



Breaking the Silence

A Coordinated Response to
Sexual Violence in Nova Scotia

Setting the Context – Sexual Violence Strategy Overview

- DCS 101
- Introduction, Definition, Principles – Sexual Violence Strategy
- Approach
- Current Situation & What we Heard
- Youth Voices
- Areas of Action
 - Services & Supports
 - Prevention, Awareness & Education
 - Approach & Accountability

DCS 101

Overall Budget: \$300M
Number of Staff: 100
Number of Clients: 5,400
Number of Service Providers: 100+

Overall budget: \$387.4M
Number of People in Housing Units: 18,000
Number of Housing Units: 11,560
Number of Rent Supplement Units: 400

Employment Support and Income Assistance

Disability Support Program

Child, Youth and Family Supports

Housing Nova Scotia

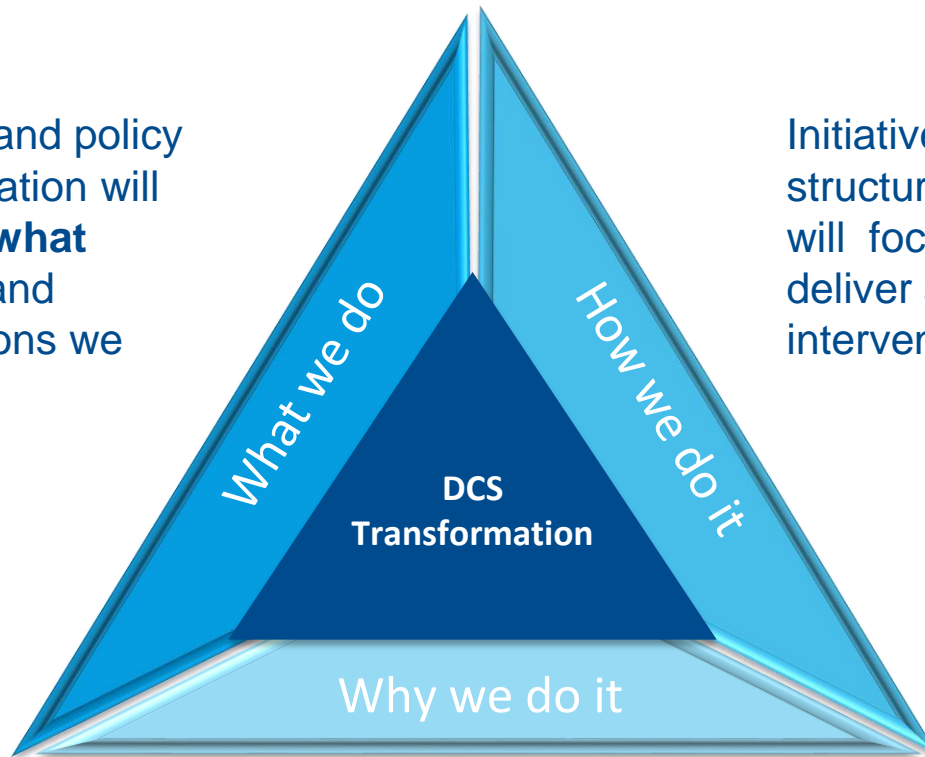
Overall Budget: \$385.4M
Number of Staff: 423
of Households Receiving IA: 29,000
Total # of Beneficiaries: 41,400
Average Cost: \$870/month

Overall Budget: \$142.2M
Number of Staff: 815
Number of Children in Minister's Care: 1000
Number of Service Providers: 92

What Are We Doing About It?

Program and policy transformation will focus on **what** services and interventions we provide.

Initiatives to renew our structure and operations will focus on **how** we deliver services and interventions.



An Outcomes Framework will focus and prioritize efforts on work that will achieve better outcomes for clients.

The Results We Want to Achieve

Outcomes for Nova Scotians (Client)

- Clients have control over their own lives
- Clients are able to meet their basic needs
- Clients are safe from abuse and violence
- Clients are included in the community
- Clients are attached to the labour market

Outcomes for the Department (System)

- Supports and services are affordable and sustainable
- Supports and services are delivered efficiently
- System of supports and services is a balanced mix of prevention and intervention
- Supports and services are accessible
- DCS staff and delivery partners are empowered to make a positive difference in people's lives

Some of our major accomplishments to date

- ✓ Transformed the operating model of the department
 - Regional management structure
 - Program oversight
 - Accountability
- ✓ Made significant amendments to the *Children Family Services Act (CFSA)*
- ✓ Increased prevention/early intervention programming across the province to support NS families
- ✓ Launched sexual violence prevention strategy – *Breaking the Silence*
- ✓ Engaged hundreds of staff and over 200 community stakeholders about the future of the Employment Support and Income Assistance program
- ✓ Moved approximately 60 clients to community-based disability support programs from larger settings
- ✓ Developed an outcomes management framework to guide the transformation of the department
- ✓ Completed RFP processes to hire professional services support for transformation in our Employment Support and Income Assistance (ESIA) program and our Children Family Services (CYFS) program

Our progress made to date has allowed DCS to set and seek endorsement of strategic direction in all program areas

DCS Transformation

Employment Support & Income Assistance

Disability Support Program

Child, Youth and Family Supports

Standards, Risk Management & Oversight

Phase 1 – Accomplishments

DSP

- Plan for enhanced Independent Living Support
- Employability plan (adult service centers)
- Plan for community residential services
- Report to inform Accessibility Legislation
- Rate review for new DSP programming

ESIA

Established the strategic future direction of the traditional welfare system.

CYFS

- Moved forward with amendments to the *Children Family Services Act*
- Assessed Foster Parent program changes
- Developed a plan for youth at risk

Departmental

- Began development and implementation of the department's new operating model
- Assessed internal control and risk management practices
- Developed the outcomes measurement framework

Phase 2 – Work In Progress

DSP

- Re-design the community residential model
- Implement employability improvements
- Complete regulation changes
- Design a future DSP funding model

ESIA

- Design a modernized welfare system
- Assess/implement opportunities to make our system more administratively simple
- Conduct public consultation

CYFS

- **Implement CFSA amendments**
- Design a detailed family support framework
- Define a program and service delivery strategy for youth at risk
- Implement improvements for foster parents

Departmental

- Continued development and implementation of the new operating model; implement internal controls
- Design a service delivery model
- Design and begin implementing multi-year funding agreements*

*This will happen with select organizations only.

Child, Youth and Family Supports

CYFS

Phase 1 Accomplishments

- Moved forward with amendments to the *Children Family Services Act (CFSA)*
- Informed by *Dialogue with Foster Parents* report, assessed changes required in order to improve Foster Parent program (including improved retention; recruitment)
- Developed a plan for Youth at Risk - assessed challenges; considered opportunities for change
- Developed a vision and conceptual framework to re-frame CYFS programs/services to focus on prevention and early intervention
- Released government's Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy – *Breaking the Silence* – committing to several years of prevention activities; hired a provincial specialist

Phase 2 – Work Underway

- Passed and will now implement over 80 amendments to the *CFSA*
- Completed extensive consultation on proposed *CFSA* amendments
- Enhancing our prevention and early intervention efforts to prevent children, youth and families at risk
 - Twelve new Parenting Journey sites
 - Ten-module parenting program for African Nova Scotian parents
 - Two intensive family preservation pilots
- Designing and implementing improvements to the Foster Parent program, including streamlined reimbursement processes and improved after hours and respite support
- Defining a program and service delivery strategy for youth at risk
- Implementing “Year 2” Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy activities, including:
 - Hosted 9 Community Support Network workshops
 - Initiated trauma-informed training (811 and 211)
 - Created Prevention and Innovation grants
 - Developing a public awareness campaign

Definition & Principles

Definition:

- Guided by World Health Organization

'..any sexual act, attempt to obtain sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting'

Principles:

- *Strategy is about people*
- *We have to work together with a unified voice*
- *We can do it*

Approach: Community Engagement

- A community-engagement approach to addressing sexual violence is needed to bring a clear, coordinated, strong, united voice to this issue.
- Shared Responsibility and leadership
- Not just consultation
- We all need one another to address this problem
- Co-design key elements of the strategy
- Strong leaders, skills, knowledge, experience in the community
- Rural and Urban
- Diversity, create space for marginalized voices

Current Situation & What we Heard



Current Situation:

- Significantly under-reported issue
- 647 sexual assaults reported to police in 2013
- Impacts children and youth disproportionately effected
- Statistical data limits comprehensive understanding of impact

What we Heard:

- Services are not coordinated, accessible, inclusive or visible
- Need for new approach for service delivery
- Consistency in public awareness & education
- Lack of understanding around issue of consent

Specific to Service Delivery



Counselling and Support:

Victims require increased access to counseling options and services which are more immediate, inclusive culturally, competent and trauma informed.



Visibility:

Victims and survivors of sexual violence, along with their allies, need to be able to identify appropriate services and know where to connect for support. Support should be anonymous and available for those who do not choose to report to police.



Navigation Support:

Victims and survivors require support navigating systems and sectors and must have a clear path to follow. The path must be marked with shared standards, protocols, choices and clearly defined roles and responsibilities.



Safe Spaces & Nonjudgmental Services:

Victims and survivors require safe spaces – physical and emotional – to discuss their experiences. They require compassionate services across sectors, systems and agencies. Victims and survivors need to be believed.



SANE and Medical Services:

Victims and survivors need access to the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program and to appropriate medical services.



Youth Engagement

The Province sought the help of the HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development and Leaders of Today to engage over 100 youth from various backgrounds in 14 safe and inclusive sessions throughout the province. This document reflects some of the key themes participants shared with us. We are grateful to the youth who participated in the provincial sessions, and to their adult supporters for their time and commitment to this issue.

YOUNG AGE IS A RISK FACTOR FOR BOTH BEING A VICTIM AND A PERPETRATOR OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE. ACCORDING TO 2009 STATS CANADA DATA (GSS), 47% OF VICTIMS WERE 15-24 AND IN MORE THAN HALF OF THE REPORTED INCIDENTS PERPETRATORS WERE 18-34.

Youth want to talk!

“Don’t talk at us.
Engage us in
conversation.”

Areas of Action

Actions have been identified under the three categories:

1. Services & Supports
2. Prevention, Public Education, Awareness
3. Approach & Accountability

Supports & Services

Help people get help faster

- Offer specialized training and support to existing support lines to ensure 24/7 support for victims – 811, 211 and possibly others
- Apply new technology to provide immediate and anonymous support to victims

Expand SANE Program

- Two additional sites – Sydney & Western area of Province through \$700K investment from DHW

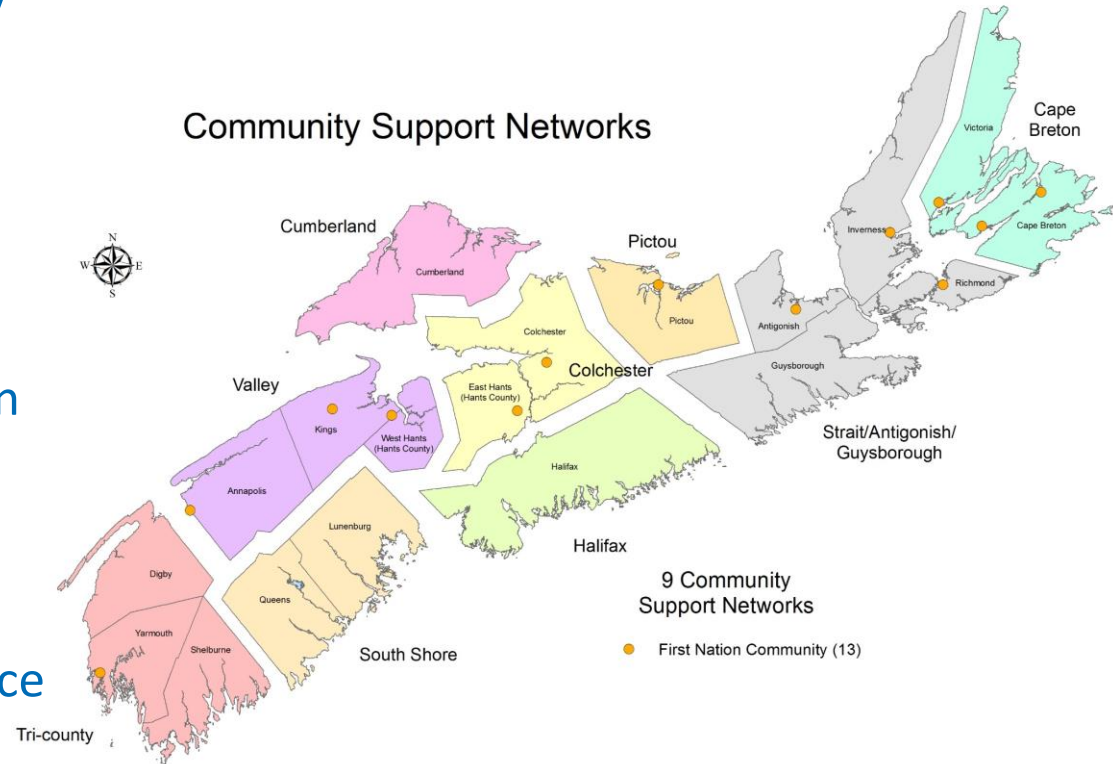
Develop funding framework for existing Sexual Assault Centres

- Set up a multi-year funding framework to enable better planning and service delivery

Supports & Services

Build on existing community support networks:

- Enhance community-based response in 9 areas across the province by coordinating counselling and support, visibility of services, navigation support, safe spaces & non-judgmental services
- Create/expand asset & resource maps of community-based services



CSN Workshops

Date	Location	Number of Participants
Sept 15 & 16	Port Hawkesbury	24
Sept 17 & 18	Sydney	24
Sept 21 & 22	Amherst	15
Sept 25 & Oct 2	Kentville	17
Sept 29 & 30	Truro	13
Oct 6	Yarmouth	26
Oct 8 & 9	New Glasgow	10
Oct 13 & 14	Bridgewater	22
Oct 15, 16 & 27	Halifax Region	56
		207

CSN Workshops

- \$ 1.25 million investment
- Divided up equitably across the province – each region has a guaranteed amount to work with
- \$45,000 specifically for increased access
- Used Appreciative Inquiry to guide service providers and stakeholders in collaboratively determining how to use these funds
- Through a proposal writing process, submit their action plans
- Proposals are now in the final stages of evaluation and regions will have confirmation by the end of January

CSN Workshops



Prevention, Public Education, Awareness

Provincial Committee on Public Awareness

- Create public awareness media campaign
- Develop resources that are community based and culturally appropriate

Provincial Committee on Training

- Develop training materials on sexual violence across sectors
- Lay foundation for a provincial training network
- Incorporate needs from Community Support Network

Establish Prevention Innovation Fund

- Invest to support community based prevention initiatives, expand best practices, better research & evaluation, and better use of technology
- Assist youth groups to reach out to peers in innovative ways
- Support marginalized populations including African Nova Scotians, First Nations, and the LGBTQ community
- Deadline January 15, 2016
- 1-year, non-renewable
- 2 streams, up to \$5,000 & up to \$50,000
- Total \$600,000 per year for 2 years
- Workshops to help youth apply

Sexual Violence Strategy
Prevention Innovation Grants
Grants up to \$50,000 available
\$600,000 in total

HELP STOP SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Together
we can prevent
sexual violence
from happening
in our communities.

Do **you** have a creative way
to reach out to your peers?
Do **you** have a new idea for
how to prevent sexual violence?
We want to fund it!

Deadline is January 15, 2016

Download the application form
novascotia.ca/coms/svs/prevention-innovation-fund.asp
Questions? Email strategy@novascotia.ca

 NOVA SCOTIA

 NOVA SCOTIA

Approach & Accountability

Establish Inter-Departmental Committee

- Inventory government policies/processes; align as necessary to support prevention and support services

Provincial Specialist

- Oversee implementation of actions and engagement activities
- Produce annual reports and outcomes
- Help to ensure that Sexual Violence Prevention stays a key focus