

HALIFAX

Getting to know the Public Safety Office

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What is the Public Safety Office?

- The Public Safety Office lives within Government Relations and External Affairs, a division of the Office of the CAO
- We are a team of 4:
 - Amy Siciliano- Public Safety Advisor
 - Ian David- Manager of Programs and Engagement
 - Raven Glasgow- Community Outreach Coordinator
 - Amy Brierley- Safe City & Safe Public Spaces Coordinator

What do we mean by Public Safety?

- Our approach to public safety is guided by the Public Safety Strategy which focuses on 4 priority areas:
 - building resident resilience
 - ensuring safe spaces
 - strengthening communities
 - preventing and responding to crime

Guiding Principles & Assumptions

- The social determinants of health form the building blocks of healthy, liveable and safe cities
- Prioritizing preventative and upstream responses to complex, multiple, and interconnected roots of social issues such as crime
- The importance of supporting and enhancing the capacity of individuals, communities and organizations to survive and build resiliency
- Collaboration and coordination
- Safe environments for all

What does our work look like?

- Supporting staff across the organization to apply a lens of community safety to their work
- Exploring and advancing initiatives, alongside community partners, that take a proactive and root-cause approach to community safety & wellbeing
- Some of our work includes:
 - Co-developing a Community Safety and Well-Being Index
 - Exploring the potential of sobering centres
 - Community consultations re: Municipal Drug and Alcohol Strategy
 - Mobilizing community assets for community safety
 - Safe public spaces for women, non-binary and gender diverse people
 - Exploring alternatives for shifting or creating programs for civilian delivery of non-core police functions through the Reimaging Public Safety Study (will lead to renewed Public Safety Strategy)



HISTORY OF CMT

Community Mobilization Teams (CMTs) support the response and recovery from the experience of a traumatic incident. They are made up of a partnership among local residents, community organizations and the Municipality



2016

CMTs stem from the 2016 Mayor's Roundtable on Violence and community conversations across the municipality.



2017

1st CMT was established in 2017 with residents from Mulgrave Park



PRESENT

We now have 3 CMT teams throughout HRM: Mulgrave Park, Central North and Preston



HALIFAX

What do Community Mobilization Teams Do?

- Support the recovery period after a critical incident
- Play a key role in linking communities to services, helping to define, improve on, and monitor quality of services in their community
- Promote readiness through education, training and prevention. Training is a core component CMTs

Community Volunteers working together to support Families and Communities by bridging the gap with Service Providers during times of Critical incidents. Through healing and Spirituality, we facilitate meaningful connections to ensure community Safety.

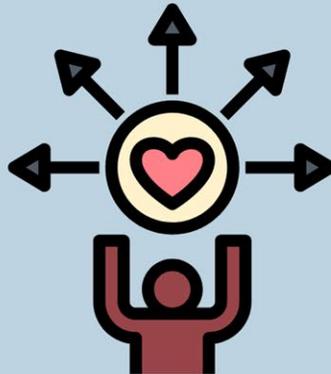
Crisis preparation

By developing local safety networks which can provide cohesive and collaborative responses to critical incidents. This is done through mapping resources, education and training, conducting needs assessments, and protocol development sessions.



Crisis Intervention/Response

supporting communities after a violent or traumatic incident. Determining the level of community support needed for recovery and identifying appropriate interventions (such as opening of a comfort centre, community debriefing, healing circles, etc)



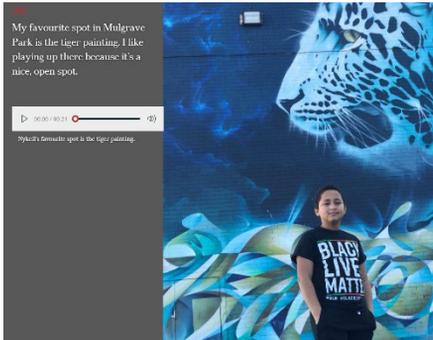


Crisis prevention

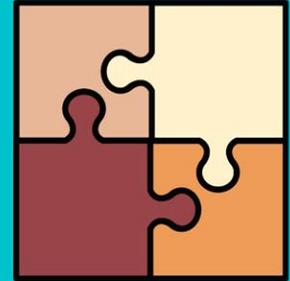
supporting education, development of strategies and methods and making systemic recommendations that may prevent future violent incidents. Community members identify and implement local capacity building initiatives, healing activities, and safety audits



Story Map Mulgrave Park



Building Community Connections



Community Garden



Safe City & Safe Public Spaces Program

HRM joined UN Women's Safe Cities & Safe Public Spaces Global Initiative in 2019. This initiative supports cities in developing locally owned solutions to end sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces.

The initiative calls on partner cities to act in the following areas:

- ensuring locally relevant and owned solutions
- strengthening laws and policies
- investing in the safety of public spaces
- fostering transformative social norms that promote public spaces free from sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence

Where have we come from and where are we going?

- **2019**– laid foundation for the program, developed Implementing Committee, began building relationships within HRM to be able to implement the work
- **2020**– started to build community connections within the program, notably through the development and training on the Women’s Safety Assessment tool
- **2021**– full time/permanent staff coordinator hired; completed Scoping Study which helps us understand some key elements in developing the program plan
- **2022**– creating theory of change, program plan; starting to implement initiatives and responses to what we’ve heard so far

Program Priorities

- **Work within the organization** to centre women's, girls' and non-binary people's experiences of safety in plans, projects, strategies and services.
- **Collaborate with grassroots and community organizations, networks and groups** to ensure the program is guided by diverse women's, girls' and non-binary people's voices and lived-experiences.
- Address sexual and other forms of gender-based violence on **public transit**. Safe and accessible transportation options are integral to women's, girls' and non-binary people's wellbeing and safety.

Program Priorities continued...

- Recognize women's, girls' and non-binary people's **right to safe and affordable housing** and support integrating a gender-safety lens into the municipality's housing efforts.
- **Support work to prevent and respond to human trafficking** and the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth in the HRM.
- Support partners in **initiatives focused on education** addressing misogynistic social norms, safe bystander intervention and healthy understandings of gender, sexuality and healthy relationships.
- **Engage meaningfully with women, girls and non-binary people to gather data** that tells the stories of *all* women, girls and non-binary people and sheds light on actions we can take to support their safety in public spaces.

**How can you get
involved?**

**How can we work
together?**

Thank you so much!

Please feel free to contact us anytime at:

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