

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Founder of Halifax non-profit receives Minister's Award for Leadership in Crime Prevention**

**HALIFAX – March 9, 2017** – Today Jennifer Bernier, PhD., Founder and Executive Director of the Centre for Building Resilience through Anti-Violence Education (BRAVE) in Halifax, received the Minister's Award for Leadership in Crime Prevention for her work with high-risk children.

"I'm honoured to receive the Minister's award, which goes beyond just me to include the entire team at BRAVE who provide valuable services to young girls struggling with behavioural issues, their families and school-based peers. We could not do this work without the generous support of Public Safety Canada, which invests in programs like ours to provide much-needed support that otherwise may not be available. We appreciate that this award will bring increased awareness of BRAVE as we expand services for high-risk children."

Presented each year by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, the Minister's Award for Leadership in Crime Prevention recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to crime prevention and enhancing the safety of their communities.

Dr. Bernier has worked for over 15 years on issues of social justice and health among women and girls, including violence and trauma, addiction and mental health, and incarceration and community reintegration. As Executive Director at BRAVE, Dr. Bernier provides leadership to achieve the Centre's goals of reducing bullying, delinquency and future criminalization among high-risk girls aged 6-11 who display social and behavioural concerns.

BRAVE provides a comprehensive set of services and supports for girls, their families and school-based peers using Stop Now And Plan (SNAP®). With years of research behind it, SNAP is an intervention program for high-risk children under 12. This evidence-based program has evolved into an internationally-recognized model for teaching children with disruptive behaviours, and their parents, effective emotion-regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills.

Since launching the SNAP program in March 2015, BRAVE has worked directly with 115 families, and 450 children through the school system, in the Halifax Regional Municipality. BRAVE is currently conducting intake for the 13-week spring and fall sessions, with programming offered at no cost to families.

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## **About BRAVE**

BRAVE (the Centre for Building Resilience through Anti-Violence Education) offers a comprehensive set of services using the evidence-based Stop Now and Plan (SNAP) program model. These services are available to high-risk girls ages 6-11 who are experiencing social, emotional and/or behavioural challenges at home and/or school, along with their families and peers. Through SNAP, we teach girls to stop, think and plan positive alternatives in order to respond in a way that makes their problems smaller, not bigger. Together, girls and their families learn effective skills in emotion-regulation, problem-solving and self-control.

BRAVE is the recipient of a five-year, \$3.4 million funding agreement from Public Safety Canada.

For more information, please visit [iambrave.ca](http://iambrave.ca).

## **About Stop Now And Plan (SNAP)**

Developed by Child Development Institute (CDI) over 30 years ago as an intervention program for children under 12 in conflict with the law, SNAP has evolved into an internationally-recognized model for teaching children with disruptive behaviours, and their parents, effective emotion-regulation, self-control and problem-solving skills. Gender-specific SNAP Boys and SNAP Girls programs are offered at CDI in Toronto, and through SNAP Affiliates across Canada and around the world. The primary goal of SNAP is to keep children in school and out of trouble.

After being selected as LEAP: The Centre for Social Impact's inaugural partner in a venture philanthropy model to create massive social change, CDI has embarked on a SNAP National Expansion, with the goal of making SNAP available to more Canadian children and families from coast to coast. SNAP was awarded the Prime Minister's Volunteer Award for Social Innovation in 2012.

For more information about SNAP, please visit [stopnowandplan.com](http://stopnowandplan.com)

## **About Child Development Institute (CDI)**

CDI is an accredited children's mental health agency providing a range of programs and services for children ages 0-12, youth ages 13-18, and their families in Toronto. We offer evidence-based programs across four streams: Early Intervention Services, Family Violence Services, the Integra Program and Healthy Child Development. Our approach is family-focused, and we work with each child and family's unique strengths, needs and challenges.

For more information, please visit [childdevelop.ca](http://childdevelop.ca).