



Bryony House, operated by the Halifax Transition House Association (HTHA), opened its doors in 1978, making it Nova Scotia's first shelter for women and their children experiencing intimate partner abuse.

In October of 2016, the Nova Scotia Government announced a \$3 million grant contribution towards our capital campaign for a new Bryony House Shelter. More recently, in March of 2019, the Federal Government announced an additional \$2.3 million contribution for the project.

We are excited to announce that later this month we are going to tender for our new shelter.

We estimate it will be an 18-24-month construction phase to complete the build and open the new facility.

The current Bryony House shelter was built in 1882. In addition to recently sustained damage during Hurricane Dorian, the building has had significant and ongoing challenges. In light of these circumstances, HTHA Board of Directors has assessed the options for continued service delivery and determined the best approach is to find an interim location during the construction phase of our new shelter. Our goal is to find a temporary location, as soon as possible, that will allow consistent service delivery and supports for women and children until the new shelter is ready.

Throughout this transition period, our skilled staff team will continue to provide support for women and children to find safe housing. While the Bryony House shelter is our largest program, HTHA also offers a wide range of other programs such as outreach, housing support and group information sessions.

Our commitment is to continue providing services for women to assist them in leaving situations of intimate partner abuse, counselling, and safety planning, including 24-hour access to our distress line (902-422-7650). We will also increase our outreach programming to provide additional supports to women during this period. We will continue to collaborate with our community partners in various sectors to ensure emergency shelter is provided and to gather the resources women and families need until we are able to re-establish our shelter operations at full capacity.

We are fortunate and thankful to have the support of our valued community partners like Adsum House, Barry House, the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia and our sister Transition Houses, as well as support from the NS Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Halifax Regional Police Victim Services and the many departments of the Provincial Government to ensure continuity of care for women and their children seeking our services.

This decision was not taken lightly. We believe it is a decision that best addresses our concern for the safety and security of women and their children experiencing intimate partner violence. Over the next 24 months, it will provide for the safe outcomes of our clients and staff and consistency in program delivery.

Please Direct Media Inquiries to Maria Mac Intosh, Executive Director at 902-423-7185.