

Needs Assessment for *Responding to and Preventing Sexual Violence* / Info for Focus Group Facilitators

* Review the Support Team's "Dealing with Disclosure" Handout.

Opening Prayer

Part 1: Introduction (8 minutes)

1) Ensure participants have read the *Invitation Letter*, signed the *Consent to Participate*, and comply with the *Group Agreement* before beginning the focus group. **Collect signed *Consent to Participate* forms from all participants.**

2) Emphasize the value of a nurturing community.

- Briefly discuss standards of the *Group Agreement* with participants. Create new ones, if participants need/want.

3) Reiterate the goal: Ultimately, the goal is to come to a common place of understanding sexual violence where everyone's voice is heard in strengthening our response and prevention efforts. In a follow-up community meeting at the end of the study (the study will run from January 2015 to March 2015), the findings from the focus groups will be presented and the recommendations will be prioritized into an action plan for the second year of the project (March 2015 to 2016). This could result in: workshops, resources, and train the trainer programs for community members and service providers. Lessons learned from the project will be shared with other communities across the province/the Atlantic.

- Emphasize that these focus groups are not meant for people to disclose individual experiences of violence, but to strengthen response and prevention for the entire community.
- Indicate that while the focus is sexual violence, we will be talking about violence generally – all violence is connected.

4) State that these issues can trigger and explain that there are supports – a Support Team and resource materials. Scheduled breaks will be included in the focus group. Introduce the Support Team. Let participants know that as practice, if you do leave the room, someone will follow you to check in. Participants can engage or not engage with the Support Team.

5) Briefly talk about confidentiality and anonymity.

- Some demographic data (i.e. gender and age) will be collected to better understand the dimensions of violence and will help us advocate for change, based on the intersecting factors of violence. **Hand out Demographic Survey.**
- In making the comments and recommendations public, no identifiers will be attached to specific comments, recommendations, or people.
- When sharing stories, we ask that you help to maintain confidentiality and anonymity and use pronouns or fake names.
- The use of gendered pronouns (i.e. she/he), if suitable, is encouraged; however, other unique identifiers (i.e. names) is not encouraged and will not be published.
- The findings will be kept in a locked cabinet in the Paqtnkek Health Centre and the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre for 7 years then destroyed. The results will be kept on the hard drive of the Project Coordinator's and Community Facilitator's computers for 7 years then deleted.
- A digital voice recorder will be used to record the conversations for transcription. Notes will be taken as well.
- **Confidentiality will be breached and there is a duty to report if there are "reasonable grounds to suspect" that a child may be in need of protection; this includes harm or risk of harm from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, or neglect.**

6) Briefly discuss the agenda for the focus group – we'll ask questions about violence and also questions about strategies to address violence. We hope to facilitate a discussion on: What is violence? What does it look like? What does the community do and others do to respond and prevent? What has worked? What are the barriers or gaps? What could be strengthened? What can we, community and others, need to do in terms of response and prevention?

Part 2: THE FOCUS GROUP

- **Start the recorder!**
- See questions for the specific groups.

Part 3: Conclusion (2 minutes)

- 1) Have participants complete the *Evaluation*. **Collect *Evaluations*.**
- 2) Provide follow up opportunities to give feedback to Molly and/or Annie.
 - *Molly Peters* / Project Staff – Community Facilitator / molly@awrcsasa.ca / 902-386-2048
 - *Annie Chau* / Project Staff – Project Coordinator / annie@awrcsasa.ca / 902-318-3300
- 3) Remind participants of the resource materials to take.
- 4) Have participants sign up for incentive draw and email list.

Closing Prayer

Part 2: THE FOCUS GROUP

- See questions for the specific groups.

Band Staff, Adult Learning Program Participants, Open Groups, *Parent Group

- **30 minutes**
 - What is violence? What does it look like? (Provide scenarios... See handout!) What contributes to it?
 - Why is it difficult to talk about? What are the challenges and barriers in talking about it? How can it be easier to talk about it?
- **BREAK (10 minutes)**
- **30 minutes**
 - How has violence been responded to in the past? What are the fears to reporting? What are the barriers or gaps? What is the follow-up like?
- **BREAK (10 minutes)**
- **30 minutes**
 - What has worked? What could be strengthened? Who needs to be involved and what do they need to do?
 - How do you see yourself contributing to the solutions? How can it be easier for you to contribute to the solutions?
 - What do women need to know/need to have? What about men?
 - (*For Parent Group add: How are you going to teach your children about these issues?)
 - Is there anything that we did not ask or talk about that we should have?

Youth (separate young women's and young men's focus groups)

- **30 minutes**
 - What is violence? What does it look like? (Provide scenarios... See handout!) What contributes to it?
 - Why is it difficult to talk about? What are the challenges and barriers in talking about it? How can it be easier to talk about it?
- **BREAK (10 minutes)**
- **30 minutes**
 - What is a healthy relationship? What is consent?
 - Where and what information are you getting about these issues now?
- **BREAK (10 minutes)**
- **30 minutes**
 - How has violence been responded to in the past? What are the fears to reporting? What are the barriers or gaps? What could be strengthened?
 - How do you see yourself contributing to the solutions? How can it be easier for you to contribute to the solutions?
 - What do young women need to know/need to have? What about young men?
 - Is there anything that we did not ask or talk about that we should have?

Residential School Survivors & Descendants

- **30 minutes**
 - What is violence? What does it look like? (Provide scenarios... See handout!) How was violence experienced in the context of your life, of this community? What contributed to it?
 - Why is it difficult to talk about? What are the challenges and barriers in talking about it? How can it be easier to talk about it?
- **BREAK (10 minutes)**
- **30 minutes**
 - How does the specific experience of residential schools impact the experience of sexual violence and vice versa?
 - What are the differences in need for those who have experienced sexual violence historically, as compared to recently/presently?
- **BREAK (10 minutes)**
- **30 minutes**
 - What should be the strategies for response and prevention? What forms of support are needed? What should the follow-up be?
 - Is there anything that we did not ask or talk about that we should have?

Chief & Council, Health Centre Staff

- **30 minutes**
 - What is violence? What does it look like? (Provide scenarios... See handout!) What contributes to it?
 - Why is it difficult to talk about? What are the challenges and barriers in talking about it? How can it be easier to talk about it?
- **BREAK (10 minutes)**
- **30 minutes**
 - How has violence been responded to in the past? What are the fears to reporting? What are the barriers or gaps? What is the follow-up like?
 - What forms of support are needed?
- **BREAK (10 minutes)**
- **30 minutes**
 - What has worked? What could be strengthened? Who needs to be involved and what do they need to do? What collaborations (roles and responsibilities) are needed?
 - How do you see yourself contributing to the solutions? How can it be easier for you to contribute to the solutions?
 - What do women need to know/need to have? What about men?
 - Is there anything that we did not ask or talk about that we should have?