

- **Have you carried-out a formal evaluation of the project?**

Yes  No

**If yes, what were the major conclusions/highlights of the evaluation? Please attach a copy of the evaluation.**

See attached, "Be the Peace Evaluation Report- Final May 2015."

- **If you employed a particular model/approach in the implementation of your project, describe how the model you used was a good fit or not for you targeted population group / community?**

It was clear to us from the start that this project could not solely focus on service providers and formal organizations, but that it had to be inclusive of community members as key stakeholders, regardless of affiliation, and also informed by and accountable to women and survivors. Our approach, which worked extremely well for us, was to 'gather the community' in order to formulate our mandate according to priorities they identified and energy they were willing to devote, and as our primary action teams in the form of working groups. These groups were open invitations to anyone who wished to contribute, of any age, gender, culture, and also offered some key connections to their organizational affiliations. We gather the broader community at various intervals to affirm or alter the mandate, report back, make new connections.

Also instrumental was the facilitation of all our events using various 'engagement technologies' proven successful in truly involving people's minds, hearts and energy for action. These included Appreciative Inquiry, Open Space Technology, World Café, Circles, Open System Theory, Complexity Science and Simple Rules tool, small group conversations, Genuine Contact, including the Medicine Wheel Tool, group safety agreements, clear intention and purpose, as well as creativity, arts, music, poetry and spoken word, dance and movement, ceremony/ritual, and honouring the ancestry of our Mi'kmaq territory.

Our integral inclusion of survivors of IPV, meant we always had their voices/perspectives in the room, without any requirement for them to disclose publicly, although many chose to disclose of their own volition. We tended to creating safe-enough spaces for everyone to participate who wished to.

We also tapped into the media events on the issue, (Jyoti Singh in India, Retaeh Parsons, Jian Ghomeshi, Bill Cosby, scandals at local universities and in sports) and seized those as opportunities to convene conversations, take action, create possibilities for people to learn, understand and talk to one another and to take social/political action together.

We also assumed there were potential partners and allies in organizations, agencies, business, government departments, who care about positive change in the area of IPV, and we worked tirelessly to find and engage them as partners.

- **Describe lessons learned that may be useful to similar future projects (e.g. program management, implementation, models, results, strategies, etc.). What, if anything, would be done differently?**

See attached, "Lessons Learned."

- **For each partnership describe the nature and extent of collaboration that were developed during this initiative.**

- **What effects did the partnerships have on the delivery of the project?**

The partnerships were key to the project. As its mandate was to develop a coordinated community response to violence against women and girls, it would not have achieved any of its outcomes without the development of strong, effective and ongoing partnerships. Major partnerships were developed with survivors, our local Transition House and Sexual Health Centre, women and boys, youth and parents, the Education, Health and Justice Systems, both policing services, the Department of Community Services, service-providing organizations, each of our 5 Municipal governments, the provincial government and the business community. The results were shared learnings about the issue of violence against women, gender issues, and power and privilege and their impacts on individuals and organizations. Partners committed to the work and began the slow process of reflection and change within their own lives and/or organizations.

- **Is there potential for future collaborative work on these issues?** Definitely, yes.

In schools, Healthy Relationships for Youth will continue as a partnership between Second Story Women's Centre (SSWC) and the South Shore Regional School Board (SSRSB) with support from other Women's Centres and funding partners; as will gender-specific Healthy Living classes in partnership with SSRSB, HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development and funding partners; Parent Cafes are continuing in some schools; and there is possibility for another youth forum through the Municipal Alcohol Project, a partnership between 2 Municipal units and South Shore Health District and Public Health.

Sexual Assault Services development for Lunenburg/Queens Counties is ongoing among a host of committed service provider agencies, coordinated by SSWC, Harbour House and funding partners.

The HUB model is developing its terms of references and protocols for ongoing, regular collaborative case management of all services in the region, with strong commitment of service provider agencies and leadership by local police agencies and SSWC.

Ongoing establishment of a Community Dispute Resolution Centre under the auspices of South Shore Safe Communities and in partnership with South Shore Community Justice Society, SSWC, Harbour House, police, municipal councils, and interested citizens.

A proposal for funding has been submitted to embark on a pilot project with many committed local, Provincial, government and academic partners, to alter the justice system approach to IPV to be more survivor-centred, trauma-informed, to achieve greater justice and accountability, and decrease recidivism in IPV/DV situations.

- **Describe the extent to which partners have been impacted or advanced the issue within their respective organizations.**

A number of partners in community, policing, family and children services, school board/schools, municipal and provincial government, health and wellness and public health have told us how they and their work have been changed/impacted by the project.

Please see comments below, gathered from partners through a "Deep Dialogue Interview" process.

#### Survivors:

- "BTP was very important for me at that time. It brought my survivor path and spiritual path together in the same space..... It allowed me to integrate parts of myself I didn't know I needed."
- "There was value in "first voices" (survivors) being able to speak to power and authority figures. That doesn't happen easily."
- "When I started to crash, there were still glimpses of life around me, that there were people trying to make change. With the very gentle, undemanding support that was being offered, I could examine safely things that I could not examine before."
- "Respectful treatment of all has meant movement at all levels. Giving voice to those who

- **Below is the original description for your project.**

This 36-month project will address the range of institutional barriers and other factors that limit community efforts to address the issue of violence against women and girls, including sexual assault, in rural communities and small urban centres. This project will build lasting collaborations between community stakeholders (e.g., tri-level government representation, community leaders, women's and community organizations, service providers, legal institutions and law enforcement agencies, etc.) to identify and respond to the specific needs of women and girls.

This project will target the population in Lunenburg County and neighbouring communities. It will benefit a broad age range of people from young women to men of school age to seniors.

**Update/rewrite your project description so that it reflects activities completed and results achieved. Use the revised project description to highlight the 2-3 major achievements of your project.**

Using a grassroots, community engagement model, this 36-month project will build strong collaborations among stakeholders and partners, (survivors, local and provincial governments, community leaders, women's services and other community organizations, service providers, men, and the Education, Health and Justice systems, including policing, to respond to violence against women in rural communities.

It will provide a feminist framework and a gender lens for the work in order to identify and respond to the specific needs of women and girls, considering the myriad of social, cultural and economic forces that influence those needs and perspectives.

It will identify and mitigate the institutional barriers and other factors that limit collaborative efforts to address the issue in a coordinated manner. This project will target the population in Lunenburg County and neighbouring communities. It will benefit a broad age range of people from youth to seniors, and those of all genders.

Major Achievements:

- **Partnerships with Youth, Parents, Schools and the South Shore Regional School Board:** As a result of the project, strong partnerships have been formed with stakeholders across the education system. The barriers that previously existed due to a lack of understanding of each other's roles have been broken down, resulting in significantly more programming in several schools, particularly Grades 6- 9.

Specifically, the **Healthy Relationships for Youth** program, which engages Grades 10-12 students to co-facilitate curriculum-based Healthy Living classes for Grade 9 students, is now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year and in 4 of 5 Grade 9-12 schools.

In 2 other schools, **12-week gender-specific classes** for female-identified and male-identified students in Grades 7-9, linked to healthy living curriculum has been instituted as a partnership between Second Story Women's Centre, HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development and with funding partner The United Way.

**Parent Cafes** have been another significant outcome at 5 different schools, bringing parents, school staff, principals and vice principals together in facilitated conversations about issues of mutual concern for children and youth.

A two day **Youth Forum** entitled **VOYSS**

- **Any additional comments:**

It has been an honour and a privilege to be a part of this work in our community with the many committed champions who are working for positive change. We have been continually inspired and called to work hard to see their efforts for our collective good come to fruition.