

Organizational Statement from PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre (PEIRSAC)
May 14, 2025

This afternoon during Question Period, a member of the official opposition shared misleading information in the PEI Legislature regarding the status of PEIRSAC's therapeutic programming. We are writing to correct the record and clarify our services.

PEIRSAC is not pausing services.

We have temporarily paused additions to our waitlist, not our services. Survivors currently on our list will receive trauma-informed, no-cost therapy as our clinicians' caseloads allow.

We are not shifting to a private model.

PEIRSAC is not shifting to a social enterprise model. Our counselling services remain free of charge to all survivors of sexual violence. This has not changed, nor will it.

This is a transformation, not a withdrawal.

Our therapeutic program is undergoing a necessary and thoughtful restructuring. This will allow us to reduce a two-year waitlist and better serve our growing community. This shift reflects our ethical responsibility: it is not sustainable or fair to continue adding names when we cannot guarantee timely care.

We have been in active consultation with our government funders, and other sexual assault centres across the Maritimes and nationally, many of whom have also made the difficult decision to restructure their therapy programs in response to rising demand. This growing pressure on services is not a sign of failure, it is a reflection of a powerful societal shift. More survivors are coming forward. More people are seeking justice, healing, and support. We believe this speaks to a deep and collective bravery, and we are committed to rising to meet it.

The majority of clients will be formally closed during this time so that clinicians have the capacity to lead the development of a new model of care, one that can better meet the volume and urgency of need in our community. Our clients are being supported through a transition period (not immediate closure), with collaborative closure plans guided by their clinicians to ensure each survivor is equipped to continue their healing journey.

The letter referenced by the opposition member was selectively quoted. In full, it clearly states that any client affected by this transition is welcome to self-refer when our waitlist reopens and reengage with care, including newly expanded services.

We acknowledge and regret that some current clients learned about this program change through public channels as a direct result of what was stated within the Legislature, instead of directly

with care from their clinician. That was not our intent, and we are working to repair that impact with care and integrity.

In the meantime, **our Client Navigation Team continues to offer vital support**, including accompaniment to police, court, and medical appointments; assistance with documentation; and referrals to housing, income, and mental health resources.

This pause and restructuring are rooted in our ongoing commitment to provide timely, ethical, and survivor-centred care. Survivors deserve access to healing. That belief has not changed and never will.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact:

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