

# Breaking the Silence

A Coordinated Response to Sexual Violence in Nova Scotia



As the end of 2016 draws near, we are pleased to provide you with the latest update on the Strategy. Here is a brief recap before we break for the holidays to recharge our batteries.

## Public Awareness Campaign

October saw the launch of the public awareness campaign, “Sexual Violence with the Birds and the Bees”. The first episode of the animated series was a hit, garnering nearly 30,000 views on YouTube and it was listed as one of the top 5 ads in the world on AdForum. The campaign has been used in schools and in community-based youth programming to spark discussion on consent, respect, boundaries and healthy relationships. The second episode was launched on Friday, December 16th and focuses on online sexual harassment and bystander intervention. If you haven't already, check out and share episode 2:

[breakthesilencens.ca/awareness-campaign](http://breakthesilencens.ca/awareness-campaign)

## Prevention Innovation Grants

The 2nd round of Prevention Innovation Grants recently closed with over 60 applications. We are thrilled by this response and look forward to reviewing the proposals. Successful applicants will be notified by March 31st, 2017.

The grant recipients from the first round are in the throes of their projects and we will be showcasing their work in the New Year.

## Community Support Networks

Throughout November Community Support Networks (CSN) gathered to discuss the strengths, challenges and next steps for their work. Another \$1.25 million will be dispersed throughout Nova Scotia to the CSNs to support the coordination of counselling and supports, increase visibility of services, provide navigation support and to make spaces safer and non-judgmental. These funds will be released before March 31st, 2017.

We will also soon be showcasing the work of the Community Support Networks – stay tuned!

If you would like to be involved in your regions' network, send an email to [strategy@novascotia.ca](mailto:strategy@novascotia.ca) and we will gladly to connect you.

## Training and Education

The extremely dedicated Provincial Committee on Training continues to meet 5 hours every month as they develop the content for a free online training course that will assist front line workers, first responders, neighbours, friends, family, health professionals and more, respond appropriately to disclosures of sexual violence. The aim is to launch the course in the spring but in the meantime, feel free to check out this useful **webcast and accompanying power point slides**, presented by the Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre that discusses how to respond to disclosures in a way that doesn't cause further harm.

## Colouring book

Lastly, here is a link to the beautiful, powerful and grounding colouring book for survivors and supporters: **We Believe You**. This resource was developed by the Office of Sexual Violence Support and Education at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada. We encourage you to download the coloring pages for those you work with and support, as well as for yourself!

