

# October Update

A Coordinated Response to  
Sexual Violence in Nova Scotia

Hello and happy autumn!

Hope you enjoyed the glorious summer months and that you are settling into the fall groove.

There are a few Strategy updates we want to share with you. First and foremost is the public awareness campaign which was launched on October 4th!

A Provincial Committee on Public Awareness began meeting in June 2015 to assist in the development of a Public Awareness Campaign. The committee was made up of community members and government partners from across the province. We made sure to include youth at many steps along the way, via focus groups and an online survey.

The campaign consists of two short videos featuring bird and bee-type characters animated in the style of popular shows like Bojack Horseman and The Simpsons. The episodes deal with situations of sexual violence that youth told us they're facing in today's world. The first 60 second video takes place at a house party and explores the issue of alcohol and consent. The second video will be launched later this year.

The videos will be available on YouTube, Instagram and Facebook. They'll also be shown in cinemas across the province. The campaign includes a website with useful information on where to get help and how to support a friend who has been subjected to sexual violence.



Campaign materials are intentionally unbranded so they can be easily used by organizations around the province. Check it out and spread the word!

[www.birdsandthebees.ca](http://www.birdsandthebees.ca)

## A huge thank you to the following people who were involved in developing this campaign – we couldn't have done it without you!

Students and staff at Millwood High	Rhonda McLean
Native Council Of Nova Scotia Youth Outreach	Louise Smith-MacDonald
Souls Strong North Preston	Miia Suokonautio
East Preston Youth Outreach	Extreme Group
The Provincial Committee on Public Awareness	Des Adams
The Provincial Committee on Training	Dylan Bailey
La Fédération des femmes acadiennes de la Nouvelle-Écosse	Fatima Beydoun
Jane Gavin-Hebert	Ryanne Chisholm
Pamela Harrison	Sabrina DiMattia
Wanda Hebert	Emily Hammond
Angela Johnston	Matthew Hughson
Kevin Kindred	Bria Miller
Melissa MacKay	Tara Taylor

## Youth Engagement

The Strategy provided The Canadian Federation of Students a grant to host a student forum which was held the first weekend of October. Nearly one-hundred students from across the province gathered in Halifax to learn from each other about issues such as anti-oppressive organizing, trauma-informed activism, consent, bystander education and peer-to-peer support. It also provided open organizing space and time to discuss ways to develop on-campus sexual assault policies. It was a venue to “share stories of success and struggle, and ultimately develop a provincial vision to combat sexual violence and rape culture on campus,” (CFS, 2016). To learn more about this student-led initiative, contact [chairperson@cfs-ns.ca](mailto:chairperson@cfs-ns.ca)



# CONSENT CULTURE

a provincial forum to  
end sexual violence  
on campus

OCT 1 - 2, 2016  
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

The second round of Prevention Innovation Grants will be launched in the coming weeks. To support youth in applying for grants, Heartwood will be offering 8 workshops across the province to assist youth 14-24 years of age to develop their project ideas. See the dates below and please share widely! For more information, contact

[rena@heartwood.ns.ca](mailto:rena@heartwood.ns.ca) or [www.heartwood.ns.ca](http://www.heartwood.ns.ca)

Date	Location
October 15	Antigonish
October 16	Sydney
October 19	Yarmouth
October 22	Sheet Harbour
October 22	Wagmatcook
October 23	Amherst
October 28	Lunenburg
November 5	Halifax

## SANE

As many of you have heard, two locations and community partners have been selected to expand the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program. A big congratulations and thank you to Every Woman's Centre in Sydney and Tri-County Women's Centre in Yarmouth who will be taking on this important endeavor. We are thrilled that there will soon be increased access to the sexual assault nurse examiner service across our province.

## Year 2 Report

For those of you who did not yet see, the SVS released a Year 2 Progress Report that can be accessed here: [novascotia.ca/coms/svs/docs/Sexual-Violence-y2-ENG.pdf](http://novascotia.ca/coms/svs/docs/Sexual-Violence-y2-ENG.pdf)

Stay tuned for more updates about the 2015/16 Prevention Innovation projects that are underway as well as the ongoing work of Community Support Networks across the province. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to connect with us at [strategy@novascotia.ca](mailto:strategy@novascotia.ca)