

## Provincial Harm Prevention Strategy for Children and Youth

### **Vision**

New Brunswick will achieve continual and measurable progress in reducing harm to children and enable them to achieve their full potential as happy and healthy citizens.

### **Mission**

*By preventing harm to children and youth, New Brunswick honours its international legal obligations to uphold the rights, and improve the lives, of all our young people.*

The Provincial Harm Prevention Strategy for Children and Youth will be a holistic, rights-respecting coordinating framework that will engage and guide citizens from across sectors in the joint task of keeping children safe from harm. Being always mindful of the voice of children and their best interests, it will empower all New Brunswickers to play a leadership role in helping foster protective factors in youth through strength-based interventions, by educating parents and caregivers, by supporting research and evidence-based policy-making, and by aligning all policy instruments and laws towards this end.

### **Guiding Principles:**

Respect for Children's Rights:

- The Strategy will uphold the Guiding Principles of the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (Non-Discrimination; the Best Interests of the Child Principle; the Right to Life, Survival and Maximum Development; and the Right to be Heard), as guide-posts in all decisions and actions.

Collaboration:

- The Strategy will foster and promote collaboration and joint ownership of challenges and solutions to harm prevention, and will engage New Brunswickers from across all sectors in the inclusive and non-partisan co-leadership of its development, implementation and enforcement.

Sustainable:

- The strategy will build upon existing knowledge, structures and best practices to promote continuous progress and innovation in preventing harm to children and youth and in order to achieve sustainable and progressive rights implementation in a caring and rights-respecting manner.

Evidence-based:

- A commitment to evidence-based policy-making and outcome measurement will guide all aspects of the Strategy

Open Communication:

- Knowledge and information will be communicated and transferred with transparency, in an open dialogue between government, community, families, children and youth, one that emphasizes the central importance of experiential child and youth voice and amplifies this experience.