

Working with Youth : Youth Related Projects, Programs and Collaborations



New Brunswick Community College/StFX Research Project

We are participating in a SSHRC grant project, *The Contribution of Pro-Social Modelling and Peer Mentoring to the Development of Self-Esteem and Positive Social Skills in Young Females: A longitudinal study on the creation and implementation of an intervention program* with members of the New Brunswick Community College - St. Andrews campus nursing faculty and Chris Gilham, StFX Faculty of Education.

Our work has been blessed by our strong relationship with the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre. They have been implementing girls' groups throughout schools in Nova Scotia for years now. Their experience and knowledge helped shape our project. – Chris Gilham, StFX Researcher

YWCA Halifax Safety NET Project

With the Safety Net project, coordinated by YWCA Halifax, we engaged female-identified youth leaders to facilitate conversations with university-aged young women on cybermisogyny, cyberviolence, and ways to make the Internet an empowering space for everyone. The goal of the project is to create a provincial strategy to address online violence against young women and girls. The conversation generated new ideas/discussion around online violence against young women and girls.

Youth Educating and Acting on Hypersexualization (YEAH!) project

For the YEAH! project, we engaged Natalie Abdou, Toronto-based facilitator, writer, actor and community educator, to present a day-long workshop, *CounterACT!*. A diverse group of youth and young adults explored 'theatre of the oppressed', a method of popular education developed by Augusto Boal, as a vehicle for challenging gender-based violence. HRY staff apply techniques learned in the workshop to designing and facilitating activities with youth. June 2015.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April 2015

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is recognized each April in Nova Scotia. This year's theme was *Safer Campuses, Brighter Futures. Prevent Sexual Violence*. We screened *The Hunting Ground*, at StFX. The film documents the experiences of victims of sexual assault on university campuses, the systemic lack of response at the university administration level, and active cover ups that have plagued American universities. A panel discussion which followed generated a sense of urgency to ensure StFX would support survivors of sexual assault on campus. Subsequent changes to Frosh week and the student discipline processes are directly linked with the community discussion generated at this event. The film and panel discussion replaced a formal proclamation event. A letter speaking to the importance of SAAM from the Mayor of Antigonish was read by Lucille Harper. A representative from the municipal council read a statement of support from the County Council.

Working Together for Change: Raising Awareness, Taking Action on Violence against Women and Girls



Provincial Actions on Sexual Violence

♀ Nova Scotia Sexualized Violence Services Network

The network provides a space for community-based organizations to deepen the discourse around sexualized violence, learn from each other, share promising practices and advocate for social and legislative changes. We were concerned with proposed changes to the Family and Children's Services Act which would increase the age of the child to 19 years and would result in increasing the mandatory duty to report sexual assault to youth under 19 years of age. The Network members agreed this would create more harm than good, deter youth accessing services, and have the opposite effect of what was intended by the legislation. In July 2015, the Network members together with student and staff representatives from Dalhousie, Mount St. Vincent and StFX Universities, the Coordinator of Child Protection, DCS, to discuss our concerns. We supported the provision of more services and supports for youth and asked that the duty to report be made optional and only with the informed consent of the youth. These proposed changes were subsequently removed from the Act.



♀ #IBelieveSurvivors Social Media Campaign

On March 24, 2016, the day the verdict of the Jian Ghomeshi trial was announced, to show support for, and solidarity with, survivors of sexual violence we participated in a Canada-wide release of photos stating "I Believe Survivors" or "We Believe Survivors". This campaign was spurred by SACHA (Sexual Assault Centre – Hamilton Area); Sexual Assault Centres across Canada took part in online demonstrations.

♀ Maritime Regional Roundtable on Sex Trafficking, Canadian Women's Foundation

The Canadian Women's Foundation hosted a Maritime Roundtable on Sex Trafficking as part of their five year strategy to address the sexual exploitation of women and girls in Canada. The consultation looked at sex trafficking in the Atlantic provinces and identified emerging issues and possible solutions. The most common age for recruitment of girls into prostitution is 13 years of age. The current context of hypersexualization, glamorization of the sex industry, normalization of pimp and rape cultures, the growth of child luring, and use of children in the production of pornography all contribute to the increase in sex trafficking. July 2015, Halifax.



Working Together for Change: Violence against Women and Girls

Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence – Paqtnekek

Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence (RSVP) is a Status of Women funded, two-year collaborative project, between the Paqtnekek Health Centre and the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre & Sexual Assault Services Association with key support from Paqtnekek Chief and Council and other partners. Designed to strengthen the abilities of Aboriginal communities to respond to and prevent sexual violence against Aboriginal women, the project is based in a culturally relevant, revitalizing, and safe approach. While the focus of the work is in Paqtnekek, connections were made with other Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia to share knowledge and build local capacities.

This was year two, the final year of the project. The focus was on collaboration, strategy development, pilot implementation, and knowledge sharing, based on the community-prioritized recommendations of the Year 1 needs assessment – Support for Supporters, Healing & Ceremony, Policies & Procedures, Tools & Resources, and Education & Awareness (on healthy relationships, sexuality, consent, boundaries, and online safety/social media). Activities were developed in accordance with a community-driven action plan and organized along response and prevention approaches – acknowledging that efforts to address sexual violence require both responding to sexual violence when it occurs and preventing it from occurring. The actions strengthened the capacity of the community to continue to take on initiatives after the project's funding with Status of Women Canada ends.

Healing & Ceremony

Identified as a priority by the Paqtnekek community, several initiatives on healing and ceremony were organized. They engaged diverse community members in traditional and inter-generational gatherings that provided spaces for collective community sharing and dialogue for healing from violence and trauma in culturally relevant, revitalizing, and safe ways. Because of the interconnectedness of experiences of violence and trauma – sexual and other forms – all community members over the age of 16 years were invited to take part in all initiatives, regardless of what they may be healing from and where they may be in their healing.

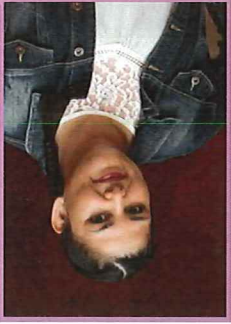
The project highlighted "healing for individuals, families, and the Paqtnekek Mi'kmaq Nation together"!

Community Supporters Team

The Community Supporters Team included Paqtnekek community members, Council Members, Band Staff, and Health Centre Staff. Community members were trusted and respected individuals to whom survivors of sexual violence turned for informal support. Project staff organized a education and training sessions for the Community Supporters Team to increase their knowledge about sexual violence and to build their skills and capacity to respond to disclosures and provide support.



Annie Chau,
RSVP Program Coordinator



Karla Stevens,
Community Facilitator

Working Together for Change: Violence against Women and Girls *Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence - Paqtnekek*



Healing and Ceremony activities included:

Community Healing Circles

The two five hour Healing Circles were facilitated by Mi'kmaq leaders and Healing Circle Supporters from outside the community to give all in Paqtnekek the opportunity to participate together. Twenty-five (25) people participated in the first session and 30 in the second.

Healing Through Sessions on Storytelling, Art, and Music

These sessions provided community members with creative ways to begin their healing. Mi'kmaq guest speaker artists shared how their art helps them heal – Storytelling with Daniel Paul, Music with Garrett Gloade, and Art with Darren Julian. The sessions were particularly attractive youth. Twenty-seven (27) people participated: 18 women and 9 men.

“Paqtnekek Health Centre Shares on Healing” Video.

In a short video, 5 Paqtnekek Health Centre staff members shared ways they heal, providing ideas about healing, health, and wellbeing to individuals, families, and the broader community of Paqtnekek.

The biggest thing is bringing the community together to first begin talking about the issue within the community, and to have support from one another within that discussion. – Community Member

This is your story and this is your time to heal. Once you leave here, you can live your life. Releasing these types of stories really helped. – Community Member on the Community Healing Circles

Storytelling about one community's efforts to address a difficult issue; affirms storytelling as central to Indigenous ways of learning and knowing. – Lessons Learned Session Participant

Education for External/Non-Community Service Providers

To strengthen the capacity of service providers to work in ways that honour Paqtnekek community members' experiences of violence and trauma and their collective histories of violence and trauma as Indigenous peoples, project staff organized two education sessions for external, non-community service providers. Held in Paqtnekek, the sessions included information about residential schools, colonialism, inter-generational trauma, trauma-informed service delivery, and holistic and culturally safe practice. They provided spaces for understanding and reconciliation between community members and non-Indigenous service providers. As well, RSVF staff led a similar education session for Connect and the 9 community-based women's centres in Nova Scotia.

Working Together for Change: Violence against Women and Girls

Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence -



Pagtukek

Transformative/Restorative Justice Presentations for Advisory Committee

In sexual violence response work, keeping a focus on survivors, their experiences of violence and their right to safety and support, while also acknowledging the complexities of violence and communities, is challenging in the dominant context of harmful victim-blaming messages. The lines between survivor and perpetrator are not always exclusive. They reflect the historical context of colonialism and residential schools and the current context of intergenerational cycles of trauma as well as practices of policing and child protection services that can result in the breakup and the threat of breakup of families. To address sexual violence as a community meant including responses to survivors and perpetrators in the planning.

Survivors and perpetrators are all community members. – community member

To learn more about restorative and transformative justice models and practices, the project Advisory Committee invited StFX Service Learning Student Victoria Paddon to present her literature review findings on restorative and transformative justice, and Paula Marshall and Judy Googoo, Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network, to share the community justice approach they take in their work. While no consensus was formed on the benefits and challenges posed by restorative justice practices, the exploration was important for the Advisory Committee's learning and reflection.



RSPV Advisory Committee

Community Education Sessions – Youth and Parents

Prevention focussed on the community's recommendations for education and awareness.

Ten education sessions for youth and for parents in the community were organized on the topics of healthy relationships, consent, boundaries, cyber safety, and sexual violence designed to involve participants in dialogue and creative/critical thought.

Sessions for youth grades 5-8 and Pagtukek Summer Students, grades 9-12, were held in the summer of 2015. The sessions were adapted to include the Mi'kmaq Seven Sacred Teachings of wisdom, love, courage, humility, truth, respect, and honesty and held in the winter of 2016 for grades 5, grades 6-8, grades 9-12, and for parents.

Sixty-eight (68) people participated: 34 women and 34 men.

It is important to help young people recognize sexual violence is a problem in the community to address the normalization of violence. It is also important to build resilience so they will be able to handle the trauma that they may be experiencing. – Supporters Team Reflection on Supporting Young People



Juliana Julian speaking at community meeting

Working Together for Change: Violence against Women and Girls Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence - Paqtnkek



Other RSVF actions related to ending sexual violence

Respect Campaign for 2015 Mi'kmag Summer Games. Inspired by Violence Prevention Labrador's, 2015 Winter Games Respect Campaign, project staff organized a similar campaign for the Paqtnkek team participating in the 2015 Mi'kmag Summer Games, Millbrook First Nation, Paqtnkek participants wore T-shirts with "think RESPECT" printed on the back. 75 t-shirts were distributed to Games participants and to the Advisory Committee. Staff filmed participants and spectators during the games and produced a video where they asked people to think about respect – what is respect? in sports? in relationships? *In sports and in relationships, think RESPECT!*

Take Back The Night March. Paqtnkek community members participated in the *Take Back The Night* events. Posters made in Paqtnkek spoke to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women. More than 200 people marched through Antigonish including 20 from Paqtnkek. September 2015.

Mi'kmag History Month – Sisters In Spirit and Honouring & Reviving Matrilachal Traditions
To mark both Mi'kmag History Month and Sisters In Spirit, with support from the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmag, RSVF staff worked with the Paqtnkek Health Centre Director and Health Centre staff to organize a march in honour of missing and murdered Indigenous women and to share matrilachal traditions with one another. About 80 Paqtnkek community members and friends attended. October 2015.

"What matrilachal traditions do you honour and want to revitalize?" They noted: Women's roles as storytellers; as knowledge keepers; as teachers of respect to all living beings and things; as decision makers; as caregivers and mothers.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – Call to Action
An interactive display at the Paqtnkek Health Centre highlighted forms of violence experienced by women and asked for personal and political calls to action. December 2015

International Women's Week – Storytelling Project

For IWW, RSVF Staff organized *Women, Reconciliation & Community Action: A Panel & Discussion*. During the week in Paqtnkek, community members nominated and honoured Paqtnkek women who have used creativity, leadership, compassion, and dedication to help make the community and the world a better place. Thirteen (13) inspiring stories about the women were posted on the project's Facebook Page, (www.facebook.com/PaqtnkekProject/).

"Healing for one person in the community will positively impact healing in the entire community. That one person's strength will reverberate throughout Paqtnkek and make this community better."



Working Together for Change: Violence against Women and Girls Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence – Paqtnekek

Project Promotion and Networking

Information about the *Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence – Paqtnekek project*, was shared through an online presence, media articles, community flyers, and interviews and presentations. Presentations included:

- Violence Prevention Labrador, 2015
- Coady International Institute's Global Change Leaders Program, 2015
- Atlantic Policy Congress Annual Health Conference, 2015
- Nova Scotia Native Women's Association Annual General Assembly, 2015
- Social Worker Peer Consultation Group, 2016
- Youth Activism Conference, 2016
- Lessons Learned Sessions



Sisters in Spirit march

RSVP staff participated in conferences, forums and events related to the work of the project. They brought the perspective of the project, a community voice and were, in turn, able to take information back to the Paqtnekek community to advance the work of the project.

Sexual Violence Roundtable

Led to support for the project's continuation in Paqtnekek and for the extension in Wel'koqma'q.

Ending Violence against Aboriginal Women and Girls: Visioning Session

Hosted by Native Women's and Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the RSVP project was cited to a number of times throughout the session.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Pre-Inquiry

Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Honourable Patty Hajdu, the Minister of Status of Women, and Colleen Swords, Deputy Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, met with the survivors, families, Indigenous organizations and leaders, provincial and territorial governments, and regional and local organizations working with survivors, families, and women who are at risk and listened to their experiences of violence and their recommendations for change. January 2016.

Working Together for Change: Poverty Reduction Work



Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition

Established in 2010, the Antigonish Poverty Reduction Coalition (APRC) is an alliance of organizations, institutions and community members committed to reducing poverty in the Antigonish town and county. Our Five-Year Action Plan, launched in 2012, detailed eight priority areas: housing, transportation, food security, education, health services, childcare, recreation and income security. In late 2012, we added a ninth priority area, heat/energy poverty, to the coalition. Our focus this year was on learning more about what a Living Wage would be for Antigonish and how it would work with a Guaranteed Liveable Income (GLI) to reduce poverty in our area.

Basic Income/Guaranteed Liveable Income and A Living Wage – Solutions to Poverty?

To increase awareness in our area about the benefits a basic income and a living wage, the APRC undertook the following initiatives.

- in the lead up to the federal election, for the STX Federal Candidates' Debate, we developed question that gaged each party's support for a guaranteed liveable income. Only the Green Party supported it. The Liberals and NDP want more evidence that it would work. The Conservative Party does not support it. September 2015.

- we compared and provided information about federal party platforms on the 9 issue areas that fall within the APRC Five-Year Action Plan to the public at the local Farmers' Market as part of our International Day for the Eradication of Poverty actions. October 2015.

- we invited Christine Saulnier, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Nova Scotia, to talk with us about the *Living Wage* research methodology and findings the CCPA has undertaken for Halifax. They assess a living wage at \$20 per hour. We engaged two service learning students to work with us to develop some key messages about the benefits of a living wage. November 2015.

- The APRC reviewed the DCS ESIA transformation process power point presentation, identified concerns with the proposed plan and prioritized as 2 top concerns income adequacy and local supports for clients. We submitted a short brief. September 2015.

Antigonish Food Security Coalition

The Antigonish Food Security Coalition hosted a very successful *Eat! Think! Vote!* Campaign. They invited the four Central Nova federal candidates to a lunchtime gathering to meet with local people who are working on and concerned with food related issues, learn about food security concerns in our area and share their plans to address it. The candidates spoke briefly to food security issues as they saw them and responded to comments from the participants CPAC filmed the event and included it in their clip on the Central Nova riding. October 8, 2015.



Donation of school backpacks by Alliant



Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund

The Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund helps Antigonish town and county residents with emergency heat situations for the months of January to April. Without this program, most applicants would have no other means for getting help. The AWRCSASA works collaboratively with the Emergency Fuel Fund reviewing applications and referring people to government programs. This winter the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund:

- assisted 78 households, a total of 156 people – 104 adults and 52 children with \$23,400 in home heating assistance. The average household income was \$17,222 with the average income for single households at \$11,643.
- In Antigonish town we assisted 36 households, 15 with oil and 21 with electric heat.
- In Antigonish County we assisted 42 households, 18 with oil, 17 with electric heat, 6 with wood, and 1 with propane.
- of the 69 women helped, 27% identified as single mothers and 62% as single.

Affordable Energy Coalition

The Affordable Energy Coalition (AEC) is a province-wide network of community based anti-poverty and environmental organizations monitors energy issues, mainly electricity, from the perspective of low-income Nova Scotians and advocates for measures to address energy poverty. This year the AEC called for:

- a universal service program to provide people living with energy poverty with direct financial subsidy, emergency grants to deal with accounts in arrears, and energy efficiency improvements in rented and owned homes.
- A Nova Scotia carbon tax.
- Nova Scotia Power to improve dealings with low-income customers having difficulty paying their power bills. AEC is developing a leaflet to help low-income NSP customers and their advocates effectively navigate collections procedures.

Nova Scotia Community Society to End Poverty in

The Community Society to End Poverty in Nova Scotia (CSEP) is a province-wide network with a mandate "to raise awareness of poverty issues and to urge all levels of government and sectors of society to act to end poverty in Nova Scotia". Over the year, CSEP:

- reviewed the 2015-2016 provincial budget and its implications for people living in poverty noting there was no increase to Income Assistance rates while there were budget cutbacks to several organizations providing supportive services to people living on the margins.

- worked diligently to develop a comprehensive brief in response to the Employment Support Transformation Process undertaken by the Department of Community Services. CSEP met several times with DCS about changes to ESIA and the need to take measures to substantially reduce poverty in the province. The primary concern remains chronically low Income Assistance rates and the inadequacies in the system.

- organized a joint letter with organizations that represent, work with, or advocate for people who are on income assistance, to the Standing Committee on Community Services asking to meet to discuss Special Needs Program under ESIA. The letter noted concerns related to access to allowances for transportation, telephone, special diets, other medical requirements, and employment supports. CSEP noted "the interpretation of the Regulations and policies are becoming increasingly onerous for people in need who are already living well below the poverty line."

Working Together for Change: Supporting Well-being for Women and Youth



The Women's Centre takes a social determinants of health approach in looking at issues that impact the health and well-being of women and girls. We work with our community, province and at the national level to support youth and to that end we participated in the following committees and efforts:

Antigonish Network for Youth to strengthen programs for youth in our community.

Northeastern Network for Children and Youth to make recommendations regarding Child and Youth policy and program initiatives that support Child and Youth program outcomes.

Canadian Women's Foundation - Teen Healthy Relationships: Building the Field Project to build a

shared understanding of teen healthy relationship programming; identify and cohere around coordinated prevention principles/models; mobilize knowledge on key promising practices; and strengthen the field of practice by piloting key practices/approaches. The partners include the Canadian Women's Foundation, PREVNet, Partners for Youth, New Brunswick, the Native Women's Association of Canada, Inside Out policy Research, and the AWRCSASA. Over the year, we have worked to determine how to define and map the field in order to develop a shared identity as a field of practice, to build a shared understanding of collective impact and youth involvement, and an evaluation process.

The AWRCSASA and Partners for Youth as the Frontline Service Provider organizations are tasked with identifying organizations across the country that offer teen healthy relationship programs. We are looking at compiling a list of some 200 programs.

Working Together for Change:

Working Together for Change at the Provincial Level

We work with the broader community and at the provincial level on concerns and issues that impact women and community well-being. Through **Women's Centres Connect**, the provincial association of women's centres, we work collaboratively as nine women centres across the province to advance the concerns of women who use our services and programs.



Staff learn first aid training



Justice Matters for Women presentation in Guyborough

Working Together for Change: Supporting Well-being for Women and Youth



Women's Centre staff participated in Consultations, Conferences, Workshops and Events that relate to our work.

Some of the initiatives we supported were:

Building a Breastfeeding Environment (BABE), a research and community awareness project.

Antigonish International Film Festival

where we co-sponsored two films. October 2015.

Street Talk,

a public art intervention addressing through the canvas of street signs how women navigate the socialized sexism that governs our bodies on a daily basis. September 2015.

Water Ceremony – Paqtkek,

in support of the call by the Paqtkek First Nation and the Mi'gma'wewi Mawiwewi Assembly for a moratorium on drilling for oil and gas to protect the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The ceremony, held on Pomquet Harbour where Donald Marshall Jr., a member of the Membertou First Nation, was arrested for eel fishing in August 1993 was organized in collaboration with Save Our Seas and Shores. October 2015.

Blue Dot Campaign,

where we passed a resolution to stand in solidarity with the Blue Dot campaign's work to have our local councils adopt a declaration asserting our right to a healthy environment. September 2015.

Some of the presentations, workshops and conferences we attended were:

Rural Precipitation – Local and Global,

a conversation about the survival of rural with Palagummi Sainath, a rural journalist, thinker and author serving as 2015 Coady Chair of Social Justice, and Teresa MacNeil, Chair of the Rural Communities Foundation of Nova Scotia. It was hosted by StFX and moderated by Jim Bickerton, Department of Political Science. November 2015.

Some of the consultations in which we participated were:

Employment Support Income Assistance (ESIA) Transformation Engagement Session,

a presentation outlining the vision for and strategy of ESIA transformation. July 2015. New Glasgow.

Department of Community Services - Child & Family Services Act,

a consultation with women's centres on the proposed legislative changes to the Child & Family Services Act that would have, among other things, changed the definition of youth under the act from 16 to 19 less a day. With Connect and the Sexual Violence Services Network, we met with representatives from the Department of Community Services and the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women to call for amendments to the legislation. Fortunately, the Department responded to the calls from people across Nova Scotia and did not change the age for mandatory reporting to 19 years.



Funding Support

The work we do at the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre would not be possible without the support of our community and without the support of the foundations, departments of government and private donors that fund our work.

We would like to thank all who provide support for our services and programs.

Direct Services are funded by:

- Nova Scotia Department of Community Services
- Nova Scotia Strait Health Authority
- Community donations

Justice Matters for Women is funded by:

- Law Foundation of Nova Scotia

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program is funded by:

- Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

Specialized Sexual Assault Trauma Therapist positions are

funded by:

- Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness
- Department of Community Services

Antigonish Strait Immigrant Support Program is funded by:

- Nova Scotia Office of Immigration

Healthy Relationships for Youth Program is funded by:

- Canadian Women's Foundation
- Nova Scotia Department of Justice Lighthouses' Program
- Leacross Foundation
- Antigonish Town and County Community Health Board
- Rural Communities Foundation
- Community donations

Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence – Pagtnkek is funded by:

- Status of Women Canada Women's Community Fund

Summer Student positions are funded by:

- HRSDC Summer Jobs Program
- Nova Scotia Department of Economic & Rural Development and Tourism,
- Student Career Skills Development Program

Community Support

It is with the generous, ongoing support provided by our community that we are able to do all that we do.

Thank you



to our many individual donors and

Sisters of St. Martha

Antigonish Kinsmen Club

Unifor Social Justice Fund



Financial Overview

The Finance Department was busy tracked and prepared reports for the Women's Centre, SANE and six projects. The Finance Department accounts for funding and expenditures in a timely and efficient manner along with reporting the finances to the Board of Directors and various funding agencies. Core funding for the Centre used for the day to day operations comes from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services with funding for the SANE Program coming from the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. Funding for the therapist positions was provided by both DCS and DHW. The community shows support with financial contributions during the annual direct mail campaign and with general donations from individuals and organizations throughout the year.

The new Nova Scotia Health Authority which has incorporated and replaced GASHA continues a long standing contribution of financial support for our women's support services. We were fortunate again in this year to secure funding for two students to work in our Center during the summer months. Funding came from the HRSDC, Summer Jobs Program and the Nova Scotia Department of Economic & Rural Development and Tourism. Together financial support from the federal and provincial governments as well as our community ensures the ongoing work of our Center. (See Figure #1)

This year AWRCSASA was pleased to receive \$62,222 in new funding from the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration to support immigrants residing in this area. Status of Women Canada provided \$110,827 to complete the second of a two year project, *Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence* – *Pagtnkek* (See Figure #2). Thanks to the generous and steadfast financial commitment of community organizations to poverty alleviation, we are able to help women and their families with emergency finances.

We appreciate the continued financial support of the Nova Scotia Law Foundation for our *Justice Matters for Women* program. The *Healthy Relationships for Youth* Program completed its ninth year in the Strait Regional School Board district area as well as the second year of a provincial component. This ongoing work is funded in large part by the Canadian Women's Foundation as well as the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, Lighthouses grant.

The Leacross Foundation and community donations support the provincial part of the HRY program. With some small grants from the Girls Action Foundation and the YWCA we are able to extend our youth program activities.

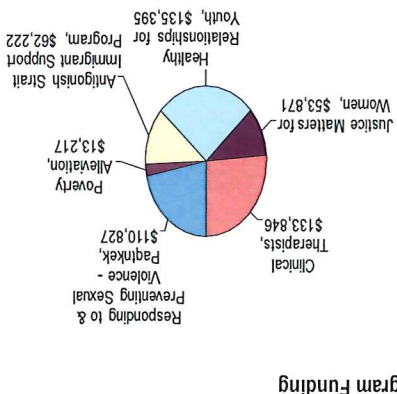
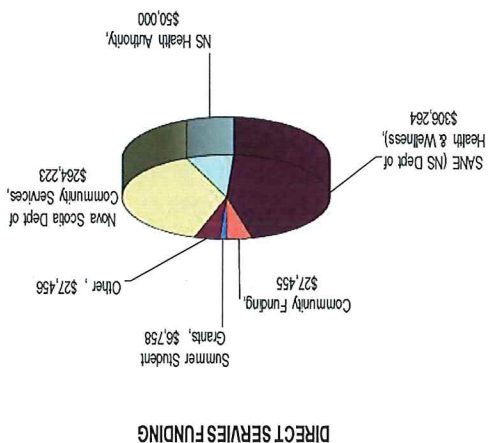


Christine Hanlon and Jackie Jacques

(A more detailed accounting of a WRC finances is available in our annual financial report.)

The Finance Department looks forward to the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted by
Kris Hanlon, Finance Administrator
Jackie Jacques, Bookkeeper





The Women Behind the Work 2015-2016

Executive Director
Lucille Harper

Financial Administrator
Christine Hanlon

Bookkeeper/Admin Assistant
Jackie Jacques

Direct Services

♀ Women's Services Coordinator:
Vangie Babin

♀ Women's Support Workers:

Amanda Workman
Mica Francis

Specialized Trauma Therapists

♀ Cathrine Chambers
♀ Petra Cross/Debbie Campbell

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program

♀ Program Coordinator:

Heather Blackburn

♀ Sexual Violence Prevention Educator

Faye Fraser

♀ SANE Nurses:

Jennifer Anderson

Christine Chisholm

Kari Lee Chisholm MacDonald

Felicia Felix

Angela Fougere

Marilyn Grant

Shauna Grant - Smith

Jocelyn Landry

Jill Leon

Arlene MacGillivray

Suzanne Munro-MacLean

Kyla Neary-Griffiths

Andrea Snyder

Justice Matters for Women
♀ Rural Outreach Worker:
Marcia Connolly

Healthy Relationships for Youth Program
♀ Provincial Program Coordinator:
Betsy MacDonald

♀ SRSB Program Coordinator:

Dayna Barnes, Erin Wynn

Responding to and Preventing Sexual

Violence—Pagnkuk

♀ Project Coordinator: Annie Chau

♀ Community Facilitator: Karla Stevens

Lindsay's Health Centre for Women

♀ Physician: Daphne MacLean

♀ Nurse Practitioner:

Dawn Chubbbs, Kathryn Boyd

♀ Staff from:

Addictions Services: Jessica Heidebrecht

Mental Health Services: Jean Crosby

and the Women's Centre

Summer Students

♀ Mary Jo MacDonald

Karen Ann Prosper

Income Tax Program

♀ Peggy Chisholm



Summer Students: Jane Miller and Mary Jo MacDonald
Missing from photo: Karen Ann Prosper



Visionary Women

Our Board of Directors

Nancy Forestell, Co-Chair

Meghan Mulcahy, Co-Chair

Cathy Cashen

Emily Kane

Kim MacDonald

Meghan MacGillivray-Case

Meaghan MacIntyre

Sarah O'Toole

Siomnach Lukeman

Susan Ross

Sanajan Sridharan

Volunteers with the Women's Centre

The work of our volunteers help make it possible to accomplish all that we do. We thank the dedicated group of women and men as well as the enthusiastic and committed service learning students who helped with office support, fundraising, facilitating programs, organizing events, and supporting projects.

We thank our students and community members who helped with office tasks on a weekly basis:

♀ Amber Henderson
 ♀ Jen Porter
 ♀ Kayleigh Trenholm
 ♀ Meagan Munroe
 ♀ Maari Singfield
 ♀ Molly Crosby

Awards and Recognition

Nancy Forestell, Co-Chair and longtime Board member was awarded the status of Full Professor at St. Francis Xavier University. Nancy teaches in the Department of History and Women's and Gender Studies. She is a powerful, committed advocate for social justice and equity.



Contact Us

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& Sexual Assault Services Association
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