

**Atlantic  
Summer  
Institute  
on Healthy  
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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”**

Patsy Beattie-Huggan, ASI Project Coordinator  
February 21, 2023

# Land Acknowledgement

- We would like to begin today by acknowledging that ASI is based out of Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) People first signed with the British Crown in 1725.
- Not only does ASI recognize and respect the land we are settled on, we also actively advocate for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and strive to include Indigenous perspectives in all of our work



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# Introduction to ASI

## The Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities, Inc. (ASI)

- Non-profit organization established in 2003, based in PEI
- Catalyst for social change in Atlantic Canada focusing on the determinants of health
- Managed by a regional board of directors
- Host an annual forum to convene civil society on regional issues







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# Background: ASI Policy Brief

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

Whole of government – intersectoral action

Whole of society – multi-stakeholder forum

Whole of community – supporting community  
resilience

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

**2020-21** Policy Brief - Upstream Investment in Child and  
Youth Mental Health

Upstream Investment: NCCHPP Webinar - February 21, 2023



- 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, Quebec

Policy Contributors and Advisors  
A total of more than 35 people





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# Policy Brief – Introduction

**Raising healthy children is the responsibility of all Canadians.**

Supporting and promoting infant, child, and youth mental health is central to enabling them to become life-long, positive contributors to their communities and society.

**Strengthening policies and programs that support positive mental health for children and youth is vital to creating an inclusive and equitable Atlantic Canada.**



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# Policy Brief – Investing Upstream

The focus of the ASI Policy Brief is upstream, on mental health promotion, which aims to enable people and communities to optimize their well-being by influencing multiple determinants of health.

An **upstream** focus works to equitably improve the mental health of the entire population and to reduce the likelihood of mental deterioration throughout the life course.

**Source:** *Mental Health is more than you can imagine!* ASI 2017





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# 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.





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# ASI Policy Brief Intention

## A Call for Transformative Change

This policy brief makes the case for a **commitment** to transformative change, **challenging leaders** (including provincial, federal, municipal and Indigenous leaders) to undertake **fundamental change** in the way we **build healthy public policy**.



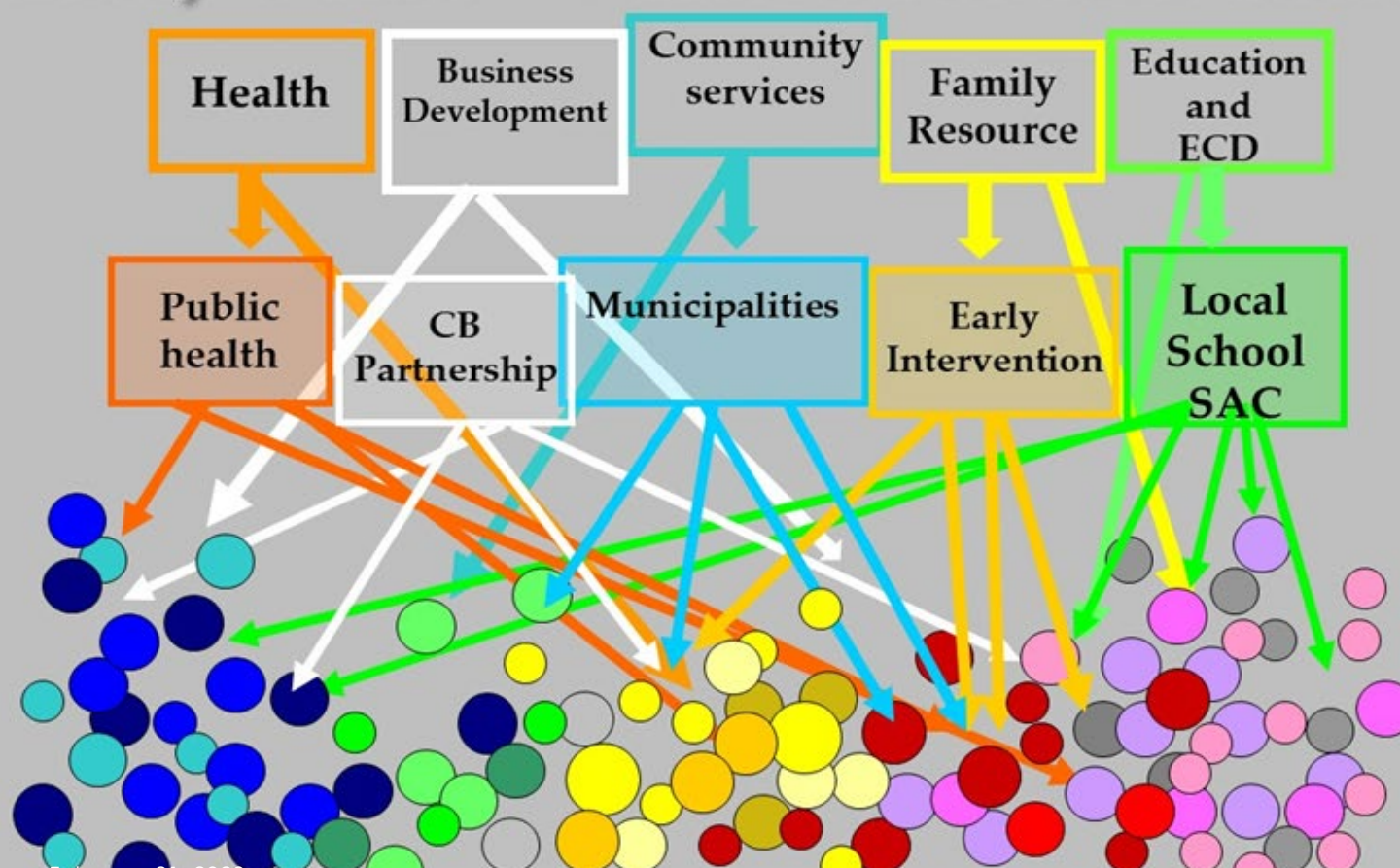
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# Current system

Credit: Raising the Villages

## Early Years – Patchwork and Silos



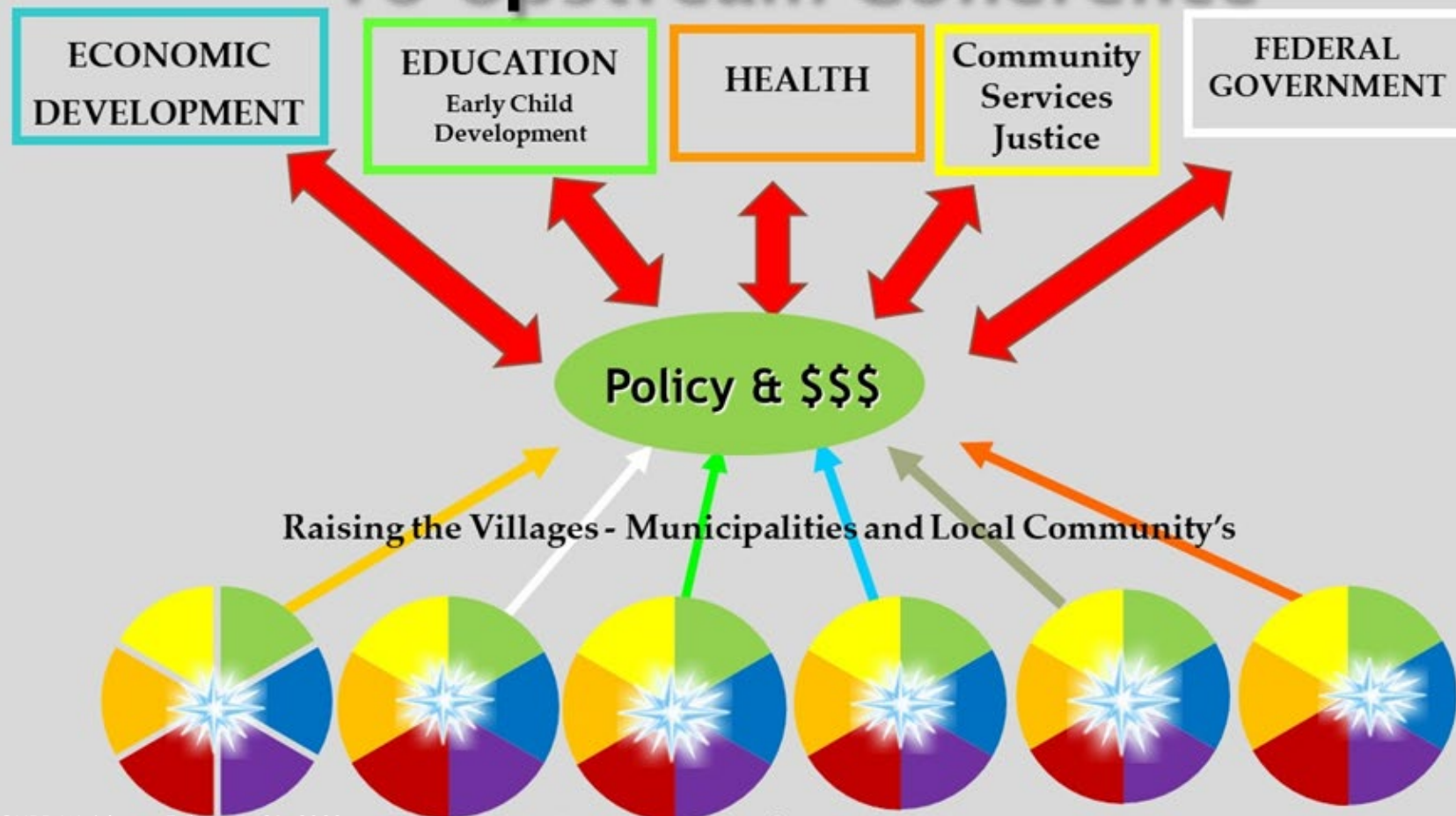


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# Health in All Policies

Credit: Raising the Villages

## To Upstream Coherence



A whole of community approach





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# 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





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# Policy Brief - Released March 9, 2022

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

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Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

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# Knowledge Mobilization

***Mobilizing Intersectoral Policy for Upstream Investment in Infant, Child and Youth Mental Health in Atlantic Canada*** with the **goal** to:

- enhance capacity for 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.

The project will further the efforts of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to foster the effective intersectoral action for health equity and well-being that is crucial to addressing population health

**Source:** Project Proposal – PHAC Intersectoral Action Fund

# Knowledge Mobilization Activities – Atlantic Provinces 2022-2023

- Policy Brief Launch – March 2022
- Live stream announcement of PHAC ISAF funding – May 2022
- Presentation – International Union of Health Education and Promotion – May 2022
- Intersectoral Interprovincial/National Steering Committee – June 2022
- Indigenous Working Group – First Nations, Inuit - Initiated June 2022
- Online Atlantic Provincial Workshops with provincial partners/hosts – July 2022
- Presentations as requested - ongoing
- ASI 2022 Policy Forum – August
- Partnership – Knowledge Mobilization NCCDH – October 2023
- Communication with Council of Atlantic Premiers
- Webinar with NCCHPP – February 2023



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# Knowledge Mobilization Activities: Atlantic Provinces 2022-2023... cont'd

## ➤ In the works:

- 5 Community Workshops with community partners in each Atlantic Province – Winter 2022-2023
- Community Engagement Workshop-NB First Nations Education Initiative – January 2023
- Online Atlantic First Nations Workshop with Atlantic Policy Congress First Nations Chiefs – February 2023
- Online Labrador Workshop – March 2023





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# PEI Project: 2022-2025

1. To **implement Mental Health in All Policies** in Prince Edward Island, establishing an interconnected network of mental health supports that in turn will establish responsive relationships situated within healthy communities for all residents of PEI.
2. To provide training and capacity building to realize and sustain implementation of a whole of society, whole of community approach to mental health promotion for children and youth to achieve lifelong mental well-being for current and future generations.

**Source:** Project Proposal – PEI Alliance for Mental Well-Being





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# 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 Project funded by PHAC ISAF and adds value by assessing current policy direction, opportunities, champions, skills & capacity
2. **Year 2** – Training – developing training materials
  - working with HR department to build skills & relationships
3. **Year 3** – Implementation evaluation



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# Activities to date on PEI

## ***Presentations:***

- Policy Brief Launch; media coverage – March 9
- Green Party Caucus – March 15
- Liberal Party Caucus – March 24
- PEI Legislative Assembly – March 29
- Funding Announcement - PEI Alliance on Mental Well-Being – April 4
- Minister of Health & Wellness – April 13
- Standing Committee on Health & Wellness – May 23
- PHAC Funding Announcement – May 26
- Deputy Ministers of Social Policy – June 13
- PEI Alliance on Mental Well-Being Board and education sessions - May 28



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# Activities to date on PEI Cont'd

- **Provincial Workshop** – PEI July 6 in partnership with United Way PEI
- **ASI Policy Forum** – August 22-24 Holland College, Charlottetown
- **Advisory Committee** – October 5, November 2; December 12; January 4; February 1; Google folder, tracking sheets
- **Education Session** – December 12 (Connect and Learn)
- **Follow-up Consultations with Government Officials** – Ongoing
- **Partnership - January 2023** – PEI Coalition for Women in Government; Community Sector Network
- **Capacity Building Research** - Training programs, tools, local resources



## 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

# PEI Advisory Committee Questions:



1. Do we have a collective understanding of the concepts in the Policy Brief?
2. Do we know our collective interests in 'Upstream'?

*'Connect and Learn'* – December 12, 2022 - Presentations and Networking

1. Knowledge mobilization - ASI Policy Brief – Patsy Beattie-Huggan
2. Canadian Landscape: Health in All Policies (HiAP) – Nicole Bernier, NCCHPP
3. Review of HiAP training programs - Martin Renaud, NCCHPP

# Small Group Discussion

## December 12, 2022



Thinking ahead: small table discussions

- *What could mental health in all policies look like for PEI?*
- *What steps can we take?*



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# Emerging Questions

- *How will PEI Government be engaged? – Stories, Allies*
- *How can we build on the current lens for policy – poverty reduction, diversity, sustainability, anti-racism, environment, reconciliation, gender sensitivity?*
- **Meeting :** Wednesday, January 4, 2023
- **Focus:** *How close is PEI to implementing HiAP?*



# Context of HiAP on PEI – Jan. 4



Laura Lee Noonan, Manager, Health Promotion Division overviewed interest in HiAP and historical context in PEI. She reported lots of discussion and recommendations by Chief Public Health Officer but not much progression.

Below are links to the 3 PEI documents recommending an HiAP approach; and a 2018 Motion put forward by the Official Opposition:

- [Health for All Islanders: 2016 Chief Public Health Officer's Report](#)
- [Children's Report 2017](#)
- [2021 Chief Public Health Officer's Report](#)
- April 5, 2018 Motion #40 - [Encouraging government to adopt a "Health in all Policies" approach to governance](#) Not voted on

# More Discussion – Feb. 1, 2023



Deborah Bradley, Assistant Deputy Minister of PEI Dept. of Health and Wellness addressed the following questions with PEI Advisory Committee:

- What role do the DMs of social policy have in advising government on policy?
- What is the collective understanding of and motivation for investment upstream a Health in All Policies (HiAP) across departments?
- From your perspective, how close is the government to taking action on Motion 83, i.e., adopting the recommendations of the ASI Policy Brief?

**Insights:** There is appreciation of upstream investment, collaboration amongst DMs; advisory in nature with many lenses at play, i.e., gender, equity. No overarching structure or formal process for whole of government approach. DM of Social Development and Housing to present at March meeting.

# Building Capacity for HiAP – Synergy, Partnerships, Funding

- 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 next 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.

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

- Ongoing conversations with PEI Advisory Committee and Stakeholders
- Research to find case studies on HiAP at provincial & municipal levels
- Build local case studies of municipal experience - document
- Community Workshop – Host: Community Sector Network of PEI - March 14, 2023
- Discussion with Intergovernmental Affairs – 4 Atlantic Provinces



# Thank you!



**Critical Question** - *Should we (the PEI Advisory Committee) encourage the legislature to form a committee or task force on mental health in all policies & upstream investment in child & youth MH?*

**Hypothesis** – Co-learning models the collaborative processes required for HiAP and facilitates knowledge development and relationship building

We are on the move and welcome your input. Thank you!

For more information please contact:  
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