

SASKATCHEWAN SEXUAL VIOLENCE ACTION PLAN

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