



(Be the) PEACE TALKS

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www.bethepeace.ca

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Be the Peace is a 3-year project of Second Story Women's Centre
www.secstory.com

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Links to Explore:

www.bethepeace.ca
on Twitter @bethepeace1
www.onebillionrising.org
www.secstory.com
www.harbourhousebw.com

Dear Peace Makers:

We hope this summer finds you well and enjoying a more relaxed pace. As always, we are so appreciative of your support in the work to create healthy, peaceful relationships and can never fully express our gratitude for all your help, encouragement, expertise and collaboration.

We are pleased to be able to update you regarding our accomplishments this year, and our plans and hopes for the remaining 7 months of the project, (ending March 31, 2015). It feels as though many of our efforts are coming to fruition, and we know we could not have done it without so many individual, community, private and government partners.

We have had 3 main areas of focus:

1- Youth, Schools and Parents:

- This year, in partnership with the school board, Schools Plus, 7 different schools, Sexual Health Centre, Second Story and Antigonish Women's Centres, government and community organizations, we had contact with **almost 1000 Grade 6-12 students** about healthy/unhealthy relationships, gender stereotypes, violence and sexual assault prevention.

We held grade-specific youth forums, arranged for the Grade

9 Healthy Relationships for Youth curriculum in 2 schools, participated in assemblies, including one with Jackson Katz (www.jacksonkatz.com) and hosted several Mermaid Youth theatre performances (www.mermaidtheatre.ca/general-info/youththeatre/).

- We co-hosted **Parent Cafes** at 3 additional schools, designed for parents and school staff to engage in deeper conversations about their common challenges in raising and educating young people in a complex and demanding world. Frequent comments were: "Wow, there is support available," "I realize I am not alone," " People were so open," "We all care about the same things."

2- Police, Justice and Community:

- This year our efforts with partners in restorative justice have turned to the South Shore Safe Communities Initiative in forming a sub-committee to establish a **Community Dispute Resolution Centre**. Once established and funded, this centre would provide mediation, education, support and other restorative practices to community members seeking to resolve conflicts peacefully while also fostering good relationships. Stay tuned as this unfolds.
- The **Partners in Justice** group (currently comprised of representatives from Policing, Crown Attorney's Office, Department of Community Services, Probation Services, Department of Justice as well as a number of community-based organizations) is exploring ways the justice system can avoid retraumatizing women who report abuse and go through the court system. Survivor advocates have joined us in suggesting changes in this area, with increased attention to protecting women, holding offenders accountable and reducing stereotypes.

3- Men, Women and People:

- **Gather the People** met several times, engaging men and women in conversations together about gender stereotypes and challenging dynamics. We discovered these are very challenging conversations! This group is on hiatus now, but **Gather the Men** continues to meet regularly and will explore more deeply together with a colleague and facilitator this summer.

In our final year, here are some additional things we're excited about:

- **A Regional Youth Forum in October 2014**

Tentative dates are: October 23rd and 24th

Over 2 days, youth from Lunenburg/Queens Counties will explore and learn together with supportive adults about healthy relationships, preventing sexual violence, youth culture/music/media and the impact on relationships, intimacy, gender roles and stereotypes. Youth participants will have support to create and lead their own initiatives in their schools and communities. We are in the planning stages with South Shore Regional School Board, Schools Plus, and LOT (Leaders of Today) facilitators from HeartWood. **If you or a young person you know would like to be involved, let us know!**

- **Healthy Relationships for Youth Grade 9 curriculum**

Second Story Women's Centre is managing this program in partnership with the School Board and Principals. They have received funding from the Canadian Women's Foundation (www.canadianwomen.org) to expand this curriculum into 2 additional schools starting in September.

- **Parent Cafes**

Collaborative efforts between parents and schools have never been so important to guiding, educating and supporting young people in navigating the complex social, technological, academic challenges they face.

Parent Cafes are currently scheduled at:

- **Bluenose Academy-- October 8th, 6:00- 8:00 pm**
- **Bayview Community School-- September 25th, 6:30- 8:30 pm**
- **New Germany Elementary School-- date to be announced**

Contact us or the school for more information.

- **Boy Programming**

Research suggests engaging with boys is a key factor in preventing violence in relationships. In partnership with HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development (www.heartwood.ns.ca/) we have applied for Provincial funding to conduct programs for Grade 9 boys in selected schools. This would offer boys the opportunity to explore perspectives on masculinity, identities, self-esteem, emotions, relationships, and healthy practices. Programs for girls would run concurrently, with opportunity for all to be together and share what they've learned.

- **Neighbours, Friends and Families**

With other community partners, we are bringing presentations to workplaces/employers to build awareness of intimate partner violence, how it impacts workers and work environments, and support in crafting appropriate responses and policies.

- **[Sexual Assault Services](#)**

Supporting the work of Second Story and Harbour House in 2 projects to develop and implement dedicated sexual assault services in Lunenburg/Queens Counties through shared protocols and formal agreements among all service providers. Project Coordinators for this exciting project are Stacey Godsoe (staceygodsoe@gmail.com) and Dianne Crowell (janesfund@janesfund.org).

- **[Video Project- Myths, Stereotypes and Complexities](#)**

We are working on a proposal to create a video to address myths, stereotypes and the complexities of domestic and intimate partner violence through the voices and stories of women survivors and service providers. Stay tuned as we apply for funding to proceed.

What Next?

With less than a year left to the Be the Peace funding, we are exploring what sort of ***community-based structure*** can be developed to continue the dedicated work of sustaining collaborative partnerships to prevent gender-based violence and promote peaceful relationships and communities for the long term. **If you are a strategic thinker and would like to contribute to this conversation, we need your help!** Please be in touch: helen@bethepeace.ca; sue@bethepeace.ca

New Links

- **Documentary trailer: "Private Violence" premiered at Sundance Film Festival**
<http://privateviolence.com/index.html#about>

<http://privateviolence.com/press---news.html> (for a news report, excerpt and interview, scroll down, next to Democracy Now)

- **Kielberger brothers- Teaching Respect for Women**
<http://www.weday.com/global-voices/teaching-respect-women-power-dads-hands/>
- **Dear Harvard: You Win..... A Sexual Assault on Campus**
<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2014/3/31/Harvard-sexual-assault/?page=1#.Uzo0a2pBkH9.twitter>
- **Coming Out of Closets** <https://www.upworthy.com/a-4-year-old-girl-asked-a-lesbian-if-shes-a-boy-she-responded-the-awesomest-way-possible?c=ufb2>
- **Youngsters who suffer abuse – Kristen McLeod PhD IWK**
<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/61597-suffer-little-children>
- **How do you deal with a drunk girl passed out...**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sOXN_80ohM&feature=youtu.be

What Can You Do?

- Send us feedback/ideas: sue@bethepeace.ca
or helen@bethepeace.ca
- Let us know if you want to be involved in the conversations and action initiatives.
- Connect us with other people who'd like to be involved.
- Forward this message to friends, family, co-workers so they can subscribe by contacting us.
- Continue to 'be the peace' that we all yearn for. Wage peace in your own heart, among your family and friends, at home, at work, in school, wherever you are!

- Refer someone in need of support, services, safety planning to:

Second Story Women's Centre, 543-1315 or 640-3044
Harbour House Transition House 1-888-543-3999 (24 hrs.)
Alternatives Institute (Men's Intervention), 543-7444

Unsubscribe: If you no longer wish to receive communication from Be the Peace, please e-mail sue@bethepeace.ca and we will remove you from our distribution lists.

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