

# PROSTITUTION EDUCATION PROGRAM

*A community initiative facilitated through the Nova Scotia Department of Justice*

## Who we are

The Prostitution Education Program (PEP), established and operated in the Halifax Regional Municipality, is a multi-agency initiative composed of representatives from police, justice, health and women-centered community agencies whose efforts are directed toward providing services and support for persons involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, prostitution-related activities.

## Our mission

- To provide information, support and resources to assist persons involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, the sex trade.
- To provide, to eligible offenders, an alternative to the formal court process.

## The process

Through referrals to the Adult Diversion Program operated by Correctional Services, the following options are made available to eligible individuals charged by police with prostitution-related offences:

### School 213

is a one-day educational session for persons at risk of involvement in, or charged with, prostitution. School 213 can be utilized as a diversion from the formal court process and/or a sentencing option. School 213 provides support, education and referrals directed toward reducing repeat criminal activities.

### John School

is a diversion program for offenders charged with attempting to procure the services of a prostitute. At the John School, the offender is required to accept responsibility, pay a registration fee and attend a full-day educational session.

Community education offers, in partnership with local schools, information regarding the dangers and risks associated with the sex trade.

The Prostitution Education Fund provides funding, for persons who qualify, for access to educational resources to assist those individual(s) in gaining marketable skills to obtain employment.

## Support for Incarcerated Women

Two days per week, a Counselor attends the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in Halifax to provide group and individual counseling, for women who have been involved in or are at risk, upon release, of becoming involved in prostitution related activities. This individual is also involved in pre-release planning, with the women incarcerated in the facility.

## Achievements

The PEP committee has provided funding for such things as:

- community college
- private business college
- cosmetology school
- continuing education courses
- GED courses
- forestry courses
- computer courses
- distance education
- correspondence courses

PEP has demonstrated success through assisting women and men in conflict with the law by providing options to make positive life changes and become responsible members of our community.

Many individuals, through the support of PEP services, have changed their lives dramatically and moved away from the cycle of criminal activity associated with prostitution.

## For further information:

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