

**Atlantic
Summer
Institute
on Healthy
and Safe
Communities**



**l'Institut
d'été sur les
collectivités
sûres et en
santé au
Canada atlantique**

“Investing Upstream: Placing infants, children and youth mental health promotion at the forefront” - A community led policy initiative!

Patsy Beattie-Huggan, ASI Project Coordinator
September 19, 2023



Atlantic Summer
Institute on
Healthy and Safe
Communities

l'Institut d'été
sur les collectivités
sûres et en santé au
Canada atlantique

Background: ASI Policy Brief

Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities

Non-Profit organization born in 2003 with regional Board of Directors

Mission: Catalyst for social change in Atlantic Canada focusing on the determinants of health

Since **2015**, focused on child and youth mental health promotion:

2017-18 Call for Action on policies, programs, resources, and funding

2020-21 Policy Brief – “Upstream Investment in Infant, Child and Youth Mental Health...”

A Way Home Canada
National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health
National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy
Atlantic Policy Congress, First Nations Chiefs Secretariat
Mental Health Commission of Canada
Canadian Families and Correction Network
Raising the Villages, Nova Scotia
IWK Children's Hospital
Nova Scotia Health
PEI Department of Health and Wellness
Independent Researchers and Consultants
INSPQ, Québec

Policy Contributors and Advisors
A total of more than 35 people





Atlantic Summer
Institute on
Healthy and Safe
Communities

l'Institut d'été
sur les collectivités
sûres et en santé au
Canada atlantique

ASI Policy Brief Overview

Policy Brief Goal

- To enhance intersectoral action amongst governments, private sector, and civil society to advance upstream investment in policies that promote equity and mental health amongst infants, children and youth in Atlantic Canada and beyond.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Wider engagement of the public and leaders in support of upstream investment and resource allocation for mental health promotion.
- Increased collaboration between stakeholders in infant, child and youth mental health from various sectors and communities.
- New policies throughout communities and governments
- A sustainable funding model for upstream policies.



Priority Areas

1. A “whole-of-government approach” by implementing a **Mental Health in All Policies Framework (HiAP)**;
2. A “whole-of-society approach” through development of a **Multistakeholder Platform**;
3. A “whole-of-community approach” through **Investment in Community Action**;
4. A **Sustainable and Integrated Funding Model** that supports these comprehensive approaches to invest in and maximize social capital in our communities.



Atlantic Summer
Institute on
Healthy and Safe
Communities

l'Institut d'été
sur les collectivités
sûres et en santé au
Canada atlantique

Policy Brief - Released March 9, 2022

Full policy brief: www.asi-iea.ca/en/files/2022/03/ASI-Policy-Brief-2022-03-09.pdf

Executive Summary: www.asi-iea.ca/en/files/2022/03/Policy-Brief-ES-.pdf

Newsletter/Infographic (2 pages): www.asi-iea.ca/en/files/2022/03/ASI-2022-Infographic-03-07.pdf

Knowledge Mobilization - Supported by a one-year grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada Intersectoral Action Fund – Awarded February 2022



PEI Project – Atlantic Pilot: 2023-2025

Investing Upstream: Placing infants, children and youth at the forefront of lifelong mental well-being – a shift in policy direction for Prince Edward Island

- 1. Year 1** – Facilitating the conversation – Knowledge Mobilization
 - **Dovetails** with the Atlantic KM Project funded by PHAC ISAF assessing current policy direction, opportunities, champions, skills & capacity
- 2. Year 2** – Training – developing training materials, capacity building
 - working with HR department to build skills & relationships
- 3. Year 3** – Implementation evaluation



PEI Project Advisory Committee

- ❑ PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
- ❑ Early Childhood Development Association PEI
- ❑ PEI Coalition of Women in Government
- ❑ Special Olympics PEI
- ❑ Student Union University of Prince Edward Island
- ❑ Native Council of PEI
- ❑ Health Promotion Division, Chief Public Health Office
- ❑ Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities
- ❑ Immigrant and Refugee Services of PEI
- ❑ Perinatal Mental Health Network

Resolutions from Motion 83:

WHEREAS during 2020-2021, the Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities (ASI) developed a policy brief that called for action on four priorities and associated recommendations;

AND WHEREAS the ASI policy brief calls for Government to implement mental health-in-all policies;

- the Legislative Assembly urge Government to undertake fundamental change in the way it builds healthy public policy;
- the Legislative Assembly urge Government to implement the recommendations of the Atlantic Summer Institute on upstream investment as outlined in the ASI policy brief.



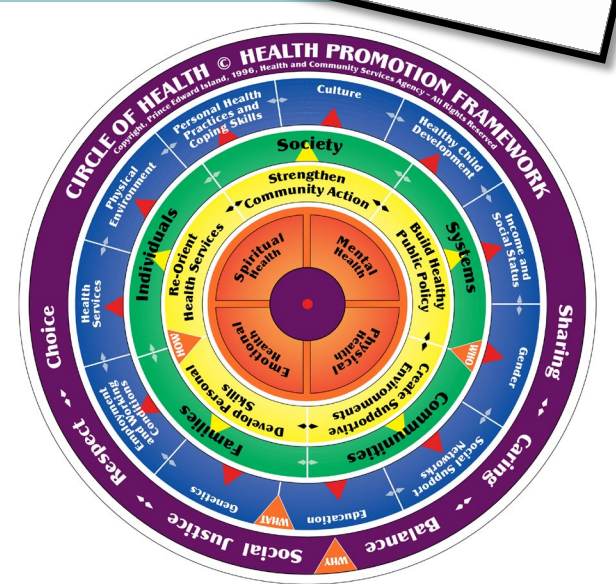
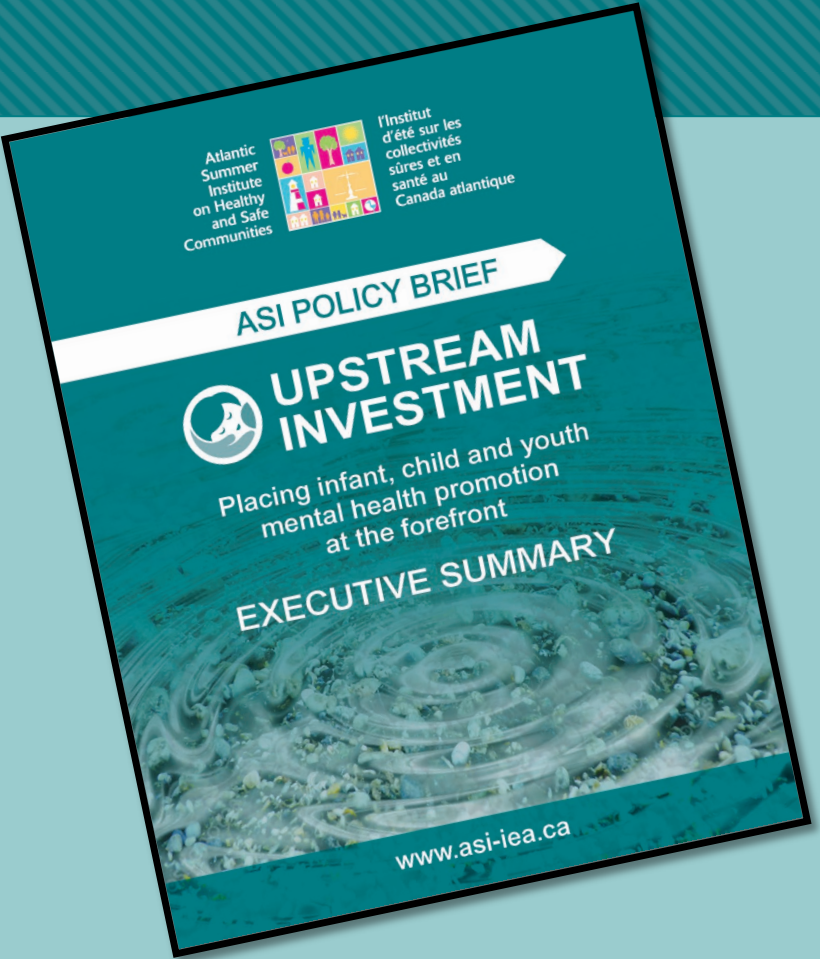
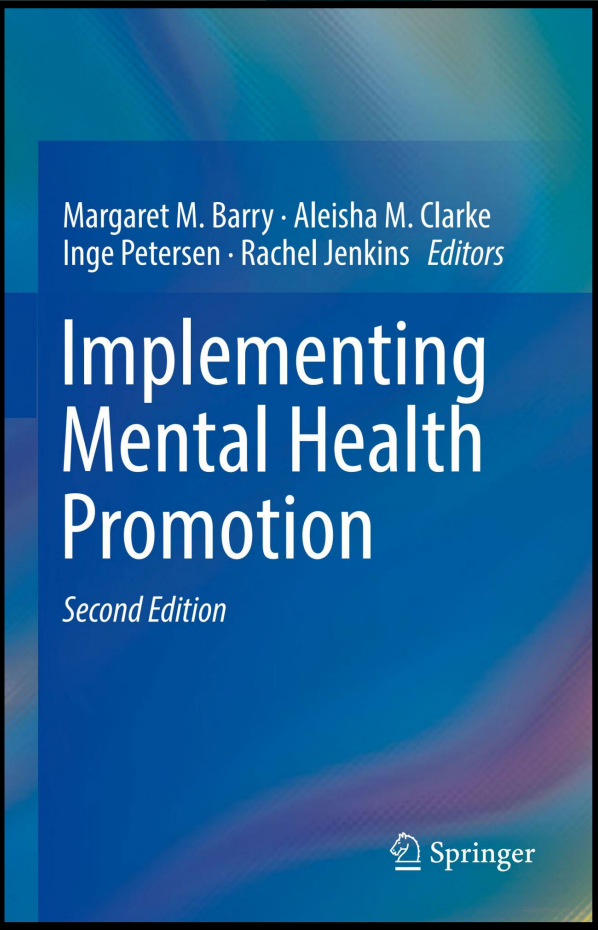
Motion 83 - Calling on government to invest in upstream mental health initiatives - Unanimously approved March 24, 2022

Building Capacity for MHiAP – Synergy, Partnerships, Funding, Learning

- January 2023 - ASI invited to partner with PEI Coalition for Women in Government in project **Fostering Resilience in Women Municipal Leaders**
 - 4 events over the year. Each event will be attended by 40 women in urban and rural municipalities who are newly elected or elected earlier in their careers.
 - Partnering with Federation of Municipalities
 - Funded by PEI Alliance for Mental Well-Being

Applied for SSHRC funding with researchers at St. Mary's University to create a case study for building capacity for HiAP that can serve as a foundation for broader implementation training.

Capacity Building Research & Creating a Framework:



Mental Health in All Policies (MHiAP) Implementation Framework (HOW)

Window of opportunity

Education & Commitment

How does this:

- Account for various sectors of each community's population?
- Foster greater interconnectedness?
- Amplify & grow local resources?

Account for community needs

* Linked to existing sectors
* Driven by intra & intersectoral communication & feedback

Coordinated policy, funding, & action

Linked to clearly stated cohesive strategies

Assess & integrate existing mechanisms & resources

Across multiple capitals (i.e., human, social, cultural, built, natural, political, & economic)

Co-ordinated action

Accounts for values of:

- Respect
- Social Justice
- Sharing
- Choices
- Caring
- Balance

Accounts for:

- Mutual responsibility
- Inclusion, equity & justice
- Proactiveness

Encourages collaboration

Integrates accountability

Fostering collective capacity

Key strategy – Building Collective Capacity for MHiAP & other recommendations of ASI Policy Brief

Strategic planning – September 15, 2023

- Realizing benefits of co-learning during Year 1
- Narrating our story; commitment to organizational implementation
- Influencing public dialogue
- Leveraging opportunities
- Build local capacity to influence government leadership
- Research to find case studies at provincial & municipal levels on HiAP

