

## **COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION\*:**

Women's Centres Connect is the Nova Scotia provincial association of Women's Centres. It articulates common activities, concerns, and needs, and provides coordination of association activities and information sharing among Women's Centres. We support the nine women's centres located across Nova Scotia, outside HRM.

Connect works with Women's Centres to:

- Provide a forum for information exchange and organizational development among Women's Centres; Articulate a common voice about the activities, concerns, and needs of Women's Centres in Nova Scotia
- Enhance the visibility and credibility of Women's Centres in Nova Scotia;
- Provide a feminist voice for women's concerns in Nova Scotia;
- Work together and with other organizations to advance the status of women.

Connect also works with Government to advocate for equal funding for all Women's Centres to cover core funding; to develop service agreements and reporting frameworks and to bring Centre concerns around policies and programs that impact women.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Women's Centres provide wrap-around support to women in rural communities most often before visits with acute and tertiary services. In order to effectively respond to the needs of women and girls in rural Nova Scotia, Connect would like to have a demographic picture of the health status of women and girls so that we can ensure our programming and services are a fit.

Ideally, we would like a mini Canadian Community Health Survey, that reflects rural Nova Scotia. We need a cross-sectional survey that collects information related to health status, health care utilization and the social health determinants so that we can lobby for funds to create programming that is reflective of our community needs.

## **PROJECTED BENEFITS:**

Some women's centres have been offering a 'one door, any reason' service for over forty years. With this kind of longevity comes wisdom and understanding. However, since the pandemic, there has been a shift in needs, and demands from our clients. We have never been busier, and clients have never had such a high need. The main benefit of this project will be objective, and relevant understanding of the health status within our catchment communities. A direct outcome of this project will be internal assessments and cross referencing of current programs and services with identified need. In addition, this research project will empower each womens centre and Connect as an association to lobby for additional resources and supports on behalf of our clients. Furthermore, the outcomes of this project will be shared and made available to other sister, women- serving organizations within Nova Scotia. \*

[These are excerpts from the Community Partner's original proposal]