



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre continues to offer support to survivors of sexual assault and promote awareness about consent through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are continuing to provide support to survivors over the phone," said Stephanie Klassen, Executive Director for Survivor's Hope. "It is crucial that survivors know that they can access health and support services even during the pandemic."

Survivor's Hope is also being creative with annual awareness events such as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. In Manitoba, every April is a month to raise awareness about the prevalence of sexual assault, the resources available to victim/survivors, and important prevention strategies.

The Survivor's Hope Facebook page will highlight Start by Believing Day (April 1), Wear Teal Day (April 7), and Denim Day (April 29). The theme of sexual assault awareness month this year is #IAsk, which centres the idea that we can all individually prevent sexual assault by committing to value consent and never engage in sexual activity without knowing for certain that our partner is consenting.

Candice Perry, Reaching Out Program Coordinator, acknowledges that people are focused on COVID-19 right now but that doesn't mean other concerns are not important.

"We encourage everyone to take care of themselves and each other during these difficult times and that includes reaching out for help when needed."

Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre provides crisis intervention, support, and information to survivors and secondary victims of sexualized violence in north-eastern Manitoba. They run workshops in schools throughout the region that aim to prepare youth for strong, healthy, and respectful relationships. They also offer crisis counselling support and information in their Pinawa office and that support is now available exclusively over the phone or via email. For more information, visit www.survivors-hope.ca or call 204-753-5353.

Enclosed image: Stephanie Klassen (above) and all Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre staff are working from home, but support related to sexualized violence is as available as ever.

Image credit: Stephanie Klassen

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