

## SASKATCHEWAN SEXUAL VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN

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### VISION

Every citizen of Saskatchewan is able to access a full continuum of sexual violence services and supports across their life span. The services are well resourced, based on evidence-based best practise and available in all communities across the province.

### GOALS

1. Develop and implement a province-wide sexual violence action plan that is comprehensive and coordinates across all professional sectors and levels of government.
2. Represent Saskatchewan on a national platform as a champion of sexual violence prevention work.

### OBJECTIVES

1. To establish a committed multi-sectoral Provincial Advisory Committee who will:
  - a. Develop a comprehensive Sexual Violence Action Plan
  - b. Commit to work towards the implementation of the plan beyond the life of the project and promote the plan to community leaders, government and social policy decision-makers on an ongoing basis.
2. To develop a Sexual Violence Action Plan for the province of Saskatchewan that is reflective of the needs of all sexual violence survivors and is inclusive of strategies to support strong community and government leadership; effective prevention, intervention and outreach.
3. To select three women leaders to represent Saskatchewan in a pan-Canadian network of 150 Women Leaders across the country. These women will work with the Canadian Women's Foundation to support feminist action for gender equality at the national level.

## PROJECT RATIONALE

According to Statistics Canada, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. Presently Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of sexual victimization in Canada. While survivors of sexual assault are disproportionately women, the reality is that sexual assault can happen to any person, any age, no matter their gender or ethnicity. Sexual assault happens every day and most frequently in homes of friends, families and co-workers. Sexual assault is a crime of power and control and 85% of survivors are assaulted by someone they know.

Because of the relational and personal nature of this crime, survivors live in silence and shame. Dominant societal myths about sexual assault reinforce the misconceptions that survivors are responsible for the crimes that have been committed against them and this further contributes to very low reporting rates to law enforcement, and also results in survivors not reaching out for medical and or counselling assistance.

When left untreated, the effects of sexual assault on individuals, families and communities are severe. Sexual assault has been linked to addictions, mental health, homelessness and domestic violence, and the financial cost of sexual violence crimes are estimated to be in the millions each year.

A sexual violence action plan for Saskatchewan is needed to ensure that every citizen of Saskatchewan is able to access a full continuum of sexual violence services and supports across their life span. The services must be well resourced and must be based on evidence-based best practice. In addition to strong leadership, the plan must encompass strategies for effective prevention and intervention including crisis support, counselling and police and court support. Effective outreach strategies and the development of specialized services are also needed for those groups of survivors within our province who are marginalized or under-served.

Reference:

Statistic Canada 2013 Report

[www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

## SASKATCHEWAN SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESEARCH

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### RESEARCH PURPOSE

The aim of the research is to gain a better understanding of the existing strengths and potential gaps in service provision as it relates to sexual violence across the province of Saskatchewan.

The research findings will be presented to the Saskatchewan Sexual Violence Action Plan Advisory Committee. This committee will develop and implement a province-wide sexual violence action plan that is comprehensive, coordinates across all professional sectors and levels of government, and reflects the needs of Saskatchewan people.

### METHODOLOGY

#### 1. Surveys

##### 1.1 Sexual Assault Survivors Survey

This survey is for individuals above the age of 18 years old, who have experienced sexual violence and are willing to share their experience.

##### 1.2 Secondary Survivors of Sexual Assault Survey

This survey is for individuals above the age of 18 years old, who have supported a survivor in their personal lives. Examples include parents, spouses, friends etc.

##### 1.3 Sexual Assault Service Providers Survey

This survey is for front-line service providers who support sexual assault survivors in a professional capacity. Examples include victim services, police services, medical services etc.

The surveys will be disseminated online through SASS website, social media and through our partner organizations' websites. Our surveys are anonymous and confidential. Our ten member agencies will also have paper copies for individuals who wish to complete the survey on paper. Paper surveys will be issued with an envelope and pre-paid postage for participants to mail directly to SASS.

#### 2. Interviews

We will conduct one-on-one interviews with sexual assault survivors and secondary survivors of sexual assault. The interview questions will be the same as the survey questions. The participants will be recruited by our member agencies. Counsellors will recruit participants who are further along in their healing journey to reduce the risk of re-traumatization. The surveys' questions have been screened by several independent agencies to ensure the language used in the surveys is appropriate and ethical.

### 3. Focus Groups

We will conduct focus communities across the province with the local service providers. We will be asking the following four questions:

- 3.1 Describe sexual violence in your community.
- 3.2 What is working to address sexual violence in your community?
- 3.3 What is not working to address sexual violence in your community?
- 3.4 What is needed to address sexual violence and what are the gaps?

To participate in our online survey, enter the link below to your browser:

Saskatchewan Sexual Assault Survivor Survey	<a href="https://sass.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_brYRQVaCTGsUbsN">https://sass.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_brYRQVaCTGsUbsN</a>
Saskatchewan Sexual Assault Secondary Survivor Survey	<a href="https://sass.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8wFHpYmpeGGS63z">https://sass.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8wFHpYmpeGGS63z</a>
Saskatchewan Sexual Assault Service Provider Survey	<a href="https://sass.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bIW1DV1jHHjunK5">https://sass.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bIW1DV1jHHjunK5</a>

To participate in the focus group or interviews, please contact our member agencies below for more information.

Agency Name	Phone Number
Piwapan Women's Center ( La Ronge)	306-425-3910
Battlefords & Area Sexual Assault Counselling	306-445-0055
Prince Albert Mobile Crisis – Sexual Assault Program	306-764-1011
North East Outreach & Support Services (Melfort)	306-752-9464
Saskatoon Sexual Assault & Information Centre	306-244-2224
Partners Family Service (Humboldt)	306-682-4135
West Central Crisis & Family Support Center (Kindersley)	306-463-1860
Regina Sexual Assault Center	306-352-0434
Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbor- Sexual Assault Program (Yorkton)	306-783-9428
Envision Counselling & Support Center	Weyburn: 306-842-8821 Estevan: 306-637-4004 Carlyle: 306-453-2405 Oxbow: 306-483-5555