

# Social Policies in Atlantic Canada

LINKS TO CHILDREN'S FALL PREVENTION

*An Environmental Scan*

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## *Links to Children's Fall Prevention*

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### Environmental Scan

The following environmental scan incorporates examples of existing social policies in each Atlantic province that are directly or indirectly linked to social determinants of health (SDOH) and children's fall prevention. Similar to the seniors' fall prevention information and charts found in ACIP's 2019 report, *Seniors' Fall Prevention and the Social Determinants of Health: A Social Policy Lens*, the social policy examples included in this document are also those from a provincial government level.

### Nova Scotia

Social Policy Examples to Support Fall Prevention Efforts	Partner/Sector	Links to SDOH and Fall Prevention
<b>Nova Scotia Child Benefit</b> is a monthly financial benefit paid to low income families with children. <sup>1</sup>	Dept. of Community Services Canada Child Benefit Program (Canada Revenue Agency)	Provides financial assistance to lower income families with children. This money could be put towards items such as safety equipment, which can help prevent falls in the home.
<b>Parenting Journey</b> is a home visitation program that provides support to families to help with child well-being and development, parenting, family life management and community connectedness, linkage, and referrals. <sup>2</sup>	Dept. of Community Services Various Family Resources Centers	Works collaboratively with families to build meaningful helping relationships while collectively identifying strengths, resources, and priorities to addressing challenges to child development, including fall prevention. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Healthy Beginnings</b> is an enhanced home visiting program focused on supporting parents and families through fostering healthy childhood development and linking families to helpful community resources. Families can receive visits for up to three years and referrals to other available services. One aspect of these visits is injury prevention. <sup>4</sup>	Dept. of Health and Wellness	Provides an opportunity to identify hazards in the home and educate parents about preventing falls in the home.
<b>Loving Care</b> is a series of books for parents of children from birth to age three. The loving care books are free resources and explore injury prevention and fall prevention. <sup>5</sup>	Dept. of Health and Wellness Public Health Services	Provides an opportunity to educate parents on preventing fall-related injuries.
<b>Healthy Development</b> offers pre- and post-natal services to families, with a focus on the promotion of health and the prevention of illness and injury. <sup>6</sup>	Dept. of Health & Wellness	Provides an opportunity to identify hazards in the home and to educate parents about preventing falls in the home.
<b>Licensing Services</b> performs licensing, inspection and compliance for Day Care Facilities and Family Home Day Care Agencies. Their primary mandate is to	Dept. of Education and Early Childhood Development	Licensing services ensures Day Cares are adhering to the Day Care Act and Regulations, which includes requirements for playground

protect the health, safety and well-being of children who attend these facilities. <sup>7</sup>		equipment to reduce playground fall injuries. *Note – Day Care Act does not require equipment meet CSA standards*
<b>Child Care Subsidy</b> is a financial benefit available to eligible families to help with the cost of licensed Day Care or licensed Family Home Day Care Services. <sup>8</sup>	Dept. of Education and Early Childhood Development	Helps parents with the cost of Day Care and ensures parents are sending their children to facilities which adhere to the Day Care Act and Regulations.
<b>Home Ownership Preservation</b> is a program available to individuals or families of low-income. Funding is available to eligible families in order to make major repairs so that the minimum level of health and safety standards can be met within their homes. <sup>9</sup>	Housing Nova Scotia	If eligible, funding can be applied to structural repairs within the home (i.e. stairs) which in turn could help to prevent falls in the home.

## New Brunswick

<b>Social Policy Examples to Support Fall Prevention Efforts</b>	<b>Partners/Sectors</b>	<b>Links to SDOH and Fall Prevention</b>
<b>New Brunswick Child Benefit</b> is a monthly financial benefit paid to low-income families with children. <sup>10</sup>	Finance and Treasury Board Canada Child Benefit Program (Canada Revenue Agency)	Provides financial assistance to lower income families with children, which can be put towards items such as safety equipment that help to prevent falls in the home.
<b>Early Learning and Child Care Services</b> is responsible for licensing and monitoring early learning and childcare centers and homes. <sup>11</sup>	Dept. of Education and Childhood Development	Early Learning and Child Care Services ensures Day Cares are adhering to the early Childhood Services Act and Regulations, which includes requirements for playground equipment to reduce playground fall injuries. This act recommends playground equipment adhere to CSA standards, but it is not required <sup>12</sup> .
<b>The Family and Youth Capital Assistance Program</b> provides funding for projects in support of youth and family related activities such as playgrounds. <sup>13</sup>	Regional Development Corporation	Allows communities to install safe age-appropriate playground equipment to reduce playground fall injuries.
<b>Federal/Provincial Repair Program</b> provides financial assistance for low income homeowners to repair, rehabilitate or improve substandard housing or make modifications for occupants with disabilities. <sup>14</sup>	Dept. of Social Development	Allows families to repair hazards in the home to reduce the risk of fall-related injuries.
<b>Healthy Families, Healthy Babies Program</b> offers pre- and post-natal services to families. Post-natal services focus on healthy growth and development and can include home visits. <sup>15</sup>	Dept. of Health	Provides an opportunity to identify hazards in the home and educate parents about preventing falls in the home.

<b>Healthy Toddler Assessment</b> provides parents of children 18-months-of-age with the opportunity to be assessed by public health nurses. Topics assessed include safety and child growth and development. <sup>16</sup>	Dept. of Health	Provides an opportunity to educate parents about preventing fall-related injuries.
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## Newfoundland and Labrador

<b>Social Policy Examples to Support Fall Prevention Efforts</b>	<b>Partners/Sectors</b>	<b>Links to SDOH and Fall Prevention</b>
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador Child Benefit</b> is a monthly financial benefit paid to low-income families with children. <sup>17</sup>	Dept. of Advanced Education, Skills and Labor	Provides financial assistance to lower income families with children, which can be put towards items such as safety equipment to help prevent falls in the home.
<b>The Operating Grant Program</b> subsidizes the cost of licensed childcare centers to make these services more accessible for parents of young children. <sup>18</sup>	Dept. of Education and Early Childhood Development	Helps parents with the cost of Day Care and ensures parents are sending their children to facilities which adhere to the Day Care Act and Regulations.
<b>Provincial Home Repair Program</b> provides financial assistance to low income homeowners for repairs to maintain safety of a dwelling. <sup>19</sup>	Dept. of Housing	Allows families to repair hazards in the home to reduce the risk of fall-related injuries.
<b>Parent and Child Health Programs</b> are designed to offer and support service for families pre- and post-natal in the areas of growth and development, safety and injury prevention and other general parenting questions. <sup>20</sup>	Dept. of Children, Seniors & Social Development	Provides an opportunity to educate parents about preventing fall-related injuries.

## Prince Edward Island

<b>Social Policy Examples to Support Fall Prevention Efforts</b>	<b>Partners/Sectors</b>	<b>Links to SDOH and Fall Prevention</b>
<b>Best Start</b> is a home visit program that provides families with education and support for healthy child development. <sup>21</sup>	Public Health Nursing	Provides an opportunity to identify hazards in the home and educate parents about preventing falls in the home.
<b>Triple P – Positive Parenting Program</b> is an approach to parenting that gives parents tools and strategies to help manage the big and small problems of family life. Triple P's positive parenting allows parents to decide what is important to them. <sup>22</sup>	Triple P International University of Queensland	Provides helpful tips to help raise children in an environment that is safe, loving, and predictable. Triple P's positive parenting program does not tell parents <i>how</i> to raise their children, more so how they can establish rules, boundaries and safe consequences without harm or injury.
<b>Family Housing Program</b> provides low income Islanders with appropriate housing	Dept. of Social Development and Housing	For qualified applicants, this program provides quality rental housing units for

at a reduced cost. For qualified applicants, this might be renting a social housing unit or receiving a rent supplement that reduces the cost for rental market housing. <sup>23</sup>		families and individuals with low incomes, poor housing conditions or other special circumstances that create a need for assistance and who may not otherwise be able to obtain adequate housing. This helps to support a safe environment for families which can help reduce risk of injuries, including those from falls.
<b>PEI Home Renovation Program</b> provides financial assistance to qualifying Islanders to help cover the cost of major structural renovations to their homes. <sup>24</sup>	Dept. of Social Development and Housing	If eligible, applicants may receive up to a maximum \$6,000 for renovations to the structure, to improve life safety. Safety improvements to a home can help reduce the risk of fall-related injuries.
<b>PEI Child Benefit</b> is a monthly financial benefit paid to low income families with children. <sup>25</sup>	Dept. of Social Development and Housing	Provides financial assistance to lower income families with children, which can be put towards items such as safety equipment to help prevent falls in the home.

## About the Organizations



The Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention (ACIP) is a partnership of injury prevention practitioners from both government and non-government organizations. The goal of ACIP is to reduce the burden of injury in Atlantic Canada.

[www.acip.ca](http://www.acip.ca)



Child Safety Link (CSL) is an injury prevention program at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax NS dedicated to reducing the incidence and severity of unintentional injury to children and youth in the Maritimes.

[www.childsafetylink.ca](http://www.childsafetylink.ca)

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