

Name of Organization	SeaStar Child and Youth Advocacy Centre
Address	5850/5980 University Ave. Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 6R8
Website	<a href="http://www.iwk.nshealth.ca/SeaStarCYAC">http://www.iwk.nshealth.ca/SeaStarCYAC</a>
Phone (switchboard)	(902) 470-2715
Senior Contact Person	Amy Ornstein Medical Director, IWK Suspected Trauma and Abuse Response Team (START) Direct phone: (902) 470-8222 Email: <a href="mailto:amy.ornstein@iwk.nshealth.ca">amy.ornstein@iwk.nshealth.ca</a>
Other contact	Christina Shaffer CYAC Project Coordinator Direct phone: (902) 470-7365 Email: <a href="mailto:Christina.shaffer@iwk.nshealth.ca">Christina.shaffer@iwk.nshealth.ca</a>

**DESCRIPTION:**

The SeaStar Child and Youth Advocacy Centre offers a coordinated response for children and youth who may have experienced violence or abuse.

Based at the IWK Health Centre, SeaStar is a safe, welcoming place, where different agencies and services work together to improve the way our community responds to concerns of child abuse.

SeaStar’s innovative approach brings together professionals from law enforcement, child welfare, health care, mental health, and the justice system. Our aim is to create one integrated approach to investigation, assessment, and treatment of suspected violence or abuse.

SeaStar offers:

- Coordinated, one-stop services
- Welcoming environment, designed specifically for children and youth
- Calm, comfortable interview room
- Specialized medical assessment (if needed)
- Personalized, ongoing support from a Child and Youth Advocate
- Free psychoeducational workshops for caregivers on understanding trauma

- Professional Dog Support - Accredited Facility Dog and Therapy Dog
- Enhanced communication across agencies

As SeaStar continues to grow, future goals include expansion of space and services, and creation of an Atlantic Centre of Excellence on Childhood Trauma.

**MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT)** includes:

- NS Department of Community Services
- Mi'kmaq Family and Children's Services
- Halifax Regional Police/RCMP
- NS Department of Justice, Victim Services
- NS Public Prosecution Service
- Avalon Sexual Assault Centre