

Corner Brook Status of Women Council

NEWSLETTER - November 2020

Introducing SART

The CBSWC is launching an initiative to establish a community-led Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to this province.

Paula Sheppard-Thibeau, Executive Director of the Centre, said that an effort to create a team was made about a decade ago but it didn't get off the ground. There is no SART program in Newfoundland and Labrador.

However, with the increase in media reports surrounding sexual assault, including extensive coverage of the "Me Too" movement and cases like Gian Gimeshi and RNC officer Doug Snelgrove, the need for SART is as apparent as ever.

"We've seen over the last couple of years how public response speaks to the need for change within the criminal justice system in how it deals with sexual assault cases," said Sheppard-Thibeau.

While Newfoundland does have a program where a sexual assault nurse examiner is available at a hospital to do a forensic examination when a victim arrives there, a SART program would actually provide a trained volunteer to help the victim navigate the system, accompanying them to the hospital exam, going to the police to make a report, pressing charges if they choose to do so, going to court with them and helping them access subsequent supports.

As such, CBSWC recently sent out a letter inviting numerous organizations to become partners in the new initiative to be led by the organization.

"Its purpose is to ensure a continuity of care for those who have experienced sexual assault," Sheppard-Thibeau said. "Volunteers will be trained on how to best provide assistance to survivors, allowing the survivor to lead the level of support."

The outreach has been extended to various organizations. They have been invited to become part of a steering committee to guide the project.



Sexual Assault Response Team

While this will be the first of its kind in this province, there are many evidence-based models to draw from including those in Ontario and British Columbia. Once the steering committee is in place, it will work together to develop comprehensive training for volunteers, recruit and screen potential SART volunteers, and seek funding for ongoing coordination and evaluation.

Upcoming:

November or Movember as it's known in some circles is both Men's Health month and Osteoporosis awareness month.

This month we will be starting our book club. Our first book is *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas. The first virtual meeting is 7pm, Thursday, November 12th. Call us for more details.

We will also be offering *Family Finance Basics*. A four week program that aims to explain the in and outs of daily banking and budgeting and answer all of your questions about credit and debt. The program starts at 11am, Thursday November 19th. Call us to reserve your spot.

Wednesday, November 11th - Remembrance Day - Commemorating the end of the First World War, Remembrance Day this year will look different from other years. For the first time, spectators will be discouraged from attending in person, due to the limited space and requirement to physically distance. However, the event will be broadcast and the hope is to have a more intimate commemoration to honour all soldiers this year.

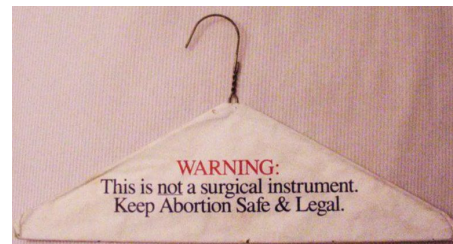
Friday, November 20th - National Child Day/World Children's Day - celebrating the 1959 signing of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

Saturday, November 21st - International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day - an event in which survivors of suicide loss come together to find connection, understanding, and hope through their shared experience.

Sunday, November 22nd - National Housing Day - Celebrated with partners, stakeholders and Canadians across the country. It's a day to acknowledge the work done by hundreds of organizations and thousands of people ensuring everyone across Canada has the dignity of a home.

Thursday, November 26th - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women - Every year, this day and the ensuing 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence which follow (ending on 10 December, Human Rights Day) are commemorated around the world, providing individuals and groups a chance to mobilize and call attention to the urgent need to end violence against women and girls. Ending violence against women is one of UN Women's key priority areas, with programmes addressing the pandemic implemented globally.

The Final Word:



To the people of Poland, we are outraged with you and heartbroken for you. Do not stop fighting. The church is not the state.

To the people of the United States, when you vote please remember: a hanger is not the only option that you want for your daughter, sister or mother.