

October 6, 2025

Community Safety

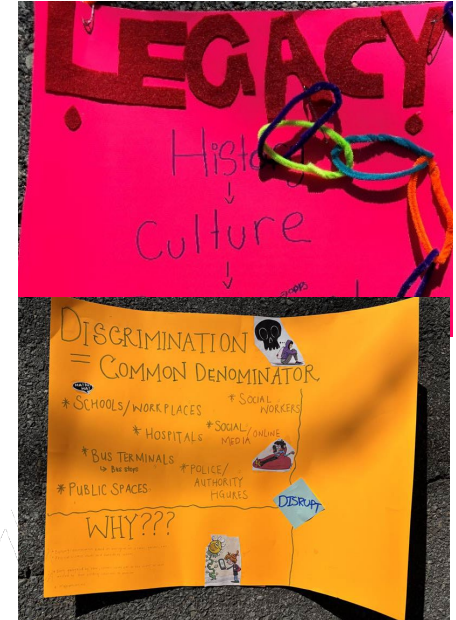
COMMUNITY-LED PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERSHIP

A BROADER SPECTRUM OF RESPONSES

CENTRE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Preventing Violent Extremism

- Halifax is one of 10 Canadian pilot sites for the Public Safety Canada-funded **Prevention Academy**
- Building leadership for community safety in the prevention of violent extremism
- Recently held “Youth Voices for Safer Communities” workshop - 30 diverse youth.
- Youth shared recommendations that will help shape our prevention work.



Expand Public Safety Training

- Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training (NVCI) reached 400+ staff and partners over two years
- Build capacity across the community for intervening in crisis situations
- Goal = de-escalation and preventing violent outcomes
- Strong evidence of success in applying de-escalation strategies, based on 365 post-training surveys, interviews, and focus groups.

HALIFAX

Seniors Safety Strategy

- Worked with our community to identify improvements that can support the safety of seniors
- Engaged with African Nova Scotian, Mi'kmaw, and other communities facing disproportionate safety challenges
- Will refine core themes for a senior safety strategy to be embedded in our renewed Public Safety Strategy
- Report and recommendations planned for delivery in 2025



Safe City & Safe Public Spaces



- Conduct community safety assessments
- Make recommendations to improve safety in public spaces
- Bring greater public awareness to issues of gender and safety in public spaces
- Deliver training, education & capacity building for municipal staff and residents
- Offered training to HRM staff to better understand the issue of commercial sexual exploitation and support those experiencing this form of violence

Intimate Partner Violence

- Contribute to the broadening of municipal responses to intimate partner violence
- Increase capacity to help individuals navigate toward services to support their needs
- Consider IPV lens when developing new public safety initiatives such as responses to homelessness, Crisis Response, Safe City Programs, etc.

HALIFAX

Youth Services Strategy

- Formed a Child, Youth & Family Response Table to guide this work
- Training for youth service sector (trauma-informed care, conflict resolution, restorative justice, NVCI)
- Collect and share community data on youth violence, inform actions
- Respond to critical incidents of violence, interrupt and prevent violence
- Address trauma (a root cause) through access to counseling & outreach
- Expand street outreach to build relationships with youth & meet their needs
- Work upstream to promote safety and reduce risk factors
- Incorporate a youth lens into community safety initiatives within HRM

Community Mobilization Team (CMT)

We equip CMT volunteers across seven communities with the necessary skills, tools, and knowledge to handle community crises safely and effectively.



Community Mobilization Teams

- Support communities during critical incidents, offering immediate assistance and emotional support
- Address short term and long-term needs by providing trauma informed support and resources during and after crises
- Community Debrief Coordinator - build community capacity in violence prevention

HALIFAX

Activities and Impact of the Community Mobilization Teams (CMT) and Community Outreach Coordinator (COC)

From January to August 2025, the Community Outreach Coordinator and Community Mobilization Teams (CMTs) have made significant strides in strengthening community resilience and safety across seven communities. Together, they have:

947

Training Hours

Hours of training delivered to CMT volunteers, covering essential topics such as suicide prevention, crisis intervention, emergency preparedness, food security, and climate change.

288

Meeting Hours

Hours of meetings with CMT volunteers to coordinate efforts, share updates, and respond to emerging community needs.

16

Community Events

Major community events organized or supported, including Beautification Days, Preston Township Days, and the CMT Preston Township BBQ, fostering community pride and engagement.

27

Partnerships

Community organizations and service providers collaborated with, building strong partnerships to enhance service delivery and support networks.

CMT Committee Structure



Planning Committee

Organizes inclusive events and fosters collaboration with local organizations



Activation Committee

Works with the Community Safety Office to assess and respond to emergencies



Membership Committee

Manages recruitment, onboarding, and engagement of CMT members

These committees ensure that each community is actively involved in planning, response, and sustained volunteer engagement.

Homelessness

- About 100 individuals sleeping rough in designated/undesignated encampments
- Our outreach and compliance teams work closely with neighbourhoods, encampments, citizens and housing partners to address urgent needs, ensure safety for all residents, and connect individuals to shelter and housing
- Currently, we are updating our Framework to Address Homelessness in HRM now that shelter and temporary housing options are more widely available – presentation to council planned for November
- Our outreach team will increase their focus on matching individuals to available shelter and temporary housing options

After-Hours Individualized Mobile Engagement Team (AIM)

- Serves individuals living rough and in shelters
- Distribution of supplies and food
- Referrals to needed services
- Conflict resolution/de-escalation
- Transportation to safe locations
- Dedicated cell phone number
- Law enforcement and other partners collaborate with AIM to match the right support



11

Crisis Assistance and Response Service (CARE)

- Community-based, trauma-informed alternative response service for in-person crisis support for individuals 16 years and older in non-emergency distress, aiming to stabilize the situation and connect them with appropriate resources.
- The team provides non-clinical support, including crisis de-escalation, safety planning, safe transport, and referrals to community resources.
- Two-year pilot



Crisis Assistance and Response Service (CARE)

- Service is triaged through 211 Nova Scotia; frontline response delivered by Soul's Harbour
- Independent evaluation of pilot will be led by Clairmont Centre
- **Phase 1 of Pilot:** goes live this month in *Dartmouth (inside the circumferential highway), Woodlawn and Cole Harbour*, Monday to Friday from 8am to 9pm
- **Phase 2 of Pilot:** begins early January 2026; hours expand to 24/7 in same area

Stabilization Centre (pending space)

- A short-term facility (24 hours or less) that provides an alternative to the Prisoner Care Facility for intoxicated individuals
- Secure and supervised site for people to recover
- Reduces pressures on emergency services – Police Prisoner Care Facility (PCF) and Emergency Departments (EDs)
- Connect individuals with appropriate health/social services
- Avoid criminalization of behaviours
- Securing space has been a barrier – currently working on some new strategies to address this barrier

Drop-In Centre for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (coming soon)

- Provide shelter from the elements during the day
- Access to support services, food, water, hygiene, and community
- Opportunity to rest without fear of harassment or violence
- Potential for storage options
- HRM-Government of Nova Scotia Partnership
- Shelter Nova Scotia is the identified service provider
- Location has been identified but still in final stages of planning

HALIFAX

Food Security

- Community food access (community food truck)
- Increased capacity for community food security
- Urban food production
- Emergency food response programs for times of extended crises
- Community gardens across the HRM