

The Provincial Strategy on Sexual Assault Services

The Women's Issues Branch, in partnership with the Fredericton Sexual Assault Crisis Centre and communities across the province is building a strong voice for sexual assault prevention and enhancement of sexual assault services.

History of Provincial Strategy

The Fredericton Sexual Assault Centre (FSACC) is presently the only sexual assault crisis centre in the province. This has four main implications;

1. With 32 years of experience in responding to the needs of sexual assault victims, FSACC has naturally become a provincial resource for information, victim needs and prevention programming.
2. Victim support and crisis response specific to sexual assault is being done by a variety of other service providers within the context of their primary service offerings.
3. There is uncertainty as to what services are actually being offered and where service gaps might be.
4. There are no formal provincial standards of sexual assault service delivery in place.

In 2005, the provincial action "A Better World for Woman – Moving Forward 2005-2010" was announced. The potential to expand sexual assault awareness and service delivery across the Province was a central component of this action plan.

This leads us to today. The Provincial Strategy on Sexual Assault Services is the first step in increasing awareness and establishing services across NB.

The Vision of the Provincial Strategy

The vision of the provincial strategy is to recognize and utilize the expertise of established service providers, supporters and survivors in creating a comprehensive network of individuals and organizations involved with survivor response and the prevention of sexual assault. Through this network, information, best practices, tools, resources and support mechanisms could be shared. Key components of this vision are collaboration, resource sharing, survivor centred solutions and community based approach.

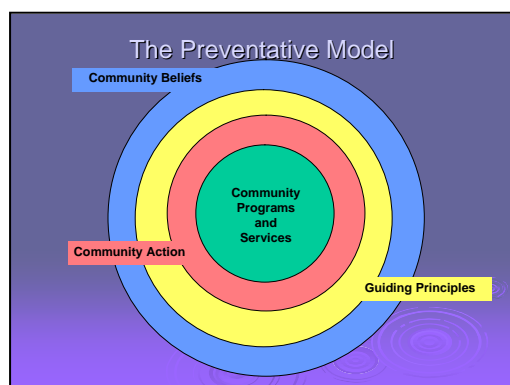
Goals of Provincial Approach

1. Enhance ability of communities to design, support and coordinate services for survivors of sexual assault
2. Promote initiatives aimed at changing attitudes and beliefs that foster misconceptions about sexual assault
3. Develop recommendations on policy changes, protocol development and training initiatives to respond to sexual assault

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The Preventative Model of the Provincial Strategy

Sexual assault is a complicated issue and its prevention requires action in many areas of community development. Below is a comprehensive diagram of those areas involved in the prevention process. This model was adapted from *"A Community Model for Addressing Sexual Violence in Antigonish County", June 1995*.



The first step of community development towards ending sexual assault is to ensure the community is aligned with established core beliefs of the issue. Fundamentally, these beliefs drive the overall direction of the preventative process.

Secondly, community groups involved in preventing sexual assault operate within a set of guiding principles. These principles are demonstrated in their interactions with each other, their organizational policies, procedures and processes and their client service delivery.

The role of a community in the prevention of sexual assault is to provide support to individuals and groups who are proactively involved in the issue and to raise awareness with those who are not actively involved in the issue. Some ways for a community to be active are;

- Public education programs to raise awareness of sexual assault and the importance of reporting relevant information.
- Input to politicians and government for statistical analysis and policy development
- A voice to advocate on behalf of survivors and the community itself
- Training and development opportunities for community leaders, volunteers and service providers
- Coordination of services to victims, families and the public to ensure consistency of service levels.
- Evaluation of service and programs and community assessment analysis.

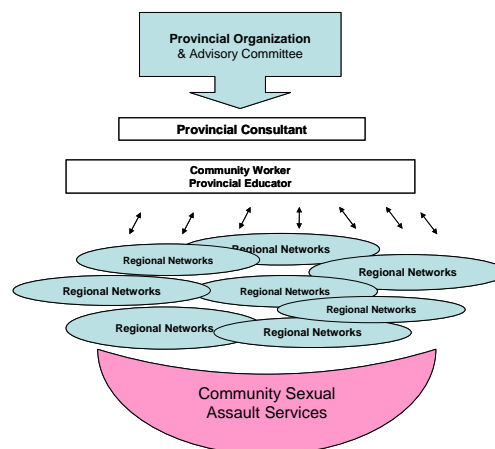
The Provincial Organization

In developing the infrastructure to implement the provincial strategy it was important to use a community development model; a grassroots approach that reflects community needs and community response.

Any provincial body focused on a provincial response to sexual assault awareness, training and education and service delivery advocacy is required to be connected to the front line.

The Provincial Strategy on Sexual Assault Services

The provincial organization for implementing this strategy is presently comprised of provincial staff, an advisory committee of front line and community workers, established regional networks and the service providers within communities.



Community-Based Implementation

In keeping with the community based approach, we will

- Address service delivery issues as a group
- Recognize the role of community agencies, government departments, institutions, etc.
- Identify resources and sharing information on what currently exists in each region.
- Build the strengths of services currently offered and develop a strategy to address gaps in services.
- Obtain feedback from networks on protocol, policy and advocacy procedures
- Identify resources needed to carry out and sustain action plans/community models of service delivery.

Desired Outcomes

Ultimately, the provincial strategy will provide the opportunity to build

1. A Provincial Communication Network – within communities, between communities, to regional networks, to provincial groups, to government bodies
2. Provincial Advisory Committee – to support implementation and ongoing preventative strategies
3. Community Network Forums – to obtain “grass roots” feedback and distribute information
4. Training, Educational and Service Delivery resources – for survivors, the public and service providers
5. Standardized provincial policies, protocols and practices



The Provincial Strategy on Sexual Assault Services

Current and upcoming activities

- A **training forum** in Fredericton on November 13,14 for those interested in enhancing sexual assault services in their community and, networking with other communities;
- A **provincial scan on sexual assault** to be used to enhance community capacity to offer sexual assault services and programs; and, present a larger picture of sexual assault in New Brunswick.
- A project working to establish **provincial policy on sexual assault** using a grassroots approach. In partnership with this Status of Women Canada funded project and the provincial strategy on sexual assault, key stakeholders working towards a comprehensive provincial sexual assault strategy begin with a strategic forum in January 2008.

Five Year Objectives*

Year One: April 1st, 2005 – March 31st, 2006

- 🌱 "A Better World for Women" outlines strategic direction for the provincial strategy
- 🌱 FSACC prepares to implement a provincial office, creates transition plans.
- 🌱 Network development begins.

Year Two: April 1st, 2006 – March 31st, 2007

- 🌱 Network development continues. Community visits begin.
- 🌱 Community Assessment kit is developed and disseminated.
- 🌱 Planning begins for the Fall Training event.
- 🌱 Policy project is in initial stages.

Year Three: April 1st, 2007 – March 31st, 2008

- 🌱 Service delivery guide is created.
- 🌱 Evaluation tools regarding minimum core services are developed and implemented.
- 🌱 Second training event (community-identified) planning begins.
- 🌱 Communications and media kit created.
- 🌱 Planning begins for Comprehensive Sexual Assault Strategic Forum
- 🌱 Policy workshop held, manual created and distributed.

Year Four: April 1st, 2008 – March 31st, 2009

- 🌱 Communication and media kit implemented.
- 🌱 Community based programs and services are phased in.
- 🌱 Sexual assault prevention train-the-trainer toolkit developed.
- 🌱 Policy implementation plan developed.

Year Five: April 1st, 2009 – March 31st, 2010

- 🌱 Train the trainer workshop on sexual assault prevention education is delivered.
- 🌱 Continued phase-in and ongoing evaluation of programs and services.
- 🌱 Final evaluation report written and submitted.

* The objectives and activities are flexible and may change to respond to priorities identified by stakeholders and communities.