

Operational status (as of April 2014) : **OPEN**

Name of Organization	SeaStar Centre IWK Health Centre, Child Protection Team		
Address	5850/5980 University Ave. Halifax Nova Scotia B3K 6R8		
Website	http://www.iwk.nshealth.ca/childrens-health/child-and-youth-advocacy-centre		
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The SeaStar Child & Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) is currently in development in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The SeaStar Centre will serve as an active CYAC, as well as a regional Centre of Excellence on child maltreatment. A toolkit is also in development, which will support the development of future satellite CYAC sites across less-populated regions of the province and potentially beyond.

A multi-sectoral Steering Committee has come together to lead development of the SeaStar Centre, with representation from the IWK Health Centre; Nova Scotia Departments of Community Services, Justice, Health & Wellness, and Education; Mi'kmaq Family & Children's Services; Law enforcement; Public Prosecution Service; Transition House Association of Nova Scotia; and Avalon Sexual Assault Centre.

A small-scale CYAC Demonstration Program began in December 2012, hosted at the IWK Health Centre. Incorporating many aspects of a CYAC, the program features a child- and youth-friendly interview space, co-located medical services, support from a Child and Youth Advocate, and increased collaboration in sharing information. As an initial step toward establishing community-based CYAC

services in Nova Scotia, the program provides an opportunity to better understand and facilitate interdepartmental relationships, information sharing, and best practices, while informing the ongoing development of the SeaStar Centre.