



Healing Approaches with Seniors

Nova Scotia's story

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Why is all began?

Disconnect and dissatisfaction with traditional approaches specifically to seniors abuse

Need to change our way of :

- relating with seniors
- looking at the issue of senior abuse
- working with each other and our partners

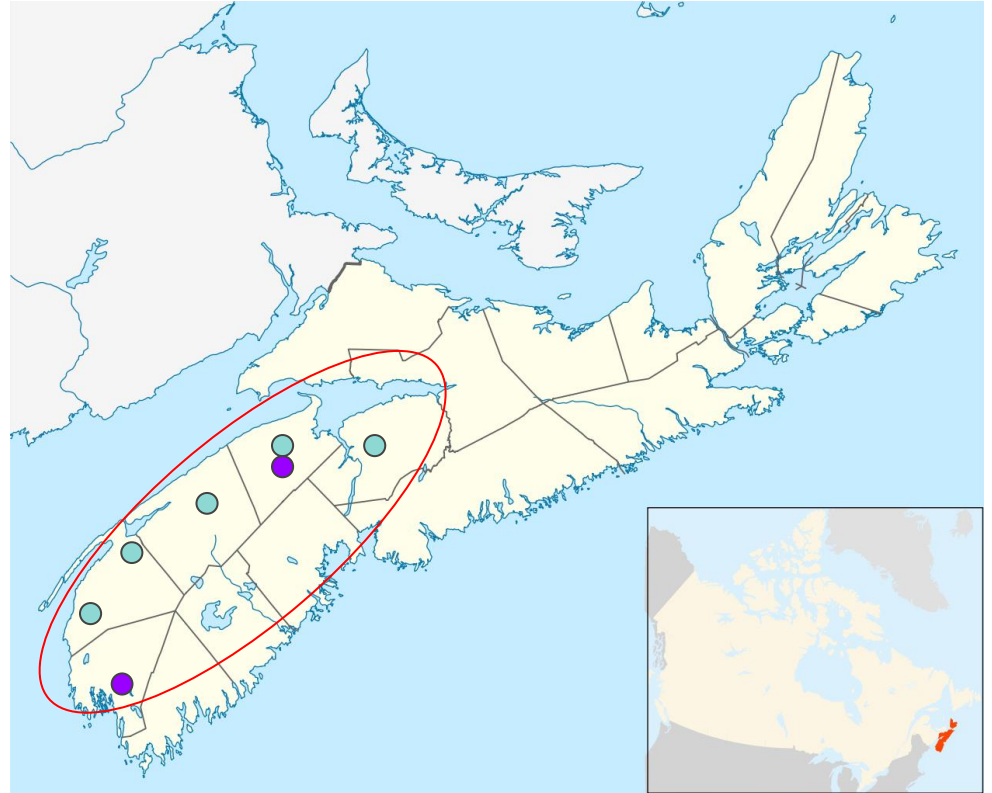
Where and who was involved?

When: March 2011

Where: South West Nova Scotia

Who:

- Provincial government - Seniors and Justice
- Senior Safety Programs
- Restorative Justice Agencies
- Engaged and interested older adults
- Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network
- Guides
 - Jennifer Llewelyn, Dalhousie
 - Arlene Groh, Waterloo



What did we do?

Established our values and principles

Learned from and with each other – Senior Abuse, Restorative Justice, and Relational Approaches

Learned from and with others (Waterloo, New Zealand, PEI, UK, Australia, Japan)

Clarified: We're developing an approach, not a program or set of practices

- Offers a relational understanding the problem of senior abuse AND
- To thinking about the required relational response(s)
- NOT simply about the processes to be used

Successes



Developed the foundation (values, principles), capacity and skills to not only do things differently but also think differently about what we are doing

Voices that care and carry the insights from our values, principles and learnings are a strong catalyst for change within resistant systems

Deeper understanding of senior abuse and what working relationally means in this context

Challenges



Current dominant systems have a very strong mechanisms for maintaining status quo

Maintaining and sustaining a shift in how we work is much more difficult than in what we do

Changes in people and leadership with any collaborators can mean loss of momentum

Where to from here?

What is needed now in this moment?

How can we be of service to that?

What are we uniquely able to offer and how can we best offer that?