



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Re: Demolition on AWH Community Site, Portugal Cove-St. Philip's

WARNING: This press release may be triggering for survivors of abuse. We request any news organization sharing this to utilize a similar notice.

April 10, 2024,

The Boards of Directors of both the Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Chamber of Commerce and the Arts, Wellness and Heritage Community Site (AWHCS) would like to inform the public of a major milestone that has been accomplished in their collective efforts to develop a safe, inclusive, and welcoming site at their recently acquired property on RC Church Road in Portugal Cove-St. Philip's.

During the groups' research leading up to the initiation of this project, it became clear, after consultation with survivors and the community, that the former rectory on the site had been the location of the betrayal of trust, abuse, and great harm caused by an employee of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese and his associates. Learning of this, the PCSP Chamber of Commerce and the AWHCS made a unanimous decision that the former rectory on the site would not be part of our groups' intention to create a beacon of hope, renewal, and wellness.

It is with the direction of the AWHCS Board of Directors, along with consultation with survivors to help guide both groups, that we announce today that the former rectory on the site has been demolished and removed. As previously stated, we see this as a positive milestone in our groups' efforts towards the healing process for survivors, and the development of the site for the betterment of our community and region.

We look forward to engaging all of our community in an inclusive and respectful manner to determine the next positive steps in developing this community site for all.

For any further information, please reach out to us at: executive@chamberpcsp.ca

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