

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, some with gradients, set against a white background.

Sexual Violence Prevention & Intervention Work Across the Tri Counties 2008 – 2017

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April 2008 to June 2009 – Status of Women Canada

- ▶ Project- **Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in South West Nova: Reducing the Harm/Reducing the Violence.**
 - ▶ Got the conversations on sexualized violence reignited across the tri counties
 - ▶ Focus groups with service providers/women/adolescent girls
- ▶ From these conversations, we developed:
 - A Sexual Violence Framework** that included approaches to sexual violence:
 - ▶ Prevention
 - ▶ Intervention
 - ▶ Harm reduction

March 2011 to March 2012 – Status of Women Canada

- ▶ **Project - Addressing Sexual Violence Prevention Through Civic Engagement and Resource Development**
 - ▶ Continued the conversations.
 - ▶ Organized forums to bring young women and service providers together to identify service needs to prevent sexual violence against young women.
 - ▶ Developed a sexual violence prevention tool kit – a number of these resources were developed by youth. As much as possible we had the kit in both languages.
 - ▶ Worked with young adults/ adolescents to assist in the development and presentations of workshops/ educational sessions on sexualized violence.

SWC – Project cont.

- ▶ Continued to explore the work identified in the our sexual violence framework and develop a more comprehensive model of practice we called “Blueprint of Services – Tri Counties”.
- ▶ Engaged in the development of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) – we looked at how we could potentially respond to a sexual assault using volunteers. Discussions with hospital/ RCMP/ Juniper House/ and a group of women who came forward to be trained.
- ▶ Advocated for the SANE Program in our region.

2013

Events and Decisions that Impacted Sexual Violence Prevention & Intervention Work in Nova Scotia:

- ▶ Rehtaeh Parsons took her life - April 7, 2013.
- ▶ Public awareness about sexualized violence/ cyber bullying is heightened.
- ▶ Juniper House & Chrysalis House (partner agency in the Valley) received two year funding through SWC for a project titled “Engaging Men & Boys in Ending Violence Against Women & Girls”.
- ▶ The Tri County Women's Health Coalition (TCWHC), a stakeholder group representing gov't and community - based services across the tri counties, became the advisory committee to the sexual violence work being organized across the tri counties.
- ▶ Provincial Gov't (NDP) formed an Action Team on Sexual Violence and Bullying – hosted a provincial forum (Halifax) June 21/ 13 and produced a report titled “ **Acting together: Responding to Sexualized Violence**”.

Fall 2013

- ▶ Provincial Government (NDP) committed financial resources under this initiative for communities to develop ***Community Models of Response to Sexual Violence.***
- ▶ On behalf of the tri county community, Women's Centre applied for funds and carried out stakeholder gatherings in each of the tri counties in September 2013.
- ▶ At the stakeholder forums in each of the three counties we worked on **Building a Collaborative Model of Practice (CMP) to Address Sexual Violence Prevention and Intervention Services.**
- ▶ The feedback from these three sessions informed what our approach for our ***Community Models of Response to Sexual Violence.*** would look like.

Change in provincial government

- ▶ When the Liberal Party took over governing the province, they honoured the commitment started by the NDP gov't, as well, committed additional funding to: 1) a NS Sexual Violence Strategy, and 2) the expansion of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program across Cape Breton and Western NS.

As the Nova Scotia Sexual Violence Strategy (NSSVS) was being developed, and prior to the strategy being announced publicly, the provincial gov't announced "**Demonstration Project**" funding. Tri County Women's Centre submitted an application on behalf of the community.

- ▶ **Demonstration Project funding** (January 2014 – March 2015) enabled us to:
 - ▶ Organized events around Sexual Violence Awareness Month (April).
 - ▶ Facilitate Healthy Relation for Youth (HRY) in 3 schools across the tri counties.
 - ▶ Using the SV Prevention Tool Kit, we did a number of presentations in schools and community.
 - ▶ Continued the discussions on the formation of Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs)
 - ▶ Continued to advocate for a community based SANE Program and for the program expansion model be the community – based Avalon Model.

- ▶ Organized a one day training session for service providers on trauma informed care.
- ▶ Organized a one day “by-stander training” and some people in our community were able to go to a training session in Antigonish.
- ▶ Hosted a Stop Porn Conference titled – **“Growing Up in Our Porn Culture”** - Dec. 10/11 - 2014.
- ▶ Hosted a tri county stakeholder gatherings in Feb./15 (serious snow storm) to share the work to date, and prioritize our work so we could develop a Logic Model to address sexual violence prevention and intervention.
- ▶ Through the TCWHC, the Logic Model was created and is used as the template for the work on sexualized violence across the tri counties.

Between March and December 2015 there is a break in funding.

- June 2015 – Provincial gov't announced the ***Nova Scotia Sexual Violence Strategy***.
- They titled the strategy "**Breaking the Silence – A Coordinated Response to Sexual Violence in Nova Scotia**".

Under the strategy, the provincial gov't committed to:

- Hiring a provincial coordinator
 - Forming two provincial working groups – Training and Public Awareness
 - Enhancing community – based response to intervention services across the nine "Community Support Network" (CSN) locations, with the Tri Counties being one CSN.
 - Providing prevention funding for specific projects
 - Expanding the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program
- Oct. 6 2015 - the TCWHC worked with the provincial SVS Coordinator to host a stakeholder forum for the tri counties (Hebron Rec. Centre) to discuss our priorities for enhancing our intervention services.
 - Based on the feedback from this all day session, the Tri County Women's Centre, under the guidance and support of the TCWHC, put in an application under the Community Support Network (CSN). We titled it the "**Sexual Violence Intervention Services Project**".

April 2016

- ▶ Our **“Sexual Violence Intervention Services Project”** funding started April 1st. to March 31st.- 2017. The funding is for one year, with the understanding there will be funding for a second year April 2017-March 2018, that we would have to apply for.
- ▶ **SANE Program** - In May our provincial gov't released their Request for Proposals (RFP) for entities to apply to coordinate and operationalize the expansion of the SANE Program across Cape Breton and Western NS. With the support and guidance from the TCWHC, the Women's Centre applied to be that entity. We were successful in that process and signed the RFP in July 2016.