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PRESS RELEASE

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The Colchester Sexual Assault Centre Announces New Leadership Team and Board of Directors following AGM

Truro, NS: The Colchester Sexual Assault Centre (CSAC) has appointed a new Executive Director and hosted an election of members to serve on the Board of Directors at its Annual General Meeting on October 6, 2020.



Jamie Matthews joined the organization on September 16, 2020 to serve as the Executive Director. Matthews brings with him over a decade of non-profit leadership experience, with a focus in fund development as well in marketing and communications. Originally from Cape Breton, he attended Cape Breton University in the Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies program. This field of study is where he developed his passion for supporting those within the vulnerable sector. He then moved to Toronto, ON to attend Ryerson University as a graduate in their Gerontology program. While there, he worked for numerous national print and online publications, developing multi-million-dollar advertising campaigns for some of our country's most recognizable brands.

In 2009, Matthews returned home to the Maritimes and made a career shift into the non-profit sector to pursue his true passion. Having worked at the Alzheimer Society of New Brunswick, the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame and at Hospice Fredericton, he has developed a proven track record in helping non-profits reach their full potential. In addition to his fundraising and marketing experience, he has also worked with numerous Boards to create a highly engaged team of both staff and volunteers. Matthews also brings with him a great compassion for those in need of support. Whether it is those struggling with a diagnosis of dementia, motivating underprivileged children to become active in support, or with those coping with end-of-life, and now with those impacted by sexual assault – Jamie is a passionate advocate for those needing support and a voice.

"I am absolutely thrilled to serve as the Executive Director for this important organization. The dedicated and talented team of staff and volunteers provide our communities with an immeasurable level of compassion and support. In these unprecedented times, COVID-19 has certainly changed how non-profits continue their vital work but this also provides us with a new opportunity to rethink how we adapt to these changes going forward. We would encourage those impacted by sexual assault, abuse and trauma to connect with us to access our support services. Our team has continued to work throughout the pandemic and are here to help," says Matthews.

On October 6, 2020 the CSAC also hosted their Annual General Meeting, where an election of its members took place. The newly elected Board of Directors is comprised of community leaders who are



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eager to have a lasting impact in their community and to advocate for those impacted by sexual assault, abuse and trauma. The members of the Board of Directors consist of the following:

- Deb Pryor, Chair
- Alysse Taggart, Vice-Chair
- John Butts, Treasurer
- Jenna MacKeil, Secretary
- Lesa Douglas, Member-at-Large
- Niki Henderson, Member-at-Large
- Susan Henderson, Member-at-Large
- Cathy Hinton, Member-at-Large
- Cheryl Young, Member-at-Large

“To serve at the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre is a great honour. We are excited for the next phase in the organization’s growth and the opportunity to continue providing our communities with the support they need. Sadly, we are seeing an influx in the calls coming through the centre but we are confident with the skills of our team of counselors, and to now have Jamie Matthews as Executive Director providing the leadership the organization needs during these challenging times. The continued generosity we receive locally, provincially and federally is needed now more than ever to meet the ever-growing need for community-based support services,” says Pryor.

ABOUT THE COLCHESTER ASSAULT CENTRE:

Located in Truro, Nova Scotia, the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre’s services are made available to, but not limited to, individuals in the Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants and Pictou counties. Since its founding in 1992, the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre (CSAC) is a non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to strengthening, empowering, and supporting survivors of sexualized violence (*sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual trauma*) in a gender-equitable, compassionate environment. The CSAC provides numerous programs and services, including confidential one-on-one gender-sensitive counselling, emotional support to survivors and their family and friends, group counselling, education and prevention presentations, awareness initiatives and community-based fundraising events.

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