

Women's resource centres, transition homes receive funding

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On May 21 the provincial government announced it would provide \$500,000 in additional funding to help transition houses, women's centres and second stage housing give more support to women and children.

The eight women's centres in the province will receive an eight per cent increase which equals \$15,238 each to address operating costs. Nine transition houses will also receive \$16,454 to enhance their outreach.

Bryony House, which is a transition house, and Alice Housing, second stage housing are both receiving \$115,000 in funding to meet increasing community needs. Both these facilities have the highest service demands in the province.

Two facilities in Antigonish, the Women's Resource Centre and the Naomi Society, will be receiving funding thanks to the government's announcement.

"It'll certainly help the work by covering some of the increased costs of the women's centre," Lucille Harper, executive director of the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, said.

"Women's centres don't receive an annual increase in funding, yet our costs continue to increase."

In order to make their services available to women and adolescent girls, the women's resource centre reaches out to smaller communities. They have two crisis support workers that can meet with women on a daily basis and increased fund-

ing makes it possible for them to continue to provide support.

"What's really important about the funding that was announced is that it's going to organizations that work very specifically with women in periods of crisis or transition in their lives," Harper said. "When we have healthy women, we have healthy families and healthy communities. By providing women with the support they need in order to be well and healthy we're really supporting community in very important ways."

Michelle Keats, executive director of the Naomi Society, said they are very thankful to be one of the recipients of the funding granted by the province.

"This funding will enhance current programming and services provided to women and children who are affected by family or intimate partner violence in Antigonish town, county and Guysborough County," Keats said.

Keats also thanked community services minister Joanne Bernard for acknowledging the important work being done throughout the province to end violence against women and her continued support.

"I had the pleasure of attending the announcement and hearing firsthand the gratitude and sincere appreciation for the work being done to support women and children," Keats said.

The \$500,000 in new funding was included in the 2014-15 Nova Scotia budget.