

NOVA SCOTIA

SchoolsPlus

A COLLABORATIVE INTERAGENCY APPROACH TO
SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD AND FAMILY

Restorative Justice and Practices in Schools: A Collaborative Interdisciplinary Approach

Presented by
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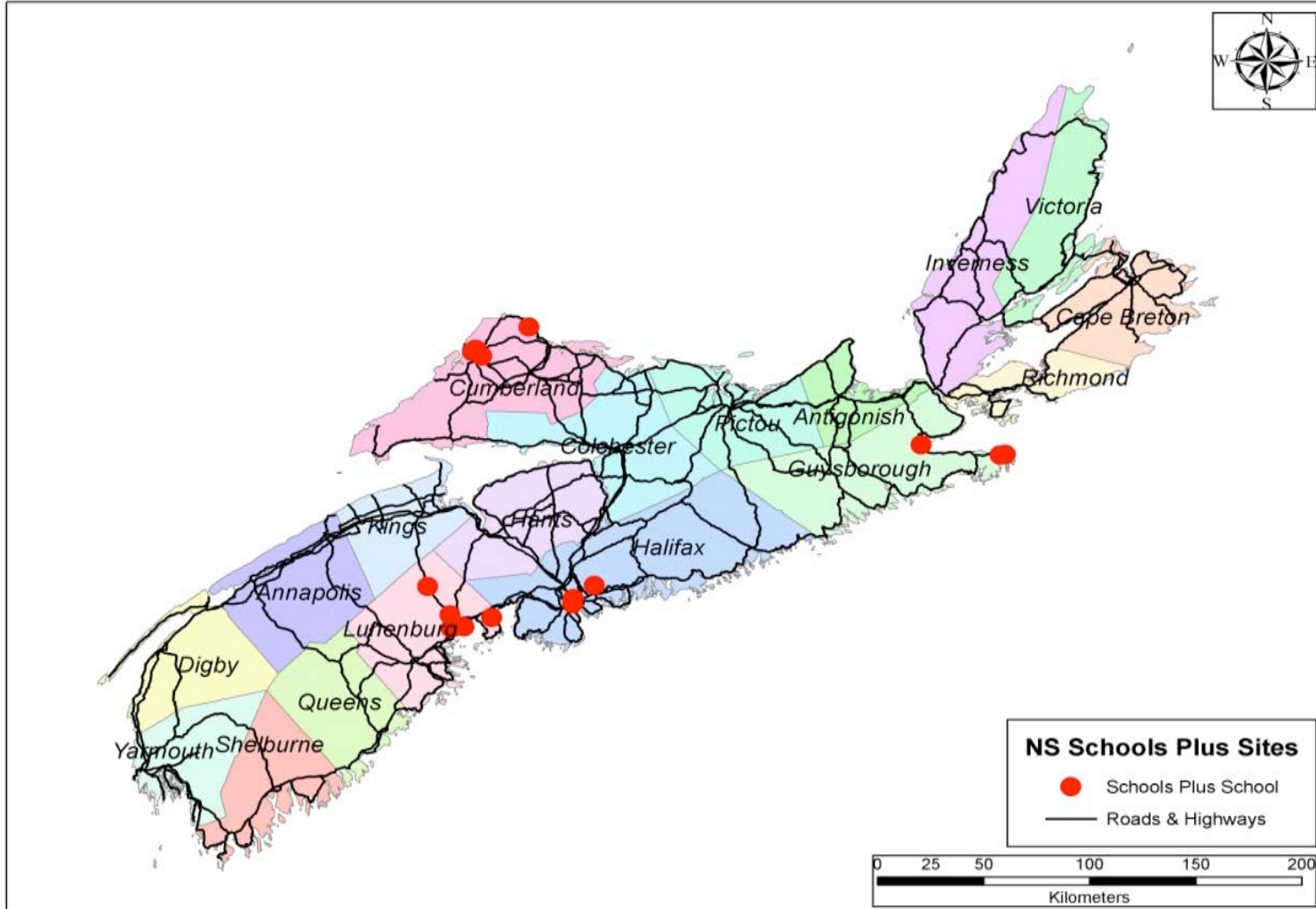
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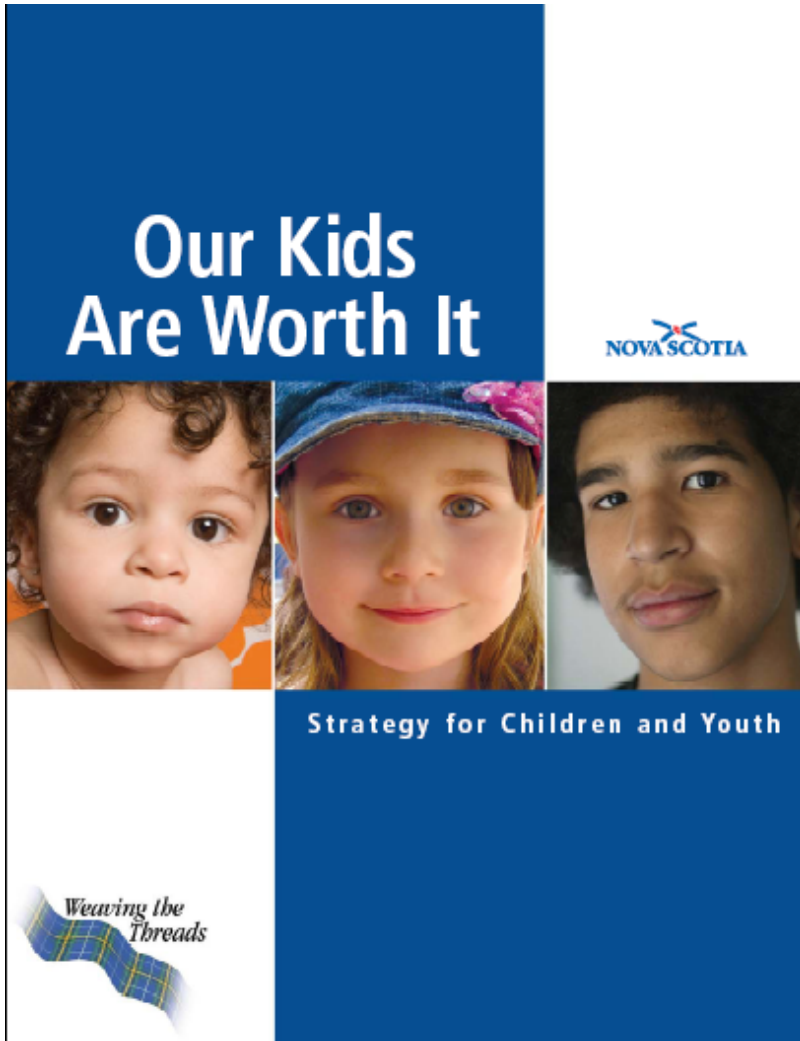
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Schools Plus in Nova Scotia



Background



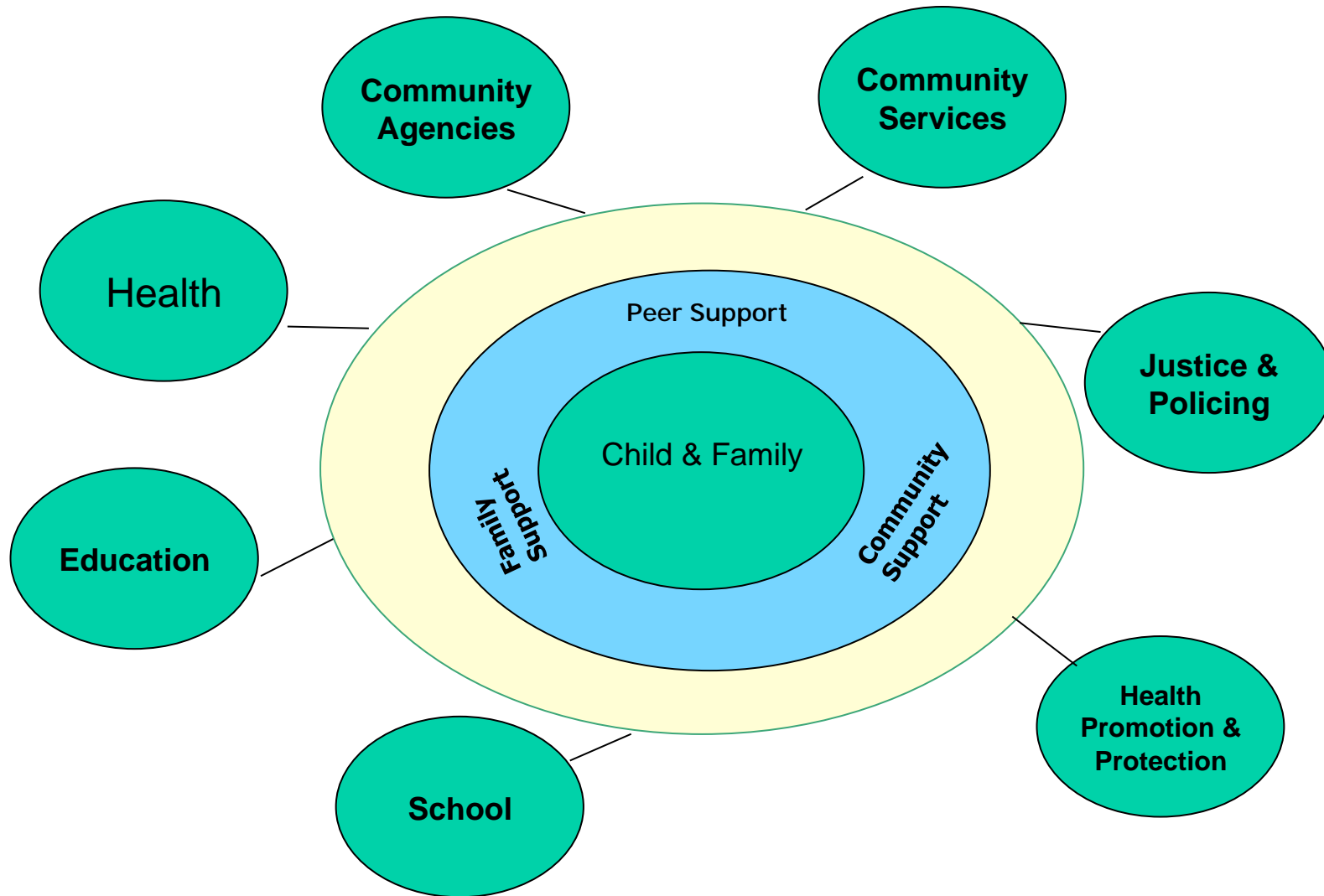
- Our Kids Are Worth It: Strategy for Children and Youth
- Commissioner Nunn's recommendations of the need for improved co-ordination and collaboration in the delivery of programs and services for children and youth
- October 2008: Schools Plus in NS began.

Schools Plus Vision



- Collaborative interagency approach to supporting the whole child.
- Schools become centers of service delivery enabling enhanced collaboration by bringing professionals and programs together to help children, youth and families in a welcoming place.

Wrap-around support



Schools Plus



Schools Plus Facilitators:

- Expand Services
- Coordinate
- Advocate

Regional Advisory Committee:

- DOE, DCS, Health, Justice, HPP and community organizations
- Meets monthly
- Enhance and expand the array of services

Provincial Steering Committee:

- Meets monthly to discuss implementation

Who is served by Schools Plus?



- Schools Plus is designed to support all children, youth and their families.
- Particularly those for whom additional supports and services are needed for their success.
- Referrals for individual direct service may come both from school program planning teams as well as other service providers. Students and families may also self refer.

Characteristics of the Schools Plus Model:



- A comprehensive, collaborative seamless delivery of service
- Sharing of information and resources between agencies
- Timely and effective services
- Accountability and utilization of evidence based best practices
- Service beyond the school day
- Capacity building
- Co-location /Integrated Service Delivery

Restorative Practices tie in with the goals of Schools Plus



- Youth engagement
- School attachment
- Alternatives to out of school suspensions
- Timely identification and response
- Co-ordination and collaboration in the delivery of programs

Partnerships



- NS Department of Justice
- NS Community Justice agencies
- NS Department of Education
- School Boards
- Local police
- Law Foundation of NS
- NS Crime Prevention Strategy
- NSRJ-CURA (Dalhousie University)
- IIRP

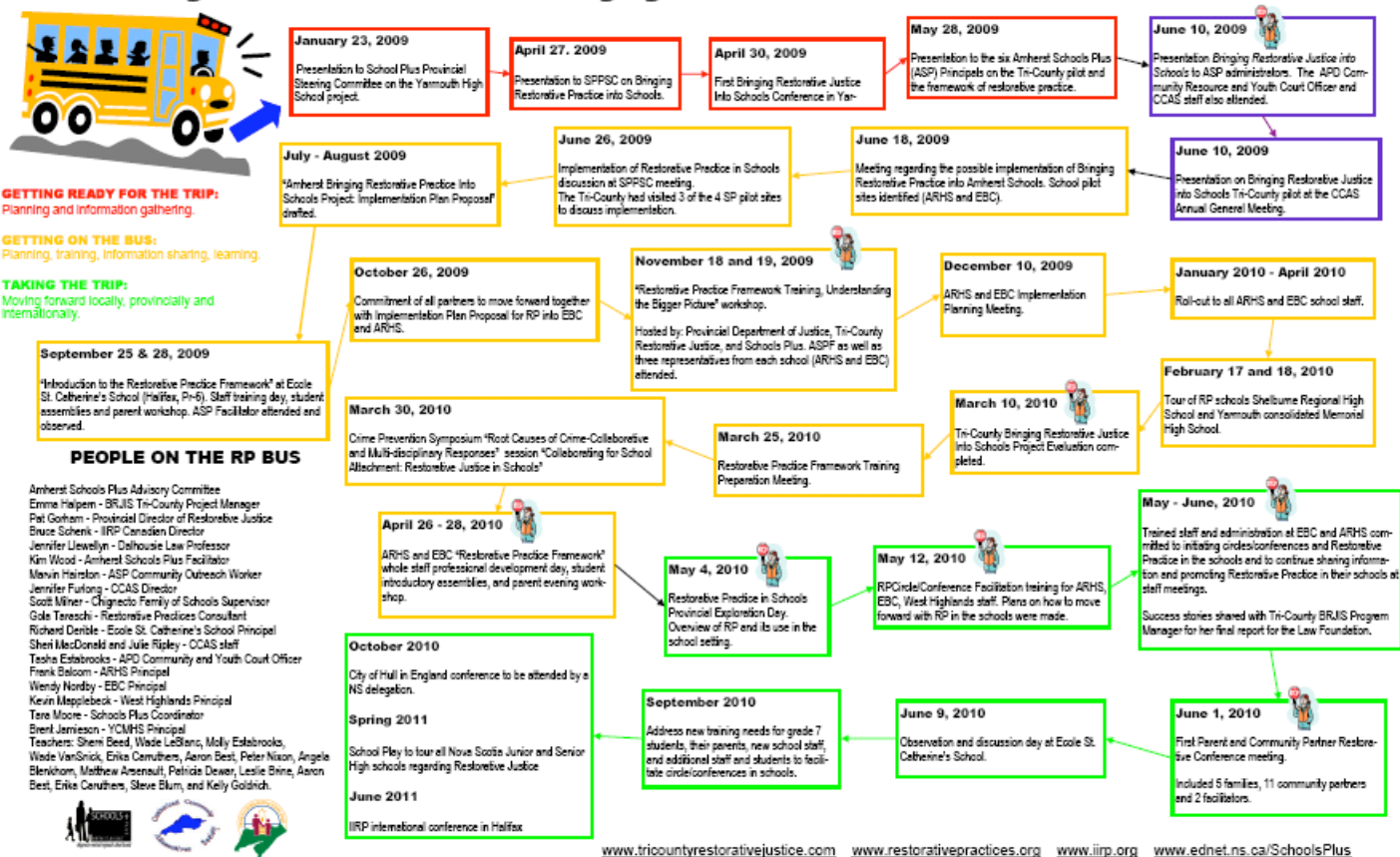
Implementation



- Implementation strategies vary among the communities
- Whole school approach vs. Discipline approach
- Approach to training

Implementation in Amherst Schools

Taking a Ride on the RP Bus: Bringing Restorative Practice Into Amherst Schools



Results and Outcomes



- Relationships improved between students, school staff, police, and parents
- Less out of school suspensions
- Fewer office referrals
- Better communication – teachable moments
- More inclusion, less disengaged
- Process more effective, efficient, & supportive than Court
- Leadership opportunities for youth
- Potential for applications outside of schools, such as Parent/Community Partners meeting

Quotes

I now feel more comfortable calling the school direct rather than having the SP fac. calling for me.

Parent

One of the best ways of dealing with behavior incidents.

Principal

I feel that I have more control over my life... I know now that I am the kind of person that can make a difference.

Student

I feel more personal power over what happens in my life now. I have entered into some leadership activities... life is far better than I could ever have dreamed about a year ago when I was living on the streets and dealing drugs.

Student

Initially I was intimidated to attend the meeting but I found it very valuable and I'm glad I went.

Parent

Questions, discussion



For more information:

www.ednet.ns.ca/schoolsplus

www.tricountyrestorativejustice.com

www.gov.ns.ca/just/rj/

www.communityalternatives.ca



Brighter futures

File location: