



SASS

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES OF SASKATCHEWAN



**GIVING A VOICE.
SHINING A LIGHT.
MAKING A CHANGE.**

MEMBER ORIENTATION MANUAL

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ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES OF SASKATCHEWAN (SASS)

SASS is a provincial non-profit organization that works collectively with front-line agencies, community partners, and governments that provide support and advocacy for those affected by sexual violence in Saskatchewan.

MISSION

To foster the coordination and collaboration amongst front-line agencies, community partners, and governments to support those affected by sexual violence.

VISION

Every person in Saskatchewan is free from threat, fear, or experience of sexual violence.

**SHINING
A LIGHT.**

**GIVING
A VOICE.**

**MAKING
A CHANGE.**

THE HISTORY OF SASS

In 1984, nine agencies in Saskatchewan who provided support and assistance to victims of sexual assault formed a coalition named Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan (SASS) and registered it as a non-profit corporation.

The members were led by the philosophy that all people had the right to exercise control over their sexuality and deserved to be treated with dignity and respect. Through the goal of accepting human equality and rejecting violence, SASS members provided community awareness and education, offered support to victims, and lobbied for legislative changes.

Today, SASS has grown its membership across the province and established collaborative partnerships with community organizations, first responders, and various levels of government to shine a light on the issue of Sexual Violence in Saskatchewan.

Through SASS's relationships with its members, SASS has become interconnected to the issue of sexual violence in many Saskatchewan communities, allowing the organization to develop evidence-based initiatives that advocate for changes in how those affected by sexual violence are supported.

SASS's primary focus is amplifying the voices of its member agencies and survivors through public education campaigns, research projects, and anti-violence initiatives.

In recent years, SASS has become recognized as a provincial leader for pioneering initiatives such as the Saskatchewan Sexual Violence Action Plan, Sexual Violence in Saskatchewan: Voices, Stories, Insights, and Actions from the Front Lines Research Report, the First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™ program, and a Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Pilot Project with the Regina Sexual Assault Centre and the Regina Police Service.





THE SASS BRAND



**SHINING
A LIGHT.**

SHINING A LIGHT

We seek to encourage a better understanding of sexual violence by shining a light on the societal attitudes and beliefs that prevent individuals, families, and communities from living free from threat, fear, or experience of sexual violence.

**GIVING
A VOICE.**

GIVING A VOICE

We amplify the voices of our member agencies and survivors of sexual violence to raise awareness of the realities they face.

**MAKING
A CHANGE.**

MAKING A CHANGE

We are committed to taking action against sexual violence through initiatives that create change from the frontlines to the legislative.

TEAM MEMBERS

2022

Kerrie Isaac, Executive Director

Patience Umereweneza, Project Specialist

Kristina Kaminski, Training Facilitator, Fund Developer, Program Lead Justice

Somiya Tabussum, Program Lead SSVE

Harmony Grassing, Program Coordinator FRT

Ashley Kilback, Communications Specialist

Brook Thalgott, Digital Specialist



MEMBERS

2022

1. Piwapan Women's Centre, La Ronge
2. Prince Albert Mobile Crisis–Sexual Assault Program, Prince Albert
3. North East Outreach & Support Services, Melfort
4. PARTNERS Family Services, Humboldt
5. Heart-Song Complex Trauma Program, Saskatoon
6. Hope Restored Canada, Saskatoon
7. Southwest Crisis Services, Swift Current
8. West Central Crisis & Family Support Centre, Kindersley
9. Society For the Involvement of Good Neighbours Sexual Assault Counseling Program, Yorkton
10. Envision Counselling & Support Centre, Estevan and area



SASS

MEMBERSHIP

Who It's For

The SASS membership is available to registered non-profit organizations in Saskatchewan whose services are direct, specialized, and identifiable services for survivors of sexual assault/abuse or registered non-profit organizations in Saskatchewan who provide a multitude of services but provide specialized services for sexual assault/abuse survivors.

The Benefits of a SASS Membership

As a member-driven organization, we amplify the voices of our members by providing them with the opportunities, resources, and support they need to further the impact of their work. By becoming a member of SASS, you will receive the following benefits:

Opportunities to connect and build relationships with anti-violence organizations across the province

- As a SASS Member, you will be introduced to other organizations in the province who are working towards a similar goal. These connections will help your organization increase awareness for the work you do on a provincial level and open the doors for collaborative work opportunities, resource sharing, and continued support.

Opportunities for professional growth and development through educational workshops, training and seminars

- As a SASS Member, you will receive access to specialized workshops, training, and seminars at a discounted rate. These educational opportunities include the First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training and SASS's Leadership Forum. As a SASS member, you will also receive reimbursement for events including accommodations, and meals.

Opportunity to engage with anti-violence work on a provincial level by being a voice at the SASS table

- As a SASS Member, your organization will be an active participant in SASS's strategic planning process where you will have the opportunity to provide expertise on anti-violence strategies for sexual violence on a provincial level.

Increased awareness for your organization's work on SASS's website, social media platforms and newsletter

- As a SASS Member, your organization will be featured on our website and will receive continued support and promotion for your events, initiatives, and programs through content sharing on our social media platforms and newsletter

Opportunities to be an active participant in provincial anti-violence initiatives

- As a SASS Member, you will have the opportunity to work collaboratively on provincial anti-violence initiatives like the Saskatchewan Sexual Violence Action Plan. These initiatives will provide your organization with opportunities to engage and contribute to work that aligns with your organization's goals and area of expertise.



Opportunity to be an active participant in Sexual Assault Awareness Week

- As a SASS Member, you will have the opportunity to work collaboratively on our annual sexual assault awareness campaign by providing input and expertise regarding campaign strategy, planning, and promotion. Your organization will also receive a campaign toolkit that provides marketing and educational materials to use during the campaign.

Access to anti-violence marketing and education materials

- As a SASS Member, you will have access to a variety of anti-violence marketing and educational materials such as pamphlets, brochures, posters, infographics, etc.

Continued support and advocacy from SASS and its member network

- As a SASS Member, you will receive additional support and advocacy efforts from SASS and its network on a regular basis that will help encourage, reaffirm, and recognize the work your organization is doing and help you in fulfilling your organizational goals.

Becoming a SASS Member

The SASS membership fee is \$100.00/year.

If you are eligible and interested in becoming a SASS Member, contact Kerrie Isaac , the Executive Director at kerrie@sassk.ca and request a member application form. Once you have filled out the application, the SASS board will review it and will notify you if your application has been successful.

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PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Sexual Violence Awareness Week

Every year, SASS proclaims the third week in May as Sexual Violence Awareness Week (previously Sexual Assault Awareness Week). SVAW aims to raise awareness about sexual violence-related issues by providing educational learning opportunities for the general public. SASS works in collaboration with members and community partners to develop a social media campaign and hosts a variety of online or in-person events throughout the week that are available to the general public to participate in.

Saskatchewan Sexual Violence Action Plan

The Saskatchewan Sexual Violence Action Plan titled, Working Together: Your Voice, Your Story, Your Action outlines 22 actions focusing on prevention and education, support and intervention, responsive legal and justice systems, and collaborative leadership and accountability.

The Plan was developed in response to the findings of a Sexual Violence Report in partnership with Community-Institute for Social Research at the University of Saskatchewan to identify the existing strengths and potential gaps in services related to sexual violence across the process.

Sexual Violence in Saskatchewan: Voices, Stories, Insights and Actions from The Front Lines Research Report

Sexual Violence in Saskatchewan: Voices, Stories, Insights, and Actions from the Front Lines captures a comprehensive understanding of sexual violence in Saskatchewan through an examination of sexual violence experiences and the existing strengths and gaps in service provision.

This research report was conducted by SASS in collaboration with the Community-University Institute for Social Research at the University of Saskatchewan, Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Women's Secretariat and the Saskatchewan First Nation Women's Commission.

First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training (FRT)

First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training™ (FRT) is a comprehensive two-day training designed to aid those who work with individuals who have, or are at risk of, experiencing sexual violence.

The purpose of the training is educate individuals about the social, cultural and legal aspects of sexual assault and abuse, which will enable them to recognize, define and respond appropriately to the continuum of behaviours that constitute sexual assault and abuse.



Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review (VACR)

VACR is a project that connects sexual assault advocates and experts with local police stations to review all sexual assault files “cleared”, or closed without charges on a quarterly basis. The project is conducted in collaboration with Sunny Marriner, Regina Sexual Assault Centre, and Regina Police Service. To date, there have been four file reviews conducted. The project is currently on pause as we are in the process of seeking additional funding to conduct more file reviews.

SASS Leadership Forum

The SASS Leadership Forum serves as a platform to share sexual violence education, awareness and prevention resources to service providers and community members across the province. The purpose of the forum is to develop sustainable community education programming through member agencies and their communities, as well as enhance the dialogue regarding the issue of sexual violence in the province.

Saskatchewan Sexual Violence Education (SSVE)

SSVE works to prevent and address sexual violence and the gendered-impacts of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan through an evidence-based, trauma-informed, and intersectional sexual violence education program(s) supported by a provincial framework for sustainability including diverse platforms for information dissemination, resource sharing and skill-building.

Saskatchewan needs comprehensive education programming that addresses the intersectional forms of sexual violence experienced in Saskatchewan by Indigenous Peoples’, newcomers, 2SLGBTQIA+, seniors and those living with disabilities, including complex neocolonial dynamics that contribute to their continued, and disproportionate victimization and to ensure the appropriate training is available. The development of a grassroots, intersectional, evidence-based, and trauma-informed educational programming will address the gaps identified by survivors, service providers and volunteers, including training and resources that reflect the realities of violence perpetration in Saskatchewan. The evaluation of this initiative will be a critical asset to ensure the efficacy of the sexual violence educational program(s) developed.

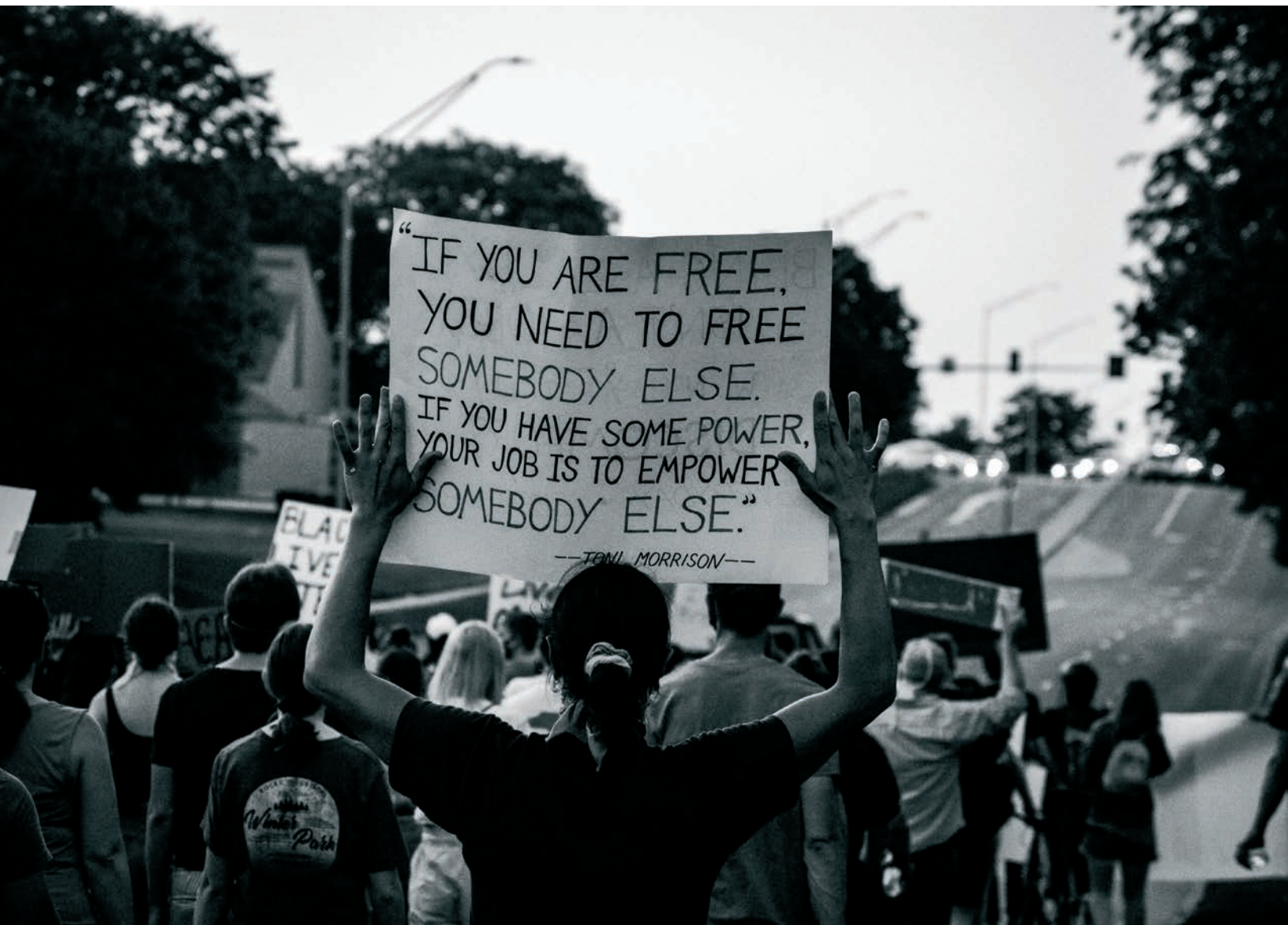
barriers and intensified inequality; based on gender, ability, race, income, immigration, and citizenship status, education, and employment.

SASS

CODE OF CONDUCT & ETHICS

The Code of Conduct & Ethics describes the standard of behaviour expected of each member agency. As a member agency of SASS, it is important that your commitment represents the best interests of SASS as an organization, your responsibilities are carried out honestly and in good faith, and that you maintain the confidence of the members, staff, and the public.

The effectiveness of SASS's mission depends on the commitment of each member agency and the manner in which they demonstrate ethical and professional conduct.



As a member agency, you must agree to the following principles of SASS's code of conduct:

That my primary goal is to provide and support the mandated services of SASS.

- I will carry out my contract duties and obligations with integrity and objectivity.
- I will do my utmost to uphold the good name, reputation, and integrity of SASS in all instances, and will not impugn this image through word or deed.
- I will make no disparaging remarks about the staff, member agencies, or Board members or their opinions, but I do have the right to make honest and respectful critique.
- I will not use position for my own personal advantage, financial gain or otherwise.
- I will recognize that authority for decisions regarding SASS legally rests with the Board at called Board meetings and not with individual Board members.
- That I shall promote the philosophy, mission, and objectives of SASS.
- That I shall respect the rights and views of others involved within the agency, and not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, creed, age, sex, or sexual orientation.
- Any information disclosed at or about the agency will be kept in strict confidence.
- That I shall represent the agency in a positive manner.
- That I shall have an individual responsibility for my own conduct in all areas, including living in a non-violent environment.





SASS

SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES OF SASKATCHEWAN

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