



Festif & Safe

Presentation and Guide

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Project overview

Partners

This project is carried out with the financial support of the partners of the 2024-2027 Sectoral Development Agreement for Equality between Women and Men in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region: the Secrétariat à la condition féminine, the ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation, the ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale, the Direction régionale de santé publique de Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the Communauté maritime des Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the MRC du Rocher-Percé, the MRC de la Côte-de-Gaspé, the MRC de la Haute-Gaspésie, the MRC de Bonaventure, the MRC Avignon, the Réseau des partenaires en développement social des Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the Table des préfets des MRC de la Gaspésie and the Table de concertation féministe Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

Objectives

The Festif & Safe project led by the *Table de concertation féministe Gaspésie · Îles-de-la-Madeleine* aims to prevent sexual assaults and involuntary intoxications in festive environments.

The project consists of several key steps :

- **Team training:** raise awareness and equip organizers and volunteers to identify risky situations.
- **Awareness campaigns:** share messages before and during events (via social media, on-site signage, and communications).
- **On-site presence:** ensure direct intervention by trained professionals during events.

As an event organizer, you have the opportunity to prevent sexual violence in festive settings. Through the Festif & Safe initiative, we provide you with a set of concrete and accessible measures to ensure safer spaces for everyone.

Toolkit

This toolkit has been specifically designed for event organizers like you. It contains everything you need to implement preventive actions:

- **Is your audience safe?** A self-assessment guide to help determine whether you should implement safety measures.
- **Project presentation and guide:** understand the project and gain the tools needed to implement it.
- **Local resource directory:** contacts for professionals who can provide on-site support.
- **Intervention protocol:** guidance on when and how to intervene in different situations.
- **Festif & Safe visuals:** shareable content for social media and printable materials to display at your event.
- **Pre-recorded training:** designed for your event’s organizing team and volunteers, this training raises awareness about sexual violence, helps identify problematic situations, and provides intervention strategies.

Whether you’re organizing a festival, concert, any other gathering, or even if you own a bar, this toolkit offers the keys to educate your team, provide appropriate support to attendees, and create a respectful and safe environment.

Why Adopt Festif & Safe?

- **Enhance the feeling of safety:** create a space where everyone feels comfortable and respected.
- **Demonstrate your commitment:** showcase values of respect and inclusivity.
- **Build trust:** let your attendees know that their safety is your priority.

Together, let’s ensure that every event is a joyful, respectful, and safe celebration for all. By integrating Festif & Safe measures, you become an agent of change for safer and more inclusive events.

For any questions about the project, feel free to contact Charlotte Agostini at cagostini@femmesgim.qc.ca.

Guide for implementing Festif & Safe measures

To ensure everyone's safety, several measures must be put in place. This chapter aims to provide you with the tools needed to implement these measures.

Definition of a Safe Space

A safe space is a calm, judgment-free environment where individuals in distress (including those dealing with alcohol abuse, panic attacks, sexual violence, or involuntary intoxication) can temporarily withdraw. Providing such a space is considered a best practice and greatly improves the sense of security for festival-goers.

To ensure the effectiveness of a safe space, it is imperative that a trained support worker is always present, that the space offers a degree of privacy, and that it remains available throughout the evening. If you are unable to set up a dedicated safe space, you may use an existing location on your event site for this purpose (e.g., a first aid tent, reception area, etc.). Below is a list of the materials to have in this space:

Item	Yes	No
Tent with Widewalls		
Table		
Comfortable chairs (rugs and cushions optional)		
Curtain system (if possible)		
Lighting + extension cord		
Festif & Safe posters		
T-shirts for support workers (choose an easily identifiable color)		
Cards and pamphlets from organizations (CALACS, Sexual Violence Help, outreach workers, Mi-chemin, LGBT associations, etc.)		
Harm reduction supplies (responsible substance use)		
Naloxone		
Safer sex products (condoms, dental dams, etc.)		
Drink protectors / Cup covers (if available)		
Granola bars and/or snacks		
Water bottles and/or rehydration drinks (e.g., Gatorade)		
Menstrual products		
Wet wipes		
Bug spray (if necessary)		
Earplugs (if near a marquee/big top)		
Coloring books and/or stress-relief toys (fidgets)		
Puke bags		
Latex gloves		

Recommended measures

In the following tables, you will find the recommended actions for each implementation phase of the project, with each phase corresponding to one year. Should you wish to intensify your efforts from the outset, you may also adopt certain measures planned for Phase #2 (the recommended measures are identified with an *).

Phase #1 (first year)		
Measures	Yes	No
1. Designate a Festif & Safe coordinator within your team.		
2. Safe space :		
- Have a specific location on your event site and share its location with attendees		
- Ensure the criteria described above are met.		
3. Présence of intervention workers :		
- Contact local resources using the “contact directory” document		
- If they are available, coordinate their presence and collaboration		
- If they are not available, inform your medical team about the project so they can handle interventions and follow-ups appropriately if needed		
- Discuss with the support workers what materials they could provide (e.g., business cards of local organizations, prevention, and harm reduction materials).		
4. Show your commitment: zero tolerance for sexual assaults:		
- Post on social media		
- Display printed materials at the festival/event site.		
5. Festif & Safe training The Festif & Safe training included in your toolkit aims to equip members of the organizing team and volunteers to identify problematic situations and know how to respond.		

Phase #2 (second year)		
Measures	Yes	No
<p>1. Phase #1 : Continue implementing the measures from Phase #1 (first year) to adequately prepare for Phase #2.</p>		
<p>2. * Security and medical teams : Raise awareness and inform the security and medical teams about the Festif & Safe project. This includes sharing the project's objective and its approach, which emphasizes active listening, non-judgment, and victim support.</p>		
<p>3. Safe space/awareness kiosk :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflect on ways to improve the safe space, including its location, the presence of intervention workers, and the materials provided - Set up aa wawreness kiosk, which could be located at the same spot as the safe space or elsewhere, to provide festival attendees with information as soon as the event site opens. 		
<p>4. Volunteers : When recruiting volunteers, ask if any would be interested in participating in the Festif & Safe project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For prevention and awareness purposes <p>AND/OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For intervention purposes (if they have relevant qualifications). 		
<p>5. * Intervention and incident reporting protocol :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow the intervention protocol and modify it as needed to suit your event's specific context - Establish an incident reporting protocol to ensure that both your team and potential victims have a clear understanding of the intervention process and all important details. 		

Phase #3 (third year)		
Measures	Yes	No
6. Phase #1 et #2 : Continue implementing the measures from Phase #1 (first year) to adequately prepare for Phase #2.		
7. Reference Number : Have a phone number that could be published on social media and that would allow a victim to call if they do not feel safe going to the safe space or if your site does not have a safe space.		
8. Safe space : Continue the work of reflection regarding the improvement of the safe space, whether in terms of location, the presence of workers or prevention equipment.		

References and tools to go further

- [Sexual health and safety at festivals](#), Penington Institute
- [Project Lueur : acting against human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in festivals and events](#), Phare des Affranchies (free program)
- [Sécurité of cisgender and trans women and girls at outdoor events in Montréal](#), Conseil des Montréalaises, 2017

