

# A Reflection:

# Mobilizing Data to Inform Early Childhood Policies in Nova Scotia

Facilitated by Dr. Jessie-Lee McIsaac

Fourth in a series of collective discussions to share current progress and explore aspirations with early childhood data systems in Atlantic Canada. Below is a graphic illustration of the conversation prepared by Mo Dresch.



Dr. Jessie-Lee McIsaac, Assistant Professor and Tier II Canada Research Chair in Early Childhood: Diversity and Transitions with the Faculty of Education and Department of Child and Youth Study at Mount Saint Vincent University, will facilitate a collective discussion about the policy landscape for early childhood development and why it is important in Nova Scotia. She will share her previous and ongoing experience with EDI and other early childhood and education data systems. Providing aspirations for the future, she will discuss linking data across systems and programs and provide examples.

## Challenges

Lack of ability to link data

Getting government involvement to get data repositories off the ground

Communication about what data is currently being collected and who has collected it

Transfer of data/lack of sharing agreements

Collecting and sharing data before school-age

Standardizing data collection

## Aspirations

Atlantic provinces come together to decide what data to gather in terms of the early years

Learn from other provinces

Atlantic provinces have an opportunity to enhance data sharing

Identify "bright spots" in each province like NB data sharing and NS Beacon project

Beacon project has the potential to move NS forward with linkage and data sharing