# Sustainability Plan to Reduce Violence in Halifax

Presentation by

Mel Lucas, Project Manager and

Marcel Tellier Executive, Board of Director, Community Justice Society

# to the Police Commission December 18, 2017

# Our Story

Ceasefire Halifax four high risk areas we service from 2014 to 2017 are:

- The Prestons
- Dartmouth North
- Mulgrave Park
- Uniacke Square

- The Ceasefire pilot maintained an Afrocentric focus with our target group being African Nova Scotian males between the ages of 16 and 24 years of age

*Spike in 2016 shootings occurred outside the four risk areas Ceasefire services

**Prorated for 2017. All impacts are compared to the base year of 2012

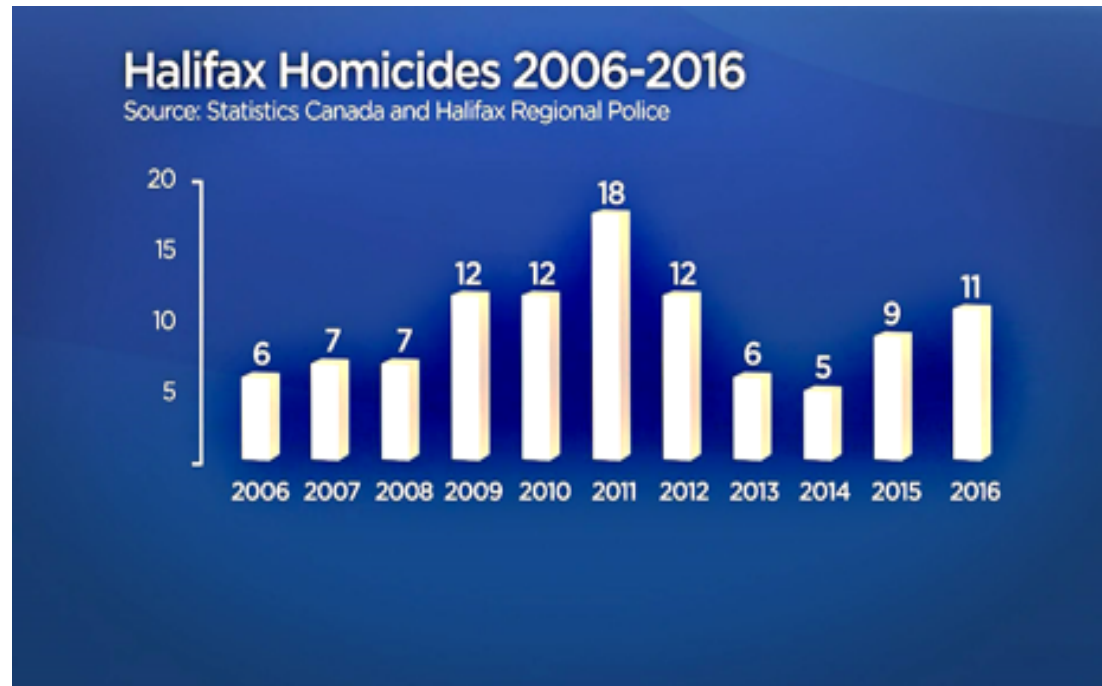| Year | Shootings in HRM* | Shootings in CeaseFire Target Areas | Impact against base year 2012 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2012 | 41 | 15 | ---- |
| 2013 | 36 | 11 | ---- |
| 2014 | 34 | 9 | -17% |
| 2015 | 18 | 4 | -59% |
| 2016 | 29 | 13 | -29% |
| 2017 (to 27 Oct 2017) | 15 | 10 | - 56%** |
| TOTALS | 173 | 62 | |

# Our Goals

- The Ceasefire model was developed at the University of Chicago by Dr. Gary Slutkin in year 2000. Now called Cure Violence.

- As a public health, anti-violence program, it has four goals:

1. Stop the spread of violence in communities

2. Use methods and strategies associated with disease control including detecting and interrupting conflicts

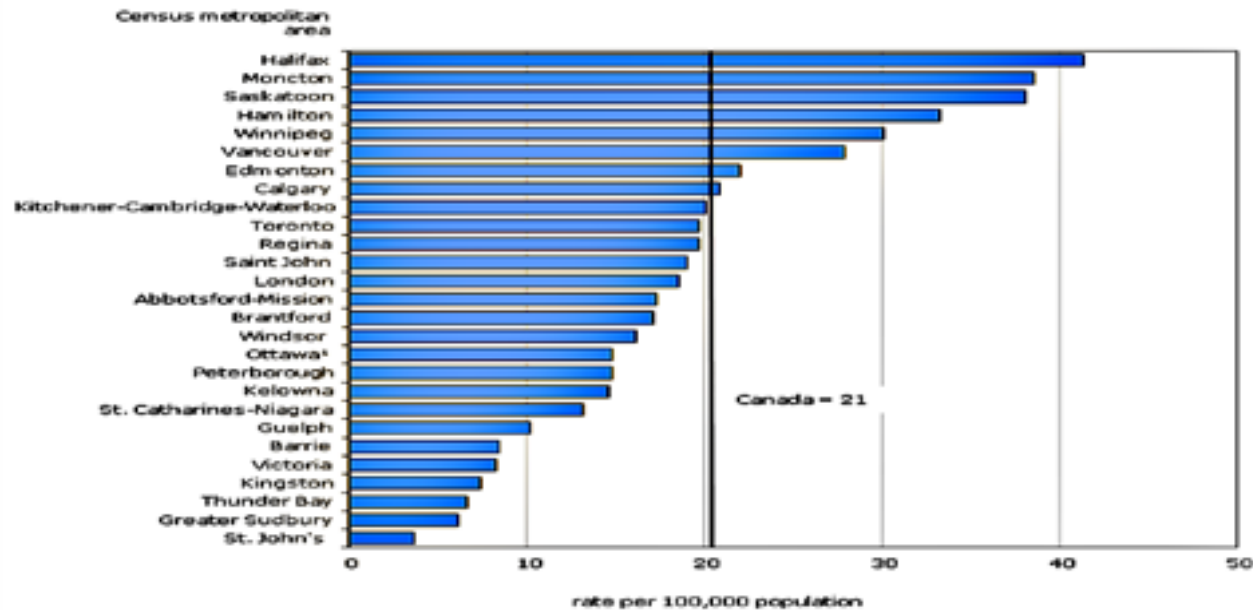3. Identify and Treat the highest risk individuals

4. Changing social norms

# Our History

# Our History



Victims of police-reported violent crime with a firearm present, by census metropolitan area, Canada, 2012
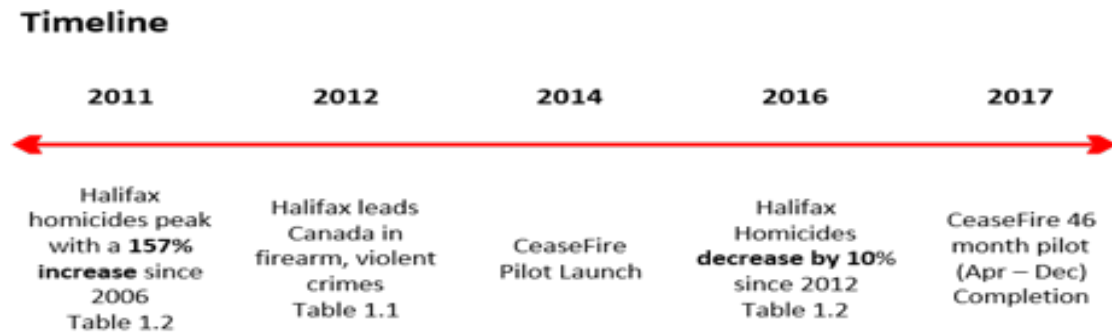
# Our History

**Timeline**

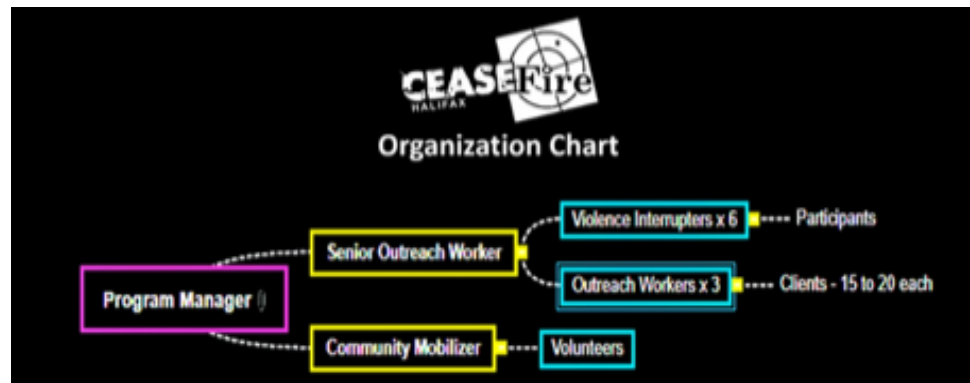| 2011 | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 | 2017 |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| Halifax homicides peak with a **157% increase** since 2006 Table 1.2 | Halifax leads Canada in firearm, violent crimes Table 1.1 | CeaseFire Pilot Launch | Halifax Homicides **decrease by 10%** since 2012 Table 1.2 | CeaseFire 46 month pilot (Apr – Dec) Completion |

- After a string of shootings in 2011 of which occurred in the North Preston area, leaders within the African Nova Scotian community decided to take action.

- Led by Yvonne Atwell, Executive Director of the Community Justice Society, Crime Prevention social worker Robert Wright, and the late lawyer Rocky Jones, collaboration with all three levels of government facilitated a group visit to Chicago's Cure Violence organization to get a first-hand look at their operation

# Our Success

- The successful HRM implementation of a disease based approach to reducing violence and gang related activities beginning in 2014 ends December 31 2017

- The Ceasefire pilot guided by the Community Justice Society (CJS) has reduced gun violence in HRM from 17% to 56% against the base year of 2012 of its implementation and has built a foundation for change

# Our Dilemma

- The Ceasefire pilot Federal funding ends December 31, 2017.

- The Nova Scotia Department of Justice  has been exceptionally supportive and provided bridge funding to March 31, 2018

- The Service will end April 1, 2018 unless we can create a consortium of partners to fund Ceasefire

# Ted Upshaw, HRM Public Safety Advisor
(Former CJS Board Member)

- If our CeaseFire program ceases to exist come April 2018 there is the distinct probability of a spike in recidivism. Without the support offered by our field staff, many youth and adults who have used the program to better their lives and work towards getting a second chance may be more likely to revert back to a time when they felt violence was the only solution to getting ahead.

# 'We will not let this die,' Halifax Mayor says of Ceasefire Program

We are pursuing a sustainability solution for 3 years of funding to continue to :

1. **Build resident resilience:** Help people to reduce their sense of isolation,  build resilience and improve their quality of life.

2. **Ensure Safe Places**:  Reduce the opportunities for crime and social disorder at places where people live, work and play.

3. **Strengthen Communities**: Increase local participation and social interaction, and develop ways to deal with conflict in non-violent ways.

4. **Prevent and Reduce Crime:** Protect citizens, organizations, and institutions against threats to their well-being and prosperity.

CANADA  May 15, 2016 2:39 pm                    Updated: May 16, 2016 9:45 am

**'We will not let this die,' Halifax mayor says of Ceasefire Program**

By Natasha Pace
Reporter  Global News

💬 Comments    f Facebook    🐦 Twitter    ✉ Email    🖨 Print    ...

▶ PLAY VIDEO

**WATCH ABOVE: A successful anti-violence program is in danger of losing its funding in Halifax. Ceasefire started on the streets of Chicago and has helped keep neighbourhoods in this region safe for years, but now the funding is coming to an end. Global's Natasha Pace reports.**

# CeaseFire Sample Media Clippings

- https://globalnews.ca/tag/ceasefire-halifax/
- http://www.metronews.ca/news/halifax/2016/08/28/north-preston-peace-event-by-ceasefire-halifax.html
- https://www.cpha.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/conferences/2017/final-prog_e.pdf
- http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/ceasefire-halifax-project-comfort-blankets-1.4062347
- http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/ceasefire-halifax-violence-crime-drop-1.3509716
- http://www.news957.com/local/2012/05/15/hrm-brings-in-gun-violence-expert-for-workshop/

# QUESTIONS ?