

Province unveils sex assault prevention website

Dianne Cunningham, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, unveiled the Ontario Women's Directorate's new website as part of Sexual Assault Prevention Month in Ontario. This site

features information and educational materials designed to continue the government's efforts to prevent sexual assault and harassment in Ontario communities.

"Women who have suffered sexual abuse face immense challenges in reaching their social and economic potential," said Cunningham. "The loss, to the individual and to society as a whole, is truly devastating. We must find new ways to end the blight of sexual assault and abuse."

The OWD website will contain government policy and program information, educational resources and networking opportunities for individuals and groups. "Safe communities and the prevention of violence against women is a main priority of our government. Each Ontarian has a role to play in developing a society that ensures women's safety in their homes and communities," Cunningham said.

During Sexual Assault Prevention Month, the government detailed a wide range of initiatives designed to support victims of sexual assault. This included a \$50,000 grant that will enable 34 rape crisis and sexual assault treatment centres to link via the Internet, a link that will allow for immediate transfer of shared information between the centres, enhancing their level of service province-wide.

The Ontario Women's Directorate Website can be accessed at this Internet address: <http://www.gov.on.ca/owd>

ANSWERS

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