

Breaking the Silence

A Coordinated Response to
Sexual Violence in Nova Scotia

October 2015 Update

Well, the past two months have been full of action! Since the middle of September, nine areas of the province have held Community Support Network workshops, engaging a range of service providers and stakeholders to build together a collaborative and compassionate service response for victims in their communities. The outcomes of these workshops have been sharing information, relationship building, developing action plans, next steps and a draft funding proposal. Each region has been allocated funds from a total of \$1.25 million for this year to support this work.

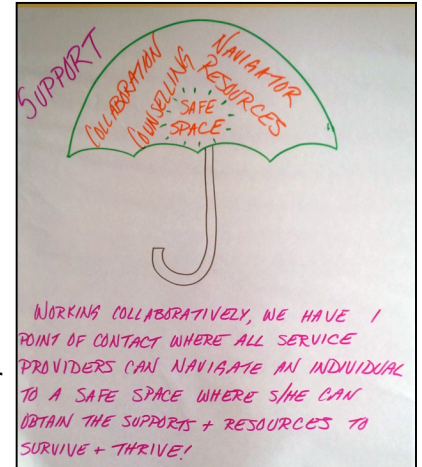
Participants worked collaboratively to recognize and share the strengths, assets and resources in their regions; build on these to create a vision for enhancing services to victims and survivors; design activities to move the vision into reality; and identify priorities for next steps including funding and delivery and/or more collaborative designing of activities.

The collectively-developed draft action plans support the key action areas of coordinated counselling and support, visibility, navigation, and safer spaces & non-judgmental services. These action areas developed out of what was heard from communities in the first year of the strategy.



CSN workshop in Sydney
Sept 17 & 18, 2015

The diversity of the nine regions is represented in their responses. The engagement in each region illustrates their common passion for and commitment to enhancing services for victims and survivors of sexual violence. In the coming weeks a summary of the workshops will be drafted and shared so you can know a bit more about the process.



If you were unable to attend or did not know that the gatherings were taking place, you can still be involved. These networks can grow and shift. At every single workshop participants felt like there were folks missing at the table – clearly there is a desire for more participation! This isn't about ownership but about doing this work collaboratively.

Community Support Network Workshops

| Date | Region | Number of Participants |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sept 15 & 16 | Strait/Antigonish/Guysborough | 24 |
| Sept 17 & 18 | Cape Breton | 24 |
| Sept 21 & 22 | Cumberland | 15 |
| Sept 25 & Oct 2 | Kings/Annapolis | 17 |
| Sept 29 & 30 | Colchester | 13 |
| Oct 6 | Tri-County | 26 |
| Oct 8 & 9 | Pictou County | 10 |
| Oct 13 & 14 | Lunenburg/Queens | 22 |
| Oct 15, 16 & 27 | Halifax Region | 56 |
| | | 207 |

Prevention Innovation Grants



COMING VERY SOON!
FOR REALZ!

Phone Line Training

This October, 811 phone line staff have been offered professional development in Trauma-Informed Practice specific to phone calls regarding sexualized violence. 211 staff will also have this opportunity in December. Although these are not counselling phone lines, we do know that everyone can provide compassionate, trauma-informed responses to disclosures of sexual violence and that this can make a big difference in the healing journey of victims/survivors. We are looking to expand this opportunity to other existing phone lines in the coming months.

Public Awareness Campaign

The Provincial Committee on Public Awareness continues to meet monthly and will soon enter the creative stage. Much research, rich discussion and best/promising practices has informed this process and we can't wait to share it with you.

Prevention Innovation Fund

Details for the Prevention Innovation Grants are being finalized and we will have them ready to share in the next month. We are very excited to hear all about your ideas for innovative ways to prevent sexual violence!

Training Resources

The Provincial Committee on Training has also been meeting monthly and has begun developing outlines for educational resources on how to support victims/survivors of sexual violence. At the Community Support Network Workshops participants shared suggestions and the training needs of their community. These will be brought back to the Provincial Committee and integrated into the tools they develop. One recurring theme was education on Trauma-Informed Practice. You can be pretty darn sure this will be included.