

“Like It Is”

Realities of Violence and Prevention Efforts in Nunatsiavut

Violence Prevention Initiative 2015 Project Report



AnânuKatiget
Tum ing it

REGIONAL
INUIT
WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION



CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Project Implementation Process	2
Meetings in Communities	2
Draft Interim Report	3
Discussion Themes	4
Regional Working Group	4
Scope of Effort	4
Current Realities	5
Victims of Violence	5
Roots of Violence	6
Information Template Summary	6
Analysis of Violence Prevention and Intervention Efforts	14
Categories of Effort	14
Crisis Intervention	14
Treatment/Skill Building	14
Public and National or Provincial Campaigns Specific to Violence	14
Public Education re: Healthy Lives and Healthy Living	14
Public Awareness and Education Specific to Aspects of Violence	15
Categories of Effort that get the Greatest Investment of Time and Resources	15
Violence Awareness	15
Possible Next Steps	16
Appendix: Information Template	17
Share your Ideas	18
Contact Us	23

Introduction

AnânauKatiget Tumingit (AT) received project funding from the Violence Prevention Initiative. The short term project focused on three areas.

1. To identify the violence related initiatives that have been implemented to address violence.
2. Check if there is interest in stakeholders and communities working together; and if so,
3. Build commitment to a plan of action to address violence within Nunatsiavut.

This interim report provides background information on the 2015 VPI project. It includes a summary of the themes arising from discussion at initial meetings held in each Nunatsiavut community, and a teleconference with key partners on March 24, 2015. Both regional government and community organizations completed an information template that outlined the kinds of violence awareness and prevention initiatives and activities that have been implemented. (See Appendix). Information Templates provide a picture of the resources, the effort and the targeted population. A summary of the information template is also provided.

The report does not include statistical information on the kinds of violence or the incidents in Nunatsiavut communities. Victims of violence were not directly contacted during this process as the project completion time frame could not accommodate the necessary process for submissions and approval from Nunatsiavut Government Research Authority or Newfoundland and Labrador Health Ethics Board.



Project Implementation Process

Charlotte Wolfrey, Executive Director of AnânauKatiget Tumingit , visited each community of Nunatsiavut and met with key stakeholders available at meeting time.

Meetings in Communities

Those participating follow.

Community	Participants	Date
Hopedale	Greg Flowers, Ordinary Member for Hopedale and Minister for Department of Health and Social Development Marjorie Flowers, Team Leader Department of Health and Social Development Ken Coakley, RCMP Lito Libres, Counsellor Labrador Grenfell Health Sophie Pamak, AnânauKatiget Tumingit Board member	February 18, 2015
Nain	Nicole Dicker, Executive Director, Nain Safe House Edna Winters, Team Leader, Department of Health and Social Development Jonathan Kenny, RCMP	February 19, 2015
Makkovik	Linda Pottle, Team Leader, Department of Health and Social Development Boyce Nobel, RCMP Carol Gear, AnânauKatiget Tumingit President Regrets: Murray Walters, Counsellor Labrador Grenfell Health	February 23, 2015

Postville	Barbara Edmonds, Team Leader Department of Health and Social Development Grant Gear, Community Health Worker Department of Health and Social Development Candy Jacque, Community Health Worker, Department of Health and Social Development Diane Gear, AngajukKâk, Postville Inuit community Government Brenda Colbourne, AnânuKatiget Tumingit Board member	February 24, 2015
Rigolet	Lorraine Allen, Team Leader Department of Health and Social Development Desiree Wolfrey, Executive Director, Kirkina House Don Riley, RCMP	March 4, 2015

Draft Interim Report

An interim summary report was drafted for feedback and a full day facilitated session with interested partners throughout Nunatsiavut planned for March 24, 2015. The work commitments of many so close to the end of the fiscal year made it challenging for some to participate in the session. Unfortunately weather and travel delays disrupted the plans. Those available in Happy Valley-Goose Bay met through a two hour teleconference with others in Nain, Makkovik and Rigolet. The information and perspectives gathered during that teleconference meeting were incorporated into this report.

Those participating in the teleconference meeting include:

Face to Face in Happy Valley- Goose Bay	On teleconference
Charlotte Wolfrey, Executive Director, AnânuKatiget Tumingit Mary Sheppard, Mental Health and Addictions Supervisor, Labrador Grenfell Health, Myrtle Banfield, AnânuKatiget Tumingit Board member Bobbie Boland, AnânuKatiget Tumingit Consultant	Desiree Wolfrey, Executive Director, Kirkina House, Rigolet Nicole Dicker, Executive Director, Nain Safe House Lorraine Allen, Team Leader Department of Health and Social Development, Rigolet Linda Pottle, Team Leader, Department of Health and Social Development, Makkovik Johanna Tuglavina, AnânuKatiget Tumingit Project Coordinator

Michelle Kinney, Deputy Minister of Department of Health and Social Development with Nunatsiavut Government sent a message of support and noted the department's interest and support to any ongoing efforts of a working group. Rick Mills, RCMP, had planned to attend and represent the RCMP but was unable to attend due to work demand. The RCMP are interested and will participate in efforts of a working group should one be formed.

Discussion Themes

The following is a summary of the themes arising from initial meetings in communities and the March 24th meeting. This should not be considered a complete list of issues and dynamics.

Regional Working Group

Overall there is a sense that there are good reasons to work collaboratively to address issues around violence. Generally people believe working together could result in stronger and more cohesive efforts, sharing resources and less duplication. Likely partners for a Working Group, should one be formed, would be AnânauKatiget Tumingit, Department of Health and Social Development, RCMP, Safe Houses/Women's Committees, Victim Services, Labrador Grenfell Health with consideration to representatives from each community. There is support also for inclusion of a youth and elder representative.

Scope of Effort

Focus: There is a sense that efforts should be focused and set specific goals, objectives and actions. Choosing one area to work on together would likely facilitate a more successful search for project funds as well. For example, Michelle Kinney, Department of Health and Social Development, supports a positive framed, broad based effort that focuses on right relationships and respectful communications. A chosen focus needs to be considered in relation to current programs and services and identified gaps. Clearly different partners would be able to bring different things to the mandate of the Working Group.

Speaking from the perspective of the Board of AnânauKatiget Tumingit, Myrtle Banfield suggests that it will be important for AnânauKatiget Tumingit to consider the issues brought forward through this Violence Prevention Initiative project process and choose a path forward. She looks forward to the Executive Director reporting back to the Board about the project and possible next steps.

Geography: The question of geography was also raised. To date the efforts have been focused on Nunatsiavut communities. Myrtle Banfield, as the AnânauKatiget Tumingit representative for Happy Valley-Goose Bay believes that efforts need to be inclusive of the Upper Lake Melville area and suggests this issue needs to be discussed before any major efforts forward.

Current Realities

What seems to be happening in communities around violence prevention, supports and services and what is the impact?

Victims of Violence

More incidents brought to light: There is a sense that more victims of violence are coming forward, especially women trying to escape violence.

There is room for improvement in first response. There have been occasions when the experience of bringing incidents forward to the RCMP (by telephone and in person) has not been a good experience for women. An example was shared of a young woman in Nain bringing an issue forward 2 years ago. It was not a positive experience for her.

Sometimes available services are unable to meet the needs of victims of violence. For example a Safe House might be full or as in the case with Rigolet, only open four days a week. The Safe Houses do try to meet the presenting need through use of alternative services such as Libra House in Goose Bay or other safe accommodations. Labrador Grenfell Health does make counselling services available but it is common for victims of violence and DHSD to not follow through on using these services.

Housing availability has a major impact. When women cannot have safe housing in their community it could result in leaving the community for 5-7 months. They often end up returning to their home even though it may not be safe.

Inuit culture supports a respect for privacy. Consequently if you see someone who has been beat up, generally one would not inquire or be intrusive, and instead turn a “blind eye” to a situation. Likewise those who caused violence are often welcomed back to the community when they return from a prison term.

Support: If the RCMP are not available for initial response, there may be little support for victims of violence (in terms of services and programs). Some communities do not have a Safe House and those that do cannot provide long term housing support. Women often end up returning to their homes. Women sometimes get the message they are not believed by family, friends and neighbours. For example when a victim hears “I can’t believe he would do such a thing”, they hear that their experience is not valid, that “you are no good” and support for the abuser.

Men who are victims sometimes come to the Safe House but cannot be accepted for emergency shelter.

The lack of public engagement in dealing with violence at the community level affects victims of violence. When the people do not acknowledge what is happening to others around them, it suggests a silence or bystander kind of status. *It is happening to others, not to me, and so I don’t need to do anything.* Standing together publically with victims of violence and their families is much easier when it is not happening in your community but somewhere else.

Promotional materials often promote a message. However sometimes there have been questionable choices about the faces that have been on the posters. There are some individuals who are often identified as speaking out publically about violence. At this point there is no identified public initiative that promotes those “voices” and their experience.

Follow through to charges: Very common for a woman to not follow through on charges. Often this is a result of situations having calmed down somewhat. It could also mean there are no options or that losing the “provider” and jail time means separation from family and children. Victims are looked at as being “bad” for reporting.

Impact on victims and children: When incidents of violence are made public, both the victim and children can suffer from the “talk” about them in the community. This contributes to a lack of trust in others and a fear of being re-victimized. Children may be treated differently at school as well. These impacts contribute to silence and a message of “do not tell”.

Facebook: Facebook creates a wider community and sometimes serves to normalize violence because it shows many people are going through rough times. Cyberbullying is a concern for both children and adults. One participant suggested Facebook bullying is a modern way to express violence.

Roots of Violence

These roots of violence, long identified, continue to impact people and families and communities.

- The intergenerational trauma experienced by so many individuals in communities contributes to violence.
- Men want mentors to “model” healthy relationships. Any program or intervention must come from a place of caring and no judgement or there will be no participation and therefore no hope of change.
- Respect needs to be there for everybody.
- Sometimes internalized trauma leads to violence against self and suicide. People need a sense of purpose, value and connection.
- Sometimes trauma results in addictions and mental health issues and subsequent violence.
- Poverty, inadequate housing, lack of options, public support, and stigma keeps people vulnerable to violence.

Information Template Summary

The templates give a sense of the efforts that have been made – and different communities responded in varied levels of detail. The following is an overview of information gathered:

Nain

- Nain Safe House
 - Emergency Shelter, Take Back the Night, Women's Luncheon's and Spa Day
- AnânauKatiget Tumingit
 - Inuit Sensitive Elder Abuse Workshop and Radio Presentations,
 - Promotional magnets healthy communities and anti-violence messages,
- Department of Health and Social Development support for:
 - National Aboriginal Day, Cultural Day, Community Spring gathering, FASD Awareness, Suicide Prevention Walk/Day, National Addictions Awareness Week, Family Violence Awareness,
 - Probations Support Groups,
 - Support non-profit group Alcoholics Anonymous,
 - Honouring Abstinence,
 - Parenting Program,
 - Healthy Lifestyles and Nutrition,
 - Social Club, Seniors Bingo, and
 - Safety Awareness,
 - Violence Against Women,
 - Celebrate Life, Going Off Going Strong.
- Junior Rangers PHASE Program



Hopedale

- Labrador Grenfell Health Family focused Anger Management program. Lito Libres.
- AnânauKatiget Tumingit
 - Inuit Sensitive Table Top Domestic Violence,
 - Promotional magnets healthy communities and anti-violence messages,
- Department of Health and Social Development support of:
 - Take Back the Night,
 - Vigils for Missing and Murdered Aboriginal women,
 - Anti-bullying campaigns,
 - Self-esteem workshops and mental wellness,
 - Support groups for youth and adults.
- Junior Rangers PHASE Program (Lindsay Helling)



Makkovik

- AnânauKatiget Tumingit
 - Inuit Sensitive Table Top Sessions on Elder Abuse, Emotional and Psychological Violence, Domestic Violence and Bullying (adult orientation).
 - Promotional magnets healthy communities and anti-violence messages.
- Department of Health and Social Development:
 - Support for Take Back the Night; Sisters in Spirit, Silent Witness and World Elder Abuse Day.
 - Regular and consistent presentations on various kinds of abuse to school grades and to community groups. October is Family Violence Month and always attention given to the issue
 - IPod Café: Awareness Session on different kinds of violence. Labrador Grenfell Health participated by doing a 15 minute presentation,
 - Stand up anti bullying campaign,
 - Anger Management program provided by Community Health Worker at request of court.
- RCMP Supported
 - School based program; Aboriginal Shield (RCMP work with Youth in schools about Aboriginal pride, anti-bullying, self- esteem, problem solving, 10 sessions throughout school year).
 - Elder Abuse, RCMP Makkovik. (4 half hour sessions)
- Junior Rangers PHASE Program



Postville:

- AnânauKatiget Tumingit promotional magnets healthy communities and anti-violence messages.
- Department of Health and Social Development promotes violence prevention and awareness in a number of different ways.
 - Display boards at community events,
 - Presentations to schools, elders groups,
 - Family Violence community dinners,
 - Family violence pot luck as well as newsletter contributions.
 - Also participation in public events such as Take Back the Night, Rally and Fire Pit and the Conversation Café.
- Junior Rangers PHASE Program (Ingrid Rose)



Rigolet

- Kirkina House:
 - Emergency shelter 4 days a week.
 - Take Back the Night March (in partnership with DHSD Rigolet),
 - Conversation Café, International Women's Day Luncheon,
 - Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence booth at Salmon Festival,
 - Luncheon for 16 days of activism
 - Confidential program that helps women identify when they need help.(RCMP and Kirkina House
- AnânauKatiget Tumingit
 - Promotional magnets healthy communities and anti-violence messages,
 - Inuit Sensitive Sexual Assault Table Top Session
- Department of Health and Social Development
 - Presentations in school and support to public functions related to national initiatives. Networking with community and other agencies and groups.
 - Family oriented activities events- Spring Celebration, Family Sliding, National Aboriginal Day, FASD Awareness, Celebrate Life. National Child Day, Community Christmas event, Special Days (Grandparents, Mother's and Father's). Activities during Family Violence Awareness, partner with Safe House for 16 days of Awareness Month and Take Back the Night event.



- Support to non-profit groups and programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Probation Support Group, Honoring Abstinence, Going Off Going Strong, Parenting Programs. Safety Awareness, Seniors Bingo, Healthy Lifestyles and Nutrition
- National Addictions Awareness Week
- Radio Shows, Displays and Public Awareness: Violence Against Men Local Radio Show. Inuit IQ, Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Violence Awareness, Dating Violence, Managing Holiday Stress, 21 ways to Celebrate Life, Baby Blues, Harm Reduction. Children – Building Self Esteem, Respect, Be Your Own Life Coach, Understanding Depression, How to Overcome Addiction.
- Land Based Programs targeting women and the Abstinence groups (male and female) Katherine Pottle (Mental Health and Addictions Workers)
- Reawaken the Mind Body and Spirit. Traditional Skill Building Making mitts, boots and slippers; some focus on dealing with trauma
- You are not Alone - program focusing on Intergenerational trauma, and healing
 - Connections Program, Grades 7-9. One session on Self Esteem. Dawn Michelin and Carly Blake, Public Health
- Roots of Empathy (ROE), Dawn Michelin, Public Health
- RCMP Supported School based programs
 - Pink Shirt Day (Rigolet)
 - Bullying Awareness Day (Rigolet)
 - Friendship Challenge (Rigolet)
- RCMP Supported Community Events
 - Take Back the Night (Kirkina House Sponsored, Rigolet)
 - Domestic Violence Supper (Department of Health and Social Development Rigolet sponsored)
 - Moose Hide Campaign Against Domestic Violence (Rigolet)
- Junior Rangers PHASE Program (half a day, three times a year over 3-4 years)

Not reflected in any detail in the completed templates gathered to date are some programs/initiatives alluded to in meetings:

Directly related to violence:

- *Boys to Men*
- *I Am A Kind Man*
- VAAT (Violence Awareness Action Training); there was Wendilo training in Nain this winter, unsure of VAAT.
- Court Monitoring Program (Purple Heart Support victims of violence in court)
- The Department of Health and Social Development court monitoring project that was looking at the Circuit Court processes and how it impacts victims of violence.
- We believe there have also been Circles of Support and Accountability (COSAs) that have operated in communities. A COSA is when a group of community people both support a high risk offender returning to the community and also hold them accountable.
- Torngat Housing Policy: Unknown whether Torngat Housing has a formal policy that supports victims of violence staying in the home and requires perpetrators of violence to leave.

“Mostly our efforts are talk, and we are not really getting anywhere. There are lots of low impact initiatives. We are not getting down to where it matters and reaching people we need to meet. We need to hear from the women and what they need.”

Analysis of Violence Prevention and Intervention Efforts

There are many different violence prevention focused efforts happening in Nunatsiavut.

Crisis intervention services (Shelters/Safe Houses) are available in two communities and victims of violence in other communities can be connected up to services. Labrador Grenfell Health and DHSD offers supportive counselling to victims and is making efforts to address the needs of men with anger management issues.

The Department of Health and Social Development incorporates violence awareness into many of their programs in all communities and staff do all the preparation work for presentations.

The schools regularly promote national campaigns such as Pink Shirt Day and other anti-bullying initiatives. The Rangers promote a national training model that covers a number of violence awareness topics over a four year period.

Some effort has been made to create violence awareness products that are Inuit sensitive. There has been targeted information session on Elder Abuse in many communities. Programs such as *I Am a Kind Man* and *Boys to Men* target males. A committee to support the male focussed Anger Management Program has been set up in Hopedale.

There is a Hopedale Women's Group but no known groups operating in other communities. There was concern about burnout and that the same people are doing the challenging work.

Categories of Effort

The efforts that are ongoing can be categorized in the following ways:

Crisis Intervention

Police intervention, and shelters/safe houses in two communities.

Treatment/Skill Building

Anger Management offered by Labrador Grenfell Health in Hopedale. I am a Kind Man (seems to have stalled at the public promotions level and has not been successful in getting participation) and Boys to Men.

Public and National or Provincial Campaigns Specific to Violence

Provincial Respect Women campaign, Vigils, Participation in public events such as Take Back the Night, 16 Days of Activism, Domestic Violence Dinners. Moose Hide Campaign: Men Against Domestic Violence.

Public Education re: Healthy Lives and Healthy Living

A number of program efforts are directed to healthy relationships, responsible behaviour, well-being and address some of the roots of violence. These programs often include content about violence awareness and prevention. Some examples include Going off, Going Strong, Mindfulness, Roots of Empathy, Mapping the Way and other mental health and addictions efforts. Family and Community events are utilized by the Department of Health and Social Development and Public Health as opportunities to provide information and key messages.

Public Awareness and Education Specific to Aspects of Violence

For example: Department of Health and Social Development presentations to youth, and Junior Rangers PHASE program. Interviews about Elder Abuse and Inuit sensitive Violence Awareness workshops offered by AnânuKatigit Tumingit, with some and materials developed in English and Inuktitut. Elder Abuse Workshops by RCMP. School based programs such as Aboriginal Shield, Pink Shirt Day, Bullying Awareness Day, Friendship Challenge. AnânuKatigit Tumingit magnet messages.

Categories of Effort that get the Greatest Investment of Time and Resources

This section provides an analysis of where it appears the most time and effort is placed.

Violence Awareness

The major effort expended is in violence awareness and provides information through presentations, display boards, and printed materials. This focus on providing information in a targeted way could be considered a passive response. The underlying assumption is - once informed - people will take action to either identify when they are victims of violence, or change behaviours that could be considered violence.

Children and youth are the primary target population for much of the public awareness education efforts. The presumed intention – if young people have a better sense of good relationships, positive communications and a clear sense of unacceptable behaviour - they will carry that knowledge into adulthood and into their homes.

There are consistent public awareness events that are connected to national efforts. For example Take Back the Night, Vigil for Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women. Communities are more likely to come together in protest or support when the issue/incident is happening in another community or nationally. There is sense the community is significantly constrained about public display of support when the focus is protesting against one of their own. The assumption is that family relationships and loyalties make this a very complex issue. In some cases, the unintended result is that victims of violence could likely not feel community support and might even feel responsibility for causing unease amongst the larger community.

Apart from the services offered by the Safe Houses, and the supportive counselling services that are likely offered through Department of Health and Social Development and Labrador Grenfell Health, there are few targeted and public programs that support victims of violence. Desiree Wolfrey of Kirkina House in Rigolet summarized it this way: “Mostly our efforts are talk, and we are not really getting anywhere. There are lots of low impact initiatives. We are not getting down to where it matters and reaching people we need to meet. We need to hear from the women and what they need”.

Possible Next Steps

The information gathered supports the perception that there is no cohesive plan of action and there may be good benefits from working together on a regional basis. There was strong direction given to speaking with victims of violence and inquiring about their realities, needs and the kinds of supports that would make sense to them. Also support for greater engagement with elders in community efforts.

A Working Group could focus efforts on:

- Planning for Nunatsiavut response and working together, sharing resources, putting violence on the public/community agenda.
- Responding to
 - Needs of victims of violence in terms of first response, ongoing support and messages. More effort given to empowerment of women.
 - Needs of those who are violent, supports that help them learn how to stop the behaviour and be respected part of the community and
 - Needs of the community in terms of creating safe communities for all, in terms of acknowledging the needs of victims of violence and those who perpetrate violence.

This 2015 VPI initiative provides a good basis of further discussion and possible collaborative action. Issues of scope and focus of a collaborative action need to be clarified. For example – what should be the targeted geographical area for a collaborative effort? What particular focus or initiative would be targeted? Does consideration of the gaps in services and supports inform such a discussion? What role would various partners play in such as initiative?



Appendix: Information Template

Name:

Position Title:

Organization:

Community:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone:

Fax:

Acknowledge your work!!! Work you do in Violence prevention, awareness, training, treatment? What specific effort or actions have been taken or are currently underway? (Workshops, public messages, information sessions, class room sessions for schools, etc.). For each initiative could you answer the following:

Name of action/initiative Funding Source	
Who took the lead or was responsible?	
When did it happen and for how long (duration of effort)?	
How much time and effort did it require?	
If there were “key messages”, what were they?	
Was there a particular target audience?	
Was it successful? How?	
Any lessons learned? What were they?	
Is violence prevention and awareness a regular focus for you or your organization?	

Understanding the Issue

The following are general questions aimed at deepening our understanding of the needs and supports to victims, the needs and accountabilities for perpetrators.

Share your ideas!!!

Can you contribute an idea or two about:

Victims of Violence: What kinds of things help victims of violence talk about and take action? Are there programs or supports you know of that focus in this area. If so what are they?

Perpetrators: What kinds of services and supports and accountabilities are present for those who perpetrate violence?

Breaking the silence: How to begin to break the silence around violence?

Looking to the Future: What assets and strengths can we build on in this community? In this region?

Consent: The information provided can be used in a Summary Report that communicates the overall trends in violence prevention actions taken in Nunatsiavut available to the public.

What assets and strengths can we build on in this community? Region?

Share your ideas!!!

Can you contribute an idea or two about how to proceed with building a violence prevention plan for the region?

Contact Us

AnânuKatiget Tumingit Regional Inuit Women's Association

Email executivedirector@LabradorInuitWomen.ca

Website LabradorInuitWomen.ca

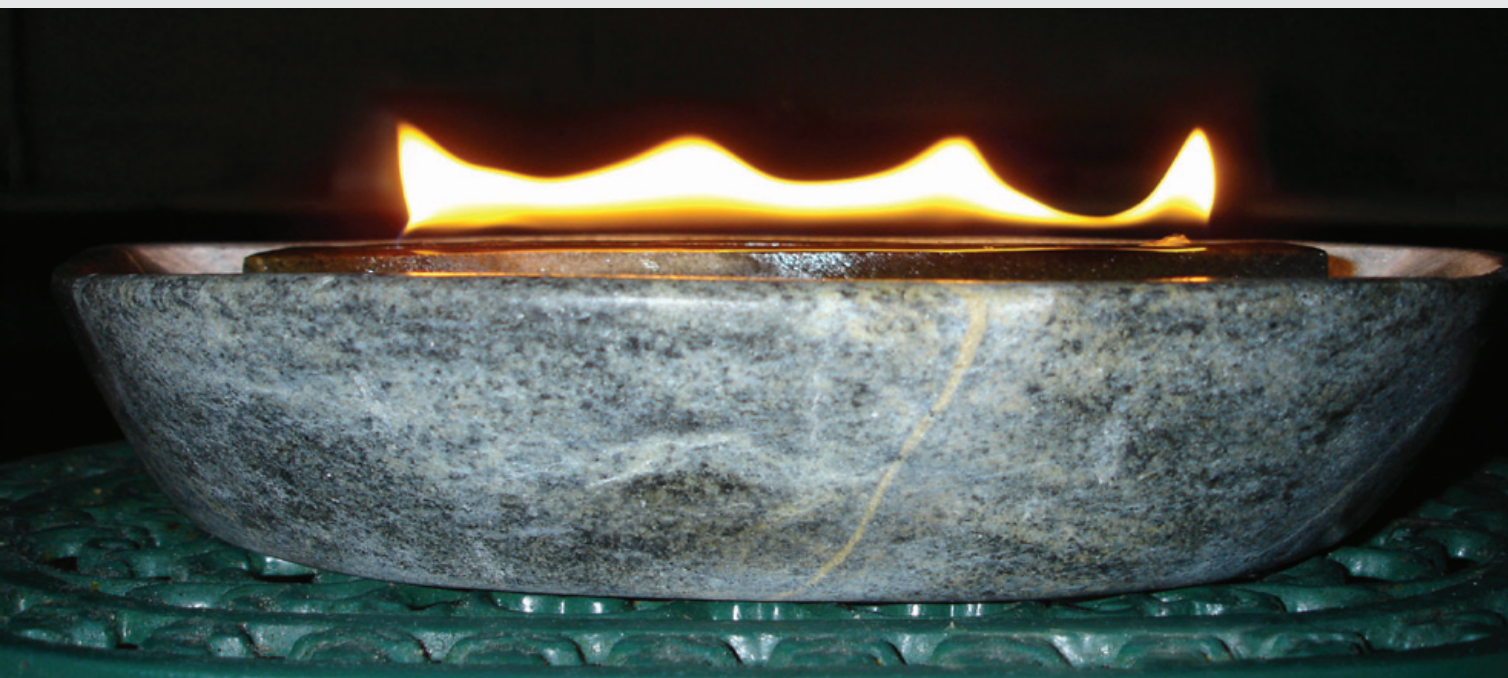


Photo: Sharon Edmunds

