



# Creating Communities of Care

**Project Brief**

**Duration: September 2019 - March 2023**

**Project Partners:**

- Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre – Denise John
- Mi'kmaw Legal Support Network – Paula Marshall
- Association of Black Social Workers – Crystal John and Courtney Brown
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia – Sarah Tremblay and Bria Miller
- Domestic Violence Court Program – Carolyn Baker and Claudia Mann



**Focus:**

Build a strong partnership among relevant community and government organizations to develop effective and culturally-sensitive supports to disrupt the cycles of violence which affect women and children in these communities.

The Creating Communities of Care Through Customary Law will develop a suite of promising practices responding to the lack of culturally competent service and enhanced care for indigenous and African Nova Scotian women who have experienced violence, and who may have come in contact with the criminal justice system as a result.

**Background and Rationale:**

This project will work to address the following issues:

- The disproportionate impact of family violence on women and girls
- The increased likelihood of indigenous and African Nova Scotian women suffering from violence.
- The rising rate of incarceration for women, in particular, women from indigenous and black communities.
- A criminal justice system known to be unresponsive to the needs of survivors of domestic and family abuse, and which is disproportionately tougher towards members of racialized communities.
- The impact of intergenerational and historic trauma and loss on indigenous and African Nova Scotian Communities in Nova Scotia.

**Our Theory is informed by:**

Indigenous Customary Law  
The Principles of Africentricity

**What we hope to achieve**

Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced culturally safe spaces and programs</li> <li>• Better understanding of existing policy gaps</li> <li>• Effective and targeted individual support for navigating government systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased capacity of organizations to build programs and support individuals, including regular implementation of support circles as a key engagement methodology</li> <li>• Increased understanding and application of customary law and Afrocentric worldviews in the sector</li> <li>• Developing solutions to policy gaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GBV survivors from indigenous and African Nova Scotian communities are better supported.</li> <li>• Customary and Africentric principles are more fully integrated into our systems</li> <li>• Knowledge from our project is generated and disseminated</li> </ul>