

**Strategic Plan  
for  
Community Development  
2002 - 2004**

**Crime Prevention  
for  
Women with Disabilities**



*Funded by the*

**Community Mobilization Program  
of the  
National Crime Prevention Centre**

**Sponsored by:** Women's Network PEI  
Health Information Resource Centre  
DisAbled Women's Network

**Prepared by:** The PEI Crime Prevention Association

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## Acknowledgments

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'Safer Communities: Everybody's Responsibility'

This project touched on 2 different principal priority groups under the Strategy:

- ▶ Women's Personal Security, and
- ▶ Other Targeted Groups (including persons with disabilities).

The Community Mobilization Program helps communities develop approaches to crime prevention and undertake activities that deal with the root causes of crime.

Crime Prevention means addressing the root causes of crime, as well as, preventing specific criminal acts. Community safety means people must *feel* safe, as well as, *be* safe!

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Management Committee at the time of development of this plan as follows:

Laurie Ann McCardle, Women's Network PEI  
Jennifer Cairns-Burke, Health Information Resource Centre  
Margaret Prouse, DisAbled Women's Network

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Brenda Campbell/Pat Coady, Association for Community Living  
Chief Paul Cousins, Chief of Police Association  
Pauline Frizzell, Adventure Group/PEI Crime Prevention Association  
Canda MacNeil, PEI Council of the Disabled  
Shelley McFarlane/Ann Wheatley, PEI People First  
Betty McNab, Dept of Health & Social Services  
Andy Lou Somers, East Prince Women's Information Centre

This Strategy was prepared by Pamela MacEachern, Coordinator of the PEI Crime Prevention Association, contracted to carry out the work of this project.

January 2002

**Who**

**are**

**we?**

# **CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES**

## **Background / Project Overview**

**What does violence against women with disabilities look like?**

**What can be done that would see women with disabilities feeling safer in their homes, communities and workplaces?**

**With an interest in the well-being and health of all women with disabilities, the Health Information Resource Centre, Women's Network PEI and the DisAbled Women's Network initiated this project and its activities to mobilize women with disabilities.**

**In order to be mobilized, a community must be involved and included in the discussions from the beginning. It was felt that the most effective way of doing this would be to give women with disabilities, from across PEI, the ability to gather together and discuss the topic of violence and community safety.**

**Funding was sought and received from the National Crime Prevention Centre's Community Mobilization Program to carry out a one day conference which would provide women with disabilities the opportunity to share, network and learn from each other. Also, the information gathered during the day would form the basis of a Strategic Plan.**

**This plan will serve as a road map for next steps necessary in having women with disabilities feel safe in their homes, communities and workplaces.**

**The goal of this project is to increase the collaboration among women with disabilities and organizations working to improve the quality of life of women with disabilities on Prince Edward Island.**

**There is a need for a clear picture of what is being done across PEI to prevent or reduce violence against women with disabilities. There is a need to get a full understanding of what is already happening, what resources and skills we have, what else is needed and how we can help meet these needs. Our one day conference will provide insight into all of this.**

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## **Our Vision**

**That women of all disabilities and ages will be accepted by society as contributing vital members of our communities. That women with disabilities will be included in the on-going decisions that affect their safety. Finally, that women with disabilities feel that they belong and deserve the opportunity to create better lives for themselves.**

## **Guiding Principals**

**In order for a project to take into account the views and experiences of the rich management and advisory committees, some ground rules for conduct were established at the outset. They included:**

- everyone participating as much as they choose,**
- one person speaks at a time,**
- we will respect each others input,**
- we will be respectful of our meeting time,**
- information about the project is open (not confidential),**
- we will try to use plain language where possible and appropriate,**
- that our decisions be made by consensus**
- that we ensure a wide range of representation be present around the table, and**
- we agree to be inclusive and to accept each other as we are.**

## **Mission Statement**

**We exist to improve the safety of Island women with disabilities through information sharing, providing opportunities to gather and discuss issues of concern. We act as a catalyst for change for the community of women with disabilities in bringing their safety concerns to the attention of society.**

## **Project Structure and Responsibilities**

**The Management Committee was responsible to:**

- meet regularly as the Management Committee,
- liaise with Community Mobilization Program, NCPC, and ensure reports are completed,
- monitor the budget and work with the bookkeeper,
- develop contracts for staff, and
- oversee project staff and ensure work is on track.

**The Project Coordinator was responsible to:**

- issue invitations to the project Advisory Committee members to participate in the project,
- meet with the Management Committee and Advisory Committee regularly,
- call meetings, set and create the agenda, take and distribute minutes,
- develop evaluation tools,
- compile a list of resource people and experts to participate in the conference,
- prepare the conference registration and invitations,
- prepare the conference media releases, book meals, book meeting space, etc.,
- work with the facilitator, Management Committee and Advisory Committee to develop the agenda and content for the conference,
- will host the conference in partnership with the facilitator,
- compile the proceedings into a Strategic Plan for presentation to the Management Committee, Advisory Committee, funders and senior policy advisors for the Ministers of Health and the Attorney General's office, it will also be made available on a variety of partner web-sites as a downloadable file for conference participants and other organizations,
- ensure all reports are completed for the funding body.

**The Advisory Committee was responsible to:**

- attend meetings,
- provide input to the plans,
- advise on matters of overall project direction,
- communicate about the project with your organization,
- network ideas for feedback,
- ask lots of questions, and
- participate in the evaluation.

### **Project Committee Structure**

# Advisory Committee

Association for  
Community Living

Kensington  
Police  
Services

Adventure  
Group

## Management Committee

PEI  
Council  
of the  
Disabled

DAWN (DisAbled Women's  
Network)

HIRC (Health Informaton Resource  
Centre)

PEI  
Crime  
Prevention  
Association

Womens Network PEI

PEI  
People  
First

Department  
of  
Health &  
Social Services

EPWIC  
(East Prince  
Women's  
Information  
Centre)

**Where**

**are**

**we**

**now?**

## How did we get here?

In order to understand how we've come to be at this point, let's take a look at our goal and objectives that brought about this strategic plan.

### Project Goal

To increase to collaboration among organizations working to improve the quality of life of women with disabilities on Prince Edward Island.

### Project objectives

- ✓ To gather a well rounded advisory committee who will guide and develop the project according to the requirements of women with disabilities on PEI as determined by the expertise that the committee will bring.
- ✓ To identify 30 organizations with a focus on the safety of Island women with disabilities.
- ✓ To carry out a one day workshop of the identified organizations to look at what resources, skills and assets exist to better protect women with disabilities.
- ✓ To develop a Strategic Plan that would address needs as identified in the one day symposium.

The need was identified to get a clear picture of what is being done across PEI to prevent or reduce violence against women with disabilities. What is already happening, what resources and skills do we have, what else is needed and how can we help meet these needs.

In assisting us to attain our objectives, a one day workshop to bring together women with disabilities from across PEI to share experiences and talk about issues of concern with regard to their safety was held in November 2001.

With the guidance of the women with disabilities in attendance at our one day workshop, below you will find a picture of where these women and our communities are now with the issue of the safety of women with disabilities and where they feel the issues lie.

**Communication** Telemarketing, hang ups and even wrong number calls were all cause for concern. Also the fear of persons coming to the

door of their homes, lack of light sensors at night and calls that are aimed to defraud them were also identified as fears.

- Fixed Incomes**      **With a fixed income comes the inability to make choices. Without these choices you are left to make the safest possible decisions with what you have.**
- Lighting**            **A lack of proper or any lighting in some areas was of great concern. Not only did it make it impossible to see what or who was around them at all times when it was necessary to be out after dark, it becomes a dangerous situation in crosswalks when they cannot be seen.**
- Motor Vehicles**    **There is a real fear for their safety due to impaired drivers. Fear of being hit by a drunk driver was expressed by most all conference participants. There was also a general fear of being involved in accidents.**
- Policing**            **It was felt that there was not enough of a visual presence of police especially at later hours in the night when they most feared for their safety. They felt there is not enough police officers to properly protect them and to be on patrol when most needed.**
- Public Awareness**    **The lack of public education and awareness to the issues that women with disabilities face just to be safe and carry out their day to day lives, nurtures disrespect and misunderstandings to their situations.**
- Transportation**    **The lack of public transportation on PEI dictates that along with fixed incomes, women with disabilities have no choice but to walk everywhere where they meet up with issues such as lighting, policing, motor vehicles, etc.**
- Violence**            **There was a great deal of repetition with respect to violence that they feared at home (with family or in a group home setting), in their workplace by their peers and from their neighbors.**

**Where**

**do we**

**want**

**to go?**

Once we've determined where we are now, we can then look ahead to see where we'd like to go.

With the guidance of the women with disabilities in attendance at our one day workshop, below you will find a picture of what these women would like to do to enact change within their identified areas of concern for their safety.

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>ACTION TO TAKE</b>
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Increase public awareness to the issues of concern to women with disabilities through the media and through partner organizations.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop safety messages or publish articles with local media on a regular basis which would bring to light the challenges that these women face and their impact.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide more opportunities for women with disabilities to come together and hold an annual symposium to educate and foster friendships within their community.</li></ul>
<b>Fixed Incomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Survey the community of women with disabilities with respect to their level of income and the restrictions that can have on the level of safety you can afford. To what degree does a fixed income dictate their choices for safety.</li></ul>
<b>Lighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Take steps to share the information in this plan with municipal government with respect to the impact their decisions have on the community of women with disabilities.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Attend council meetings to provide input into why the council should take into account the safety concerns of women with disabilities when making decisions.</li></ul>
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Develop a resource that would make new drivers of all ages aware of the issues and concerns of women with disabilities and the fears they have. This would relay the concerns that these women have and how the manner in which these new drivers conduct themselves on the road may jeopardize the safety of these women.</li></ul>

- Policing**
- **Take steps to share the information from this plan with Municipal police services and RCMP with respect to the level of policing provided to our communities.**
  - **Make inquiries to the representation on committees such as the Community Consultative Groups. Is there representation from a variety of community interests?**
  - **Seek out opportunities to utilize services already in place in the police community to provide support and information to the community of women with disabilities.**
- Public Awareness**
- **A joint effort from disability groups and women's group to spearhead a public awareness campaign would demonstrate the close tie the community of women with disabilities have with a variety of interest groups.**
- Transportation**
- **Ensure that the community of women with disabilities is a part of the Transportation movement on PEI and take part in whatever discussions are going on. On a fixed income, this is one area which poses real safety concerns.**
- Violence**
- **Begin to dialogue with interest groups who work in crime prevention and community safety to determine the possibility for some kind of community watch program. A safe house map is another option worth discussion.**
  - **Inquire as to the appropriate use of 911 and how it can be seen as a tool for prevention.**

**Based on the information gathered during the workshop, the following goal and objectives resulted to carry our work forward the next step.**

## **GOAL**

**Provide the necessary support to women with disabilities to increase their sense and level of security.**

## **OBJECTIVES**

- ▶ **The partners involved in this project to date will expand to include the PEI Federation of Municipalities, Department of Highways, PEI Police Association, Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Department of Transportation and Public Works, 911 and the media. These new partners will allow the dialogue to begin for change on a doable level for all partners affected.**
- ▶ **All partners with a desire to make change will come together to discuss this Strategic Plan and begin looking at ways to incorporate these needs into their daily work.**
- ▶ **Provide an opportunity for women with disabilities to come together and discuss any changes, or lack thereof, that have occurred with respect to their sense of safety since the workshop in November 2001 to discuss this topic. This will provide for any updates that may be required to the Strategic Plan.**

**How  
will  
we get  
there?**

**PLAN OF ACTION TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTIVES**  
**Crime Prevention for Women with Disabilities - Next Steps**

Objective	Who will this involve?	How long will this take?	How many \$ will this take?	Who will do the work?	How will we know we made a difference?
<p>► The partners involved in this project to date will expand to include the PEI Federation of Municipalities, Department of Highways, PEI Police Association, Premier’s Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Department of Transportation and Public Works, and the media. These new partners will allow the dialogue to begin for change on a doable level for all partners affected.</p>	<p>The Management Committee &amp; existing Advisory Committee members</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> - 2nd months</p>	<p>\$3,500</p>	<p>Project Coordinator</p>	<p>Agreement to take on this issue as it relates to their involvement in our communities.</p>
<p>► All partners with a desire to make change will come together to discuss this Strategic Plan and begin looking at ways to incorporate these needs into their daily work.</p>	<p>As many groups as possible that have a stake in the safety of women with disabilities, those that are at the policy level and make the decisions that impact the lives of women with disabilities.</p>	<p>Next 6 months</p>	<p>\$6,500</p>	<p>Project Coordinator</p>	<p>Evaluation forms that are completed by workshop participants would indicate the success of this activity.</p>
<p>► Provide an opportunity for women with disabilities to come together and discuss any changes, or lack thereof, that have occurred with respect to their sense of safety since the workshop in November 2001 to discuss this topic. This will provide for any updates that may be required to the Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>The management and advisory committees and Island women with disabilities</p>	<p>Next 6 months</p>	<p>\$20,000</p>	<p>Project Coordinator</p>	<p>Evaluation forms that are completed by workshop participants would indicate the success of this activity.</p>

## COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

At this point in the process of increasing the safety Island women with disabilities the communications plan would be simple.

It would involve a great deal of communication with the new partners that would be required to move some of the findings of the initial workshop forward.

There was the need identified at that time to increase the public awareness to the issues that face women with disabilities; however, without the opportunity to meet with policy makers to decipher the possibilities that exist to make change and the steps that would be required to facilitate this change, it would be premature to go to the public.

Having said that, there are a couple of good resources that would be referred to when communicating with the media around our planned activities. The first is, *“Fanning the Flame of Community Justice - Communications Handbook”* which was developed out of the Atlantic Community Justice Project in 1999. The second is, *“Maximizing Media Relations”* which was developed by the National Crime Prevention Centre to address the issue of media interest in all the good work that is going on through the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention.

When we talk about mobilizing a community of people, geographically or interest-based, the media are an important partner and without them our efforts go unknown to the general public; therefore, it is crucial that we utilize these and other resources to their upmost capacity.

Partner web-sites and newsletters would also allow for a great deal of communication within the community.

## BUDGET PLANNING - April 1, 2002 - April 1, 2004

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>FUNDING CONTRIBUTION</b>	<b>IN-KIND</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Materials</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Equipment Rental</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Facilitation</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$137,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$77,000</b>

**How  
are  
we  
doing?**

## EVALUATION PLAN

The manner in which we monitor the outcomes of our efforts will involve a great deal of feedback before and after each activity that we undertake, as well as, a monitoring of the advisory committee's perspective of our progress. The desire to carry out more detailed evaluations was identified should funding opportunities surface throughout the life of this Strategic Plan.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ That the scope of partners involved in seeking solutions to the issues of concern for women with disabilities grow in size and demographic representation.
- ▶ That due to the consistency in feedback gathered from women with disabilities from across the Island, municipal, provincial and federal government be approached and informed about our findings with change in mind.
- ▶ That it be considered an integral part of the safety of Island women with disabilities that annual events be undertaken by partner organizations. This would allow for networking and information sharing which was identified as one of the more prevalent benefits in the past.
- ▶ That the information available out of the Strategic Plan be broadly shared to allow for an increased awareness to the issues of concern for Island women with disabilities.
- ▶ That organizations working on safety issues relating to those identified by the community of women with disabilities be made aware and consider the similar issues of concern as identified by these women.