

Antigonish Women's Resource Centre Time Line 1983-2007

1983-1984			
Overall Context	AWRC Context	Programs / projects	Partnerships / liaison
<p>Economic downturn</p> <p>Government increased funding to Women's Program</p>	<p>Antigonish Women's Resource Centre opens!</p> <p>Antigonish Women's Association prepared and issued a written presentation on pornography to the Special Commission on Prostitution and Pornography</p> <p>Secretary of State provided no funds for operating the AWRC for the month of April</p> <p>Oona Landry (Co-ordinator) and Betty MacLean (Office Manager) began at AWRC</p> <p>AWA refers to other agencies for abortion information</p>	<p>Began opening the Centre Tuesday evenings for people to drop in</p> <p>hosted MLA Bill Gillis to speak about government procedures, presenting briefs to gov't, and to answer questions</p> <p>Sr. Helen Aboud (Nutrition and Consumer Studies) came to speak about household consumerism and budgeting</p> <p>began showing noon hour films</p> <p>submitted funding proposal to the Secretary of State Department</p>	<p>UCCB Women's Conference (Sydney)</p>

1984-1985			
<p>Conservative government</p> <p>The Department of the Secretary of State announced funding for the establishment of five Chairs of Women's Studies.</p> <p>Federal election in fall 1984</p>	<p>new AWRC location (above Celtic Music Store)</p> <p>Participated in community activism around nuclear disarmament</p> <p>Secretary of State provided no funds for operating the AWRC from April through June. Funds finally arrived in July. AWRC stayed open due to commitment of volunteers</p>	<p>held info session on Vocational Rehabilitation Program for single parents</p> <p>established telephone chain</p> <p>Held course on Career Exploration for Women</p> <p>Held event, "Women's Work Around the World"</p> <p>introduced bowling, volleyball and wen-do activities</p>	<p>AWA became member of National Action Committee (NAC)</p>
1985-1986			
<p>Charter of Rights and Freedoms amended to recognize gender and other forms of discrimination</p> <p>First Nations activist Jeanette Lavell achieves amendment to Indian act, restoring status to First Nations women married to non-status men.</p> <p>United Nations World Conference on Women held in Nairobi, Kenya.</p>	<p>Star Levatte-O'Neill (Coordinator) and Beverly Renny (Office Manager) began at AWRC</p> <p>took action on threat to cut Secretary of State Women's Program funding</p>	<p>held "Women in Community" course</p> <p>started support group, <i>Caring for the Care Givers</i></p> <p>held several workshops and information sessions</p>	<p>Rural Women Together: weekend conference at StFXU</p> <p>WHEN (Women's Health Education Network) conference (Truro)</p>

1986-1987

Employment Equity Act introduced to correct discrimination against women, First Nations people, people with disabilities and visible minorities.

Took action to respond to attempts of REAL Women to discredit feminist groups and their work

AWRC closed for summer

New AWRC location

re-instatement of core funding from Secretary of State

first annual Coady picnic

Offered Thursday morning discussions on a variety of topics

started planning for Single Moms' Support Group

attended Women and Housing Workshop

formation of JUST Women (Justice, Unity, Strength, Truth)

Monitoring and Assessment Committee - Dept. Of Social Service

Advisory Council of the CEIC

Naomi Society Women's Committee

Canadian Congress of Learning Opportunities for Women

1987-1988			
Canada-US Free Trade Agreement finalized	took part in Rally for Strikers in front of Bank of Commerce	<p>in conjunction with Naomi Project, helped create inter-agency committee on family violence, <i>A Community Response to Family Violence</i></p> <p>began sponsoring Sister Mary MacLeod Bursary</p> <p>held Free Trade meeting</p>	<p>Antigonish Interagency Committee on Domestic Violence</p> <p>Making Connections, Finding Our Power: A Conference for Women</p>
1988-1989			
Abortion a big issue	<p>Lucille Harper and Katherine Reed begin at AWRC</p> <p>first Interagency Committee meeting held</p>	<p>Star and Diane attended Economy Consultation hosted by Secretary of State, also Women's Centre consultation with focus on financial assistance to women's centres</p> <p>offered <i>Nobody's Perfect Program</i></p>	

1989-1990			
<p>14 women murdered in Montreal on December 6, 1989</p> <p>federal government eliminated operational funding to women's centres</p> <p>Audrey McLaughlin was the first woman to lead a national political party in Canada.</p>	<p>first Take Back the Night Walk</p>	<p>expansion of public education events beyond workshop/presentation/lecture format to include theatre and public demonstrations</p> <p>Katherine organized and facilitated <i>Single Moms' Group</i></p> <p>introduction of <i>Next STEP</i> and <i>STEP Teen</i></p>	<p>Nova Scotia Women's Centres Connect!</p> <p>Family Benefits Review Board</p> <p>Women's Action Coalition of Nova Scotia</p>
1990-1991			
<p>pre-Beijing conferences held</p> <p>Dec 6 declared National Date of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in commemoration of the Montreal Massacre 1989.</p> <p>re-instatement of operational funding to Secretary of State Women's Program for Women's Centres</p>		<p>worked with counselors in area to develop <i>Survivors' Feminist Therapy Group</i></p> <p>helped create a committee to work on developing a food bank</p> <p>introduced <i>Housing Project</i>, <i>Adolescent Health Project</i>, <i>PLURA: Single Moms' Support Group</i></p>	<p>Antigonish Social Solidarity Committee</p> <p>Community Health Promotion Fund Regional Committee</p>

1991-1992			
		<p>helped develop workplace sexual harassment policies</p> <p>published report "No Place For Home: Women and Housing in Antigonish"</p> <p>introduced <i>Therapy Group for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse</i></p>	<p>Antigonish Single Mothers' Association</p> <p>Antigonish Area Inter-Agency Committee on Domestic Violence Sub-Committees on Housing and Poverty</p> <p>Adolescent Health Project Advisory Committee</p> <p>Ensemble, National Conference of Women's Centres Steering Committee</p>
1992-1993			
<p>Refugee guidelines include women facing gender-related persecution.</p> <p>Kim Campbell First female Prime Minister</p>	<p>organized and co-sponsored <i>Poverty Awareness Day</i></p> <p>October was declared Women's History Month in Canada.</p>	<p>held <i>Low-Income Women's Housing Focus Group</i></p>	<p>SACHA (Society for Affordable Community Housing in Antigonish)</p> <p>Topshee Memorial Conference Planning Committee</p> <p>National Action Committee on the Status of Women</p>

1993-1994			
<p>Women's centres grow in size and numbers</p> <p>North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) launched</p>	<p>10th Anniversary Celebration</p> <p>began emphasizing liaisons and partnerships</p> <p>quality of leadership (Executive Director and Board) was integral to strength of AWRC's work</p>	<p>evaluation and reflection on work of AWRC through surveys and focus groups</p> <p>helped develop provincial Department of Health project to assist survivors of childhood sexual abuse</p>	<p>Kids First Regional Development Board</p> <p>Maritime Area Leadership Training Program</p> <p>Beijing Conference Planning Session</p> <p>Antigonish Community Family Support Society</p>
1994-1995			
<p>The Violence Against Women Act tightens federal penalties for sex offenders, funds services for victims of rape and domestic violence, and provides for special training of police officers.</p> <p>Canada Assistance Plan is cut</p>	<p>newly expanded space officially opened September 19th (National Women's Centres Day)</p> <p>AWA receives provincial funding</p> <p>Vangie Babin is hired</p>	<p>initiated federally-funded initiative, <i>Women and Community Economic Development</i></p> <p>introduced <i>Sexual Assault Project</i></p> <p>initiated <i>Women Survivors of Sexual Abuse Initiative</i> in Antigonish</p> <p>began training program for <i>Sexual Assault Crisis Line Workers</i></p>	<p>"Ensemble": National Organization of Women's Centres</p>

1995-1996

Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. 187 Nations negotiated the Beijing Declaration & Platform for Action.

Federal Plan for Gender Equality published.

continued government restructuring and downsizing resulting in increased workloads and reduced staff for many services

dramatic increase in numbers of women coming to centre

participated in UN delegation

increased community trust in / credibility of AWA

community partnerships grow and build to present day

helped establish Community Health Board in Antigonish

developed *Sexual Assault Support Service weekend crisis line*

developed collaborative approach to community education and action in response to replacement of Canada Assistance Plan with Canada Health and Social Transfer

AWA co-sponsored *PATH (People Assessing Their Health)*

sponsored partnership projects: Groundwork: Women in Community Development Conference; A Community Response to Violence Against Women: Developing and Action Planning Resource

PATH (People Assessing Their Health) Network

Community Action on Violence Against Women (CAVAW)

1996-1997			
	<p>organized event for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17)</p> <p>Shift to greater emphasis on sexual assault</p> <p>Introduction of new health projects</p> <p>Youth focus increases</p>	<p>worked closely with Youth Services Committee to establish a youth centre in Antigonish</p> <p>released "Cooking Over Time: A Collection of Recipes and Stories of Women from Antigonish Town and County"</p> <p>Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Committee produced 500 copies of 12-page booklet entitled "Child Sexual Abuse in the Antigonish Area"</p>	<p>Antigonish Coordinated Services Committee</p> <p>Antigonish Coalition for Economic Justice</p> <p>Antigonish Community Health Board Exploration Discussion Group</p> <p>Antigonish Sexual Assault Support Service</p>
1997-1998			
<p>Amalgamation of districts for funding</p>	<p>increased demand for AWRC services</p> <p>community resistance to AWRC's work</p>	<p>began Women's Program project "Naming Our Reality: Women and Economics"</p> <p>initiated <i>Teens Take Action</i></p> <p>introduced <i>Mid-Life Transition Program, Income Tax Return Preparation Program</i></p>	<p>Antigonish Community Health Planning Group</p> <p>Support Services for Adult Survivors' Committee (SSAS)</p> <p>Northern Opportunities for Business Ltd. Community Investment Committee</p> <p>ACT for Change</p> <p>National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO)</p>

1998-1999

elimination of core federal funding by Status of Women Canada

produced report, *A Community Response to Women's Poverty*

helped form Women Standing Up in Antigonish and Guysborough Counties

pressed for public policy change by responding to Department of Community Services Social Assistance Restructuring Initiative discussion paper, *Rebuilding the System*

Women in Community Economic Development

Women Leading Action on Violence Against Women (WLA)

introduced *Preventing Sexual Violence: A Rural Outreach Approach*

Feminists for Just and Equitable Public Policy (FemJEPP)

began young women's groups *For Young Women: Exploring Our Lives* and *Young Women: Lives on the Line*

Maritime Centre for Excellence in Women's Health

1999-2000

change in provincial government, cuts to social assistance; reduction of assistance rates for food, clothing, rent and utilities; transportation and house supplies allowance disappear leaving single parent families with an income that falls approximately 30% below the poverty line

World March of Women launched

Beverley McLachlin appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Supreme Court upholds Bill C-46, restricting access to medical files of sexual abuse victims, and affirms that "No means No", "implied consent" non-existent in Canadian law.

worked on Status of Women Canada project *Women in Transition: Meeting Their Needs*

introduced *Re-Entry Readiness Program for African Canadian Women on Social Assistance*

introduced *Enhancing Women's Employability: Re-Entry Program for Women on Social Assistance*

started group, *Parents with Challenging Teens*

ACASV (Antigonish Committee to Address Sexual Violence)

Antigonish Guysborough Transportation Steering Committee

Eating Disorders Group Planning Team

Links Project (national project coordinated by the Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres)

2000-2001

AWRC took lead role in reviving community interest in working to develop affordable housing solutions

worked on peer sexual harassment awareness project, *When Bullying Becomes Sexual Harassment*

expanded programs for adolescent girls including *Exploring Our Lives Together*, *Young Women's Reading Group* and *Youth Social Justice Group*

introduced *On the Road to Employment*

Antigonish Affordable Housing Society (AAHS)

Guysborough/Antigonish Dial-a-Ride Association

Antigonish Town and County Crime Prevention Association

2001-2002

Conservative minority government

provincial government introduced reformed social assistance program

increase in staffing and programs

worked with women's centres in New Glasgow and Sydney on project, *Social Assistance Reform in Nova Scotia: Is It Working for Women?*

developed and offered *Stage III Therapy Group for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse*

started *Rural Youth Healthy Relationships Education Project*

helped develop community health impact assessment tool through PATH

started groups: *Embracing Ourselves: Building Self-Confidence, Can't Say No? An Assertiveness Program for Women, Uncommon Sense for Parents with Teens, Women and Financial Planning Program, Inspire*

first *Women's Free Store*

Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) Youth Action Committee, Northern Region

Antigonish Youth Centre Coalition

Restorative Justice in Nova Scotia Project Advisory Committee

2002-2003

in April 2002, provincial gov't cut \$890,000 from budgets of transition houses, women's centres and men's intervention programs. After considerable public protest, funding cuts were put on hold.

governments continue offloading work to community groups

1,000 signatures on petition to keep AWA open

increase in community support

support from MLA Angus MacIsaac and women in the Progressive Conservative party

AWRC working at capacity, still underfunded

worked on *Ways and Means: Antigonish Women Seek Strategies to Address Affordable Housing Need* project

two students completed 7-week placement through Canada World Youth Antigonish-Indonesia Exchange

2003-2004

more core programs operating

more permanent staff

through GASHA funding, hires support worker

worked on *Follow-up to Social Assistance Reform: Making It Work for Women!*

Women Supporting Women introduced

Advisory Committee to the Transition to Employment Research (Nova Scotia Advisory Council for the Status of Women)

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Canada Nova Scotia Skills and Learning Framework (CNSSLF) Antigonish/Guysborough Advisory Committee of the Northern Region

Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia

2004-2005

AWRC received GASHA grant of \$50,000 to help support Women's Crisis and Ongoing Support Services

began *Social Assistance Reform in Nova Scotia: Moving Forward a Woman Positive Public Policy Agenda* project, with recommendations documented in reports "Struggling to Survive" and "Survival Strategies"

Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Literacy Network

Antigonish Coordinated Sexual Assault Response Initiative

Northern Nova Scotia: Coordinated Youth Homelessness Community Partnership Project

Friends of the Library

Changes Coalition

Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW)

2005-2006

Valentine's Day Campaign

Opening of Lindsay's Health Centre for Women!

introduced *Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program*

opened *Lindsay's Health Centre for Women*

initiated *LGBT Community Safety Initiative*, participated with university and community organizations to hold Positive Space training

began *Overcoming Resistance Project, Healthy Relationships for Youth Project*

started *Face to Face: Building inter-sectoral collaboration to improve policy responses to single mothers' education and training needs*

took lead role in creating Antigonish Sexual Assault Response Team

Antigonish Area Partnership - Antigonish 20/20 Foresight Concept Committee

Making a Difference Antigonish-Halifax Team

Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA)

Gender, Race, Class, and Health Research Group

Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence Needs Assessment Committee

2006-2007

Grace MacKinnon, first President of the AWA, passed away October 2006

introduced *Justice Matters for Women: Rural Outreach in Guysborough and Antigonish Counties*

SANE Program up and running

held *Feminist Activism in Conservative Times* conference

Pa'qtnekek First Nation Inter-Agency Committee

Sexual Assault Services Provincial Needs Assessment Steering Committee

Canada Social Transfer Nova Scotia Action Group