

Raising the Villages

'Mawiomi W'jit Mijuwajijk'
(translates to 'gathering
for our children')

***The Early Years, Starting
Strong: creating welcoming
spaces to connect and belong.***





We are located in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. Through Raising the Villages - Mawiomi W'Jit Mijuwajijk we are weaving back together our lives, from our infants to our elders and from across all cultures, to deepen our respect and understanding for each other.

Weskewitaiek Mi'kma'ki, mna'q koqa'tasinuk maqmikew ta'n asutmi'tij Mi'kmaq. Weja'tekemk ta'n wenaqita'kl wtann -Mawiomi wjit mijua'jijk pemi-apaji toqitaiek, weja'tekemk knijanaq misoqo kisiku'k aqq weja'tekemk ms~t ta'n telo'ltimk, wit me'ki mekite'lsultinow aqq weli-nstatultinow.

Nous sommes situés à Mi'kma'ki, le territoire non-cédé du peuple Mi'kma'k. Grâce à Raising the Villages - Mawiomi W'Jit Mijuwajijk, nous tissons ensemble nos vies, de nos enfants à nos aînés et de toutes les cultures, pour approfondir notre respect et notre compréhension de l'autre.

Tha sinn stèidhichte anns an àite seo, Mi'kma'ki, tìr nam Mìogmac nach deachaidh a géilleadh. Thro'n iomairt, A' Togail nam Bailtean - Mawiomi W'Jit Mijuwajijk, tha sinn a' fighe ar beathannan ri chèile às ùr, bho ar leanabanan gu ar eildearan agus thar gach chultar, gus am meas is an tuigse againn dh'a cheile a dhoimhneachadh.

The Political Imperative



a playbook for Nova Scotians

“WE CHOOSE NOW”

Seven Point Collaborative Action Plan for Nova Scotians

- 1. The Early Years: Starting Strong**
- 2. Our Future is Young**
- 3. Universities and NSCC Innovation Hubs**
- 4. Immigration and Welcoming Communities**
- 5. Our ICT Momentum**
- 6. Going Global: Innovation and Competiveness**
- 7. NS Ocean Advantage**



1.3 WELCOMING OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN

The ONE NS Coalition recommends that communities, businesses, not-for-profits and philanthropists, with support from government and others, including the research community where appropriate, **create** Collective Impact projects designed to support and encourage the welcoming of Nova Scotia's children by:

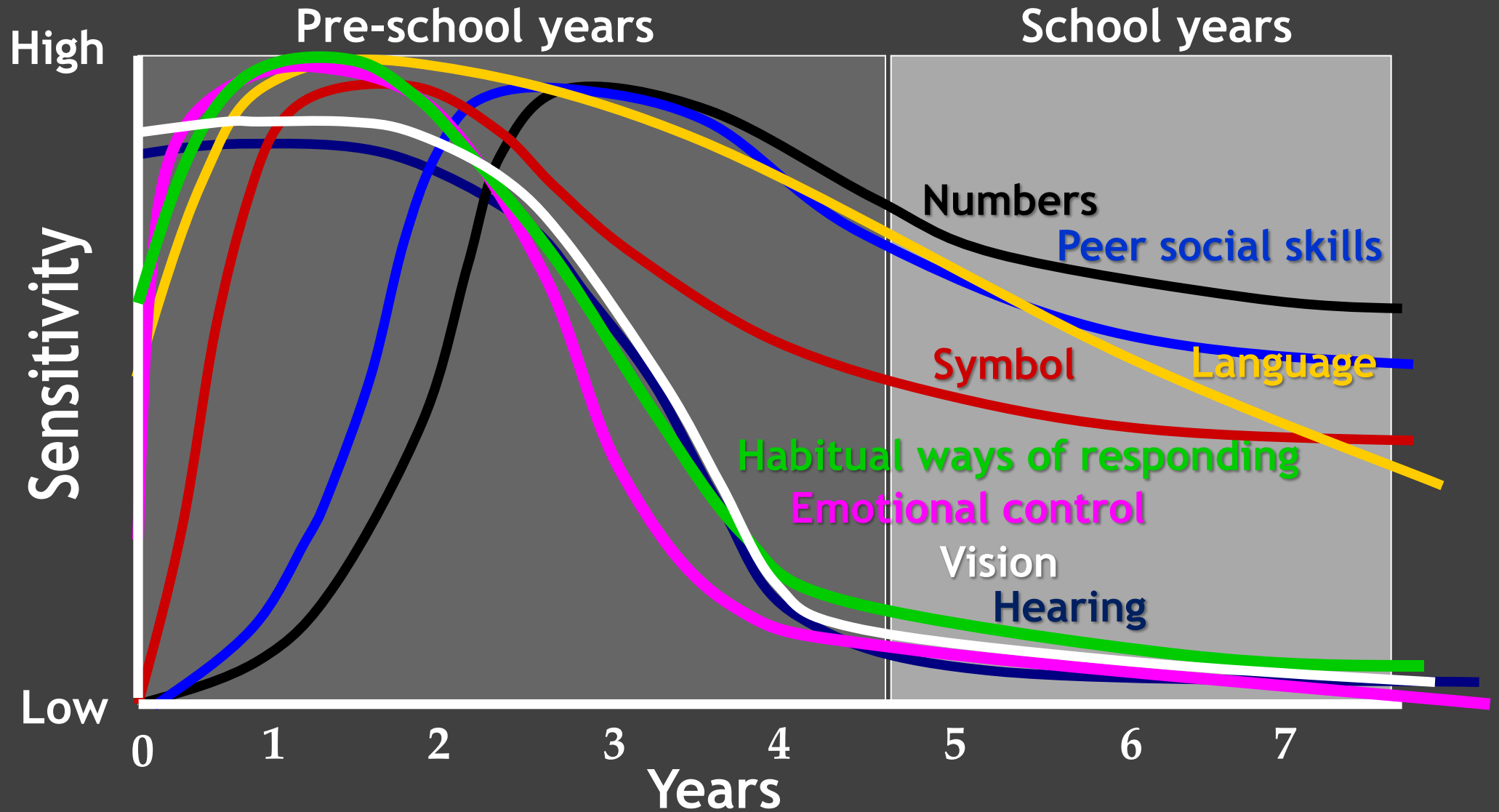
- engaging parents and families to develop notions of what “welcome” is **and what is most important about it,**
- **supporting interested citizens in** building pilots,
- **drawing on examples set by other Collective Impact projects regarding the early years in other jurisdictions.** This should specifically include examples set by and in First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities.

WHY the Early Years?

**THE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR
OVER 20 YEARS**

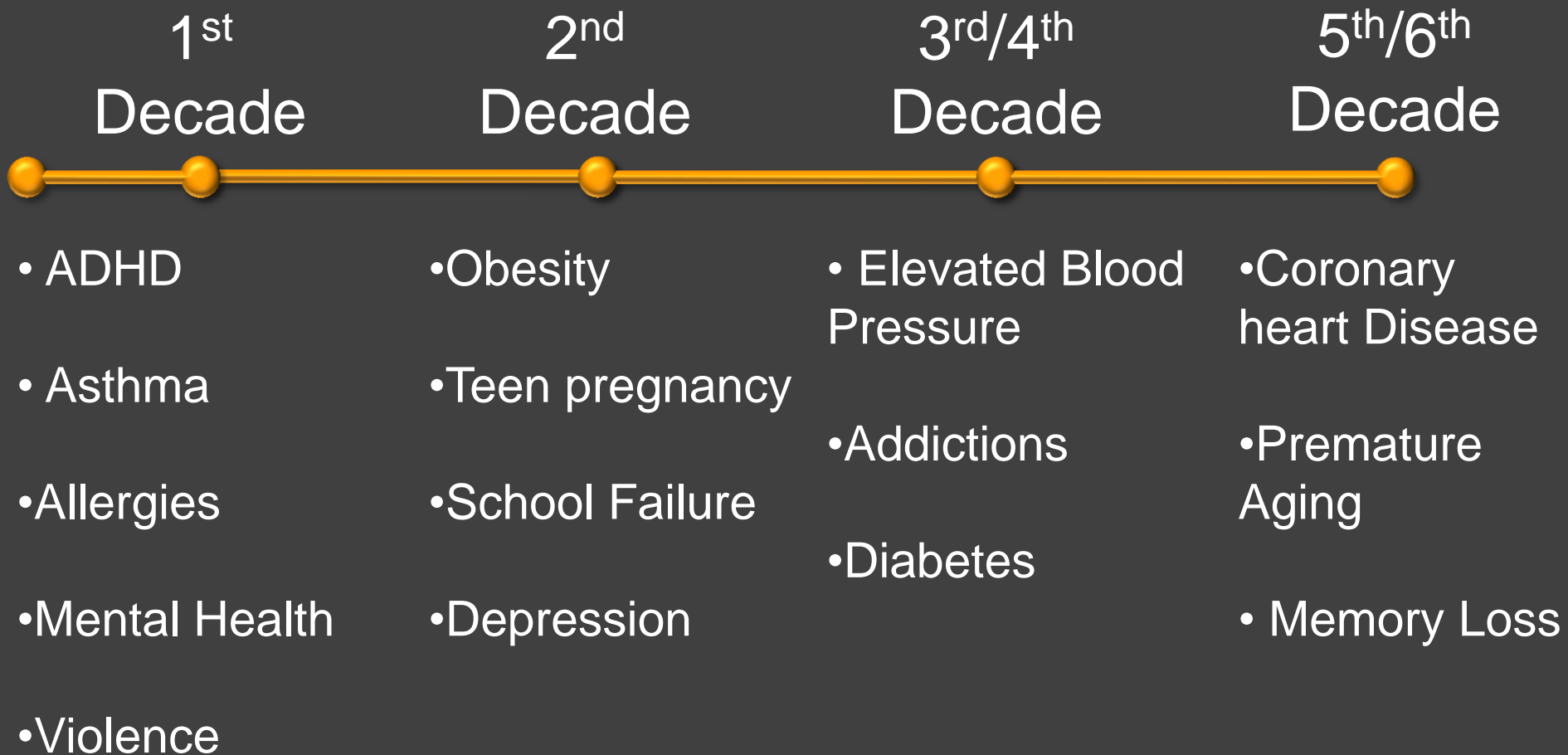
The early years starts early ! Before pre-primary and before childcare, setting life course trajectories for our health (physical/mental), learning and behaviour

Sensitive Periods in Early Brain Development



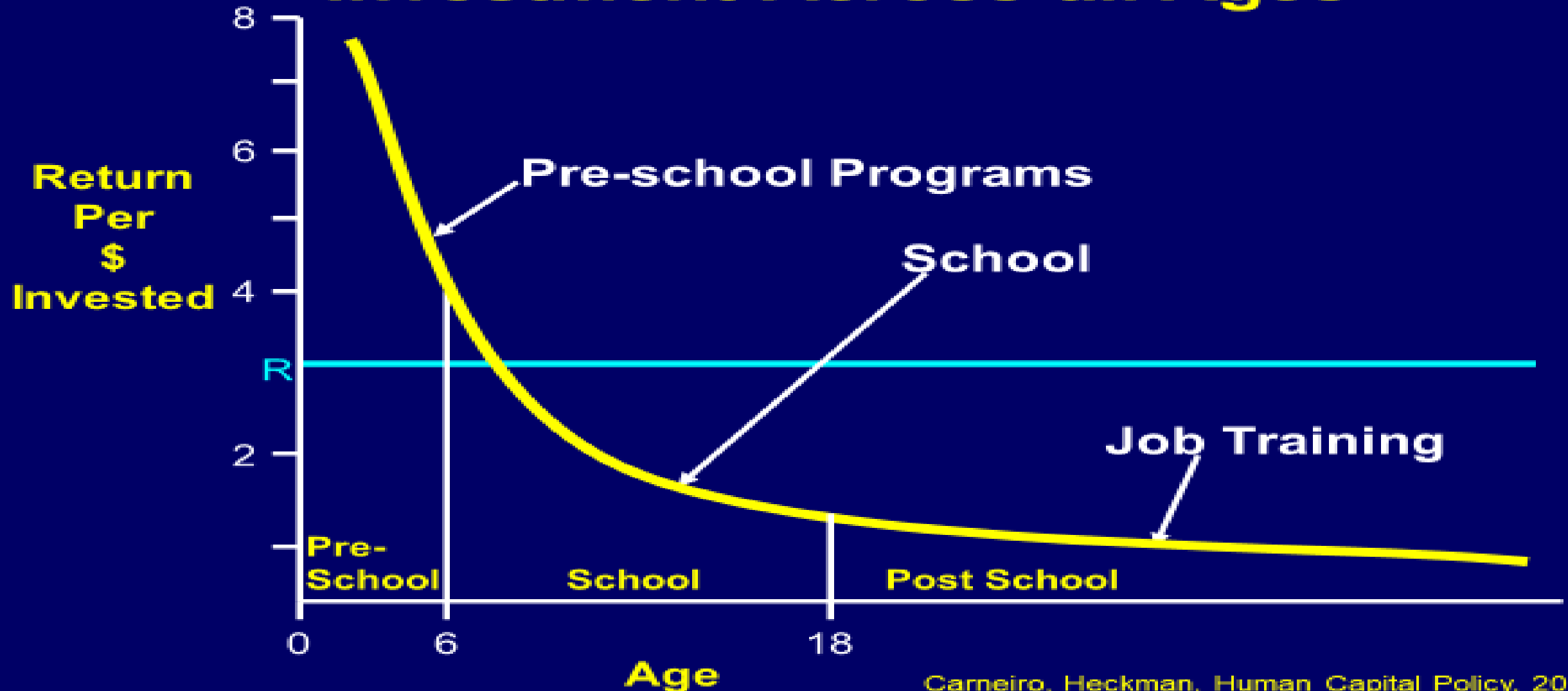
The Health Imperative

Life Course Problems Related to Early Life



The Economic Imperative

Rates of Return to Human Development Investment Across all Ages



The Regional Imperative



★ Develop demonstration pilots of “Welcoming Community Centres/hubs”

Become partners and advocates for long term Provincial funding policy

Provide support for Early Childhood Educators, regulated childcares and all services and programs that support early years.

Long term Goal to have a network of welcoming coordinated spaces covering all western Cape Breton/Unama'ki and beyond ...

Mawiomí w'jít Mijuwajijt

Raising the Villages

- *Birth Data*
- *18 month screening*
- *EDI*
- *Child poverty rates*

Our Community Decision making

Welcoming Community Spaces



- *Intergenerational*
- *A place to Belong and be valued*
- *Universally accessible*
- *Extended "Loving lap"*
- *Culturally enriched*

Reconciliation in Action

As Treaty People we will foster learning, understanding and honouring of the living history of the Mi'kmaq as we gather in Unama'ki

Coordinating, Networking and Communicating

Local/Regional - Doula/birth coach - Early Intervention - Lactation consultant - Paediatricians - Speech and Language - Childcare - Transit - Housing - Food - youth - seniors

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021



The One
NS Coalition
identified **The
Early Years
Starting
Strong**
as their #1
priority.

Regional
commitment
made.
Launched
research survey
asking '**what's
working**' and
'**what more is
needed**'?

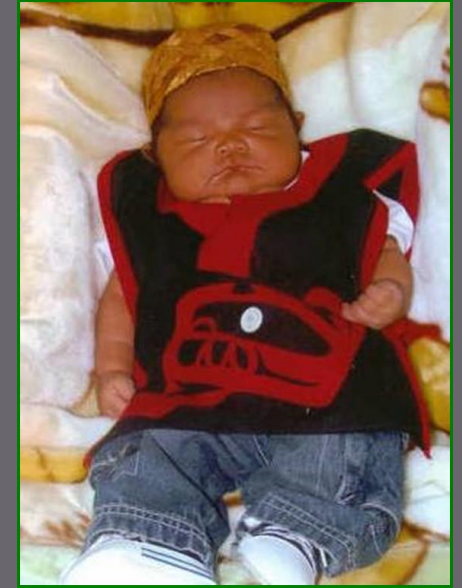
Local leaders
signed our
Declaration
recognizing **The
Early Years
Starting Strong..**

Continued to
welcome our
youngest citizens
at gatherings and
create a
communications
network of support
for the early years.

Formalized
interest to create a
**Regional Early
Years Coalition.**

Organized community
consultations to launch
Raising the Villages as
a collective impact
cooperative.

UPSTREAM



“We need to be reminded that our children are gifts from the Creator and that they are here to be our teachers. We need to provide space for them to teach us.”

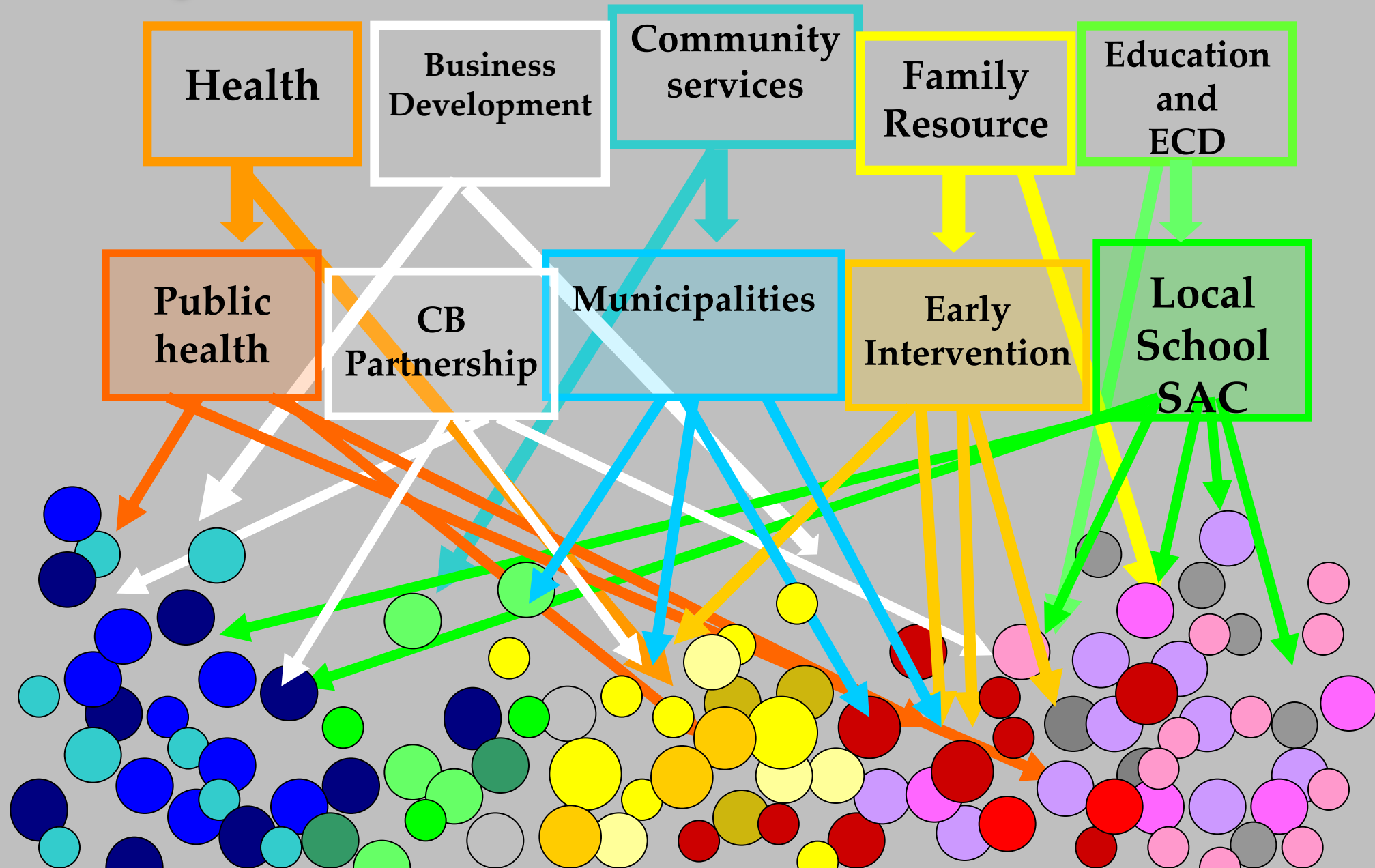
Adelle Arcand,
Alexander 1st Nation

Mission for Cape Breton

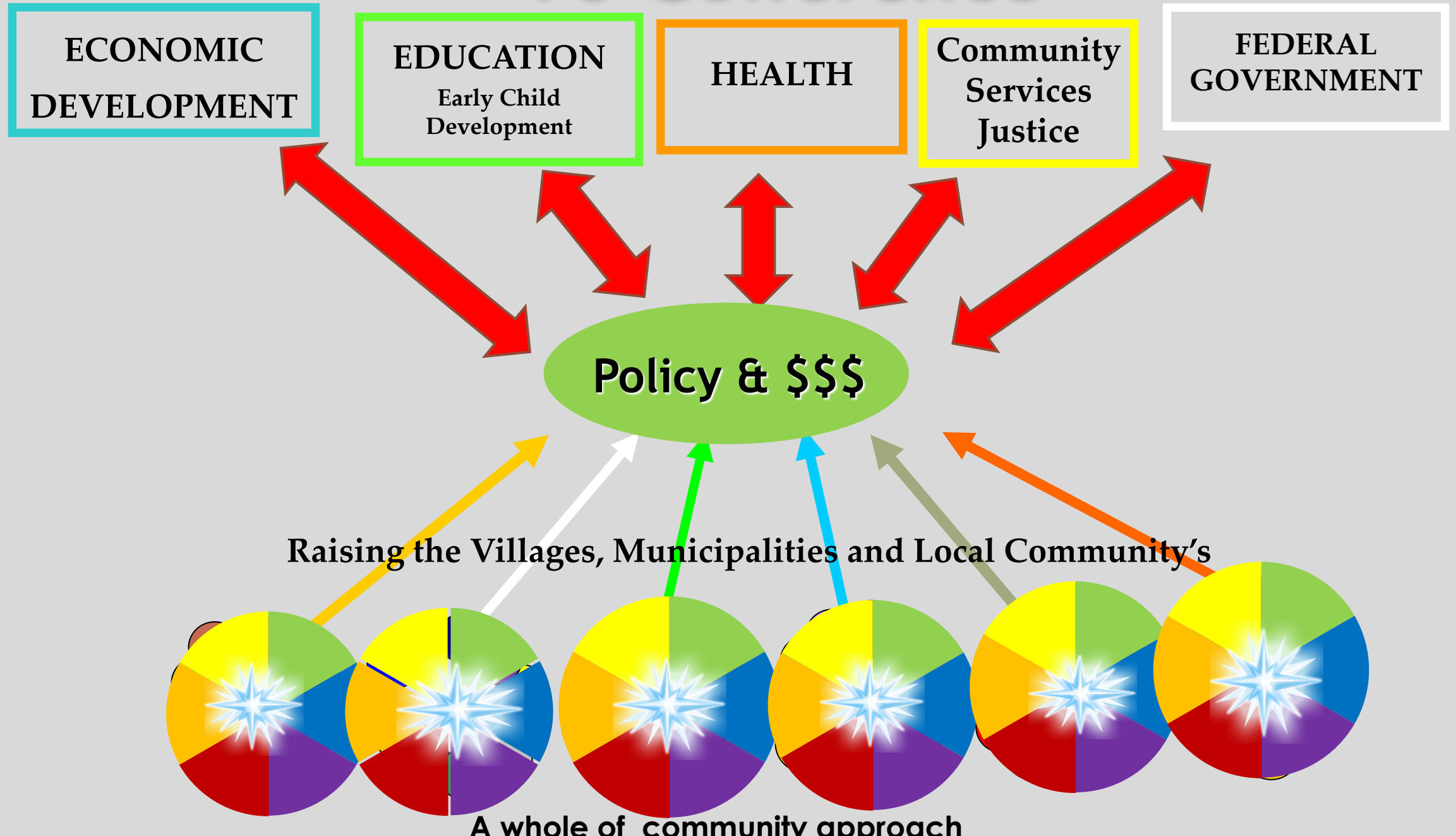
Local integrated welcoming Hubs/Centres



Early Years – Patchwork and Silos



To Coherence



Raising the Villages Co-operative

Type of Co-operatives: Consumer, worker, producer and multi stakeholder co-operatives

A multi-stakeholder co-op serves the needs of different stakeholder groups—such as employees, clients, and other interested individuals and organizations.

This type of co-op is usually found in health, home care and other social enterprises

Raising the Villages Cooperative Objectives

- to raise awareness and understanding of WHY the early years is the #1 upstream investment for our life-long health (physical and mental), learning, and relationships
- to help facilitate the development of Welcoming Community Spaces/Hubs Pilot Projects that start with our youngest citizens
- as “Treaty People”, to foster learning, understanding, and honouring, of the living history of the Mi’kmaq, through gatherings around our shared history and heritage here in Unama’ki
- to provide the networking, connecting, communicating, and advocacy for regional services, programs, and policies that provide universal access and integration from the pre-natal period onwards
- to share and learn from what is happening across our region, province, and beyond
- to utilize data/evidence (EDI) to strengthen community-based decision making, advocacy, and inform supportive upstream policy direction.

Who Needs to be Involved

If it takes a village ... then we need the whole village

- infants to elders
- **elected officials** to gov staff
- NGO's to for-profits,
- service providers to business





Raising the Villages Supporters to Date