

**CHSSN**  
**Community Health Education Program (CHEP)**

**Impact Report – *Trauma***  
**December 4, 2008**

A specific request to host the topic of *Trauma* resulted from the personal concerns of the firefighters and first responders in the small community of the Magdalen Islands, as represented by CAMI. They are frequently confronted with tragedy and loss in their volunteer roles while attending to accidents involving family members and neighbours in their community.

A live videoconference was arranged in the evening of December 4, 2008, resulting in the participation of 26 firefighters and first responders, joined by the lower North Shore (COASTERS) at 3 sites. In all, 36 participants came together to ask an expert on the topic of post-traumatic stress and to learn strategies for coping and healing.

Two qualified and excellent presenters, Social Worker/Grief Counsellor Yvonne Clarke from Montreal, and guest Randy Barrington, Minister/Nurse/First Responder in Huntingdon, Quebec, were available to answer questions and to share their personal experiences and knowledge.

**Immediate Results:**

- 36 people gained new knowledge about trauma;
- Numerous questions at 3 sites were asked and immediately answered;
- A new resource was set up for the firefighters to consult when needed.

**Outcomes:**

- Evaluations from the first responders were highly satisfactory;
- Evaluations from the firefighters were measured because they thought they were attending a video information as opposed to a live participatory session;
- A new site, Huntingdon CLC, was introduced to the CHEP Program;
- The DVD created at this presentation cannot be released because the consent forms have not as yet been obtained;
- A lesson learned - the importance of clarifying the expectations of participants prior to committing them to a live videoconference.