

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pictou County Welcomes Sara MacKay as Project Manager for Integrated Youth Services

Pictou County, NS — Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pictou County is proud to announce the hiring of Sara MacKay as the Project Manager for Integrated Youth Services. In this pivotal role, Sara will oversee the development and launch of a new Youth Integrated Services Site in partnership with the John Howard Society, Pictou County Community Health Centre, Roots for Youth, the YMCA of Pictou County and as lead agency, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pictou County. This initiative is funded by the Province of Nova Scotia, charitable foundations and other partners, all managed by the IWK Health Foundation. This project aims to provide comprehensive, accessible, and integrated services to youth in Pictou County with an emphasis on mental health and addictions.

Sara brings extensive experience in project management, youth development, and community engagement. She will lead the coordination of stakeholders, program development, and construction management to ensure the project is successfully implemented and aligned with the community's needs. This project represents a significant step forward in delivering innovative and holistic support services to youth in rural areas. *"I am thrilled to work with Big Brothers Big Sisters as we team up with other youth serving organizations in our community to provide emergent and innovative spaces for the youth of Pictou County and beyond. Together with partnering agencies, Integrated Youth Services will provide a space to receive essential, wholistic support services. I look forward to collaborating with the community to ensure this initiative meets the unique needs of our youth."*

The Integrated Youth Services Site will provide a central hub where young people can access a wide range of services, including mental health supports, educational resources, and community engagement opportunities. Sara's leadership will guide the project through its critical phases, from planning and construction to the launch of innovative programs tailored for youth in the area.

Margie Grant-Walsh, Executive Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters, the lead agency on the project says, *"Sara's dedication and expertise make her an excellent choice to lead this initiative. This project is about more than just a building—it's about creating a brighter future for the young*

people of Pictou County. With Sara at the helm, I am confident we will achieve our vision of an integrated, youth-centered space that empowers and uplifts our community's youth."

This initiative reflects the commitment of Big Brothers Big Sisters and its coalition partners to address the evolving needs of youth in Pictou County. The Integrated Youth Services Site is expected to open in the spring of 2025.

For more information about the project or Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pictou County, please contact:

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