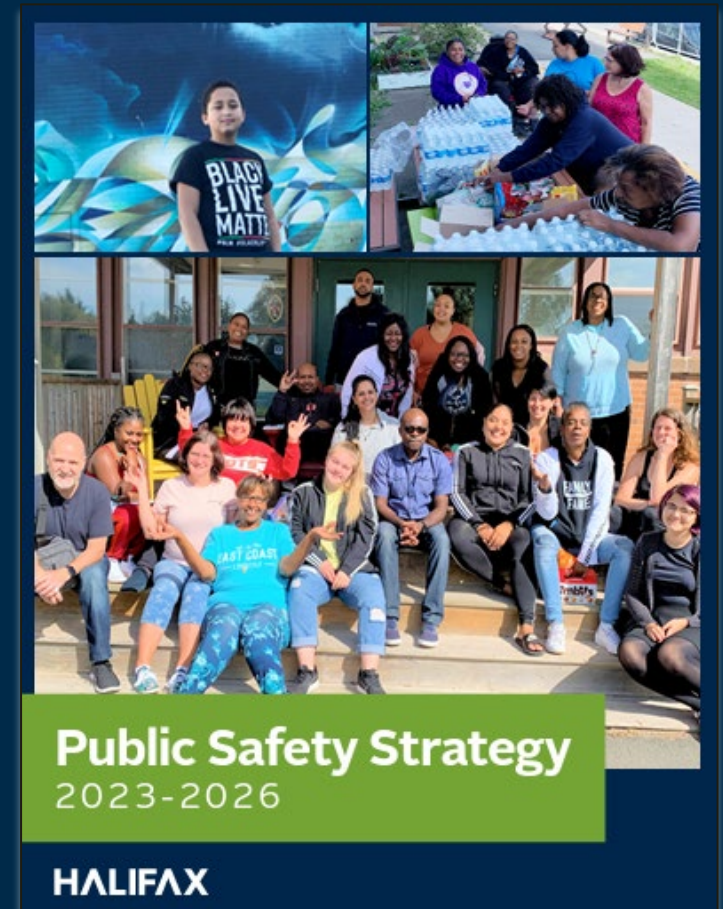


May 8 2025

# PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGY

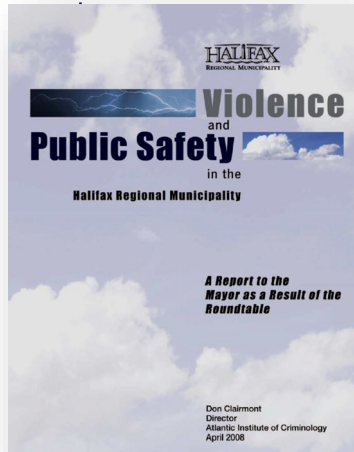
Amy Siciliano, PhD Public Safety Advisor  
Divine-Gbeve Onyenike, Community Outreach Coordinator  
Community Safety

Item 9.1.2  
**HALIFAX**

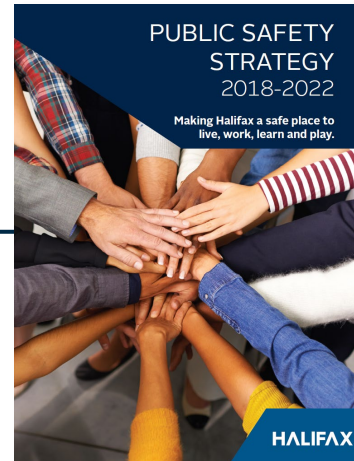


# Key milestones

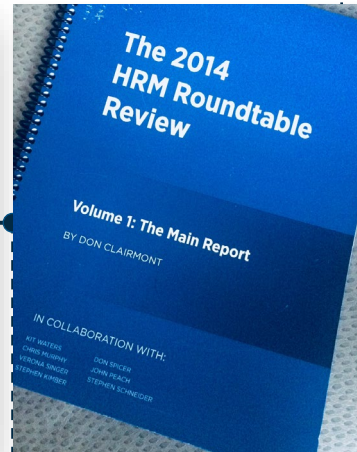
2008 Mayor's Roundtable  
on Violence in the HRM



2018 Inaugural Public  
Safety Strategy



2014 RoundTable  
Review



2023 Renewed Public  
Safety Strategy



# Development approach



# How were communities of African Descent Engaged?

- Inclusion of ANSAIO advisor in strategy development as a working group member
- Engagement with Diversity and Inclusion on development
- Alignment with existing HRM strategies and Frameworks
  - HRM Social Policy Framework
  - HRM Anti-Black Racism Framework
  - HRM Diversity and Inclusion Framework

Review of existing engagements and relevant reports:

- Defunding the Police: Finding a Way Forward (2023)
- NSHRC Street Checks Report (2019)
- HRM & The Youth Project: 2SLGBTQ+ Community Engagement (2022)
- Anti-Black Racism in HRM: What we heard report 2022
- Women and Gender Equity Strategy consultation report 2022

# How were communities of African Descent Engaged?

## **Targeted engagements**

- Community Mobilization Teams
- Association of Black Social Workers
- 902 Man Up
- African Nova Scotian Justice Institute
- Decade for People of African Descent
- Richard Preston Centre of Excellence
- Akoma
- NS Brotherhood/Sisterhood

**Individual residents** through Shape your City Survey – social media targets to ANS communities

# Strengthening the Ecosystem



- Recognition that police are only one component of creating safer communities
- Need to strengthen ecosystem to reduce risks of criminalizing social and health issues
- Communities need to be at the centre of creating the conditions for safety and wellbeing

# Strategic Action Areas



## COMMUNITY-LED PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERSHIP

Continue to work closely with community groups and municipal business units to support and champion public safety initiatives.



## BROADER SPECTRUM OF RESPONSES TO SOCIAL ISSUES AND HARMS

Establish a continuum of responders and responses to social harms, to ensure the most appropriate responder and reduce pressures on emergency services.



## A CENTRE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

Establish an appropriate structure to advance public safety initiatives, which has the capacity and authority to lead initiatives and convene partner organizations and experts.



# How we are monitoring and measuring impact



## Outcomes

The change we aim to make over time



## Activity

Activity tracking under each action/program informed by a Theory of Change or Logic Model



## Program level measures

Outputs from activities that advance outcomes; Program-specific evaluations / needs assessments



## Population level measures

Indicators on broader social change; Monitoring trends to adapt to changing contexts



**HALIFAX**

# **How we are working with ANS and Black communities in the Strategy**



COMMUNITY-LED  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
LEADERSHIP

# Community Mobilization Teams

A community-led approach to preventing, preparing and responding to community violence



## A community led, holistic approach to preparing and responding to violent or traumatic incidents

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.

After a violent or traumatic incident, CMTs mobilize local and municipal resources to address individual/community needs, coordinate community debriefings and timely information sharing.

**CMTs strengthen community access to resources and networks. CMTs work toward preventing violence by reducing distress, restoring unity and building resilience.**

To achieve this goal, CMTs encompass:

- crisis preparation through mapping resources, education and training
- crisis intervention by supporting communities after a violent or traumatic incident
- crisis prevention by developing and enhancing local safety networks to strengthen community sense of unity and collaboration

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# Community Mobilization Teams

## A community-led approach to preventing, preparing and responding to community violence

### OUTCOMES

Critical incident responses are coordinated, community-determined, culturally-responsive, and trauma-informed

Equitable access to supports and services pre/post incident

CMT communities demonstrate resilience

### ACTIVITY MEASURES

**CMTs have skills to support community members after a critical incident**

- 720 training hours completed – ASIST, MHFA, First Aid, CISM, food safety, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (trauma informed)

**Community members engage CMTs post-incident**

- **8** community events held in collaboration with **19** community organizations and **530** participants
- **15** post-incident activations

**Increased knowledge about trauma and its effects**

- **14** healing circles with **>130** participants (community crisis debriefs)

# Collaborative Community Response Plan (CCRP)

**Aims to provide an on-going trauma response plan, addressing trauma as a root cause of violence, providing psychoeducation to promote holistic wellbeing, healing and building resilience for future critical incidents**

- **Relationship building for stronger communities**
- **Strategies for coping with grief and hardships**
- **Community mental health work, supported by professionals**
- **Use of culturally relevant lens**

HALIFAX

# Rapid Response & On-going Support

## Night of Caring

- Hosted following critical incidents
- Offer brave space for community members impacted by recent traumatic events to seek healing, supported by trained clinicians, active listeners, community volunteers, and spiritual leaders.
- Activated/supported **Seven** Critical incidents in ANS Communities in 2024/2025

## Healing Circles

- provide residents with opportunities to learn and engage in discussions among their peers.
- Held on a monthly drop-in basis
- 14 Hosted (12 in Preston Township & 2 Central North)
- Estimated of 350 community member attendance

HALIFAX

# Preston Area Response to Trauma Working Group (PART-WG)- “It’s Healing Time”

It's Healing Time project - Support African Nova Scotian communities to promote healing through a series of events focused on grief and trauma, psychosocial wellbeing, and community empowerment.

To date 20 sessions have been hosted

Have engaged **over 700** community members in grief and trauma workshops and/or sessions. Participants ranged in age from 4 to 104 years old

Hosted 3 Trauma conferences- January 15 & April 13, 2024 & February 15 2025

# Looking Ahead to Year III



Applied Suicide  
Intervention Skills  
Training



Community Mobilization Teams



Prevention of Hate and  
Violent Extremism Community  
Workshop

- Launch of the **Mobile Community Crisis Diversion Service**
- Strengthening local capacity for the **prevention of hate and violent extremism**
- Host city for the **Canadian Centre for Safer Communities National Conference**
- Launching new trainings and scaling up pilots: **Mental Health First Aid, Bystander Intervention, Applied Suicide Intervention**
- Kick off research and engagements for a **Public Safety Strategy Renewal**