

Intercultural Dialogue And Conflict Transformation In Halifax, Nova Scotia

ISANS Intercultural Dialogue and Reconciliation Activities









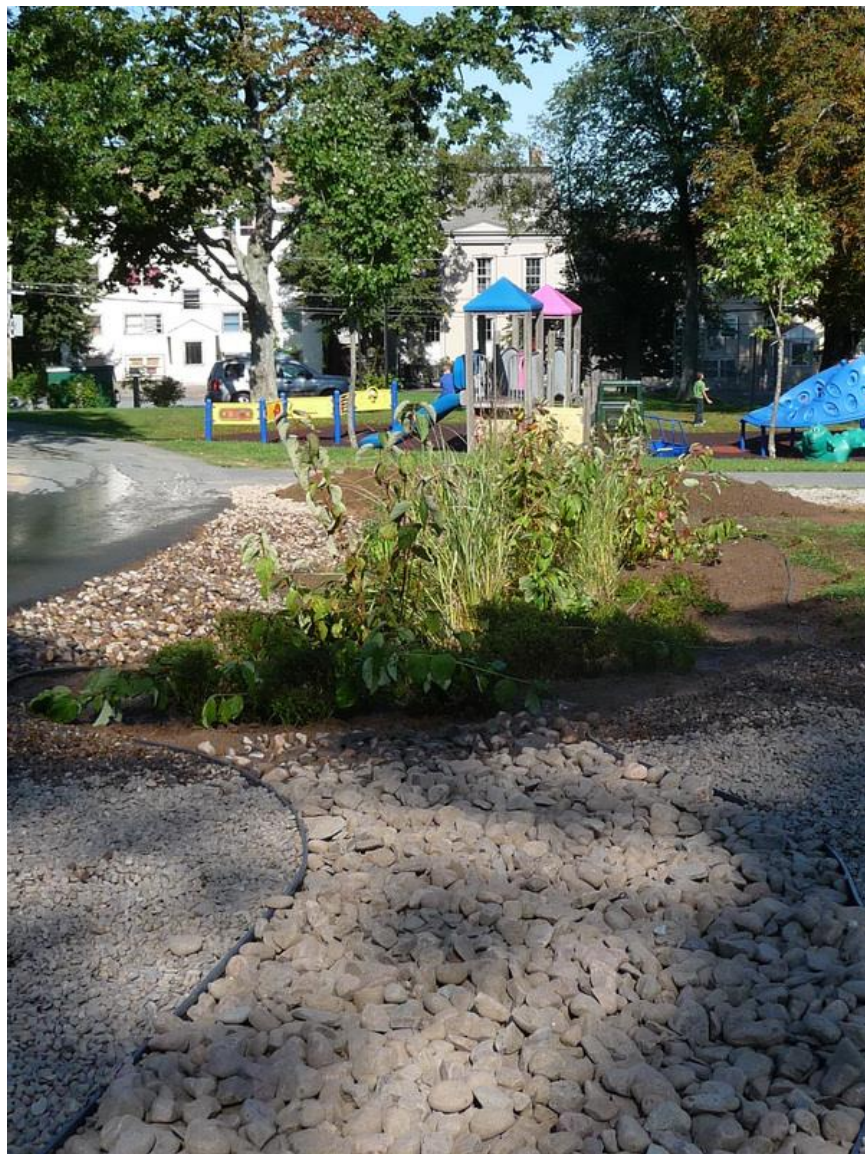


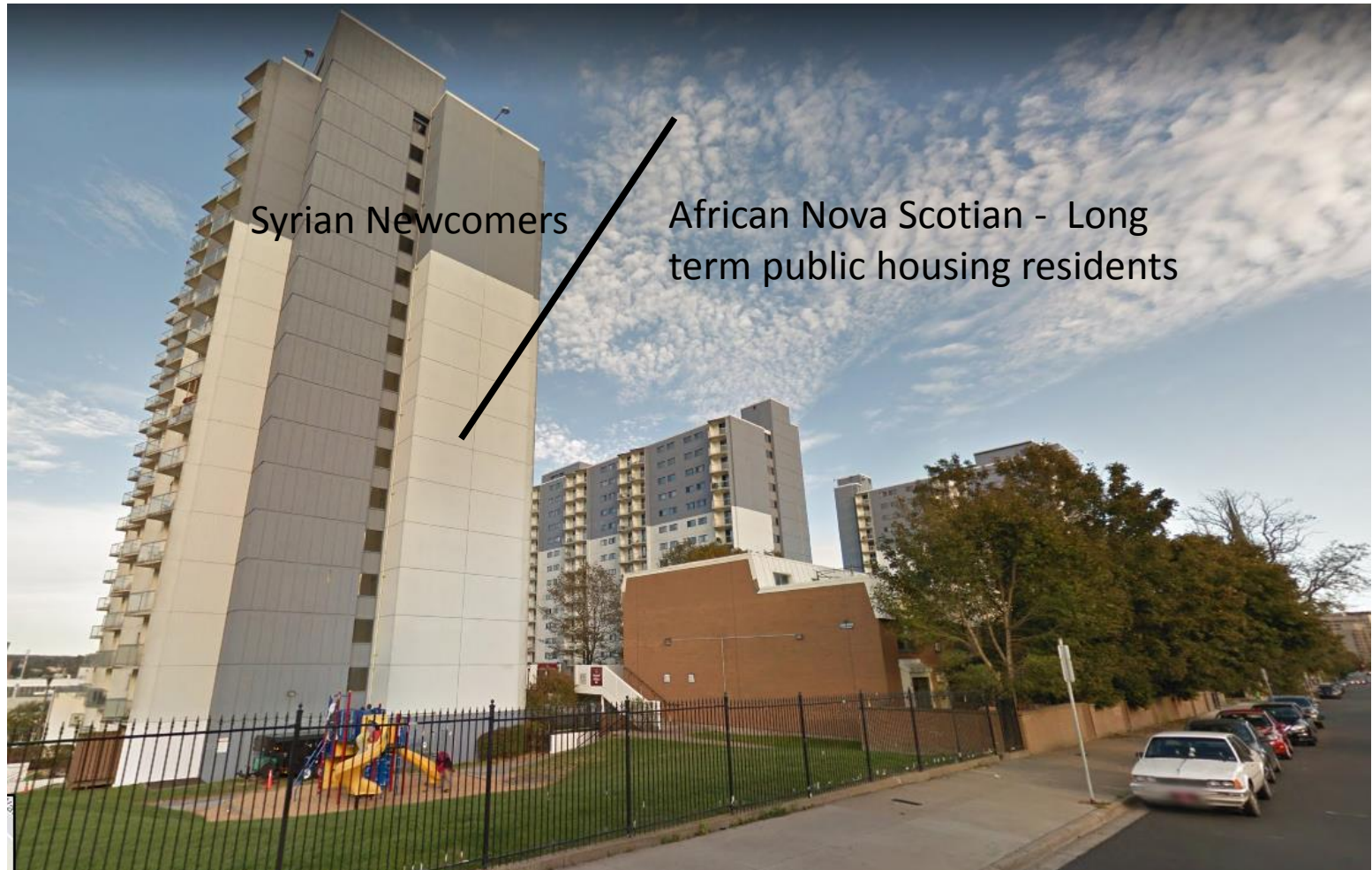












Syrian Newcomers

African Nova Scotian - Long
term public housing residents

Locations and nexuses of interaction:

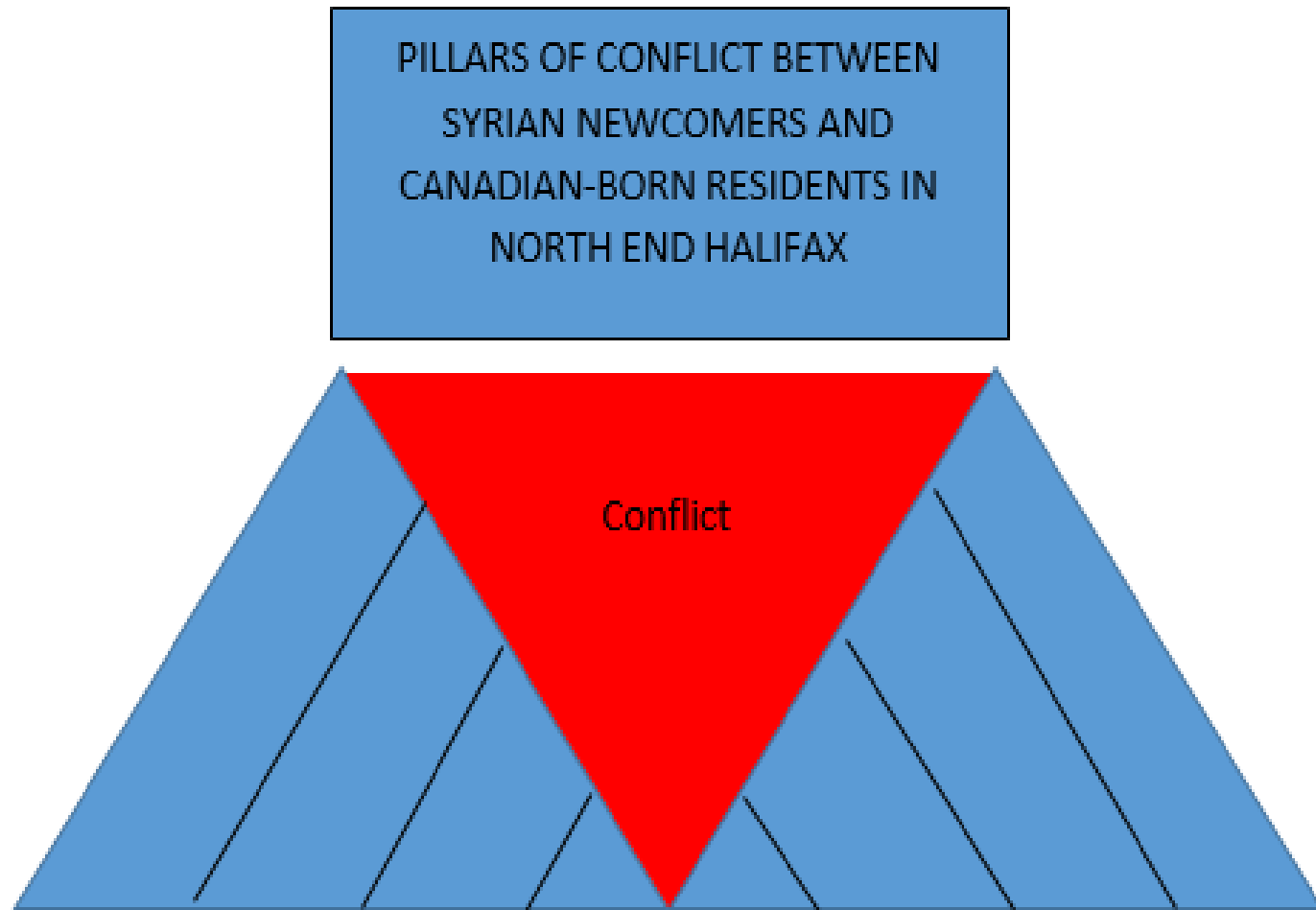
- School
- Recreation Centre
- Public Spaces
 - Parking lot
 - Community Gardens
 - Parks





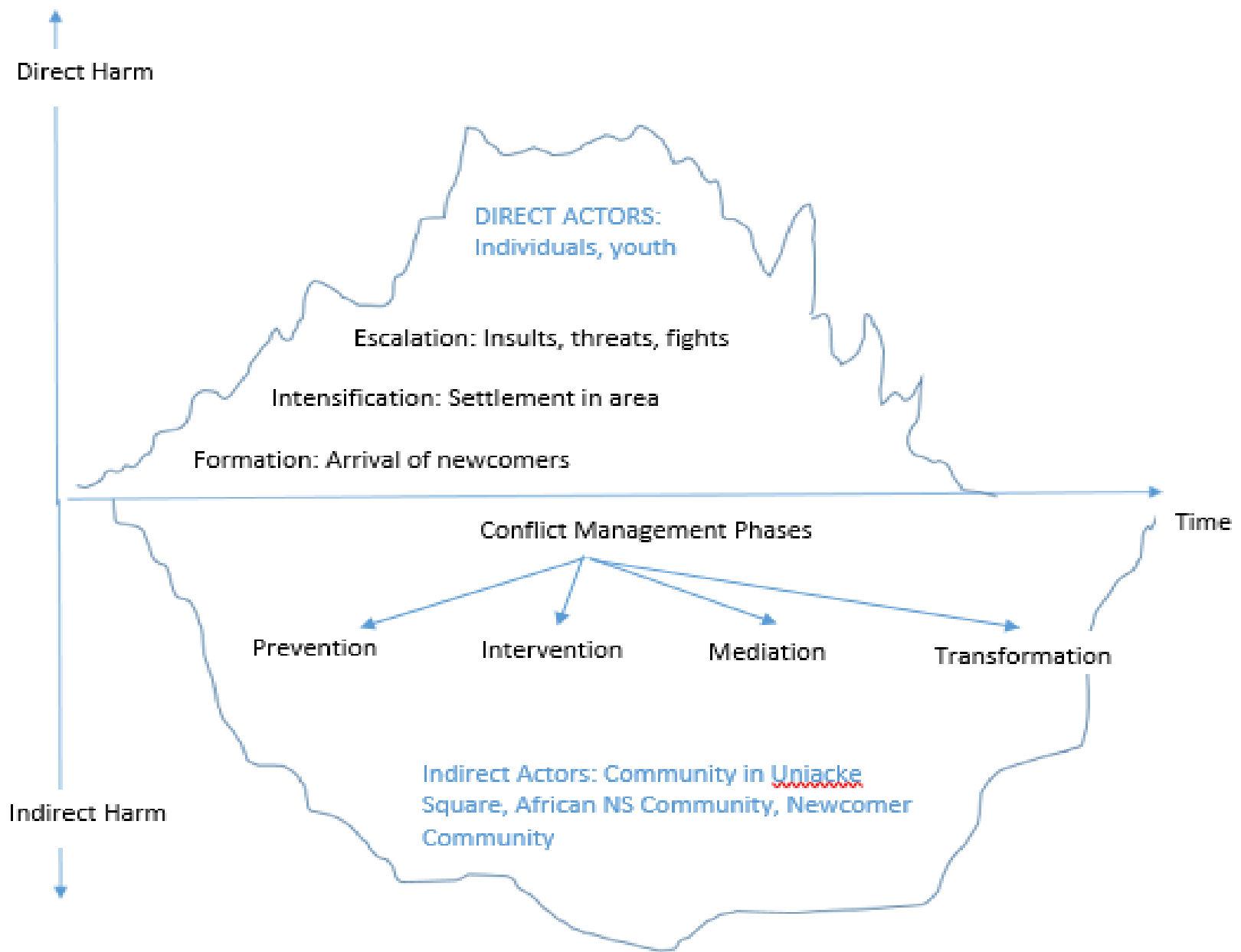


Conflict Transformation – North End Halifax



Pillars maintaining conflict

Syrian Newcomers	Canadian-born (Primarily African NS)
Attitudes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of new place • Not knowing how to fit in • Believe African NS are dangerous 	Attitudes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of community space • Perception of newcomers getting advantages • Distrust religion • Fear newcomers are here to harm
Behaviours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ostracizing – staying away from • Insults, fights, threats 	Behaviours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupying space • Insults, fights, threats
Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coming out of traumatic situations (war zones) • Don't know history of area or of long-term residents • Unfamiliar context, culture, knowledge, language • Have learned how to be resilient and to protect “their own” 	Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical racism, poverty and marginalization • Perceived loss of community spaces and continued context of marginalization – now to a new group • Resilient and not going to back down



Analysis

- What is happening?
- Who is involved?
- What do we need to know? (ABC's)

Develop Plan of Action

- Community Development and Conflict Transformation Strategies

Strategies for Overcoming Divisions

- Look for champions/allies and role models
- Relationship building (create spaces to meet, greet, & play together)
- Naming the issues
- Mediation and Conflict Resolution between parties where required and possible
- Celebrate success
- Communicating the results to wider community

Examples of Activities

George Dixon Centre:

- Bring in Syrian youth to act as recreation mentor for youth programs

Halifax Regional Municipality & ISANS:

- Conflict mediation training for youth (peer) leaders
- Meeting of local and community service providers to share context of challenges and develop programmatic responses for relationship building
- Townhall for community members to address concerns, share ideas and develop relationships.





What have we learned?:

- Pilot Project - could widen the scope
- Relationship building and credibility are key
- Collaborative Efforts – working outside our funding silos
- Intentional – who we work with and how we work
- Select team of trained mediators who were able to collaborate together
- People are anxious for change and want to do this – but just don't know how

Thank You

Any questions or comments:

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