youth.

The Government Interdepartmental Committee has been meeting monthly since January to inventory policies and procedures related to sexualized violence. The analysis for alignment is currently underway and it will provide us with a clear understanding of what is working well, and where any gaps exist. We will have a plan for moving forward with this by the Fall.

The Provincial Committee on Training also continues to meet monthly to develop educational resources on how to support victims/survivors of sexual violence. The work is well underway we look forward to sharing these important resources with you.

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program Expansion:

As many of you will know, Nova Scotia's Sexual Violence Strategy included a commitment to expand access to SANE programming by creating an opportunity to increase the number of new service sites within the Western and Eastern Health Zones with a \$700,000 investment by the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW). The focus of this expansion is to improve access to services for individuals 15 years and older and of any gender.

Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) recently put out a [Request For Proposals](#) for interested organizations to apply to offer the expanded service. The goal is that SANE services will be available to the public in the Western and Eastern Health Zones by December 10, 2016.

In their RFP, NSHA outlines SANE services as "the services provided in response to and which are reasonably associated with a disclosure of an incident of sexual assault and which are requested by the client and can include crisis intervention, emotional support, medical and forensic evidence collection that is conducted by a SANE trained and/or SANE certified health care provider."



Evening drum making at the Mi'kmaq Community Engagement Gathering