

Breaking the Silence

A Coordinated Response to
Sexual Violence in Nova Scotia

Progress Report
Year 2 (June 2015 – May 2016)

Message from the Minister

In June 2015 we launched *Breaking the Silence: A Coordinated Response to Sexual Violence in Nova Scotia*. A year later, I am delighted to release the year two report of our first ever province-wide strategy addressing sexual violence.

Sexual violence is a serious health, social, public safety issue that impacts everyone, and especially those from marginalized communities. This difficult problem must be addressed by all of us.

I'm so happy to tell you that this strategy is not just sitting on a shelf. It is an active project that is working with communities to help victims and survivors of sexual violence get the support they need, and helping *everyone* through education and awareness.

Community engagement is such an important part of all the work of the Sexual Violence Strategy. If we want to make change on a complex issue, we need everyone involved. Many groups, organizations, individuals and communities in Nova Scotia have been dedicated to ending sexual violence for years. I am proud to be building on this important work and honored to continue the struggle alongside community partners.

Although it can at times seem daunting or even impossible to prevent sexual violence, the truth is that we can stop it from happening in our communities. It will take time but we can break the silence, stigma and isolation, and continue to change the culture that we live in. I have already started to see a shift in how people are talking about this issue. Phrases like "victim-blaming," "rape-culture" and "enthusiastic consent" were not part of mainstream dialogue ten years ago. Now they pop up all over the place, including on social media, the radio and importantly, amongst young people. If we truly want to move the needle on this issue, we must seed generational change. Part of this is investing in and lifting up young people – youth aren't just our leaders of the future, they are leaders right now.

As the work of the strategy continues to unfold, the interests of victims and survivors of sexual violence must continue to be at the core of our work. The needs and experiences of marginalized and vulnerable groups must be taken into account. Our work must be inclusive, culturally competent, and trauma informed.

Thanks to all who have been involved throughout the strategy thus far. Your time and energy does not go unnoticed.

Joanne Bernard

Minister of Community Services

Summary of Progress

Thanks to the overwhelming support from Nova Scotians, especially community organizations and service providers, Nova Scotia's first strategy to address sexual violence is underway. The actions taken are intended to improve the availability of supports and resources for victims, survivors and their families, and ultimately prevent sexual violence from occurring in the first place.

Year 1 focused on the creation of the Strategy – *Breaking the Silence: A Coordinated Response to Sexual Violence in Nova Scotia*. The province of Nova Scotia focused on community engagement to help understand the Nova Scotia experience and to identify the needs in the province to address sexual violence and the prevention thereof. This engagement included the following:

- More than 60 representatives from over 40 community groups and organizations to gain their insights and guidance.
- Over 800 Nova Scotians through an online public survey.
- Over 100 youth from across Nova Scotia were engaged in conversations to gain their unique input.

All Nova Scotians should expect to live safely, free from sexual violence, and should have services available to them when needed.

What is sexual violence?

Our work is guided by the definition adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO): “sexual violence is any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting.”

Sexual violence is entrenched and normalized in our society to the point that actions and even the harms associated with it have become tolerated and accepted.

A person's identity and social location—determined by their gender, socio-economic status, ethnicity, age, race, ability, sexual orientation, and employment status or income—can leave some people more vulnerable to experiencing sexual violence than others.



Year 2 was the first full year of implementation of the Strategy. This report covers the achievements under the Strategy in Year 2, from its release in June 2015 until May 31, 2016.

To date, more than \$3.3 million has been invested by the province to achieve progress—this is approximately half of the total budget for the Strategy. The remaining \$2.7 million will be invested over the next year to continue the work committed by Government.

An overview of the Strategy is below, which includes items that have been completed and/or advanced during Year 2:

ACTION AREA	WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE	PROGRESS SUMMARY (JUNE 2015 – MAY 2016)
<p>Service and Supports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help people get urgent help faster • Build on existing community support networks • Expand the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered three professional development sessions with support line staff • Hosted nine Community Support Network workshops and provided funding to each of the nine regions for projects and services • Determined the service model for the expansion of the SANE program to Eastern and Western Nova Scotia and released a Request For Proposals for service delivery
<p>Education and Prevention</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a provincial committee on public awareness • Establish a provincial committee on training • Establish a Prevention Innovation Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a provincial committee on public awareness, which is helping with the development of a public awareness campaign • Created a provincial committee on training, which is developing online training modules • Provided grants totaling \$650,000 to 34 organizations to address primary prevention
<p>Approach and Accountability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an interdepartmental committee (IDC) • Review current policies and funding • Hire a provincial specialist • Produce annual reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established an IDC • Began a review of policies across government departments to identify gaps and assess for alignment • Hired a provincial specialist, who started in June 2015 • Produced bi-monthly updates on the progress to date on the Strategy

The remainder of this report provides additional details on the progress achieved.

Additional information on the Strategy, including bi-monthly newsletters, can be found at <http://novascotia.ca/coms/svs/>.

Services and Supports

The Strategy is focused on making services and supports offered to victims and survivors more flexible, responsive, and timely. This includes better coordination to ensure that services and supports are available when and where they are needed. The focus areas were as follows and our progress is noted below.

HELPING PEOPLE GET URGENT HELP FASTER

In the first year of the strategy we heard that there needed to be more immediate support for victims and survivors. The Strategy aims to minimize the risk of re-traumatizing survivors of sexual violence and positively impact their healing process through an emphasis on responding to disclosure with a compassionate, trauma-informed approach.

Between October 2015 and February 2016, three professional development sessions titled "Sexual Violence and Trauma Informed Practice" were held with existing 24/7 phone line services including 811 and 211. Understanding that these phone lines provide critical support, though not clinical counselling services, this training session provided support line staff with concrete, tangible tools and skills on how to respond to a disclosure, as well as knowledge to help staff feel more confident in their ability and comfort in supporting victims and survivors.

Prior to completing the training, more than 10% of 211 staff felt that they did not know what the provincial sexual assault resources were and almost 60% did not feel confident supporting sexual assault victims and survivors.

Following the training, 100% of 211 staff felt that they knew what the provincial sexual assault resources were and felt confident they could support sexual assault victims and survivors.

"The sexual violence training has provided me with a deeper level of awareness and insight into the lives of those who are experiencing or have survived situations of sexual violence. I now feel better equipped, informed, and am able to engage in discussions that foster empowerment and forward direction for the caller when appropriate."

-211 Employee



Cape Breton CSN Workshop



BUILDING ON EXISTING COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORKS

When the Strategy was first developed, it was clear from conversations with Nova Scotians that services were not coordinated, and in some cases even agencies were not aware of what services, other than those delivered directly by them, were available. This emphasized a need for more coordinated service delivery.

The province held nine Community Support Network (CSN) workshops in the fall of 2015, engaging a range of service providers and community members to build a collaborative and compassionate service response for victims and survivors in their communities. A total of 207 participants attended these sessions from various organizations.

Each of the nine regions of the province was allocated a portion of funding to support their work, for a total investment of \$1.25 million. At the workshops, networks discussed how the funding could best support victims and survivors in their communities.

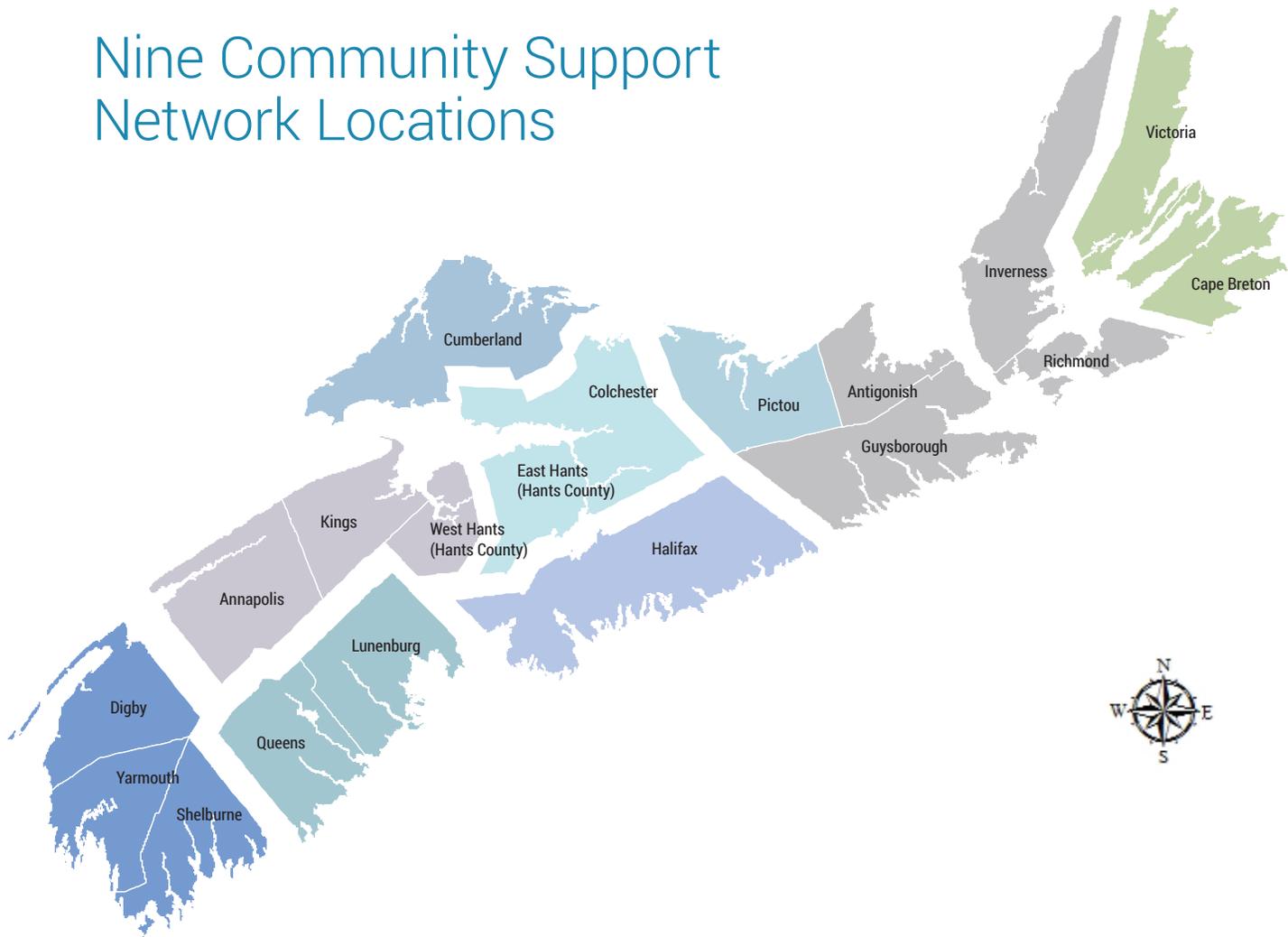
Together, participants developed a funding proposal and action plan for their CSN region to better coordinate services and supports, increase visibility and accessibility of supports and foster safer and nonjudgmental spaces. Each CSN proposed different action plans, reflecting the diverse realities and needs of our province.

These nine community networks will work together to develop and/or expand regional asset and resource maps that will be publically available. These maps will provide guidance to those in need of support, helping to address the need for accessible and visible supports and services.

The province of Nova Scotia committed in the Strategy to being inclusive of all Nova Scotians. As part of this commitment, an engagement session with the Mi'kmaq community was held April 18 and 19, 2016 in Truro.

This gathering brought together a variety of service providers and community leaders from all First Nations communities in the province. It provided a space to share knowledge and collectively identify ways in which communities can come together to respond to and prevent sexualized violence.

Nine Community Support Network Locations



"Taking part in a collaborative granting process is not easy, nor should it be. The very act of bringing together the diverse needs, wants, and activities of multiple stakeholders seems impossible! But, taking part in the Community Support Network granting process only highlighted the immense dedication, passion and commitment of the countless individuals, organizations and service providers there are in this community. I hope that the Strategy continues to see the important role they are playing in this work, and the role funding programs and services has to creating the positive change we want to see in NS."

-CSN Stakeholder



Additionally, the province provided \$15,000 to the Canadian Federation of Students to host a provincial student forum focused on creating cultures of consent in Fall 2016. The goal of these types of investments is to assist groups that may not be part of the existing network of sexual violence organizations to reach out and build networks within their specific communities. In the coming year we will host a similar community engagement gathering with the African Nova Scotian Community.

EXPANDING THE SANE PROGRAM

To improve the accessibility of services throughout the province, the Government of Nova Scotia has committed to expanding the SANE program in Eastern and Western Nova Scotia with a \$700,000 investment by the Department of Health and Wellness.

A provincial working group, including members from the Departments of Health and Wellness, Community Services, Justice and the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and IWK was formed to address the expansion of the SANE program and identify the appropriate service delivery model and other relevant components to be procured for the Eastern and Western regions.

The provincial working group invited the existing SANE programs in Nova Scotia to provide an overview of their respective service delivery models. In addition to receiving information via presentations, members of the provincial working group undertook a review of available research and best practices information, including a review of service delivery models from such jurisdictions as Regina, Saskatchewan.

NSHA expects to award the contract for expanded SANE services soon. Once that happens, the province will work with NSHA and the provider to offer expanded SANE services in Western and Eastern Nova Scotia promptly.

Evening drum making at the SVS Mi'kmaq Community Engagement Gathering.



Education and Prevention

During Year 2, the focus was offering consistent messaging and raising public awareness of sexual violence through the creation of training materials and a public awareness media campaign for all Nova Scotians, led by two provincial committees. The purpose of this work is to positively shift the cultural narrative around sexual violence and offer tools for those supporting victims and survivors.

Additionally, the province established a Prevention Innovation Fund to invest in the expansion of best practices, better research and evaluation and better use of technology.

The focus areas were as follows and our progress is noted below.

ESTABLISH A PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AWARENESS

Engagement results from the development of the Strategy strongly indicated the need for increased public awareness on the issue of sexual violence. The absence or inconsistency of this awareness often contributes to the perpetuation of myths, misconceptions and blaming the victim.

The Provincial Committee on Public Awareness was established and has been meeting since June 2015. The Committee is participating in the development of a media campaign with the aim of breaking the silence, increasing knowledge, and positively influencing social behavior related to sexual violence.

ESTABLISH A PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE ON TRAINING

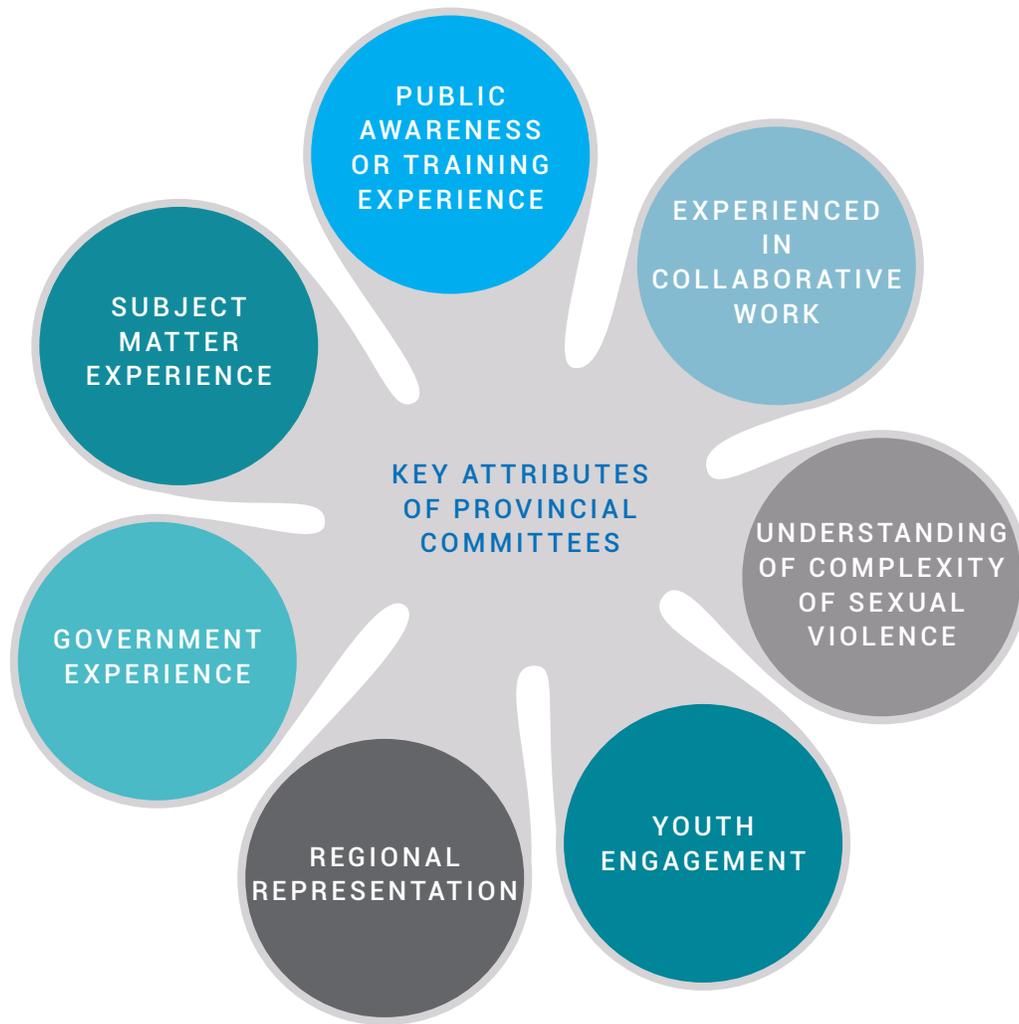
Engagement results from the development of the Strategy also indicated the need for increased knowledge, and understanding of the issue of sexual violence and importantly, how to support victims, survivors and their families in a trauma-informed way. Overwhelmingly, Nova Scotians identified training and professional development across multiple sectors as integral to improving services and support for victims, survivors and their families across the province.

The Provincial Committee on Training was established and has been meeting since July 2015. The Committee will:

- Identify and prioritize training needs across communities and multiple sectors
- Identify the critical and relevant components of the training for each of those communities and sectors
- Develop common curriculum materials to support the training needs
- Identify appropriate delivery methods and
- Initiate collaborative and sustainable training partnerships.



This Committee will continue to build the foundation of a provincial training network.



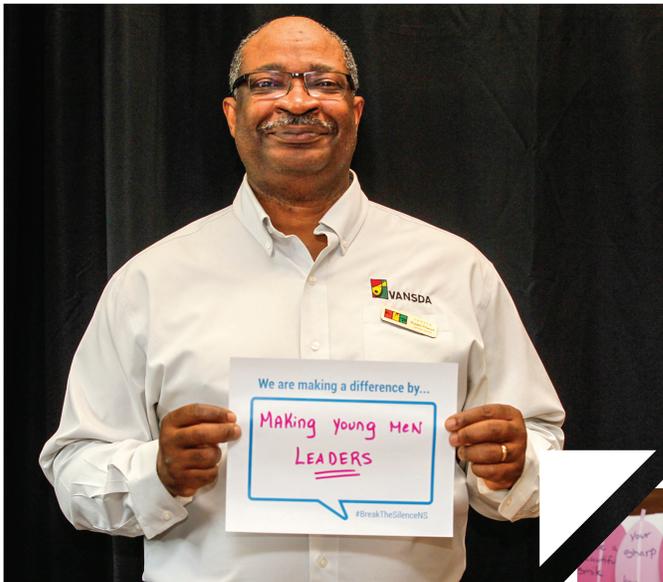
ESTABLISH A PREVENTION INNOVATION FUND

A call for Prevention Innovation Grants went out in November 2015. The grants support the expansion of best practices, better research and evaluation, and the better use of technology in preventing sexual violence. The province received nearly 100 applications. An evaluation team reviewed the applications, selecting 34 recipients to receive a grant amount of between \$2,300 and \$50,000 for a total investment of \$650,000. A key part of this fund is to support the work of young people. A number of the funded initiatives are either led by or will engage with youth. A detailed list of the grant recipients can be found in *Appendix 1*. The projects funded by the Prevention Innovation Fund focus on achieving the outcomes below.



"The continued dedication to youth inclusion, youth voice, and youth engagement by the Strategy has been wonderful to see. The issue of sexualized violence is very real for so many youth that it is essential they continue to be part of problem solving, prevention and the culture shift that is needed for this work to move forward."

-Community Service Provider



Robert Ffrench from the Valley African Nova Scotian Development Association. Recipient of a Prevention Innovation Grant.

Kayley Dixon, an artist who performed at the Prevention Innovation Grant announcement in Dartmouth. She will be one of the participants in a youth art project.



APPROACH AND ACCOUNTABILITY

During Year 2, the focus was on hiring a lead for the implementation of the Strategy and beginning the process of understanding the overlaps and gaps of supports and services across government. The focus areas were as follows and our progress is noted below.

ESTABLISH AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE

One of the principles of the Strategy states that:

We have to work together with a unified voice.

An approach to prevent sexual violence must promote conditions in which meaningful cooperation between citizens, communities, and governments can occur to make the best use of resources and expertise.



An interdepartmental committee was formed to address the need to have a unified approach to preventing sexualized violence and providing timely and coordinated supports and services to victims, survivors and their families. This group held its first meeting in January 2016 and includes representatives from the Departments of Community Services, Health and Wellness, Justice, Labour and Advanced Education and Education and Early Childhood Development. These departments play a role in implementing the Strategy, including the following:

DEPARTMENT	RESPONSIBILITIES
Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the implementation and coordination of the Strategy, including key areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acting as the liaison and main point of contact for Community Support Networks - Supporting the coordination of services and supports through the Strategy's initiatives, especially the Community Support Network Grants - Developing and administering the Prevention Innovation Grant process • Chair and lead the work of the IDC and the Provincial Committees for Training and Public Awareness
Health and Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the expansion of the SANE program • Participate in the IDC to provide insight into health and wellness focused policies and programs that relate to sexual violence
Advisory Council on the Status of Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the IDC to provide a gender based analysis of sexual violence • Provide oversight of transition houses, second stage housing organizations and women's centers that may provide support to victims and survivors of sexual violence
Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the IDC to provide insight into Justice-focused policies and programs that support victims and survivors • Deliver victims services to victims and survivors of sexual violence who opt to proceed through the court system
Labour and Advanced Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the IDC to provide insight into the department's policies and programs that are linked to sexual violence • Ensure a commitment (under the 2015-19 Memorandum of Understanding between the Province of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Universities) to develop specific policies that address sexual violence on university campuses, and focus on prevention by promoting greater awareness through education
Education and Early Childhood Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the IDC to provide insight into education and childhood development-focused policies and programs related to sexual violence • Provide oversight of support services and prevention programs in Nova Scotia schools

REVIEW CURRENT POLICIES AND FUNDING

Work is underway by the interdepartmental committee to collect an inventory of policies and programs to support prevention and support services. The goal of this work is to improve access to support across gender, age, ability, income, and geographic location.

HIRE A PROVINCIAL SPECIALIST

A Provincial Specialist was hired and began working with the province in June 2015. The role is accountable for contributing to and providing recommendations on the ongoing development, planning, implementation, monitoring, budgeting and evaluation of effective policies/procedures, support services and prevention initiatives related to sexualized violence and the Strategy.

The Provincial Specialist provides provincial leadership, direction and support in promoting and implementing the strategic vision for sexual violence support and prevention on both a system-wide and province-wide scale, taking into account diverse sectors and stakeholders.

PRODUCE ANNUAL REPORTS

This report marks the first official update on the Strategy since its implementation. In addition, a bi-monthly newsletter on the Strategy's progress is distributed to the Strategy list of stakeholders.



Next Steps

The final year of the Strategy, Year 3, will focus on concluding the commitments outlined in the Strategy. The Strategy concludes March 31, 2017. Key activities include the following:

- **Provide additional phone line training:** The province will build on the specialized training for phone line staff (e.g. 811, 211) to ensure 24/7 support for victims and survivors.
- **Explore technology to provide immediate and anonymous support to victims:** Identify and analyze technology that will enable victims and survivors to access immediate and anonymous support.
- **Implement nine Community Support Network projects:** Community Support Networks will implement the projects for which they have received funding and the province of Nova Scotia will assess progress to determine the release of additional funds.
- **Create an asset and resource map of community services:** Creation of a map of all services and supports available, by region, by the Community Support Networks.
- **Expand the SANE program to Eastern and Western Nova Scotia:** Expansion of SANE in the province through an investment by the Department of Health and Wellness.
- **Develop a funding framework for existing Sexual Assault Centres:** Establish a multi-year funding framework for three centres to enable better planning and service delivery.
- **Create and launch an awareness media campaign:** Completion and roll-out of a sexual violence awareness media campaign, including, video, social media, print materials and website.
- **Create and launch online training:** Completion and roll-out of online training for use across-sectors and organizations in Nova Scotia.
- **Provide grants through the Prevention Innovation Fund:** Provision of additional grants to organizations to support best practices, better research and evaluation and better use of technology.
- **Align governmental policies and processes:** Through the interdepartmental committee, continue the alignment of processes and programs to support prevention and the efficient provision of support services.
- **Provide updates on the progress of the Strategy:** Continue to communicate progress on the Strategy.

Appendix 1

The following table provides a listing of the Prevention Innovation Grant recipients in Year 2 of the Strategy.

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT
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
AIDS Coalition	Totally Outright in Nova Scotia The AIDS Coalition will provide a four-day train the trainer 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
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
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
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
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
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</i> awareness campaign.	Dartmouth North	\$50,000



ORGANIZATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT
Boys & Girls Club of Whitney Pier	The Project: Creative Solutions for Difficult Questions This project will provide a safer space where youth can engage in open conversations about sexual violence, media influence, healthy relationships and prevention strategies.	Sydney	\$11,000
Canadian Red Cross	Building Healthy Youth Relationships in Nova Scotia's First Nations Communities 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.	Province-wide	\$30,500
Central Nova Women's Centre	Engaging Youth in a Violence-Free Future 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.	Truro	\$5,000
Centre for Housing and Residence Life, SMU	SMU Res Consent Project This group will create student-made videos on topics such as alcohol, consent, and bystander interventions, and will be shown to students living in residence.	Halifax	\$2,500
Chebucto Community Development Association (CCDA)	Boys Circles/Girls Circles – Healthy Living 9 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.	Halifax	\$40,000
École Secondaire de Clare	Building Healthy Relationships 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.	La Butte	\$5,000
Federation des Femmes Acadiennes du Nouvelle-Écosse (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.	Province-wide	\$50,000
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
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

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT
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
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
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
Millwood High School	Bringing in the Bystander Grant funding will enable Millwood High School to implement bystander training for all grade 12 students. It will teach skills on how to intervene in situations that could lead to, or that directly involve, sexual violence.	Sackville	\$4,000
Music Liberatory	Women Safe and Sound This is a nine-week women's discussion 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
Northern AIDS Connection Society	LookOUT Photovoice LGBTQ youth will be invited to explore healthy relationships and the impact of sexual violence in their lives through art.	Truro	\$12,000
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
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
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
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



ORGANIZATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT
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	\$4,000
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
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
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
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
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
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
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 then 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





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