

Chrysalis House Association and Juniper House (Southwest Nova Transition House Association)

ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS IN ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

is an initiative of Status of Women Canada and we are part of a network of organizations across Canada working on parallel projects.



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Chrysalis House Association, based in Kentville, and Juniper House (Southwest Nova Transition House Association), based in Yarmouth, are spearheading this two-year project across our catchment area, which ranges from West Hants to Shelburne counties.

In addition to an extensive review of existing research and evaluations of projects from other parts of the world, we will be consulting extensively in Fall of 2013 with local organizations and individuals to assess both the needs and resources of our communities so that we can develop and implement activities that are truly relevant to our own local areas.

We already have a good base of committed partner organizations, and we welcome more to join us on this journey.

We have hired Bruce Dienes, Ph.D. as our project coordinator, a half-time position. Bruce has a background in Community Psychology and has extensive experience working with men on gender issues, with project management, with designing and teaching group facilitation training, with research, and with project management and project evaluation.

All of the information from the needs assessment and the assets map will be combined to choose an engagement model suited to our community to address the engagement of men and boys in our community to end violence against women and girls. The project coordinator will develop an evaluation framework based on the needs assessment results and the chosen engagement model. Any model chosen or adaptation undertaken will ensure activities and materials are inclusive and reflective of the participants respecting their diversity, background and experiences.

Once the needs assessment and community/literature/media scan are completed, we will move into the delivery and implementation phase of the project. Men and boys, women and girls will be trained as volunteer facilitators and will use this model to reach school, college and university students to share information about violence against women and how men and boys can work with women and girls to address this issue in their community. It will also be during this phase that we pilot the partnership between Chrysalis House and male volunteers within our shelter and children's outreach program. The training and partnerships will be developed and implemented in a way that will educate and empower boys and girls, men and women to take action in their own lives to reduce and eliminate violence against women and girls.

All information will be developed and communicated from a gender based analysis that makes clear the need for a gendered approach to the issue. This may include but is not limited to; the use of statistics that are presented in an accessible format; support in the use of language that indicates a gender analysis; use of already existing programs and partnerships that use a gender based approach, such as the Nova Scotia launch of the "Neighbours, Friends and Families" program.

Our intention is that our extensive network of partners will ensure that this work continues beyond the end of the project, and continues to enhance the health and well-being of our communities into the future.

For more information, see our web site at <http://cjproject.engagingmenandboys.ca>