

Media Release: Sexual Assault Centre London responds to
Premier Wynne's Announcement: *It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment*

For Immediate Release: March 6, 2015

Sexual Assault Centre London is pleased to learn of the implementation of an Ontario-wide Action Plan, *It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment*, including initiatives towards sexual violence prevention, education, and increased funding for supports for survivors provided by community partners¹.

Sexual Assault Centre London creates safe spaces for survivors of sexual violence to break their silence. We listen. We bear witness. We facilitate healing. We celebrate resiliency and courage; We educate, advocate and agitate, to create social change.

Sexual Assault Centre London, for 40 years has worked to address sexual violence in London and Middlesex. As has been made clear in the announcement of *It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment* today, we know it is a priority for Ontario's government as well. Plans to enhance education on sexual violence, including consent and healthy relationships, and increased resources to improve support for victims is unprecedented. In the wake of recent high-profile incidences of sexual violence and a deepening awareness of the issue, the needs of sexual violence survivors – and Ontario's support of this population – has never been so timely.

"This initiative is ground-breaking," said Jane McGregor, Interim Executive Director. "It is really good to have the support from the provincial government to help us build on the hard work we are already doing on a daily basis in our community to end sexual violence."

The previous *Sexual Violence Action Plan* (2011) was based on consultations with women survivors of sexual assault in Sarnia, Sudbury, Toronto, Ottawa, Guelph and Peel. This foundational work provides a strong platform from which to build Ontario's new initiatives—including those announced today.

Sexual assault centres deliver free and confidential crisis, advocacy and ongoing support to survivors of sexual violence throughout all of Ontario. If you or someone you know has been affected by sexual violence, please go www.sacl.ca or call our 24 hr helpline at 519.438.2272.

- 30 -

Media contact:

Jane McGregor, Interim Executive Director
Sexual Assault Centre London
519.439.0844; jane@sacl.ca
www.sacl.ca

¹ Office of the Premier. March 8, 2015. *It's Never Okay: An Action Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment*. Online: <http://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2015/03/concrete-measures-to-end-sexual-violence-and-harassment.html>

255 Horton Street East, 3rd Floor London, Ontario N6B 1L1

Ph: 519-439-0844 Fax: 519-439-9931 TTY: 519-439-0690 **CRISIS AND SUPPORT LINE: 519-438-2272**