

April 27, 2020

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**2020 SEXCELLENCE AWARD HONOURS REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS ADVOCATE**

Sexual Health Nova Scotia (SHNS) is proud to announce the recipient of the 2020 Sexcellence Award, and Special Recognition.

Since 2008, SHNS has given the Sexcellence Award to individuals in Nova Scotia who support and promote outstanding work in the field of sexual health. The last Sexcellence Award was given out in 2017, followed by a review period during which SHNS decided to adjust the process by asking for public nominations.

After an incredible group of nominees were received this year, SHNS is excited to announce our 2020 winner, **Shannon Hardy**, Founder of Abortion Support Services Atlantic (ASSA).

Hardy is a passionate advocate for sexual health and reproductive rights. She founded ASSA, a volunteer-based abortion support service for those needing information on abortion services, support during pre and post abortion medical visits or help navigating the process, in 2012 and has trained over 300 people from across Canada in trauma-informed abortion support. She is a certified clinical trauma specialist and sexual health educator with over 13 years of teaching experience, the co-founder of the Nova Scotia Doula Association and founder of ConsentFEST-Halifax. Hardy has recently joined the team at the AIDS Coalition of NS as Support & Program Services. SHNS is proud to be a partner of Hardy and Abortion Support Services Atlantic.

SHNS is also pleased to announce a Sexcellence Special Recognition is awarded this year to **Lorrie Boutilier**, former Executive Director of the Sheet Harbour Sexual Health Centre (SHSHC).



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Boutilier served as Executive Director at SHSHC from 2016 to 2019 and brought over 15 years of nursing experience to the position. She is a passionate sexual health educator who facilitated a number of youth programs for SHSHC, and developed the excellent Sex Over Sixty seniors' resource. SHNS has been very lucky to have Boutilier as part of its network and thanks her for her dedication to sexual health promotion in Nova Scotia.

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