



**NSECDIS**

**Nova Scotia Early Childhood  
Development Intervention Services**  
**Annual Report 2020 -21**

# Message from Our Board Chair & Executive Director

Beverley Cooke, Board Chair

Patricia Monaghan, Executive Director

It has been quite a year! Who would have thought when we gathered virtually a year ago due to the start of the pandemic that we would be here again – apart but together through the benefit of technology. This has been a particularly challenging year for families, and we appreciate the hard work and resiliency of our NSECDIS team as they all stepped in to support families of young children with developmental delays in Nova Scotia, while also supporting their own families at home. During this past year we witnessed an historic shift to remote services, a model of service delivery that we have not implemented before, and our team pivoted quickly to this new model without a gap in services or supports for families. We appreciate the adaptability of our team and the unwavering support from their Regional Directors, Caseload Managers and from Michele & Lori Ann. We also greatly appreciate the ongoing support of our Board of Directors and the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development during this challenging year. Everyone has truly been working together to support families of young children with developmental delays.

Despite the pandemic, we have continued this year to move forward as an organization. This past October marked the 5-year anniversary of 18 early intervention programs coming together in Nova Scotia to form NSECDIS. Congratulations everyone! This transformation has already resulted in improvements in program access, consistency, efficiency and accountability. Over the past five years we have seen tremendous growth in our program and services. Most notably this year, we continue to see an increase in our staffing and in the number of families we are supporting and in particular, an increase in the number of at-risk infants referred to our program, allowing the opportunity to reach families as early as possible.

As we look ahead to our next year, we see continued growth with the addition of the Pyramid Model Program to our NSECDIS services. Bringing together two strengths based, capacity building programs to enhance social emotional learning and overall services and supports for families of young children in Nova Scotia. Thank-you again to our NSECDIS team and we look forward to this next stage of our program's development. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy 2021-22.

“ Be kind to your neighbours. Have compassion for the people in your communities. Be good to one another.”

- Dr. Robert Strang

# OUR MISSION

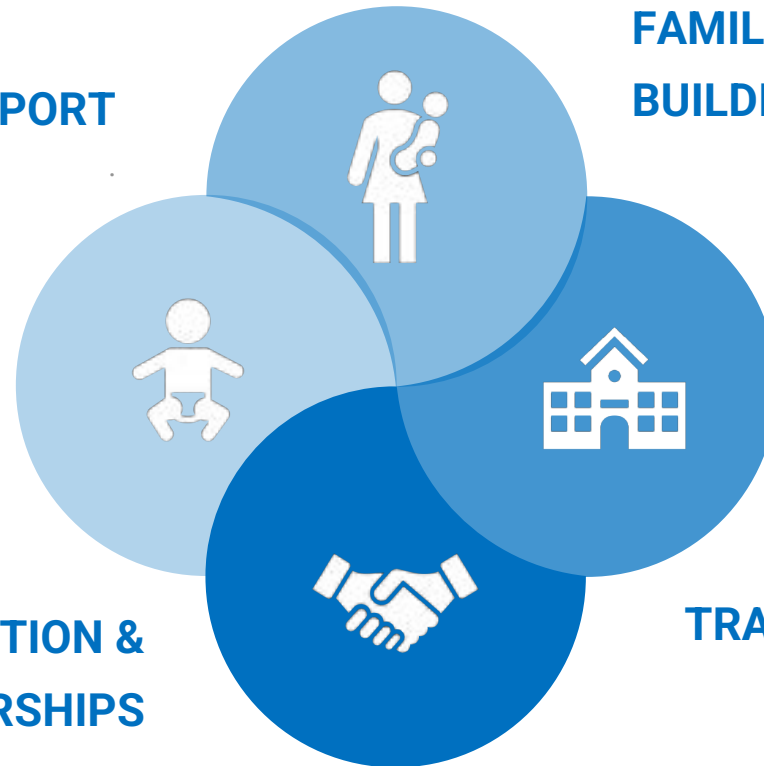
*Working together to support families of young children with developmental delays in Nova Scotia*



# OUR CORE SERVICES

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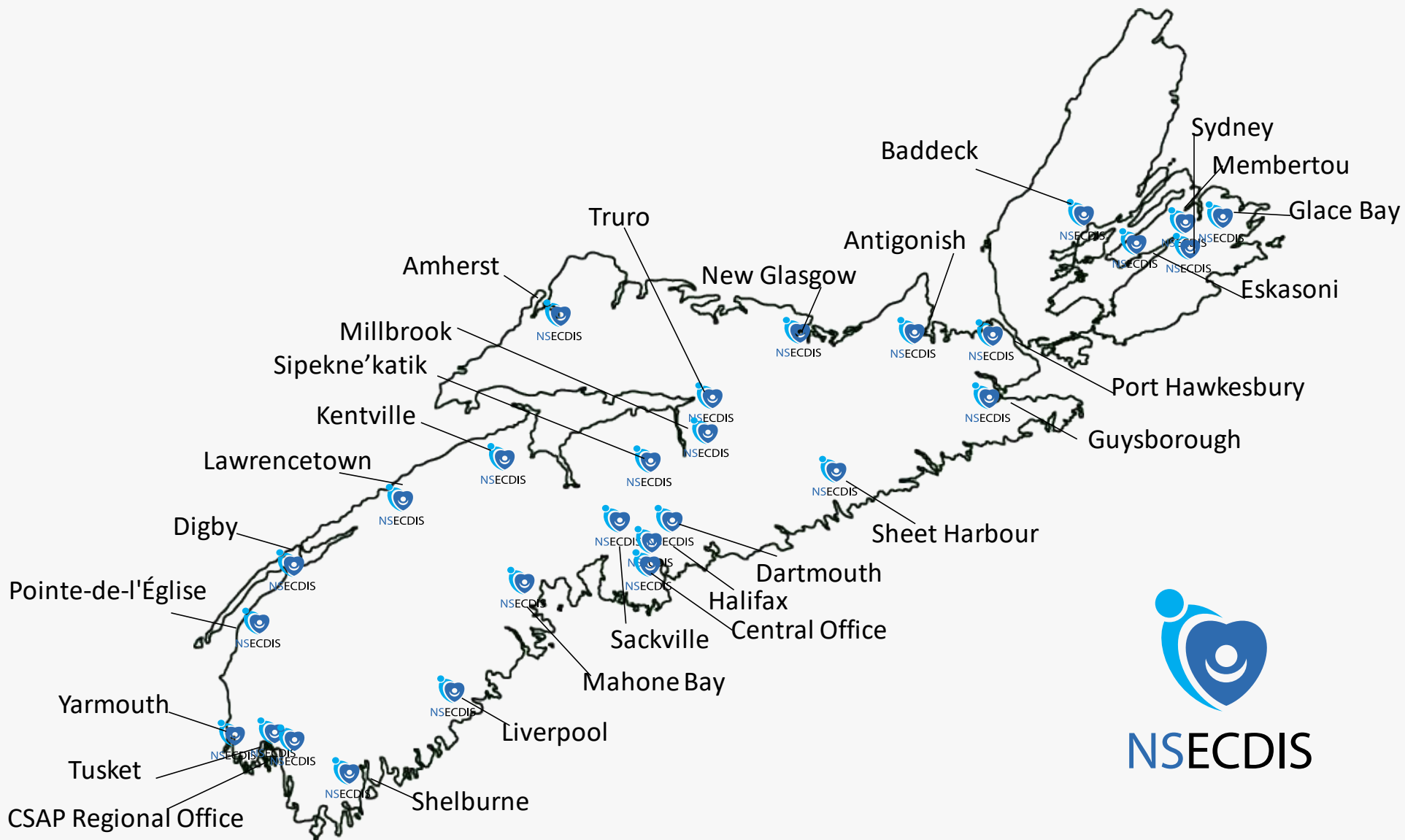
**CHILD DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT**



**FAMILY SUPPORT & CAPACITY BUILDING**

**CASE COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIPS**

**TRANSITION SUPPORT**



# 2020-21

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

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A look back on the past year





NSECDis

**CELEBRATING FAMILIES!**

# PARENTING DURING A PANDEMIC

The past year has been a particularly challenging time for parents of young children with developmental delays with the temporary closure of child care and pre-primary programs and reduced supports within the community. NSECDIS continued to support families with a shift to remote service delivery from March 16 until September 1, 2020 **with no gap in services.**

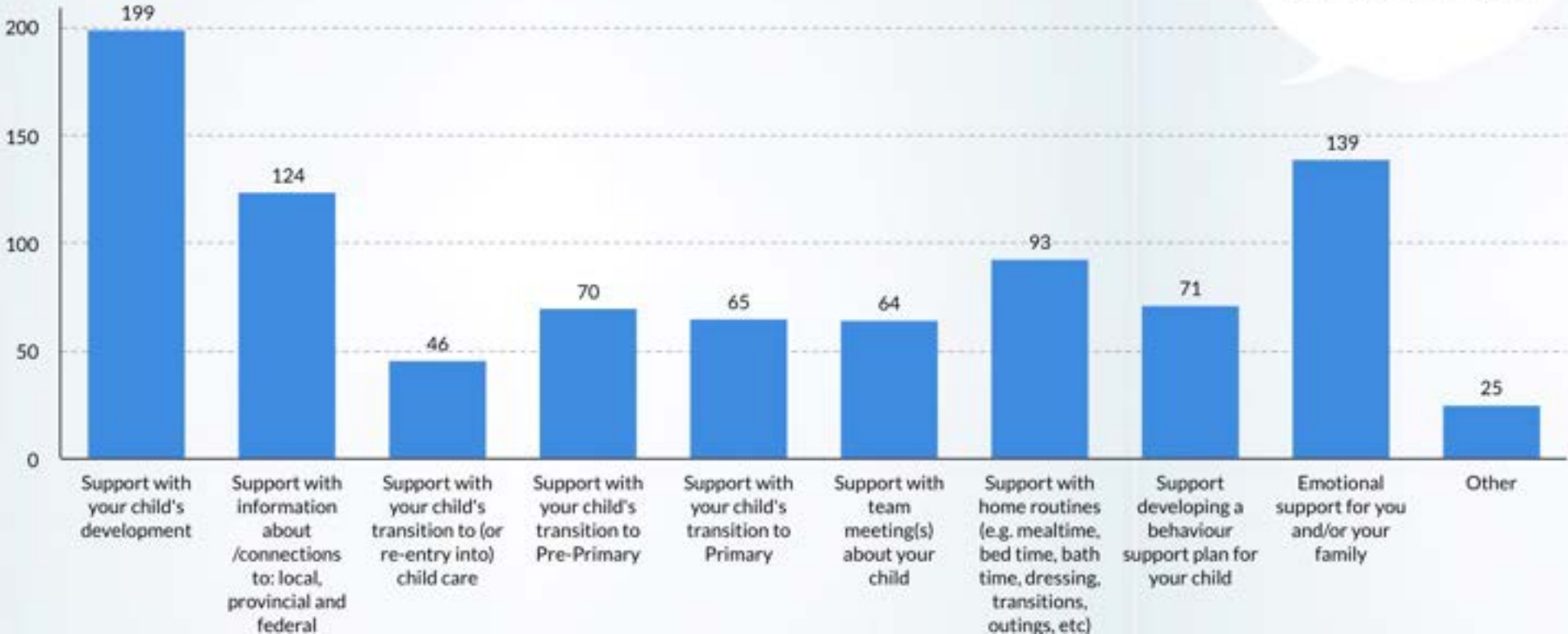




# During COVID 19, what type(s) of support has your Developmental Interventionist provided?

"Emotional support for the family as well as motivation for my child"

Parent Response





**3022**

Children and their families were served  
in 2020-21



948

Children and their families were **referred** to NSECDIS in 2020-21



545

Children and their families were transitioned into **Pre-Primary** in the fall of 2020



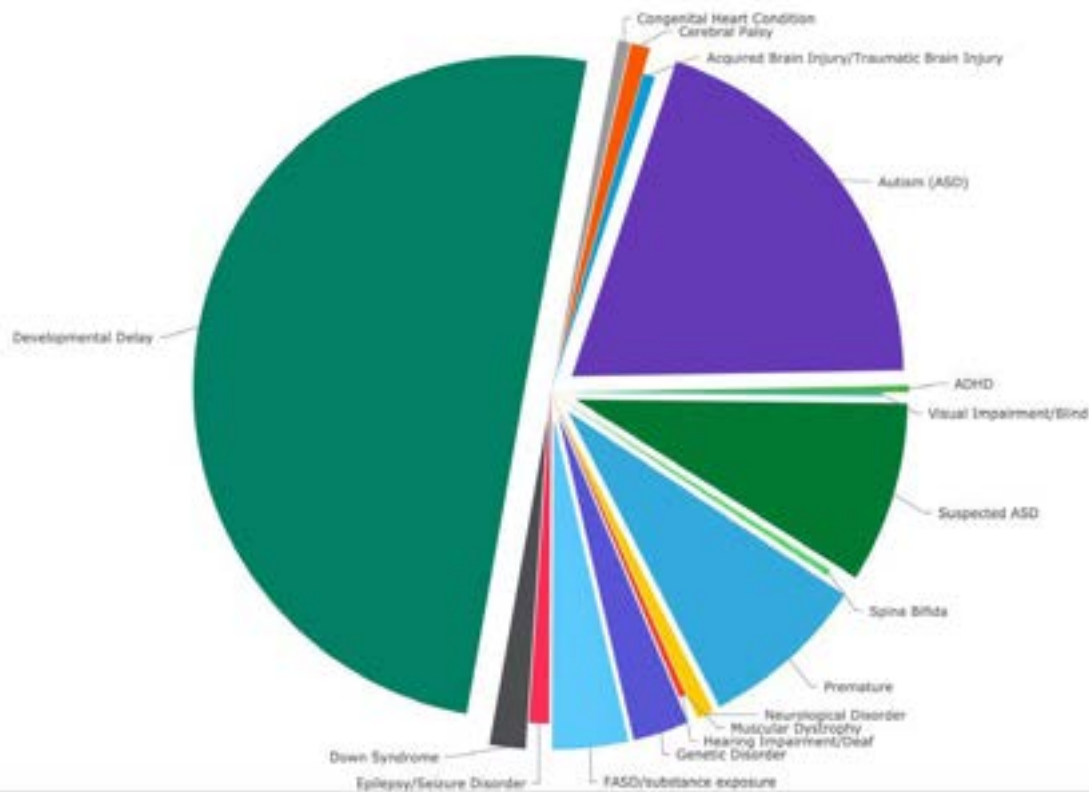
589

Children and their families were transitioned into **Primary** in the fall of 2020

# AGE OF CHILDREN AT REFERRAL

2020- 2021	Infants		Toddlers		Pre-Schoolers		
	Under 1	1 yr	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5 yrs	6 yrs
Cape Breton Victoria Region	10	28	46	38	25	15	3
Strait Region	7	10	13	12	14	5	1
Chignecto Central Region	11	20	45	43	47	16	1
Halifax Region	47	43	65	39	68	38	2
Annapolis Valley Region	10	17	22	11	11	5	0
South Shore Region	11	10	10	12	12	1	0
Tri-County Region	4	14	17	8	9	8	1
CSAP Region	4	3	10	9	12	5	0
<b>Total number of referrals in each age group</b>	<b>249</b>		<b>400</b>		<b>299</b>		

# OUR CHILDREN SERVED

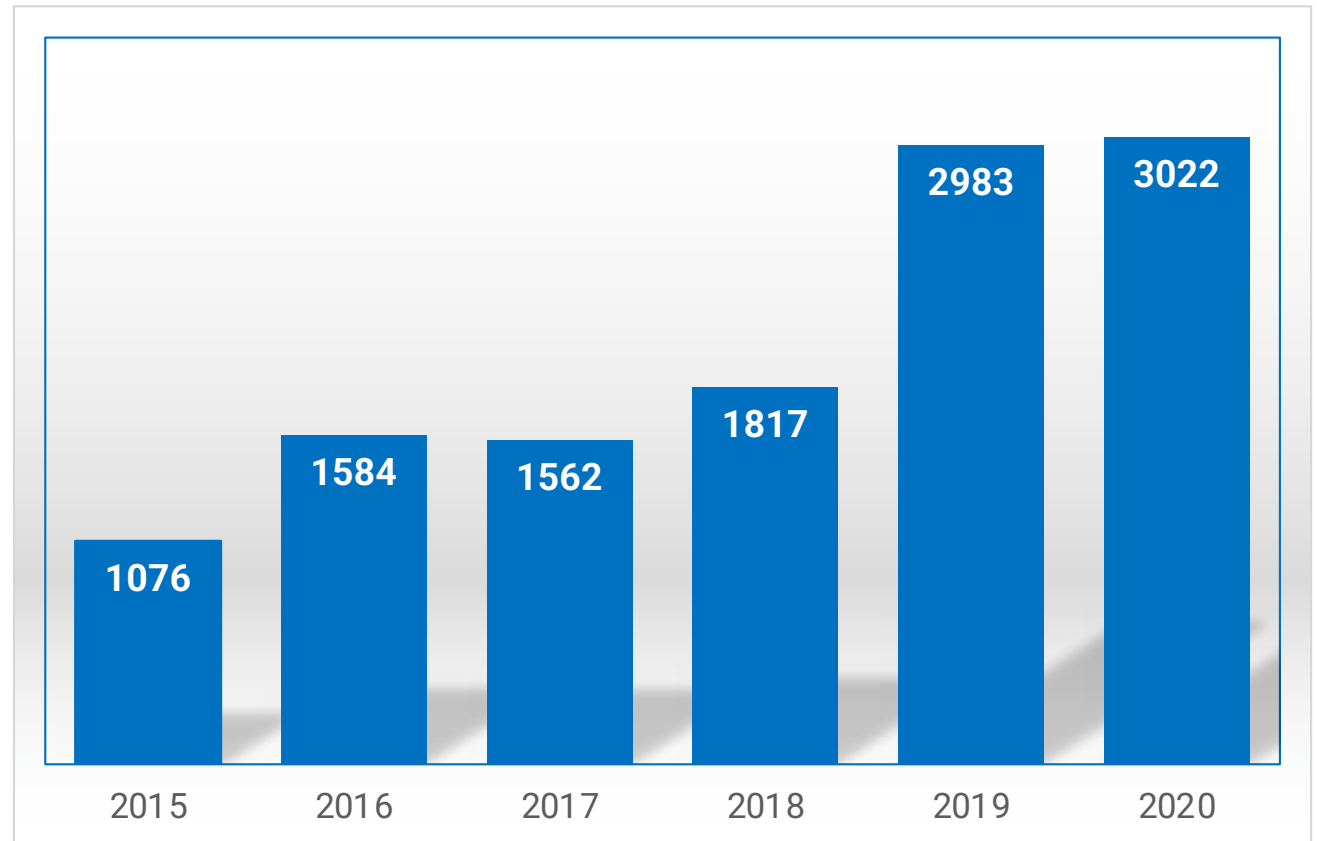


<b>Developmental Delay</b>	<b>50.20%</b>
<b>Autism Spectrum Disorder</b>	<b>19.61%</b>
<b>Suspected ASD</b>	<b>8.83%</b>
<b>Premature</b>	<b>8.15%</b>
<b>FASD/Substance Exposure</b>	<b>3.71%</b>
<b>Genetic Disorders</b>	<b>2.73%</b>
<b>Down Syndrome</b>	<b>1.76%</b>
<b>Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder</b>	<b>0.98%</b>
<b>Cerebral Palsy</b>	<b>0.93%</b>
<b>Neurological Disorder</b>	<b>0.83%</b>
<b>Acquired Brain Injury</b>	<b>0.59%</b>
<b>Congenital Heart Condition</b>	<b>0.59%</b>
<b>Muscular Dystrophy</b>	<b>0.30%</b>
<b>ADHD</b>	<b>0.29%</b>
<b>Visual Impairment/Blind</b>	<b>0.29%</b>
<b>Hearing Impairment/Deaf</b>	<b>0.29%</b>
<b>Spina Bifida</b>	<b>0.29%</b>

# PROGRAM GROWTH

CHILDREN SERVED BETWEEN 2015 - 2020

Increase in  
number of  
families served  
since 2015



# Our Programs



## HOME VISITING

**5629** hours of home visits were provided in 2020-21

**5853** hours of video & phone consultations were provided

**4175** hours of email/ text consultations were provided



## COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

**2419** hours of community consultations were provided

**444** childcare programs (licensed & unlicensed) were supported



## CASE COORDINATION

**1423** hours of team meetings were provided

**2166** hours of video/phone/ email & in person consultations with other professionals



**ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS**



# PYRAMID MODEL PROGRAM

Framework of evidence-based practices for promoting young children's healthy social and emotional development.

## Nova Scotia Pyramid Model



*Promoting Social & Emotional Competence in Nova Scotia's Young Children*



NSECDIS currently hosts the ***Coach Team Lead*** position for the NS Pyramid Model program. The Coach Team Lead supports the professional practice of 19 Pyramid Coaches



Provided within 20 licensed childcare programs and 45 Pre-Primary programs



The NSECDIS Regional Directors have been trained as program Master Cadre and provide training to ECEs on the Pyramid Model modules.



In 2021- 22 the Pyramid Model  
Program will be fully integrated  
into NSECDIS

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The program will expand to 27 Inclusion Coaches  
provincewide.

# POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada: Mental Health Promotion Innovation Fund (MHP-IF)

Evidence-based series of six workshop sessions developed by the Centre on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL).

For parents/caregivers and focuses on the importance of social and emotional learning and the connections that take place in the home.

*"You know, life didn't end for us. I mean, we still have these ongoing challenges even though we're here at home or during a pandemic, we're still facing this and we need the help. So, it was nice to have something when families needed that information the most."  
[Parent Participant]*



# POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Carried out in partnership with MSVU Early Childhood Collaborative Research Centre

- 6 Facilitators trained
- Program delivered to 16 participants in 2020
- Partnered with 3 licensed childcare programs
- Moved to an online facilitated format due to the pandemic
- Translated into Arabic & French
- Website and series of 6 self-directed videos currently being developed in French/Arabic/Mi'kmaq
- To be offered to 5 more childcare programs and up to 40 participants in fall 2021



**Positive  
Solutions  
for  
Families**



# NBO PROJECT: BABY STEPS

NEWBORN BEHAVIOUR OBSERVATION SYSTEM

An enhanced family-centred, strengths-based model of intervention and care involving a combination of the Newborn Behaviour Observation (NBO) System and early childhood development intervention services (NSECDIS) delivered in the family's home and supported within community programs.



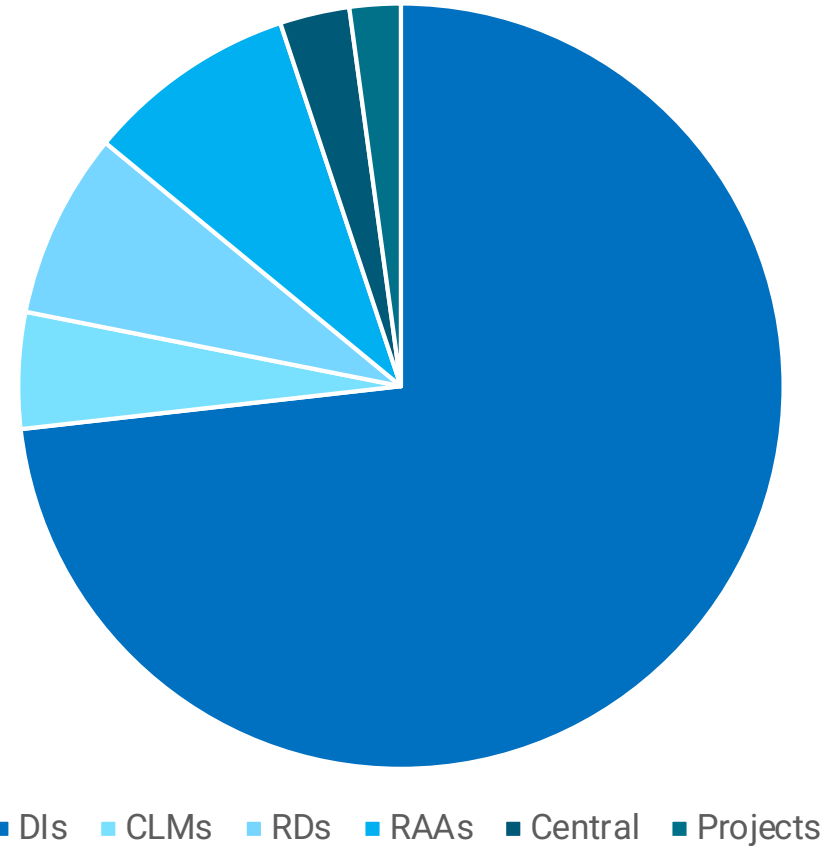
# NBO PROJECT: BABY STEPS

- for high-risk infants (premature, substance exposure in utero, medically fragile)
- an infant-focused, family centered, relationship-based tool, designed to sensitize parents to their baby's competencies and individuality, in order to foster positive parent-infant interactions (Brazelton Institute, Boston)
- partnership with IWK Family Newborn Care Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit & Dr. Carrey, Psychiatry
- **13 NSECDIS staff are now trained in NBO** (7 Developmental Interventionists, 4 Regional Directors, 1 Caseload Manager & Executive Director)



# OUR NSECDIS TEAM

**74.6 FTE** DEVELOPMENTAL INTERVENTIONISTS  
**5 FTE** CASELOAD MANAGERS  
**8 FTE** REGIONAL DIRECTORS  
**9.1 FTE** REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS  
**1 FTE** ACCOUNTING CLERK  
**1 FTE** EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
**1 FTE** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**2.2 FTE** PROJECT STAFF



# MORE ABOUT OUR TEAM



## COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIPS

Our staff carried out **1362** hours of committee work to strengthen community partnerships and support program development in 2020-21.

Our staff participated in **92** hours of Public Relations events to promote our services in the community.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our staff attended **6501** hours of professional development.

Our staff supported each other with **2020** hours of mentoring in 2020-21

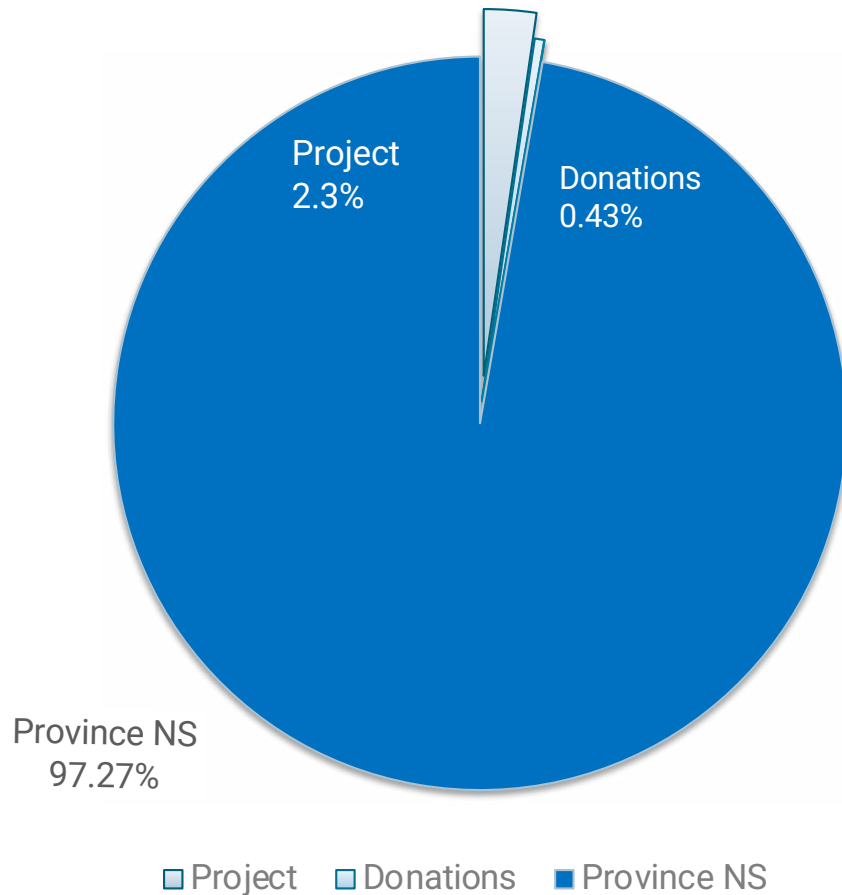


## TRAVEL

Our staff travelled **172,124** kms to reach families in Nova Scotia.



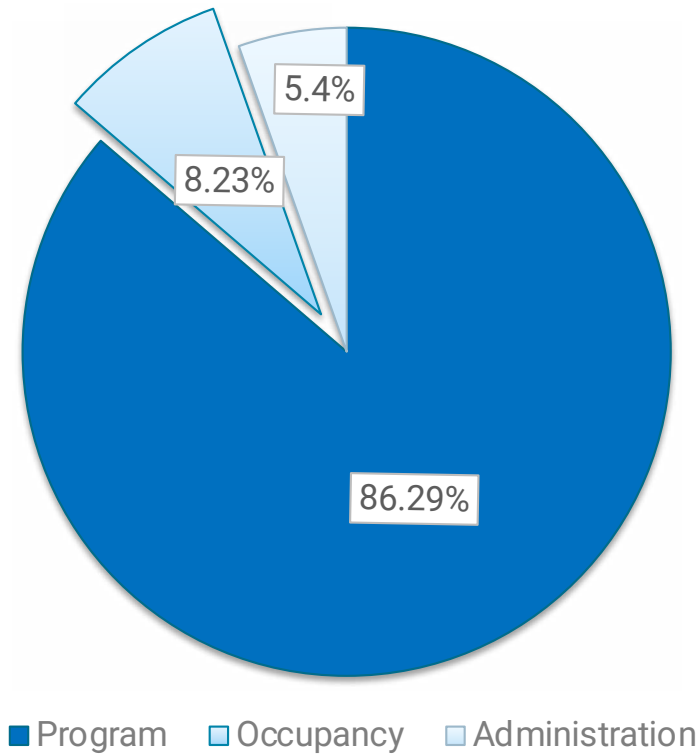
# OUR FINANCIALS



## REVENUE

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA	\$ 6,128,190
PROJECT FUNDING	\$ 145,223
DONATIONS & OTHER	\$ 26,825
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 6,300,238</b>

# OUR FINANCIALS



## EXPENSES

PROGRAM	\$ 5,404,749
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 338,175
OCCUPANCY	\$ 520,856
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 6,263,790</b>

A surplus of \$36,448 remains at the end of this fiscal year. NSECDIS' Restricted Funds policy requires the distribution of remaining surplus into restricted funds to support operating/service delivery priorities that are not dependent on long term sustained funding.

# > OUR DONORS

**THANK-YOU TO OUR FUNDERS & DONORS!**

Province of Nova Scotia  
Public Health Agency of Canada: Mental Health Promotion  
Innovation Fund (MHP-IF)  
Cecile Comeau  
Debra Sundstrom  
Paul G. Madison  
Bonvie-MacDonald Rinks to Links  
CPRPS  
Fred and Edith Green Foundation  
Kespu'kwitk Metis Council for Yarmouth County  
Lion's Bingo Lottery Eastern Passage  
Pictou County Antique Car Club  
Truckers Association of Nova Scotia  
United Way of Greater Toronto

## **In Memory of Dennise Sorette**

Vesta and Dennis Sorette  
Debra Sundstrom

## **In Memory of Maria Van Zutphen**

Donald MacLellan  
Casey & Toosje Van de Sande  
Henrietta Johnston  
George Vokaty  
Paul Vokaty  
Tammy MacInnis  
Anonymous



**NSECDis**



# NOMINATIONS REPORT

## SLATE OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS FOR 2021-22

According to the NSECDIS By-Laws (Section 25):

Directors shall be elected to three (3) year terms, with one-third (1/3), plus or minus one, of the directors elected each year. Directors shall retire from office at the end of the annual general meeting at which their successors are elected. Retiring directors shall be eligible for re-election.

The following slate of officers is presented:

### **Executive Committee 2021 - 2022**

Beverley Cooke (Chair)  
Bill Chisholm (Vice-Chair)  
Heather Rix (Treasurer)  
Debra Sundstrom (Secretary)  
Patricia Monaghan, Executive Director (Ex-Officio)

Report respectfully submitted by Debra Sundstrom

### **Directors with terms expiring in 2022**

Dr. Theresa Fraboni  
Kirk Schmidt  
Chrissi Lynch  
Barbara Stoesz  
Sylvia Parris-Drummond

### **Directors with terms expiring in 2023**

Bill Chisholm  
Shirley Shot  
Margaret Ann Green  
Debra Sundstrom  
Carolyn Webber

### **Directors Re-offering for the 2021- 2024 term**

Dr. Normand Carrey  
Janean Marshall  
Beverley Cooke  
Heather Rix  
Lyse Anne LeBlanc



# Board Of Directors

BEVERLEY COOKE	CHAIR	CHIGNECTO CENTRAL
BILL CHISHOLM	VICE CHAIR	STRAIT
HEATHER RIX	TREASURER	HALIFAX
DEBRA SUNDSTROM	SECRETARY	ANNAPOLIS VALLEY
CAROLYN WEBBER	MEMBER	SRCE
BARBARA STOESZ	MEMBER	HSNS
DR. THERESA FRABONI	MEMBER	IWK – DEVELOPMENTAL CLINIC
DR. NORMAND CARREY	MEMBER	IWK - PSYCHIATRY
CHRISSI LYNCH	MEMBER	STRAIT REGIONAL SCHOOL BD
KIRK SCHMIDT	MEMBER	CHIGNECTO CENTRAL
LYSE ANNE LEBLANC	MEMBER	CSAP
SYLVIA PARRIS	MEMBER	DELMORE BUDDY DAYE LI
MARGARET ANN GREEN	MEMBER	CAPE BRETON
JANEAN MARSHALL	MEMBER	MK SCHOOL BOARD
SHIRLEY SHOT	MEMBER	SOUTH SHORE
PATRICIA MONAGHAN	EX OFFICIO	NSECDIS





**NSECDIS**

**Thank-you!**

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