



RURAL YOUTH EDUCATION PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2005

**Submitted by:
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BACKGROUND:

The Rural Youth Education Project (RYEP) is a four year project which started in February/02. This project is sponsored by the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre and funded by the National Crime Prevention Strategy, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. The project implements a gender-based, violence prevention model which will provide youth with skills to build and maintain healthy relationships.

The model being replicated was developed by the Saltspring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse (SWOVA) Community Development and Research Society in rural British Columbia and the project work is being carried out with ongoing consultation and collaboration with SWOVA staff. Key to the process is the partnership RYEP has with the Antigonish East Education Centre in Antigonish County and Chedabucto Place in Guysborough County. These rural schools reflect a diverse population with a significant percentage of the students coming from Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian communities.

The model presents a gender-based, violence prevention approach for working collaboratively with teachers to deliver a core curriculum of 12 lessons to students in grades 7, 8, 9, and 11. It is designed to be presented as a multi-dimensional, multi-sessional, multi-year program. The inclusive teaching approach utilized is acknowledged to be an effective way to present the skill development and awareness of issues required to build and maintain healthy relationships.

In each school a male/female team of Adult Facilitators facilitate the classroom sessions and are also responsible for providing leadership, information and support to a team of up to ten Youth Facilitators. Youth Facilitators assist with the delivery of the classroom sessions. These youth play an important mentoring and peer support role with other students both in and out of the classroom. This team presents role-modelling of a healthy adult male/female relationship as well as a co-operative youth/adult relationship. Members of the Youth and Adult teams also reflect culture and gender diversity.

This project will incorporate adaptations which will enhance the existing SWOVA curriculum, most notably in the area of diversity. Within Antigonish and Guysborough Counties there exists significant cultural/racial diversity with both First Nations and African Nova Scotian communities. Cultural diversity will be a priority and the diversity component will continue to be developed and integrated throughout the project. In addition student workbooks and resources for teachers and parents will support and enhance the classroom lessons.

INTRODUCTION:

The RYEP Project has entered the final phase of the present funding which ends in March/06. Under this funding the 04/05 school year will be the third and final year of delivery of the RYEP sessions. While the original funding expires in March/06, a request for a funding extension has been submitted to the National Crime Prevention Strategy. Originally, this proposal was to continue delivery for another three school years which would have allowed the external evaluation to cover a five year period. This would have fulfilled the external evaluation objective. However, following notification that there is a five year funding cap on project funding, the request for a funding extension had to be revised to end in September/06. This will allow us to complete one final school year. In relation to sustainability, discussions will be ongoing with the Department of Education to explore maintaining the program.

After three years of program delivery, 993 students in grades 7 - 11 have received 12 classroom sessions of the Developing Healthy & Respectful Relationship curriculum. In addition 57 high school students have received training as Youth Facilitators and have been active in their schools as peer educators and co-facilitators of the RYEP curriculum in the classroom with the Adult Facilitators.

The 03/04 school year ended on a very positive note with a highly successful recruiting process for this year's youth teams. In addition, the members of the two Adult Teams worked effectively together and provided a consistency in both schools.

Early in this school year, staffing became a central issue with a significant turnover in RYEP staff at East Antigonish. While this difficult situation created only a slight interruption in the delivery of the classroom sessions at the East, the Youth Team was more affected. From staff observation, the early lack of continuity with Adult Team members had a lasting effect on the level of cohesiveness and commitment of this group. The changes in staff also resulted in a lack of racial diversity and also replayed previous difficulties in recruiting male candidates for this sort of part-time work. As a result of these challenges and learnings, if future funding is secured, the design for the Adult Team will be to hire two facilitators, one female/one male, still with a focus on achieving racial diversity, but that this one team will cover both schools. Both schools have committed to scheduling that will accommodate this. While the Adult Facilitator position would still be part time it would be at significantly more hours.

The internal evaluation process was well underway in this past year and resulted in Peggy Mahon producing the first Internal Evaluation Interim Report which provides an exciting look at the impact that the RYEP project has made, particularly with youth.

At this point in the year, there has not yet been a response to the RYEP funding extension request. Nevertheless, this is a critical planning time for the next school year and recruiting for

Youth Team members has been initiated.

The following report covers RYEP activities from April/04 to March/05. This reporting period covers the end of the 03/04 school year and most of the 04/05 school year. For clarity, these two school years are discussed separately.

SCHOOL BASED ACTIVITY:

In three years of program delivery 993 students in grades 7 - 11 have received 12 sessions of the Developing Healthy & Respectful Relationships curriculum.

RYEP CLASSROOM SESSIONS: 03/04 School Year: April/04 to June/04

A total of 377 students received the RYEP curriculum in this school year.

CHEBABUCTO PLACE:

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 11	Total
Classes Completed	PDR 7-1 (20) PDR 7-2 (21)	PDR 8-1 (23) PDR 8-2 (25)	PDR 9-1 (24) PDR 9-2 (23)	CLM 11-1(25) CLM 11-2(27)	
	2 classes (41)	2 classes (48)	2 classes (47)	2 classes (52)	8 classes (188)

EAST ANTIGONISH:

	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Total
Classes Completed	PDR 7-1 (22) PDR 7-2 (22) PDR 7-3 (22)	PDR 8-1 (19) PDR 8-2 (20) PDR 8-3 (19)	PDR 9-1 (21) PDR 9-2 (21) PDR 9-3 (23)	
	3 classes (66)	3 classes (58)	3 classes (65)	9 classes (189)

RYEP CLASSROOM SESSIONS: 04/05 School Year: September/04 - March/05:

A total of 296 students participated in the RYEP sessions in this school year.

CHEDABUCTO PLACE:

38446	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Totals
Class	7-1 (18) 7-2 (17)	8-1 (21) 8-2 (20)	9-1(23) 9-2(25)	
Totals	2 classes (35)	2 classes (41)	2 classes (48)	6 classes (124)

EAST ANTIGONISH:

38446	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Totals
Completed:	7-2(16) 7-3 (15) 7-1 (16)	8-2 (20) 8-3 (20) 8-1 (21)	9-1 (19) 9-2 (22) 9-3 (23)	
Totals	3 classes(47)	3 classes (61)	3 classes(64)	9 classes (172)

ADULT FACILITATORS: 03/04 School Year: (April - June)

- Adult Teams: East Antigonish: Annika Peters & Patrick Taman
Chedabucto Place: Krista DeCoste & John Jantunen
- Adult Team - Weekly Staff Meetings: Regular ongoing staff meeting were held to provide information and support to Adult Facilitators.
- Heartwood Games Workshop(April 27th)
Krista and Annika attended a one-day workshop facilitated by Heartwood staff focussing on game theory and practice. Very worthwhile for staff attending.
- Curriculum Review: In May, four days were spent with the Adult Team members to review the four grade levels of curriculum. Recommendations for revisions were developed.
- Closure Interviews: (May/June) meetings were held with all 4 of Adult Team members. Staff were asked to identify their learnings/challenges and discuss any recommendations for improvement for the RYEP.

ADULT FACILITATORS: 04/05 School Year: (September - March)

- Adult Teams: East Antigonish:
 - Chedabucto Place: Krista DeCoste & Sean Patterson
 - East Antigonish: see below Staffing Changes:
- Orientation/Education Sessions:
Five days of sessions took place on August 16 - 20th inclusive, with the four adult facilitators; Krista, Sean, Annika and Derek.
 - Day One: Teaching Strategies for Diverse Classrooms: Debbie Graham
 - Day Two: Orientation to the RYEP: Jean Crosby
 - Day Three: Diversity Awareness/Education: Sylvia Parris
 - Day Four: LGBT Awareness/Education: Lesley Marple
 - Day Five: Preparation for Youth Training / Next Steps for Adult Teams
- School activities resumed in September at both schools. Classes started in September at Chedabucto Place and in October at the East.
- Orientation Meetings: were held at both schools with RYEP staff and school staff; in attendance were the five PDR teachers who will be involved with the RYEP sessions: Bernie Currie, Paul MacDonald, Dave Bance, Ron Long and Shelly Rovers.
- Regular staff meetings were ongoing in addition with regular contact/debriefing with Adult Facilitators regarding the ongoing classroom work.

Staffing Changes:

- A hiring process was initiated in July to fill the two male positions on the Adult Teams. These two positions were accepted by Sean Patterson and Derek Shaw. In late August, Derek withdrew from the Project citing incompatibility of the RYEP with his education goals. Rehiring for this position began immediately and Lucky Campbell accepted the position of Adult Facilitator at East Antigonish at the end of September.
- The Adult Team at East Antigonish continued to have staffing changes which were all due to performance related issues. In October, Annika left the Project and Jennifer Hardy was hired as her replacement. Jennifer started working with Lucky Campbell and their working relationship quickly deteriorated and resulted in Jennifer leaving the Project and Lucky's position being terminated. By mid-November it was decided that rehiring for the East was not feasible at this point in the year and that Krista would take on additional duties at East Antigonish and proceed on her own. Sean and Krista would continue to maintain their duties at Chedabucto Place.
- While Chedabucto Place has been unaffected by these changes, East Antigonish experienced a number of transitions with staff. At East Antigonish, Krista quickly reestablished the classroom schedule with students and meetings with the Youth Team, however, it is a challenging position without a co-facilitator. While Sean was not available to commit to the classroom work at the East, he did switch to work with the East Youth Team in January to provide extra support for Krista at that school. With

Krista's experience and with enhanced support from the Project Co-ordinator, it is a manageable, if not ideal situation. Krista continued on her own with the Chedabucto Team which did not experience the same disruption with staff and is running more smoothly.

YOUTH FACILITATORS: 03/04 School Year:

- Youth Team Weekly Meetings:
Issues discussed included:
 - recruiting for next years youth team
 - application process for current youth team members
 - interviews scheduled for youth team members for AI
 - preparation for the Health Fair.
 - the final meetings at each school were a pizza party. This was a great way to bring closure to this year and welcome new members for next year.
 - analysis of the AI interviews with Youth Team.
- Sherbrooke Health Fair
On May 5th, Annika, Patrick and six members of the East Youth Team traveled to Sherbrooke to participate in the "St. Mary's Youth Health Fair 2004". The Youth Team members presented a workshop in five consecutive fifty minute sessions to groups of grade 8 - 10 students. The workshop format consisted of: using icebreakers, interactive games , facilitated discussion, roleplays and posters to discuss communication styles which moved to a presentation of the cycle of relationship violence. The workshop was very well received and the East Youth Team were justifiably proud of this accomplishment.
- Youth Team Recruiting:
The interest in the Youth Team positions showed a tremendous increase this year. 31 applications were received and 5 members of this year's teams reapplied. Also at both schools the number of applications from boys outnumbered those of the girls and we had increased interest by Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian students. This is in large part a function of the positive impression made by the Adult Team, support of school staff, as well as our accumulated time in the schools. Also students applying this year in Grade 10 would have had the RYEP sessions in both grades 8 & 9. They have an increased awareness and appreciation for the program and the opportunities offered to Youth Team members.
 - East Antigonish:
18 Interviews were held at the school on May 12th & 13th. Seven applicants were selected to join three returning Youth Team members for a total of ten. The 04/05 Youth Team consists of 5/10 boys, 5/10 girls and 4/10 are Mi'kmaq.
 - Chedabucto Place:
13 Interviews were held at the school on May 17th. Eight applicants were selected to join two returning Youth Team members for a total of ten. The 04/05 Youth Team consists of 5/10 boys, 5/10 girls and 4/10 are African Nova

Scotian.

Following the interviews the list of selected applicants was presented to Gerard Ryan and Paul Ash to comment on any academic issues. Participation on the Youth Team requires that a student miss their own classes to co-facilitate the RYEP sessions. They need to accommodate this without jeopardizing academics. The Adult Teams in each school notified the successful applicants as a group and then the unsuccessful applicants as a group. Letters were also sent to all interviewed.

The new members of the Youth Team were invited to each school's final Youth Team party for pizza and farewells to those not returning and to meet the students they will be working with in the next school year.

YOUTH FACILITATORS: 04/05 School Year:

Orientation/Education Sessions:

Youth Team sessions were held over three days at Chedabucto Place from August 25 - 27th inclusive. Facilitators: Jean Crosby, Krista DeCoste, Annika Peters and Sean Patterson

Day One: Orientation to RYEP
Working in your school as a Youth Facilitator
Looking After Yourself & Others

Day Two: Diversity Awareness/Education
LGBT Awareness/ Education: Lesley Marple

Day Three: Team Building
School Mapping/Presentations
Wrap Up/ Next Steps

Day Four: On September 25th, Krista, Sean and Annika developed and presented a one day workshop with both Youth Teams at East Antigonish. The focus of the day was teambuilding.

Youth Team Activities:

- Youth Team Meetings: Weekly after-school meetings were ongoing at both schools. Issues discussed/activities included:
 - school mapping and discussing projects for the year as well as organizing scheduling to assist with classroom presentations.
 - the last meeting before Christmas break both groups had a pizza party.
 - debriefing experiences with classroom rotations as co-facilitators
 - at both schools, the Youth Team members created and delivered a folktale skit to the grade 9 classes as part of the RYEP sessions.
 - the East Team carried out a modest fundraiser for the Naomi Society in support of the December 6th activities.
 - developed posters for March 21st - the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
 - planning for workshop presentations to Youth events in April & May.

- developing a series of skits to be videotaped. The three themes are dating violence, bullying and LGBT awareness.
- attended a presentation for Black History Month in February
- Heartwood : Centre for Community Youth Development:
A one day training workshop was held on January 28th at Chedabucto Place school for members of both Youth Teams. Krista and Sean attended also. Facilitators were Josh Feuer and Becky Lavers. The objective of this day was to provide an opportunity for both Youth Teams to get together and work on team building and to also enhance facilitation skills through participating in new games and activities. Some comments from the evaluation included; *“all the games we really fun and interesting to do”*
“good discussions”
“dream activity inspired us to apply what we’ve done”
“good energy and nice facilitators”
“Really encouraging”
- GASHA Symposium on Youth Health:
The RYEP was invited to have Youth Team members develop and present a workshop on healthy relationships. Other workshops will included topics of Sexuality, Addiction and Citizenship. This event is scheduled to occur on April 15th in Port Hawkesbury.
- Youth Health Seminar, Dalbrae Academy:
The Chedabucto Team has been invited to present at this event in Mabou at the end of May. They will be presenting the video they are in the process of making on issues related to relationship violence.

SCHOOL BOARD:

A presentation on the RYEP was made to the Working Committee of the Strait District School Board in May/04. Accompanying Jean to this presentation were staff; John Jantunen, Patrick Taman and Advisory Committee members; Joanne Reddick and Tammy Lee Vautour. A report had been circulated prior to the meeting summarizing the activities of the RYEP over the past two years. The presentation was well received.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

Lucille and Jean met in Halifax in July with Ann Blackwood, Director of English Program Services with the Department of Education. This was a productive meeting which provided an opportunity for us to share information and discuss the successes of the RYEP. In September, all revised curriculum materials were sent to Ann for her review and a next meeting will be scheduled for Oct/Nov.

CURRICULUM WORK:

- Curriculum Review: In May, four days were spent with the Adult Team members to review the four grade levels of curriculum. This was an opportunity to capture recommendations

for revision based on the experience of the last school year. Krista will be working towards completing these revisions in July.

- Krista completed revisions to Grade 7,8,9 and 11 curriculum and workbooks in July.
- Susan Eaton completed Parent/Guardian Guides for grades 7,8,9, & 11 in August.
- Parent/Guardian Guides were distributed to all students in RYEP classes in September/October.

DIVERSITY COMPONENT:

Diversity Consultant:

The main objectives of Sylvia's work, which will be ongoing throughout the project, are:

- To develop supplemental resource materials for the curriculum which will:
 - address diversity issues relevant to a rural student population
 - address cultural diversity issues relevant to African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq students
 - be age appropriate for students in Grades 7,8,9 & 11
- To develop and deliver educational material to support diversity awareness leading to competency for Project and School staff.

03/04:

Sylvia Parris facilitated the following sessions in April/04 which concluded Sylvia's work for this school year.

- Staff Education Session: A productive discussion was facilitated by Sylvia with the Adult Team focusing on strategies/challenges in discussing oppression and privilege in the classroom.
- School Staff Session:
In April, 8 of the 10 school staff involved with the RYEP attended and in this sessions explored the process of building competency in relation to diversity. Also in attendance were RYEP Staff: Krista, Jean & Peggy Mahon, consultant.

04/05:

- RYEP Staff Training:
In August, Sylvia presented a one-day workshop to staff to enhance diversity awareness and knowledge.
- School Staff Inservice:
In October, Sylvia Parris facilitated a one-day workshop with PDR staff from both schools on "Advancing Diversity" with a focus on connections to the project curriculum. Five PDR teachers attended: Bernie Currie, Paul MacDonald, Ron Long, Shelly Rovers and Dave Bance. Also in attendance were Karen Swan, NCPC and Jean Crosby. Replacement costs for these teachers was covered by the Department of Education.

S.W.O.V.A.: CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION:

Staff members Lynda Laushway, Director and Pat Fagan, Adult Facilitator traveled to Antigonish for this year's meeting.

- June 28th & 29th were spent meeting with Krista DeCoste, Annika Peters, Patrick Taman and Jean Crosby to discuss various issues relating to the delivery of the SWOVA model. Areas discussed included: Youth team and maximizing youth involvement, addressing resistance in the classroom, dynamics of adult team functioning/gender dynamics, curriculum issues specifically relating to cultural diversity/sexual orientation, as well as sharing new creative exercises and other resources.
- On June 30th Lucille and Jean met with Lynda to discuss administration issues; including sustainability issues for both SWOVA and RYEP.
These meetings provided an opportunity to share experiences and challenges and to acknowledge the strength of the model which is being successfully implemented in B.C. and N.S.
- In February, Jean spoke with Lynda Laushway of SWOVA to discuss our extension proposal and how SWOVA viewed their role if this extension is granted. Lynda will meet with her Board to discuss this matter. We discussed raising this question also with NCPC as they had originally determined that this relationship of ongoing collaboration needed to be in place.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: (Appendix II)

The Advisory Committee met six times over the year with an average of five members in attendance. The location of these meetings was rotated to facilitate attendance: two meetings were held at Chedabucto Place, two at East Antigonish and two at the AWRC.

Issues reviewed and discussed by the Committee included:

- Circulated and discussed revised Internal Evaluation Framework
- Circulated and discussed May/04 Report to the School Board
- Internal evaluation process
- Internal Evaluation Report presented
- Personnel/Staffing issues
- Process of submitting extension to funding for the RYEP.
- Letters of support provided by six members for extension proposal.
- The Committee welcomed two new members:

Maureen Shebib, Equity Officer at St. F.X. is representing the AWRC/AWA Board.

Kathy Rhodes-Langille, Co-ordinator of Race Relations, Cross-Cultural Understanding and Human Rights with the Strait Regional School Board.

EXTERNAL EVALUATION:

- ASA Process Evaluation Report#1: the redrafted version was approved in May. The final draft reflected the outcome of several discussions with Karen Swan, Lucy Burke, Jean, Lucille, Gus Barrieau and Jim Coflin regarding outstanding issues. The Evaluation Advisory Committee had also reviewed and approved this final draft.
- Nova Scotia Visits:
 - In early June, Jim met with Jack Beaton re comparison schools; as well as Paul Ash and Gerard Ryan to review scheduling for the administration of the outcomes questionnaire in September.
 - In October Jim was in Antigonish to conduct interviews, do pre/post testing at the East & Chedabucto and pre-testing at the two comparison schools.
- Meetings with Jim Coflin: In July two meetings were held with Jim and Lucy Burke, Karen Swan, Lucille and Jean. These discussions resulted in an enhanced understanding of the activities planned by ASA this coming year. Also, the formal communication process that was in place has been terminated and there will now be direct contact as needed between Jim Coflin and Jean with Lucy and Karen being copied on any correspondence.
- In March the first ASA Outcome Report was received.
- Ongoing correspondence with Jim with various information relating to; RYEP teaching model, funding extension, the ASA data collection schedule and in September the complete revised curriculum/workbooks and parent/guardian guides were sent.

INTERNAL EVALUATION:

Evaluation activities for 03/04 included;

- Focus Group:
Peggy Mahon conducted a focus group in April with 8 school staff (teachers & administrators) from East Antigonish and Chedabucto schools. Discussion focussed on roles and responsibilities, diversity, safety and confidentiality and an overall reflection. The outcome of this focus group will be incorporated into the overall internal evaluation report.
- Adult Team Focus Group:
Peggy conducted a focus group in May with the Krista DeCoste, Annika Peters and Patrick Taman. John Jantunen was unable to attend.
- Appreciative Inquiry Process: April to June
 - Patrick conducted 17 youth team member interviews in April.
 - 4 adult team interviews were conducted in April by the adult team members
 - AI interviews and workshops with members of the Youth Teams.
- Evaluation Steering Group met several times to review and advise on the evaluation process
- Youth Team:
At the final Youth Team meeting in June the current Youth Team members were asked to share any insights they thought might be helpful for the new team next year:
 - *Open up and be yourself, show everyone else who you are*
 - *Don't be scared to open up. Because we were Indians, we stayed together. But this group is great,*

- *and it wasn't necessary (to be scared).*
- *At first you'll think - It seems really scary – What is this stuff?*
- *You'll take it home with you*
- *This whole year, I learned quite a bit, and lots of issues came up. Instead of just using the techniques at school, I used them at home too. Next year there will be just as many issues.*
- *While in the classroom, talking and teaching, don't be shy. If you're not there talking and having fun, they don't respond as well.*
- *Be yourself*
- **Interviews:** Peggy completed interviews in July with Jean and Lucille.
- **Preparation of Report:** Ongoing communication and meetings with Peggy, Jean and Lucille regarding development of internal evaluation report. Peggy submitted a final draft in November and two members of staff and two Advisory Committee members reviewed this document which resulted in some recommendations for revision. In January, a Highlights section was written, final revisions were approved by February and in March the printing and distribution of the Interim Report was completed.

Evaluation activities for 04/05 included;

- **04/05 Student Survey:** In October, the Student Survey was revised with input from Peggy Mahon and Winston Jackson, Sociology Dept St.FX. By the end of February all 15 classes in both schools will have completed this survey.
- **Advisory Committee Presentation:** In November, Peggy presented an outline of the evaluation report to the Advisory Committee.
- **04/05 Evaluation Plan:** Peggy and Jean met in March to discuss this year's evaluation framework and data collection tools.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- **NSCC Work Placement:**
Kim Cameron from the Office Information Technology Program of the Strait Area Campus, completed a four week placement in the RYEP office in May. Kim's job responsibilities included; transcribing the 21 AI interviews and processing the data from the Student Surveys conducted last year and this year. This was a huge amount of work that was very well done. Kim also enjoyed being involved and focused on the RYEP internal evaluation process.
- **AWRC Newsletter:**
An article on the RYEP was submitted for the Spring Issue.
- **PRISM Initiative of the Muriel MacQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research: Steering Committee Activities:**
 - Jean traveled to Fredericton for two days (April 16th & 17th) to a meeting of the PRISM Steering Group. The main focus of discussion was to review the final report and other related documents and make recommendations and revisions. Another main topic was the dissemination plan for this information and how to reflect the findings of PRISM back to communities.

- Jean participated in a conference call in June to discuss planning for a fall conference to present the outcomes of this project to the community.
- Meeting with M.L.A.
In June, Jean met with Angus MacIsaac, MLA to provide an update on the progress of the project which was well received.
- Youth Homelessness Project:
Jean met with Rhea Rhynold to share information re the RYEP and Youth Homelessness Project respectively. This is a northern Nova Scotia initiative and Rhea is working within Antigonish and Guysborough counties.
- AWRC Staff Development Day:
This one day workshop in early July, was held with all AWRC staff and focussed on reviewing and making recommendations regarding work environment issues. Jean, Jackie and Krista attended.
- L.G.B.T. Staff Education:
Lesley Marple facilitated this session in July with AWRC staff to enhance sensitivity to and advance awareness of LGBT issues. Jean, Krista and Jackie attended from the RYEP.
- Meeting with Debbie Graham:
In August, a meeting was held with Debbie Graham to discuss her involvement with the Adult Team facilitating a session on teaching strategies. Debbie is employed with the Strait Regional School Board as a consultant with PDR and also teaches with St. F.X. Education Department. Debbie has offered her ongoing assistance with the RYEP.
- LGBT Safety Initiative Steering Committee:
Project Co-ordinator accepted an invitation to sit on this Steering Committee and will be attending upcoming meetings.
- LGBT Positive Space Initiative Launch
Jean attended the October opening of this initiative. RYEP staff will be participating in positive space training session.
- AWRC Staff Education Session
In November, Jean attended this discussion regarding LGBT issues, creating an inclusive environment and working as an ally. This was the third session related to LGBT issues.
- Guysborough Interagency Committee on Family Violence
Jean was invited to the December AGM for this group to provide an update on the Project. This group has committed their collective support to the Project and also provided very positive feedback about the Project and the ongoing need for prevention work in this area.
- AWRC Staff Inservice:
In December, Jean and Pamela Fry facilitated a two hour session for other staff which focussed on identifying challenges and related strategies to enhance the inclusivity of the AWRC in relation to the diversity of women who are in our community. There will be ongoing discussion in the New Year regarding specific actions.
- National Crime Prevention Strategy:
 - As part of a routine procedure the RYEP was audited in March by NCPC.

No issues arising.

- A draft proposal for an extension to NCPC funding was submitted to Karen Swan on February 9th for comments. This request was for an extension to December, 2008 which would allow for three additional years of delivery in schools which would provide a five year span for the external evaluators to assess.
- A revision to original proposal for a funding extension was sent in March, following notification from Karen Swan that the maximum any one project can be funded is five years. This limitation meant that NCPC funding could only be extended to allow for one more school year to be completed. A revised budget and proposal was submitted using these parameters.
- Submitted quarterly reporting
- St. F.X. Service Learning Placement:
Kate Fraser started a placement in the RYEP office in January. This work is connected to her Health & Medicine course and requires 24 hour work placement component. Kate will be compiling a comprehensive history of Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian communities in this province for use as a teaching tool and reference piece.
- Reworking the Periphery: LGBT Lives in Rural Nova Scotia:
In February Jean attended keynote lecture with Gilles Marchildon of Egale and Kim Vance of ARC International who each spoke on issues related to a LGBT rural context from both national and international perspectives.
- Website Project:
In March development of a website for the RYEP was underway and initial meetings were held with John Cotter who is working on this contract. This work will be completed in the next few months.
- AWRC
Staff attended regular AWRC Staff Meetings, Board Meetings and AGM as required throughout the year.

PROJECT SUCCESSES:

- Ongoing co-operation with external evaluation process.
- Ongoing collaboration with SWOVA.
- Ongoing engagement of Youth Team members
- Successful collaboration achieved with staff at both schools
- Internal evaluation process
- Completion and distribution of the first Internal Evaluation Report
- Provided St. F.X. Service Learning placement
- Provided NSCC student placement
- Recruitment and Orientation of Youth Teams for 04/05
- Training/Orientation completed for Adult & Youth Teams
- Delivery of RYEP sessions to 673 students in Grade 7,8,9.

- Engaging 39 youth as facilitators and peer educators
- Advisory Committee commitment
- Completion and distribution of the Parent/Guardian Guide.
- Adaptations made to curriculum content and delivery
- Submission of extension proposal to NCPC.

PROJECT CHALLENGES:

- Lack of consistency with male staff and challenges in hiring.
- Achieving gender and racial diversity within Youth and Adult Teams
- Maximizing the potential of the Youth Teams.
- Issues raised by the external evaluation process
- Sustainability of RYEP beyond March/06

Respectfully Submitted:

Jean Crosby, B.S.W., R.S.W.
Project Co-ordinator

APPENDIX I

PERSONNEL

Project Co-ordinator: Jean Crosby
Office Administrator: Jackie Jacques
Financial Administrator: Christine Hanlon:

Adult Facilitators:	School Year 03/04
<u>Chedabucto Place:</u> Krista DeCoste John Jantunen	August to June August to June
<u>East Antigonish:</u> Annika Peters Patrick Taman	August to June August to June

Adult Facilitators:	School Year 04/05
<u>Chedabucto Place:</u> Krista DeCoste Sean Patterson	August to May August to May
<u>East Antigonish:</u> Annika Peters Derek Shaw Lucky Campbell Jennifer Hardy	August to October August September to November October to November

Curriculum Support:

- Susan Eaton
- Krista DeCoste

Diversity Consultant:

- Sylvia Parris

Evaluation Consultants:

- Nancy Peters
- Peggy Mahon
- Patrick Taman

Youth Facilitators: CHEDABUCTO PLACE:			
03/04		04/05	
Trent Clyde Dagney Ash Victoria Hines Sylvia Morison Samantha Vaux Kendra Myers Jennifer Wright <u>Christina Connolly</u> <u>Nathanial Hart</u> <u>Lyle Munroe</u>	Grade: 10 10 11 11 11 11 11 11 12 12 12	Matthew Clyde Evelyn Splane Johnny Izzard Michael Purcell Carlisa Desmond Alexander Williams Regan Hines <u>Victoria Hines</u> <u>Kendra Myers</u>	Grade: 11 11 11 10 10 11 10 12 12

Youth Facilitators: EAST ANTIGONISH:			
03/04		04/05	
Travis DeCoste Jessica Poulette Thomas Melong <u>Beth Jackson</u> <u>Angela Pelrine</u> <u>Stephanie Gorman</u> <u>Linda Peters</u> April Rose Prosper Robin Delorey	Grade: 10 11 11 12 12 12 12 12 12	Gollipie Jullian Sammie Haley Crystal Peters Ben MacAskill Joshua Pettipas Jonathan Melong <u>Travis DeCoste</u> Chrissy Pelrine Kayla Layes <u>Jessica Poulette</u>	Grade: 10 10 10 10 10 10 11 11 12 12

APPENDIX II

RURAL YOUTH HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION PROJECT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CURRENT MEMBERS:

- National Crime Prevention Strategy Karen Swan, Senior Project Analyst, Atlantic Region
- RYEP Jean Crosby, Project Co-ordinator
- Antigonish Women's Resource Centre Lucille Harper, Director
- AWRC Board Member Maureen Shebib, St. Frances Xavier University, Equity Co-ordinator
- East Antigonish School Darryl Breen, Vice Principal
- Chedabucto Place Paul Long, Principal
- Strait Regional School Board Kathy Rhodes-Langille,
Race-Relations, Cross-Cultural Understanding &
Human Rights Co-ordinator
- Afrikan Canadian Heritage & Friendship Centre Wendy Campbell, Co-ordinator
- Guysborough Youth Health Services Centre Leona Purcell, Public Health Nurse
- Black Educator's Association of Nova Scotia Joanne Reddick, Regional Educator
- Antigonish/Guysborough Black Development Association Sheila Pelly, Employment Development Officer
- Paq'tnkek First Nation Tanya Frances, Education Director
- Naomi Society for Victims of Family Violence Tammy Lee Vautour, Director
- New Leaf: Intervention Program for Abusive Men Ron Kelly, Facilitator
- Department of Mental Health/ Wendy Digout, Psychologist
Child Adolescent Team Member
- Antigonish Town & County Community Health Board Evelyn Lindsay, Chair