

To whom it may concern,

In June 2015, the Liberal Government released Nova Scotia's first provincial Sexual Violence Strategy. At Avalon Sexual Assault Centre, we know how critical having a focused strategy to prevent and address sexualized violence is, and the positive impacts that this effort has on the clients we serve and the broader community. We also know that a key component of this work is addressing the socio-political culture that fosters sexism, oppression, and social injustice. We are proud to provide programs and services that address sexualized violence and its root causes, and support survivors across the Halifax Regional Municipality.

In this package, you will find a number of resources detailing sexualized violence in Nova Scotia and throughout Canada, your role as a politician in addressing it, and some information on the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre, the unique services it offers and the challenges it's facing. Sexualized violence is a real and pressing election issue in Nova Scotia. Nova Scotians need the support of our government representatives to prevent sexualized violence/abuse and support survivors. You can make a difference.

The services we provide are critical and require your immediate attention. At the current time, we are unable to meet the growing needs of the Halifax Region and other Nova Scotians. Currently, the three existing sexual assault centres (including Avalon) are struggling to sustain service delivery and address growing need. Newly emerging sexual assault services also face sustainability issues once short term funding under the current sexual violence strategy ends. You and your party have an important role in ensuring that Nova Scotians affected by sexualized violence and abuse have access to the services they need.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to preventing and addressing sexualized violence. I look forward to speaking with you further about this very important societal and systemic issue.