



promoting a humane, equitable and effective criminal justice system

Dalhousie Restorative Justice Pilot Project

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Dalhousie University, the Halifax Regional Police, and the Nova Scotia Department of Justice have established a unique partnership to develop and evaluate a model of pre- and post-charge restorative justice approaches for Dalhousie University students who commit specified offences in the Halifax Regional Police catchment area.

The pilot program, the first of its kind in the country, aims to reduce the number of cases involving Dalhousie University students from entering the formal criminal justice system; improve relations between the wider community and Dalhousie University through the involvement of community participation in restorative practices; and increase victim satisfaction through the actions taken to hold the Dalhousie University students accountable for their negative behaviours.

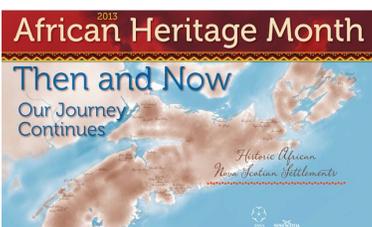
Resources and support for the pilot have been committed by Dalhousie University, Halifax Regional Police and the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program. The Nova Scotia Department of Justice, through its contracted Customary Law Program provider, the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network, will provide culturally appropriate restorative approaches for students identified as Aboriginal.



The two-year pilot program began accepting referrals in the summer of 2012. An evaluation is being conducted by Dr. Don Clairmont, Director of the Atlantic Institute of Criminology. *(Pictured at announcement: Dalhousie President Tom Traves, HRP Deputy Chief Bill Moore, Justice Minister Ross Landry)*

Special Points of Interest:

- NSCJA Spring Learning Event—May 10, 2013 at SMU
- Lighthouses Grant Applications are being accepted until February 28th. Details at <http://novascotia.ca/just/Prevention/>



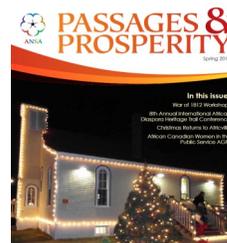
African Heritage Month 2013

African Heritage Month is a celebration of the progress, longevity and perseverance of African Nova Scotians.

This year's theme "Then & Now: Our Journey Continues" focuses on Nova Scotia's communities and the changes that have oc-

curred over time. It is a chance to acknowledge the gains made and examine what needs to be done to ensure a bright future.

Check out the full African Nova Scotia Newsletter for more articles and event notices.



<http://ansa.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/files/ANSANewsletter-Spring2013.pdf>



Crime Free Multi-Housing Program



In the spring of 2012 the Atlantic Community Safety Association (ACSA)* in partnership with the RCMP and the Halifax Regional Police introduced the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program (CFMH) in Atlantic Canada. This crime prevention program originated in Arizona in 1992 and was brought to New Westminster, BC in 1994. The CFMH Program, which was piloted in Halifax, NS, has to date offered Atlantic Canadians four workshops where 72 apartment managers/owners and police officers were trained to implement the Program. On December 5th, the first building in Atlantic Canada was certified under the CFMH Program.

CFMH is a solution oriented crime prevention initiative designed to specifically

help apartment owners, managers, residents, police and other agencies to work together to keep illegal and nuisance activity off rental property.

CFMH is a three phase program which includes:

- training for managers and police
- inspection of rental properties to ensure they meet the program's crime prevention standards, and
- an annual Safety Social hosted by the property manager which provides an opportunity for the building's tenants to learn crime prevention tips.

Following successful completion of the three phases, management will earn a right to post signs saying they have joined the Crime Free Multi-Housing program and may use the CFMH logo for marketing purposes.

To learn more visit acsa-asca.org or email:

cfmhatlantic@gmail.com

*ACSA was formerly known as the Atlantic Coordinating Committee on Crime Prevention and Community Safety (ACC)

Cost of Policing

Criminal justice officials are expressing increased concern about the rise in policing costs. Over the past 25 years policing services' operating expenditures have increased by 260% (93% in constant \$2002). At the Summit on the Economics of Policing, held January 16-17, 2013, Public Safety Minister Vic Toews stated that the soaring costs cannot be sustained.

The problem is not unique to Canada. Justice administrators in the United States and Britain have instituted massive cuts to policing budgets in an attempt to stem the rising costs. At a

time when law enforcement faces significant pressures to deal with new and increasingly complex forms of crime, finding ways to streamline costs will present unique challenges.

The January Summit, attended by Ministers, government officials, police leaders and front-line officers, academics and representatives from other countries, discussed issues such as: increasing efficiencies within police services and the justice system; finding a balance between civilianization,

privatization and tiered policing; new models of community safety.

Further consultations are expected to occur with key stakeholders throughout the spring and summer of 2013, with recommendations to be presented to the Ministers of Justice and Public Safety in the fall.

Local Law Enforcement Recognized



Two members of the Truro Police Service have received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Chief Dave MacNeil (pictured left) and Corporal Rick Hickox (pictured right) were recently recognized for their

community service and involvement. They were honored with eight other members of the law enforcement community in Nova Scotia.

Congratulations to all recipients!

NSCJA Member News: Verona Singer defends PhD Thesis

The subject of Verona’s research was the Nova Scotia high risk case coordination program, a protocol used to flag and coordinate woman abuse cases where there is a risk of serious injury or lethality. It included interviews with 29 abused women in the high risk protocol and focus groups with various service providers involved in implementing the protocol (police, victim services,

transition houses, men’s intervention programs, corrections and child welfare). Her data suggests the need to rethink the approach to the abuser and the victim and to avoid ‘one-size-fits all’ solutions. The research highlights tensions and contradictions within current policies and programs addressing domestic violence. It challenges our current assumptions in what she terms the dominant domestic vio-

lence discourse in the hope that this will lead to a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the complexities of woman abuse. The thesis recommends an approach that focuses on both the victim and the abuser, and for program and policy responses that acknowledge that not all abused women, nor all abusive men, are the same. The recommendations are aimed at offering both protection and agency to abused women and assisting abusers both to take responsibility for past violence and to learn new non-violent ways of relating.



Congrats—Dr Singer!

Upcoming Events

Nova Scotia Department of Justice’s Crime Prevention Symposium, ***Building Relationships: A Way Forward for Safer Communities*** will be held on March 27, 2013. ***Registration forms will be available as of February 28, 2013.***

Visit <http://novascotia.ca/just/prevention/> for more information.

The Atlantic Community Safety Association (ACSA) will be hosting its 2013 Atlantic Crime Prevention Conference ***Safer Communities, Better Tomorrow***, on June 5-7, 2013 in Charlottetown, PEI.

Please visit acsa-asca.org for more information and the call for presentations.

Canine Program (WOOF) to Improve Offender Behaviour

A new program—WOOF (Working on Our Futures) gives offenders valuable life skills to help keep communities safe when the offenders are released.

The pilot canine therapy program, which began in December 2012 and runs until March, has Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility offenders working with corrections officers to train dogs that need additional training and socialization before adoption.

Similar programs in correctional facilities in other jurisdictions, including Newfoundland, have reported improved offender behaviour and has eased pressure on the SPCA.

At the end of the pilot, SPCA, correctional officers and offenders will be interviewed as part of an evaluation to determine future direction of the program.



CNSCF Correctional Officers prepare to launch WOOF

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Cape Breton Interagency on Family Violence— Launch Prevention Week

The Cape Breton Interagency on Family Violence held a ceremony at Cape Breton University on Friday, February 8, 2013 to mark the launch of Family Violence Prevention Week. CBRM Mayor Cecil Clarke offered a declaration on behalf of CBRM Council.

Included in the ceremony were two Silent Witness silhouettes representing women who have died as a result of domestic violence, as well as multi-colored ribbons tied to a tree to represent the spectrum of those impacted by family violence.



*Cape Breton Regional Police Honour Guard
with Silent Witness Silhouettes*



Each year, as part of the ceremony, the Cape Breton Interagency recognizes organizations who work to bring awareness and assistance to victims of abuse with its annual "Heartfelt Appreciation Award". This year's Appreciation Award was presented to the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. *(Pictured Left: Stephanie MacInnis-Langley accepts Heartfelt Appreciation Award)*

