

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20



Children, Seniors and Social Development



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Minister of the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD), I am pleased to present the department's Annual Report for 2019-2020.

CSSD focuses on ensuring that policies, practices and services respect diversity, increase equity, and reduce barriers to self-determination while emphasizing prevention, early intervention and protection to ensure that all individuals in the province are supported to thrive. Since CSSD was created in August 2016, we have supported individuals, families and communities in Newfoundland and Labrador in achieving improved health and social well-being and reduced poverty; and ensured the protection of children, youth and adults from maltreatment.

CSSD is considered a Category 1 entity under the Transparency and Accountability Act. The 2019-20 Annual Report demonstrates CSSD's progress on the goals outlined in the department's Strategic Plan 2017-20, as well as planned actions for 2019-20, which fulfills the reporting requirements under the Act. As Minister, my signature below demonstrates my accountability for the preparation of this report and the achievements reported herein.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Warr', written in a cursive style.

Hon. Brian Warr

Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development

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Departmental Overview

Organizational Structure

The Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development supports individuals, families and communities in Newfoundland and Labrador in achieving improved health and social well-being and reduced poverty, and ensures the protection of children, youth and adults from abuse or neglect. The department promotes the values of inclusion, diversity, and healthy active living, and leads the development of policies, programs and partnerships to improve services and the overall social development of the province.

See more information at www.cssd.gov.nl.ca.

Lines of Business

The department fulfils this mandate through the following lines of business:

- Adoptions
- Adult Protection
- Child Protection and In-Care
- Community Youth Corrections
- Disability Policy
- Healthy Living, Sports and Recreation
- Poverty Reduction and Well-Being
- Aging and Seniors
- Youth Services

Staff and Budget

As of March 31, 2020, CSSD had a total of 755 employees: 708 permanent, 40 temporary, and seven contractual positions. The Provincial Office has 100 positions, which carry out work in the lines of business previously identified. The Child and Youth Services branch is structured into Central-West Region, Labrador Region, and Metro Region, as follows:

- **Central West:** 276 positions, with offices located in Baie Verte, Bay Roberts, Bonavista, Botwood, Channel-Port-aux-Basques, Clarenville, Conception Bay South, Conne River, Corner Brook, Deer Lake, Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor, Harbour Breton, Harbour Grace, Holyrood, Lewisporte, Marystown, Musgrave Harbour, Placentia, Roddickton, Springdale, St. Alban's, St. Anthony, Stephenville, Summerford, Whitbourne, and Woody Point.
- **Labrador:** 119 positions, with offices located in Cartwright, Forteau, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Hopedale, Labrador City, Makkovik, Nain, Natuashish, Rigolet, and Sheshatshiu.
- **Metro:** 222 positions, with offices located in Bell Island, Ferryland, and St. John's.

CSSD also operates three swimming pools: in the Arts and Culture Centres in Gander and Corner Brook, and within the recreation training centre also run by CSSD in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Each of these centres has one to four employees as well as several casual positions.

On March 31, 2020, CSSD had total expenditures of \$153,331,077 for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Additional details can be found in the Financial Information section, page 46.

Highlights and Partnerships

CSSD focuses on the well-being and social inclusion of all individuals in Newfoundland and Labrador. CSSD continues to build on the government priorities set out in the Strategic Plan of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. These priorities include policy actions designed to achieve a more efficient public sector, a stronger economic foundation, better services, and better outcomes to promote a healthy and prosperous province.

Throughout 2019-20, CSSD continued to work towards government priorities: improving the lives of residents of the province by enhancing the child protection system; strengthening our collaborations with Indigenous communities; improving the lives of seniors and persons with disabilities; reducing poverty; and improving opportunities for healthy active living.

In this Annual Report, CSSD is highlighting a number of initiatives across each of these domains during 2019-20. These include:

Child, Youth and Families

- **Children, Youth and Families Act:** CSSD was pleased to support the proclamation of the new **Children, Youth and Families Act (CYFA)** on June 28, 2019. This legislation is child-centered, family-focused and culturally responsive and promotes the safety and well-being of children and youth who are in need of protection.

While still maintaining a focus on children and youth in need of protection, new provisions under the CYFA are aimed at:

- Improving information sharing to assist in the protection of children and youth
- Enhancing the focus on maintaining children and youth in their family homes
- Expanding permanency options for children and youth in foster care
- Strengthening service delivery to Indigenous children, youth and their families
- Identifying and supporting youth in need of protection
- Developing a licensing regime for out of home placements

- **Child, Youth and Families Act Training:** CSSD officials provided training on the new legislation to CSSD social workers, as well as shared information with Indigenous governments and organizations and key stakeholders prior to the implementation of the Act. This training and information sharing is continuing with on-going staff training and information sessions as requested by community partners. Training on the CYFA occurred in April and May 2019.
- **Emergency placement homes in Innu communities:** CSSD continued to work in collaboration with Indigenous Governments and Organizations and the Federal Government to support the development of placement resources in Indigenous communities, to support Indigenous children in care to remain in their communities. In April 2019, an emergency placement home was established in Natuashish and in February 2020 two emergency placements homes opened in Sheshatshiu.
- **Caring for Our Children in Nunatsiavut:** CSSD entered into an agreement with the Nunatsiavut Government to support their Caring for Our Children project which seeks to increase availability of foster homes in Nunatsiavut.
- **Adoption Act:** CSSD launched a public engagement process as part of its statutory review of the **Adoption Act, 2013** to gather input on the ways in which the adoption legislation is impacting children, youth, families, and the public, as well as identifying ways in which the legislation can be improved.
- **Waypoints Foster Families Support Pilot:** CSSD supports foster families through the Waypoints Foster Families Support Pilot, which provides training and in-home supports to foster parents to help reduce foster home breakdowns/closures and increase interest in fostering.
- **Duty to Report Media campaign:** In anticipation of the expansion of the Duty to Report under the CYFA to include youth ages 16 and 17, CSSD developed and delivered a social media campaign to ensure the public was aware of their legal requirement to contact CSSD should they have information indicating a child or youth is or may be in need of protection.

Accessibility and Inclusion

- **Accessibility Legislation:** Following the accessibility legislation engagement process in 2018-2019, CSSD released the **What We Heard** report. Released on December 3, 2019, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the report provides a comprehensive summary of the feedback received throughout the engagement process, including both challenges and solutions brought forward by stakeholders. This report was produced in accessible written and electronic formats, as well as in an accessible American Sign Language (ASL) video format with audio, and closed captioning.
- **Individualized Funding (IF):** The Individualized Funding (IF) model for supportive social programs and services to individuals is based on the premise that all individuals are equal, are full citizens and have the right to determine how they receive services based on individualized planning. IF was developed by the Disability Policy Office (DPO) with the Poverty Reduction and Aging and Seniors divisions of CSSD, as well as other government departments, community organizations and individuals who avail of Community Supports (CS) through Health and Community Services (HCS). HCS is using this approved model to implement an IF demonstration project and CSSD has requested the ongoing support of all relevant departments as the government works toward its implementation.
- **Grant Programs:** CSSD actively enhanced and streamlined the various granting programs through the Disability Policy Office to better support accessibility and inclusion, including \$350,000 for the Accessible Vehicle Program, \$50,000 for the Accessible Taxi Program, \$250,000 for Capacity Building Grants, \$75,000 for Inclusion Grants and \$94,500 for Para-Transit.
- **State of Emergency:** CSSD, through the Disability Policy Office, worked across government with the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Environment, to ensure the provision of ASL interpretation and a text line during the January 2020 State of Emergency, which helped meet the needs of persons who are Deaf or hard of hearing. CSSD worked within the Emergency Operations Command Centre to

support individuals with disabilities, as well as their families, to receive snow clearing, food, medical supplies, and medications.

- **Provincial Advisory Council on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities:** The Disability Policy Office is the Secretariat for the Provincial Advisory Council on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. The terms of reference for the Council have been modified to allow for rotating terms, in keeping with leading practices in this area, to ensure renewal and opportunity in strengthening community presence.
- **Statistics Canada:** CSSD has taken on an active role through our Federal, Provincial/Territorial working group for accessibility indicators. In 2019-20, working collaboratively across departments, CSSD was able to provide a jurisdictional scan to Statistics Canada, through a partnership with Employment and Social Development Canada, in order to inform the development of a Federal Accessibility Data and Measurement Strategy.

Seniors and Aging

- **Seniors' Social Inclusion Initiative:** provides grants up to \$2,000 for incorporated clubs and up to \$1,000 for unincorporated clubs to support the delivery of programs or participation in community events that promote social inclusion, healthy aging, mental wellness and overall well-being. CSSD has committed a total of \$246,000 for 136 clubs. Based on membership statistics provided by the funded organizations, this program provided social inclusion opportunities for over 10,000 seniors in the province.
- **Newfoundland and Labrador Community Transportation Program:** supports individuals living with mobility challenges and communities by providing up to \$100,000 in funding towards alternate transportation services for individuals who experience barriers to accessible, affordable and inclusive transportation. During the 2019/2020 fiscal year, CSSD provided a total of \$300,000 in funding as follows:
 - St. John's Transportation Commission (Metrobus) - \$85,000
 - Twin Cities 50+ Seniors Club Inc. - \$90,000
 - Labrador Friendship Centre - \$30,000
 - Town of Stephenville - \$95,000

- **Age-Friendly Newfoundland and Labrador Communities Program (AFNLC):** builds upon the age-friendly communities' global movement initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and endorsed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). This movement aims to meet the demands of the world's aging population/demographic shift by encouraging the establishment of policies, services and structures that promote healthy aging and wellness across the lifespan. The AFNLC offers funding up to \$10,000 to support incorporated municipalities, regions, and Indigenous governments and communities in planning for changing demographics, as well as implementing activities, programs and/or infrastructure that support inclusive communities. During the 2019/2020 fiscal year, CSSD provided up to \$95,000 in funding to 13 different communities and municipalities.

- **Provincial Advisory Council on Seniors and Aging:** Seniors and Aging serves as the Secretariat for the Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors. The Council met three times during the period covered by this report and continues to identify and monitor the issues facing seniors in the province, as well as advise the Minister on proactive policy solutions. In January 2020, the Minister appointed four new members of the Council and confirmed re-appointment of two additional members.

- **Office of the Seniors' Advocate:** On September 25, 2019, the Seniors' Advocate released the office's first report **Long May Your Big Jib Draw: Setting Sail**. We are working with the Office of the Seniors' Advocate, Provincial Government departments and agencies, and our community partners to complete an analysis of the recommendations and develop an implementation plan. Related to CSSD's response to this report, we are working with Health and Community Services to establish Terms of Reference for an Interdepartmental Working Group on Demographic Change.

- **SeniorsNL:** Seniors and Aging Division continued its ongoing partnership with SeniorsNL through \$300,000 in funding for the provision of referrals using the ICarol system. SeniorsNL issued their 2018-19 Annual Report in August 2019 and noted 3,592 inquiries – a 12 per cent increase over the previous year.
- **Aging Research Centre Newfoundland and Labrador:** CSSD continued to support the Aging Research Centre Newfoundland and Labrador (ARCNL), ARCNL is operated by Memorial University, primarily at the Grenfell Campus. CSSD has allocated \$100,000 in Budget 2019-20 to support research focused on aging in place and healthy aging.
- **Seniors of Distinction Awards:** On October 1, 2019, CSSD hosted the 11th Annual Seniors of Distinction Award. Five seniors from throughout the province were recognized for outstanding achievements in their community/region. For the first time, the 2019 award ceremony was fully accessible – physical space, captioning and ASL interpretation. The call for 2020 nominations was announced in February.

Poverty Reduction and Well-Being

- **Poverty Reduction Initiatives:** The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador supported approximately 100 poverty reduction initiatives, with an investment over \$286 million in Budget 2019-20. This is the largest funding commitment ever provided for poverty reduction. Examples include the exemption of child support and Canada Pension Plan Children's Benefits from Income Support financial eligibility assessment (policy change), and the New Eye See Eye Learn program.
- **Poverty Advisory Committee:** As the Provincial/Territorial (PT) co-chair of the Poverty Advisory Committee to the Federal-PT Ministers Responsible for Social Services, CSSD worked with PT colleagues and the federal Department of Employment and Social Development Canada. The Poverty Advisory Committee has been involved in the ongoing Comprehensive Review of the Market Basket Measure (now Canada's Official Poverty Line), which included the review of four discussion papers that examined market basket contents, and disposable income.

The PAC is also looking at the interactions between Federal and Provincial and Territorial programs and benefits.

- **Community-Based Initiatives:** CSSD, through the Poverty Reduction and Well-Being Division, worked on a variety of cross-departmental and community-based initiatives to ensure that impacts on individuals and families with low income were fully considered. This included working with Canada Revenue Agency and local community centers to expand Super Clinics in our province, sitting on the St. John's Urban Indigenous Coalition, and on a provincial committee to improve supports to individuals with complex needs.
- **Poverty Reduction Interdepartmental Working Group:** Chaired by the Poverty Reduction and Well-Being division, the Poverty Reduction Interdepartmental Working Group serves to bring together officials across the Provincial Government in areas key to poverty reduction and well-being. Departments include CSSD, HCS, Advanced Education Skills and Labour (AESL), Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation (TCAR, formerly known as Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation), Public Engagement and Planning Division (of the Communications and Public Engagement Branch), Education (EDU, formerly known as Education and Early Childhood Development), Finance (FIN), Justice and Public Safety (JPS), Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation (IAR, formerly known as Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat), Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Commission (NLHC), and Office for the Status of Women.

Healthy Living

- **School Food Guidelines:** CSSD worked collaboratively with key stakeholders to revise the provincial School Food Guidelines and are piloting these revised guidelines in 11 schools across the province in the 2019-20 school year. An evaluation is underway to inform revisions and full implementation of new School Food Guidelines for the 2020-21 school year.

- **Community-led food assessments:** CSSD continued to support increasing access to healthy food for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Through collaboration with and support from Food First NL, community-led food assessments have engaged residents in identifying barriers in their own community to accessing healthy food and on developing locally focused solutions to improve their food access. Projects included community gardens, community freezers, and bulk buying clubs, supporting improved access to food for all people in these communities.
- **Everybody Eats:** CSSD continued to engage in the Everybody Eats project, which brings together key players from the public, private, and community sectors to work together in building a more food secure Newfoundland and Labrador. This collective action approach, led by Food First NL, prioritizes action around the cost of food and household food insecurity, community food self-sufficiency and local food promotion.
- **Veggie and Fruit Campaign:** CSSD continued to focus on increasing access to and consumption of vegetables and fruit in Newfoundland and Labrador. We partnered with the four Regional Health Authorities in the provincial Veggie and Fruit campaign, which focuses on promotion of and increased access to vegetables and fruit in Newfoundland and Labrador, particularly in more rural and remote regions. The campaign highlights fresh, frozen and canned vegetables and fruit as healthy options and supports diverse projects in place across the province such as the use of hydroponic systems, vegetable and fruit promotion and tasting programs in schools, as well as support for municipalities to increase access to these healthy foods.
- **Kids Eat Smart & School Lunch Association:** CSSD continued to support programs aiming to increase access to healthy food in schools. Kids Eat Smart and the School Lunch Association continued to expand this year to provide students with healthy food options in their school day.

- **Space for Everyone:** CSSD is a key collaborator in the Baby-Friendly Council of Newfoundland and Labrador and continued to support the implementation of the “Space for Everyone” toolkit for municipalities. This work supported the creation of more breastfeeding-friendly spaces in communities in all regions of Newfoundland and Labrador and changing the culture around breastfeeding in public places and support breastfeeding families in the province.
- **Canada’s Food Guide:** CSSD worked with Regional Health Authorities and community partners to update healthy eating resources to integrate the new Canada’s Food Guide. We also worked to improve access to these resources through new and innovative technologies.
- **The New Look of Nicotine Addiction:** CSSD provided \$75,000 to support Association for the Control of Tobacco (ACT) to expand the reach of The New Look of Nicotine Addiction, a vaping advertising campaign targeting parents and trusted adults. The campaign is part of a public education and awareness initiative developed and implemented in partnership with ACT, and focused on educating and encouraging parents and trusted adults to become more aware about the harms and risks of vaping so they can talk to the youth in their lives. Other components of the initiative include school vaping awareness toolkits with teacher-led presentations for grade 7-12 students; knowledge exchange webinars for those who work with youth; and community resources.

Sport and Recreation

- **Active Schools Initiative:** CSSD continued to increase opportunities for physical activity for students through the Active Schools initiative, which encourages teachers and administrators to provide an additional 80-100 minutes of physical activity per cycle for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. Key activities and initiatives include on-going teacher in-service training and resource supports to implement the Active Schools model within schools, promotion and implementation of the newly created

Step Out For 15 initiative, which is designed to encourage teachers and students to run, walk, wheel or jog outside for at least 15 minutes every day, and the creation of the new Physical Activity in the Hallways Project (P.A.T.H. Project) which supports teachers and administrators to increase physical activity during the school time period.

- **Participation Nation Program:** CSSD continued to support School Sports Newfoundland and Labrador's Participation Nation Program. This is a physical activity program aimed at increasing the physical activity levels and opportunities for students in a non-competitive and inviting atmosphere. The program consists of seven different components and engages students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in outdoor recreation programs, physical literacy programs, intramural activities and after-school programming.
- **Partnership with ParticipACTION:** CSSD, in partnership with ParticipACTION and supported by Recreation Newfoundland and Labrador, provided \$200,000 in 2019-20 to encourage Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to sit less and move more, more often. The partnership aligns with provincial priorities around increasing physical activity levels, reducing sedentary behaviours and includes targeted communications and marketing campaigns about their National "Everything Gets Better When You Get Active" Campaign, as well as community and individual engagement initiatives, such as participation in the Community Better Challenge and tracking of physical activity levels through the ParticipACTION App.
- **Concussion Policy:** CSSD has engaged the sport sector in Newfoundland and Labrador on the issue of concussions, by providing regular updates on Federal, Provincial/Territorial work, sharing available concussion prevention, awareness, detection and management resources and linking provincial sport organizations to Parachute Canada for additional support. Specific initiatives included:
 - Collaborated with the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association, Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador, Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, and Conseil Scolaire Francophone to post the Concussion Recognition Tool (5) at or near the entrance of all arenas and school gymnasiums in the

province. The CRT5 is designed to assist non-medically trained individuals to recognize the signs and symptoms of possible sport-related concussion and provide guidance for removing an athlete from play.

- Requiring Provincial Sport Organizations funded by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to have a Concussion Policy that aligns with the Canadian Guidelines on Concussion in Sport.
- Establishment of a Concussion Advisory Committee to advise CSSD on the development of concussion is sport legislation and subsequent regulations including the consultation and engagement process.

Report on Performance

In 2016, the Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development (CSSD) was formed through the amalgamation of the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services and the Department of Seniors, Wellness and Social Development. This is the third and final annual report based on the 2017-20 Strategic Plan for the CSSD.

Strategic Issue 1: Safety and Well-Being for Children and Youth

CSSD worked throughout 2019-20 to improve the safety and well-being of children and youth in Newfoundland and Labrador by further strengthening supports and services to children, youth and families. The achievements that reflected this strategic direction in 2019-20 included proclaiming the new **Children, Youth and Families Act** and associated regulations and demonstrating government's commitment to informed, evidence-based policies that better serve children, youth, and families.

In 2019-20, CSSD also continued to strengthen child protective services through ongoing monitoring of implementation and support of the Structured Decision Making model, initiating the statutory review of the **Adoption Act, 2013**, initiating supervisory training for all managers, and improving Indigenous service delivery.

Goal Statement

By March 31, 2020, CSSD will have improved the performance of Child Protection Services.

2019-20 Objective

By March 31, 2020, CSSD will have further strengthened programs and services for children, youth, and families.

Indicator	Report on Performance (2019-20)
<p>Proclaimed the new Children, Youth and Families Act and associated regulations to further strengthen and improve services to children, youth and families.</p>	<p>The Children, Youth and Families Act and associated regulations were proclaimed on June 28, 2019.</p> <p>Developed policies to support the new CYFA in the areas of Protective Intervention, Kinship Services, Children and Youth In Care, Placement Resources, Youth Services and Information Sharing.</p> <p>Delivered in-person training on the CYFA and policies to all front line social work and management staff in the Child and Youth Services Branch.</p> <p>Delivered information sessions to key stakeholders including Indigenous governments and organizations and the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate.</p> <p>Delivered information sessions on the CYFA to community stakeholders.</p>
<p>Continued to strengthen child protection services to children, youth and families through ongoing monitoring of SDM implementation and support.</p>	<p>Engaged in a second post-implementation contract with the Children’s Research Centre to provide post-implementation support to frontline management and staff. This included regular support calls, topic-based webinars and an onsite refresher training session for managers.</p>
<p>Initiated the statutory review of</p>	<p>Announced the statutory review of the Adoption Act, 2013, on June 28, 2019.</p>

<p>the Adoption Act, 2013.</p>	<p>Initiated jurisdictional and best practice research related to adoption.</p> <p>In consultation with the Public Engagement and Planning division, developed a consultation and engagement plan to gather public input and recommendations for improvements to the Act.</p> <p>Launched the public engagement plan on December 19, 2019. The engagement plan includes a consultation page on engageNL, a public questionnaire, and opportunities to have in person consultations with identified organizations.</p>
<p>Initiated design and implementation of supervisory training for all managers in the Children and Youth Services Branch.</p>	<p>Consulted with all managers in the Children and Youth Services Branch to determine what the learning needs are for front-line service delivery managers.</p> <p>Conducted a jurisdictional review across Canada to determine appropriate models for supervisory training, and identified supervisory training curriculum with the Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies (OACAS)</p> <p>Collaborated with OACAS to review their supervisory training and identify areas that require customization for Newfoundland and Labrador.</p> <p>Initiated processes to license OACAS supervisory curriculum.</p>
<p>Improved Indigenous service delivery through the new provisions in the Children, Youth and Families Act, that were designed to strengthen service delivery by recognizing the importance of preserving an Indigenous child or youth’s cultural identity, and providing for the involvement of</p>	<p>Worked with the Indigenous Policy Working Group (with membership from Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation, Mushuau Innu First Nation, Nunatsiavut Government, Miawpukek First Nation) to review all CSSD policy from an Indigenous perspective, promote greater understanding and initiate policy revisions where required.</p> <p>Revised or developed policies to support service delivery to Indigenous children, youth and families as required in the CYFA .</p> <p>Together with the Indigenous Policy Working group, developed policy to support Cultural Connection Planning for Indigenous children and youth in care.</p>

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<p>Indigenous governments and organizations in decisions that will keep children safe, and where possible, at home with their families and culture.</p>	<p>Delivered in-person training on the CYFA, policies and practice to all front line social work and management staff in the Child and Youth Services Branch.</p> <p>Delivered information sessions to Indigenous Governments and Organizations prior to the proclamation of the CYFA.</p>
<p>Developed and Implemented a Duty to Report media campaign to advise the public of their duty to report abuse or neglect of youth ages 16-17.</p>	<p>Developed a Duty to Report Child and Youth Maltreatment guide</p> <p>In consultation with the Communications Branch, developed a Twitter graphic regarding the new duty to report maltreatment of youth aged 16 and 17.</p> <p>Posted the Twitter graphic regularly on the CSSD Twitter account starting in June 2019.</p>

2017-20 Goal Reporting

Three-Year Goal Reporting

Indicator	Report on Performance (3-Year)
<p>Enhanced permanency planning for children/youth in the Protective In Care Programs.</p>	<p>In March 2018, CSSD implemented a new decision making model, Structured Decision Making (SDM) for the Protective Intervention Program. Through the use of evidence informed assessment tools, the model focuses on making timely permanency decisions for children in out of home placements. These decisions will involve reunification with family and where this is not possible, an alternate permanency plan for each child.</p> <p>Through implementation of the new CYFA on June 28, 2019, CSSD has expanded permanency options to enable more children and youth to reside permanently with a relative or person significant to them as opposed to remaining in foster care.</p>
<p>Strengthened programs and</p>	<p>Continued to strengthen child protection services to children, youth and families through:</p>

<p>services for children, youth and families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ongoing monitoring of SDM implementation and supporting staff in application of model to practice • development and implementation of the CYFA • continued partnership and collaboration with Indigenous governments and organizations in the delivery of services to children, youth and families. <p>Continued focus on implementation of Triple P Program through training of staff to deliver the program, as well as monitoring of referrals and update.</p> <p>Strengthened delivery of Triple P Program through training of interventions services staff across the province to deliver the program as well as monitoring of referrals and mechanisms to deliver the curriculum to maximize parental involvement.</p> <p>Increased partnership with Memorial University’s School of Social Work, which has resulted in greater Social Work recruitment in coastal Labrador, as well as increased Social Work student placements in coastal Labrador in the communities of Hopedale and Natuashish.</p> <p>Offered shared living accommodations for student placements in North Coast communities during placement; along with return airfare from Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland also includes movement between Innu and Inuit Zones to ensure cross cultural experiences with the Innu Nation and Nunatsiavut Government. CSSD has committed to securing two CSSD BSW student placements in remote and rural Labrador in each semester of the school year and have hired three of six student placements into full time positions upon graduation.</p> <p>A new Innu Service Delivery Model (fly-in/fly-out), to include both Sheshatshiu and Natuashish, saw the addition of 14 social worker positions in the community of Sheshatshiu and builds upon the success experienced in Natuashish. The expanded fly in-fly out model addressed labour shortages, decreased caseloads and improved workforce stability in the community of Sheshatshiu.</p>
<p>Reviewed and strengthened child protection legislation.</p>	<p>Following extensive consultations, best practice and jurisdictional research and policy development, the CYFA was proclaimed on June 28, 2019. This Act replaced the Children and Youth Care and Protection Act and is child and youth centered, family focused and culturally responsive.</p>

	<p>The CYFA recognizes the role of families in the well-being of children and youth, improves information sharing, enhances permanency options, expands services to youth in need of protection, strengthens services to Indigenous children, youth and their families and expands placement options and increases accountability in placements for children and youth in care.</p>
<p>Reviewed and assessed placement resources for children and youth.</p>	<p>Supported foster parents through the Waypoints Supporting Foster Families pilot. This pilot provides support and training opportunities to foster families.</p> <p>Entered into a service agreement with the Nunatsiavut Government for their Caring for Our Children project, which seeks to increase foster families in Nunatsiavut.</p> <p>In 2019-20, provided new funding to the Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association (NLFFA) for travel to Nunatsiavut. The NLFFA supports foster families and advocates on fostering issues throughout the province. CSSD provides an annual operating grant of \$369,000 to NLFFA. In 2019-20, CSSD provided additional funds to the NLFFA to expand their travel budget in order to better support foster families in Nunatsiavut. Through this additional funding, foster families from Makkovik, Rigolet and Postville are now supported by visiting staff from the NLFFA. This eliminates a barrier to support for foster families in these communities, who would typically have to travel to larger meetings in Nain or Hopedale.</p> <p>Continued to engage with the Innu Roundtable, Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation and Mushuau Innu First Nation in the development of residential placements in Sheshatshiu and Natuashish. Since 2018, four group home and emergency placement homes have opened to care for Innu children and youth in their own communities and culture.</p> <p>With the proclamation of the Children, Youth and Families Act, introduced a licensing and regulatory framework for foster care placements, which includes foster home agencies, family-based placement and residential placement provider licenses. This new framework will expand placement options for children and youth in care while increasing the accountability of licensed placement providers.</p>

Summary:

The objective that “By March 31, 2020, CSSD will have further strengthened programs and services for children, youth, and families.” has been met. CSSD focused its efforts on enhancing permanency planning for children and youth in the Protective in Care Programs, strengthening existing programs and services for children and youth in care, improving Indigenous service delivery, and reviewing and strengthening child protection legislation through the new **Children, Youth, and Families Act**.

Strategic Issue 2: A Healthier and Inclusive Tomorrow

In 2019-20, CSSD continued to focus on programs, policies, and initiatives to meet the commitments of government. CSSD worked to improve the well-being of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians by promoting and supporting healthy eating, physical activity, and healthy eating in schools and communities, supporting smoking cessation programs and nicotine addiction awareness, supporting breastfeeding-friendly spaces, continuing to reduce barriers to services for seniors, persons with disabilities, and people with complex needs, supporting poverty reduction initiatives across government, and increasing the number of community transportation programs throughout the province.

In 2019-20, CSSD also approved and shared the Individualized Funding Model with all relevant departments, and conducted a targeted engagement process to prepare for the upcoming five-year review of the **Adult Protection Act**.

Goal Statement

By March 31, 2020, CSSD will have led and supported the development of effective policies and practices that create environments that foster the health, well-being, and inclusion of all people.

2019-20 Objective

By March 31, 2020, CSSD will have further supported and assessed policies and actions that support the health and well-being of all people and advance the status of people with disabilities.

Indicator	Report on Performance, 2019-20
Implemented and/or monitored policies and actions to support healthy active living.	Partnered with the Building Healthy Communities Collaborative to develop a Newfoundland and Labrador Healthy Built Environment Municipal Information Kit that can support municipalities to implement policies and practices that support health outcomes in municipal plans.

	<p>Supported 161 schools to participate in the Healthy School Planner (HSP) project which aims to enhance the school health environment around healthy eating, physical activity and living tobacco free.</p> <p>CSSD, along with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), each contributed \$50,000 in operational funding to support the implementation of Healthy Students Healthy Schools (HSHS). HSHS supports a comprehensive school health approach and fosters collaboration across the health and education sectors to promote and sustain environments and conditions that support students to make healthier choices. HSHS helps to advance and share research, practices and policies to improve learning and health outcomes for children and youth.</p> <p>Piloted new draft School Food Guidelines (SFG) in 11 schools across the province in the 2019-20 school year. The pilot was evaluated between January-March 2020 by an outside agency (Narrative Research). This evaluation included online surveys offered to all individuals involved in the pilot school SFG implementation committees as well as the eight food provider organizations. The evaluation also involved facilitated discussions with a variety of school nutrition stakeholders.</p> <p>Supported regional projects to increase access to vegetables and fruit. In the Central region, 1,600 students participated (in 80 classrooms) in the “Month of Munch” where they did hands-on activities and enjoyed vegetables and fruit. In the Western region eight community organizations were provided with SucSeed hydroponic vegetable growing kits and in Eastern region nine municipalities were supported to work on self-identified projects to increase access to vegetables and fruit in their communities.</p> <p>Provided funding for the Eat Great and Participate (EGAP) program, which works with municipalities, recreation, sport and community facilities to increase access to healthy food and beverage options. To date, 30 municipalities and 35 provincial sport organizations have signed healthy eating policies in Newfoundland and Labrador. CSSD continued to support EGAP in working with municipalities and community organizations to increase access to healthy foods and beverages in recreation, sport and community facilities and events. In 2019-20, five new municipalities signed healthy</p>
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	<p>eating policies. This brought the total to 31 communities in Newfoundland and Labrador and 34 Provincial Sport Organizations.</p> <p>Continued to support 255 Kids Eat Smart clubs in Newfoundland and Labrador and their goal to provide children with the nutrition they need to learn, to grow, and to be their very best. Continued to support the School Lunch Association, who provide healthy food to 14,000 students in the province.</p> <p>Continued to support the Baby Friendly Council of Newfoundland and Labrador in the enhancement and expansion of the Space for Everyone toolkit. This toolkit, to support breastfeeding-friendly spaces, has been implemented in 11 municipalities across Newfoundland and Labrador in 2019-20 with four of those communities having signed breastfeeding friendly policies.</p> <p>Provided \$210,000 in annual grant funding to the Alliance for the Control of Tobacco with an additional \$75,000 provided to enhance The New Look of Nicotine Addiction vaping advertising campaign in order to reach more parents and trusted adults with the tools to prevent vaping in young people.</p> <p>Provided \$220,000 to support the Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association Smokers' Helpline with the operation of its programs and services to support people to quit smoking, including telephone, text, and web-based counselling.</p> <p>Continued implementation of the Provincial Smoking Cessation Program, which aims to improve access to quit smoking medications and nicotine replacement products by contributing to the cost of these products for individuals who are eligible under the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program Access, Foundation and 65+ Plans.</p> <p>As a result of funding through CSSD's Community Healthy Living Fund, "A Guide To Community Biking" was developed to provide information and guidance to communities, schools, groups, and individuals interested in starting a biking program in their community. This was presented at the Recreation Newfoundland and Labrador's Annual General Meeting and Conference in May 2019. This supports key actions from the Climate Change Action Plan released in March 2019, encouraging active modes of transportation within municipalities to enhance healthy, active communities.</p>
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	Supported Team Newfoundland and Labrador, consisting of nearly 250 athletes, volunteer coaches, managers and mission staff who participated in the 2019 Canada Winter Games held in Red Deer, Alberta, from February 15 to March 3, placing 10 th overall.
Released Healthy Active Living Action Plan.	While significant work was completed on the development of the action plan, it was delayed to ensure a broad prevention and early intervention mandate was incorporated into the plan, and further delayed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.
Approved and shared IF model to other departments to inform policy change.	Approved and shared Individualized Funding model to other departments to inform policy change for departments that provide social and health-related programs and services in the community. CSSD will continue to provide oversight for the development and expansion of Individualized Funding across government departments.
Continued to lead in the removal of barriers to opportunities and services for persons with disabilities through our various grant programs and horizontal policy development.	<p>In 2019-20, awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 Accessible Vehicle grants to private individuals or families to support modifications to personal vehicles, totaling \$350,000. • 3 Inclusion Grants to non-profit organizations to support infrastructure improvements, totaling \$75,000. • 1 Para-Transit Grant totaling \$94,500. <p>Reviewed applications for the Accessible Taxi Program, to modify taxi vehicles (\$50,000), as well as applications for the Capacity Grant Program, which supports organizations in their efforts to prevent and remove systemic and attitudinal barriers affecting people with disabilities (\$250,000).</p>
Continued to improve supports for people with complex needs by addressing the issues identified by the steering committee and engagement	Continued to lead a Complex Needs Steering Committee, with representation from Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Commission; Advanced Education, Skills and Labour; Health and Community Services; Justice and Public Safety and Eastern Health to focus on issues related to those with complex needs. Much work has been accomplished through the Towards Recovery: Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan to assist those with complex needs: reduced wait times, planning for an new mental health and addictions facility, harm-

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<p>process for supporting people with complex needs.</p>	<p>reduction initiatives, and work related to an integrated service delivery model.</p> <p>Continued to work in partnership with Justice and Public Safety, and Digital Government and Service NL to enable the easy production of official government photo IDs for inmates being released from prison. Lack of photo identification has long been recognized as barrier for individuals to reintegrate into society upon release from correctional institutions.</p>
<p>Supported poverty reduction initiatives across government, which help to prevent, reduce, and alleviate poverty.</p>	<p>Led a horizontal, government-wide approach to preventing, reducing and alleviating poverty, with a key focus on the well-being of children, youth and their families. Partnered with a wide range of government and community partners, and guided by the social determinants of health, this poverty reduction approach focused on wellness, prevention and early intervention throughout the lifecycle.</p> <p>Worked with a wide variety of working groups to prevent, reduce and alleviate poverty. These include Food Security Interdepartmental Working Group, System Transformation Collaboration Working Group (Towards Recovery), Interdepartmental Committee on Immigration, City of St. John's Affordable Housing Working Group, and FPT Ad Hoc Working Group on Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy.</p>
<p>In collaboration with community stakeholders and partner departments, developed a plan to promote the well-being of all children, youth and families through prevention and early intervention.</p>	<p>Through the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research and the Contextualized Health Research Synthesis Program (CHRSP), a CHRSP Snapshot Report was developed to give insight into strategic policy frameworks (municipal, provincial, national, and international) to inform the development and implementation of an early intervention and prevention model for vulnerable families with children.</p>
<p>Revised the Adult Protection Provincial Policy Manual based on input from Regional Health Authorities</p>	<p>Updated the Adult Protection Provincial Policy Manual following the mid-term evaluation. It has been distributed and is being used by staff in Regional Health Authorities. Further revisions are anticipated once the five-year review process has been completed.</p>

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<p>and the Department of Justice and Public Safety.</p>	
<p>Prepared for upcoming five-year review of the Adult Protection Act with Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (NLCHI).</p>	<p>Began a five-year review of the legislation in June 2019, in fulfillment of the statutory obligations noted in section 11 of the Adult Protection Act. In consultation with the Public Engagement and Planning Division and the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information, conducted a targeted engagement process that concluded in February 2020. The engagement process included regional meetings with regional health authority staff and management, as well as police, and online and written submissions from the public.</p>
<p>Worked with stakeholders inside and outside of government to increase the number of communities that have completed an age-friendly community assessment.</p>	<p>During the 2019-20 fiscal year, actively engaged both internal and external stakeholders in order to attract more communities to participate in the age-friendly communities global movement and Age-Friendly Newfoundland and Labrador Communities Program (AFNLC). Consultations were held with the Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors, the Age-Friendly Newfoundland and Labrador Working Group, both the Pan-Canadian and Atlantic Age-Friendly Reference Groups, as well as various community stakeholders. Various departments and divisions such as the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment, Intergovernmental and Indigenous Affairs Secretariat, the Disability Policy Office and Healthy Living Division of CSSD were also engaged.</p> <p>Changes were made to the AFNLC Program guidelines and application process in order to support incorporated municipalities, regions, and Indigenous governments and communities in planning for changing demographics, as well as implementing activities, programs and/or infrastructure that support inclusive communities. As a result, the AFNLC program saw a 22 per cent increase in the number of applications received.</p>
<p>Re-opened the call for community transportation projects in order to support existing, sustainable projects and increase the</p>	<p>Issued a call for the 2019-20 Newfoundland and Labrador Community Transportation Program to assist municipalities, Indigenous governments, and not-for-profits to create alternate transportation programs that meet an identified need.</p> <p>The Program was opened in July 2019. CSSD committed \$300,000 in funding and successful recipients were announced in March 2020. These included:</p>

<p>number of projects throughout the province.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. John’s Transportation Commission (Metrobus) • Twin Cities 50+ Seniors Club Inc. • Labrador Friendship Centre • Town of Stephenville
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2017-20 Goal Reporting

Three-Year Goal Reporting

Indicator	Report on Performance (3-year)
<p>Promoted and supported opportunities to make healthy living choices.</p>	<p>Supported increased access to healthy food for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians through collaboration with and support from Food First NL. Community-led food assessments have engaged residents to identify barriers to accessing healthy food in their own community and to develop locally focused solutions to improve their food access. Projects including community gardens, community freezers, and bulk buying clubs are supporting improved access to food for all people in these communities.</p> <p>Engaged in the Everybody Eats project, a collective action process, which brings together key players from the public, private, and community sectors to work together in building a more food secure Newfoundland and Labrador. This work, facilitated by Food First NL, prioritized action around the cost of food and household food insecurity, community food self-sufficiency and local food promotion. Furthermore, CSSD supported the continued enhancement, expansion and promotion of the Healthy Eating Resource Centre, which is an online hub of resources for community-based food programs across the province.</p> <p>Worked with Regional Health Authorities and community partners to update healthy eating resources to integrate the new Canada’s Food Guide and worked to improve access to these resources through new and innovative technologies.</p> <p>Provided \$220,000 in annual funding to support the Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association Smokers’ Helpline with the operation of its programs and services to support people to quit smoking, including telephone, text, and web-based counseling.</p>

	<p>Extended the Memorandum of Agreement between Health Canada and the province for the 1-800 numbers on tobacco packaging initiative to provide funding to support the delivery of quitline services for an additional 12 months.</p> <p>Provided \$150,000 in start-up funding to Eastern Health to launch a Smoking Cessation Program based on the University of Ottawa’s Heart Institute program. The program launched at St. Clare’s Hospital, with plans for expansion to other sites.</p> <p>Continued implementation of the Provincial Smoking Cessation Program which aims to improve access to quit smoking medications and expanded coverage to include nicotine replacement products (e.g., patch, gum, inhale, and lozenge) by contributing to the cost of these products for individuals who are eligible under the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program Access, Foundation and 65+ Plans.</p> <p>Supported the Provincial Cancer Care Program with the implementation of an evidence-based Clinical Smoking Cessation and Relapse Prevention Pilot Program in the Ambulatory Oncology program.</p> <p>In partnership with the Regional Health Authorities, Family Resource Centers and the Alliance for the Control of Tobacco, supported the development of evidence-informed and standardized training and resources for Family Resource Centres and Healthy Baby Club staff to address tobacco use with pregnant and postpartum women and their families. Family Resource Centers province-wide received training and toolkits through the Helping Women Live Smoke-Free Initiative, which supports staff to address tobacco use with pregnant and post-partum women. A total of 118 staff in 24 Family Resource Centres received training.</p> <p>On July 1, 2017, amendments to the Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act (TVPCA) came into force. The TVPCA aims to prevent youth from starting to smoke by restricting youth access to tobacco, vapour and non-tobacco shisha products, and reducing the advertising and promotion of these products. The Act prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco including menthol cigarettes, the sale of e-cigarettes and non-tobacco shisha in places currently prohibited from selling tobacco products, and place restrictions on the display and promotion of e-cigarettes and non-tobacco shisha in retail</p>
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	<p>stores in the same manner as tobacco products are currently regulated.</p> <p>On July 1, 2017, an amendment to the Smoke-free Environment Act (SFEA) came into force prohibiting hookah/water pipe smoking in indoor public places and workplaces including any existing establishments. The SFEA aims to protect the public and employees from exposure to second-hand smoke.</p> <p>In May 2018, the Smoke-Free Environment Act, 2005 was amended to further protect public health by applying the same prohibitions currently in place for smoking tobacco, hookah (water pipes) and vapour products in indoor public places and workplaces to the smoking or vaping of cannabis. The Act came into force in October 2018.</p>
<p>Supported healthy active living environments including school and community-based health promotion and physical activity initiatives.</p>	<p>Focused on increasing access to and consumption of vegetables and fruit in Newfoundland and Labrador. CSSD partnered with the four Regional Health Authorities in the provincial Veggie and Fruit campaign, which focuses on promotion of and increased access to vegetables and fruit in Newfoundland and Labrador, particularly in more rural and remote regions. The campaign highlights fresh, frozen and canned vegetables and fruit as healthy options and supports diverse projects in place across the province such as the use of hydroponic systems, vegetable and fruit promotion and tasting programs in schools, as well as support for municipalities to increase access to these healthy foods.</p> <p>Worked with school food stakeholders to revise Provincial School Food Guidelines (SFG). This process has included an assessment of the current SFG, a revision to the SFG based on this assessment and the new Canada's Food Guide as well as a pilot of these revised SFG in 11 schools in the 2019-20 school year. This pilot has been evaluated and findings will inform finalization of the revised provincial SFG for full implementation in the 2020-21 school year.</p> <p>Collaborated with the School Milk Foundation and the two milk processors in Newfoundland and Labrador (Agropur (Central Dairies) and Saputo (Scotsburn) to create a new chocolate milk product for K-12 schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. With the Canada's Food Guide focusing on a reduction in sugar-sweetened beverages, it was important to look at this beverage, which is frequently consumed at school. Chocolate milk has all</p>

	<p>the same important bone-building nutrients for school-aged children as white milk, and according to the School Milk Foundation is what is consumed by the majority of students; therefore, efforts to reduce the added sugar in that beverage was important. A new product with less added sugar has been developed, the first of its kind in Canada, and will be introduced in September 2020.</p> <p>Supported programs aiming to increase access to healthy food in schools. Kids Eat Smart is a recipient of multiyear funding at close to \$1.1 million annually, which supports their programming and the shared goal that students go to school well-nourished and ready to learn. CSSD also supported the School Lunch Association. Both community-based organizations continued to expand and provide students with healthy food options in their school day.</p> <p>Provided the funding for the Eat Great and Participate program, which supports increased access to healthy food and beverage options in recreation, sport and community facilities and events. To date, 30 municipalities and 35 provincial sport organizations have signed healthy eating policies in Newfoundland and Labrador.</p> <p>Collaborated with the Baby-Friendly Council of Newfoundland and Labrador and supported the implementation of the “Space for Everyone” toolkit for municipalities. This toolkit helps to support the transition in Newfoundland and Labrador to a culture that is more breastfeeding friendly and provides information, education and resources for municipalities and organizations to use to create more breastfeeding-friendly spaces.</p> <p>Collaborated with Food First NL on improving access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food in Newfoundland and Labrador. Through the provision of annual operating funds of \$105,000, Food First NL has been able to leverage much larger grants from the Government of Canada as well as private donors. Larger grants have facilitated the programs Our Food in Newfoundland and Labrador and Everybody Eats. Our Food in Newfoundland conducted community-led food assessments in communities such as the north coast of Labrador and the south coast of Newfoundland, providing recommendations which led to improved access to food in these communities. Everybody Eats is a collective action approach to advance food security in Newfoundland and</p>
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	<p>Labrador. CSSD has also provided project-based funds annually to develop, enhance and promote a Newfoundland and Labrador healthy eating resource centre, which provides credible resources and tools for individuals and community-based food programs.</p> <p>Provided \$165,000 to support the Alliance for the Control of Tobacco (ACT) to develop and implement a public education campaign to raise awareness about the harms and risks associated with vaping use among youth, parents and trusts adults.</p> <p>Partnered with ACT to implement a Tobacco and Vaping Knowledge Exchange Forum.</p> <p>Provided \$210,000 in annual grant funding to ACT to continue to implement its Tobacco Reduction Strategy: Every Action Counts.</p>
<p>Measured progress against desired outcomes in healthy active living.</p>	<p>Continued to partner with other government departments such as HCS and EECD, as well as Regional Health Authorities, community agencies and federal and municipal government partners, to develop strategies and measure progress toward improving health outcomes for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. To monitor progress toward these outcomes, targets were set to increase the breastfeeding initiation rate, reduce obesity, reduce smoking rates, increase physical activity and increase the rate of vegetable and fruit consumption. Measuring progress toward overall targets from 2016-17 to 2019-20 as intended using the Canadian Community Health Survey is not possible given changes to survey methodology and that the most recent data available are for 2017-18. CSSD, together with community and government partners, is focused on measuring and monitoring progress on improved physical activity and healthy eating, smoking cessation and creating environments in the province that are more supportive of health including baby-friendly community initiatives designed to increase breastfeeding rates. This comprehensive approach to creating supportive community environments for healthy living, as well as providing information campaigns and funding to policy and program initiatives that support healthy choices, contributes to individual decision making that supports greater health and well-being.</p>

	<p>Supported the Baby Friendly Council of Newfoundland and Labrador in the enhancement and expansion of the Space for Everyone toolkit. This toolkit to support breastfeeding-friendly spaces has been implemented in 11 municipalities across Newfoundland and Labrador with four of those communities having signed breastfeeding friendly policies. This increase in breastfeeding-friendly spaces is an important support to increase breastfeeding rates.</p> <p>In 2019-20, invested over \$1.8M in 426 projects funded through the Community Healthy Living Fund to municipalities, non-profit organizations, groups, schools and Indigenous governments to support targets of increasing physical activity rates and vegetable and fruit consumption. A total of 243 programs were funded that supported the delivery of physical activity and healthy eating programs, focusing on children, youth, families, seniors, and persons with disabilities. With regard to supportive environment projects. 183 were funded in the areas of increased vegetable and fruit consumption and increased physical activity, through initiatives such as community gardens, trail development, playground equipment, and small physical activity equipment and kitchen equipment.</p> <p>In 2019-20, continued to provide \$200,000 to ParticipACTION to motivate, educate and promote the benefits of physical activity to residents of Newfoundland and Labrador through the “Everything Gets Better When You Get Active” mass media communications campaign, promotion of the new ParticipACTION app and through offering a series of webinars on active spaces and places. Media advertising, including four different videos were placed on television and disseminated through digital media. In addition to social media communications (i.e., Twitter/Facebook), messages related to the Everything Gets Better Campaign have been disseminated through Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, recreation and sport partners, as well as through the Regional Health Authorities media accounts. Over 4000 individuals from this province have downloaded the ParticipACTION app, which offers the ability to track activity levels and also provides individuals with new ideas and videos of how to be more active. 250 individuals from health, education and early childhood, recreation, sport and physical activity sectors attended the active spaces and places webinars that were related to schools, workplaces and the community.</p>
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	<p>In 2019-20, provided over \$525,000 to support School Sports NL's Participation Nation program, which involves six different physical activity initiatives for K-12 students: Play For Fun, Primary Achievement, Elementary Pin Winners, PN Unplugged, PN Outdoor Adventures and PN High School Spirit. All Participation Nation programs are designed to increase physical activity levels and opportunities for students to participate in activities in a non-competitive and inviting atmosphere. Over 25,000 students from across the province participated in the initiatives offered through Participation Nation from over 160 schools. These programs operate with assistance and support from the school community including community volunteers, parents and administrators, who are provided with training to ensure a quality program experience for students.</p> <p>In 2019-20, provided over \$3.5M to support recreation and sport development through our provincial partners including Sport NL, Provincial Sport Organizations, Recreation NL, School Sports NL, and the Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Circle NL to implement and deliver programs and initiatives, such as grassroots and elite sport initiatives, sport development, Participation Nation programs and Indigenous sport participation initiatives that increase physical activity for Newfoundland and Labrador residents of all ages.</p> <p>Supported 161 schools to participate in the Healthy School Planner project which aims to enhance the school health environment around healthy eating, physical activity and living tobacco free.</p> <p>Worked with school districts, schools, school food providers, health authorities and community partners to piloted new draft School Food Guidelines (SFG) in 11 schools across the province in the 2019-20 school year. The pilot was evaluated between January-March 2020 by an outside agency (Narrative Research). This evaluation included online surveys offered to all individuals involved in the pilot school SFG implementation committees as well as the eight food provider organizations. The evaluation also involved facilitated discussions with a variety of school nutrition stakeholders. Based on the evaluation, the policy is ready for broader implementation and will support the increased consumption of healthy foods in schools throughout the province.</p>
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	<p>Supported regional projects to increase access to vegetables and fruit. In the Central region, 1600 students participated (in 80 classrooms) in the “Month of Munch” where they did hands-on activities and enjoyed vegetables and fruit. In the Western region, eight community organizations were provided with SucSeed hydroponic vegetable growing kits and in Eastern region nine municipalities were supported to work on self-identified projects to increase access to vegetables and fruit in their communities.</p> <p>Provided funding for the Eat Great and Participate (EGaP) program, which works with municipalities, recreation, sport and community facilities to increase access to healthy food and beverage options. To date 30 municipalities and 35 provincial sport organizations have signed healthy eating policies in Newfoundland and Labrador. CSSD continued to support EGaP in working with municipalities and community organizations to increase access to healthy foods and beverages in recreation, sport and community facilities and events. In 2019-20, five new municipalities signed healthy eating policies. This brought the total to 31 communities in Newfoundland and Labrador and 34 Provincial Sport Organizations.</p> <p>Continued to support 255 Kids Eat Smart clubs in Newfoundland and Labrador and their goal to provide children with the nutrition they need to learn, to grow, and to be their very best. Continued to support the School Lunch Association that provided healthy food to 14,000 students in the province.</p> <p>From 2017-20, continued to partner with Food First Newfoundland and Labrador on the enhancement and promotion of the Healthy Eating Online Resource Centre.</p> <p>Over the past three years, CSSD provided \$340,000 in funding to Alliance for the Control of Tobacco to support the development and implementation of a comprehensive public education vaping campaign aimed at increasing awareness among youth, parents and trusted adults about the harms and risks of vaping. Key elements of the partnership include ‘The New Look of Nicotine Addiction’ advertising campaign, which includes digital, social media and billboard advertising, and a school-based initiative that provides interactive teacher-led presentations to grade 7-12 students province-wide along with the distribution of vaping prevention toolkits with information for educators and parents to support informed</p>
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	<p>conversations with youth about vaping. ACT is engaging with youth, to develop a youth campaign that aims to inform and influence their peers in a meaningful way about the harms and risks of vaping. Other components of the initiative include <i>Vaping: Get the Facts</i> knowledge exchange webinars, and community resources.</p> <p>In May 2018, the Smoke-Free Environment Act, 2005 was amended to further protect public health by applying the same prohibitions currently in place for smoking tobacco, hookah (water pipes) and vapour products in indoor public places and workplaces to the smoking or vaping of cannabis. The Act came into force in October 2018.</p> <p>Through an investment of \$25,000, CSSD partnered with ACT to implement a Tobacco and Vaping Knowledge Exchange Forum in September 2018. The forum brought together partners working in tobacco control to share knowledge and expertise related to current and emerging issues, best practices and policies to support tobacco free living.</p> <p>Provided \$210,000 in annual grant funding to the Alliance for the Control of Tobacco (ACT). Continued to implement its Tobacco Reduction Strategy: Every Action Counts.</p> <p>CSSD took a comprehensive approach with partners on a combination of policies, programs and resources targeted at creating more supportive environments for healthier living, as well as ensuring ongoing monitoring of progress. The impact of legislative and policy actions, public awareness campaigns, and community initiatives/programs on individual behaviors can take time and it can be challenging to draw inferences of cause and effect. By taking an evidence-based approach using targeted initiatives aimed at cultural shifts toward healthier living and by assessing reach and exposures, CSSD is working to ensure investments have the greatest impact on individual choices over time.</p>
<p>Removed barriers to opportunities and services for persons with disabilities and seniors.</p>	<p>Continued to provide funding to communities to plan for changing demographics through the Age-Friendly Newfoundland and Labrador Communities Program. An age-friendly assessment considers the physical and social environments and how these contribute to healthy aging.</p>

	<p>Launched the Newfoundland and Labrador Community Transportation Program in 2018. This program provides funds to communities and not-for-profits to create alternate transportation programs that meet identified needs.</p> <p>The Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors (PACAS) connected with the Provincial Advisory Council for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (both councils are under CSSD) to discuss common issues experienced by older adults who age into disability.</p> <p>Provided \$300,000 per year to Seniors Newfoundland and Labrador for their information and referral services. Seniors Newfoundland and Labrador operates a province-wide, toll-free number that helps seniors and families navigate systems and get connected with necessary services.</p> <p>Initiated the Seniors' Social Inclusion Program in 2019. These funds are available to support the delivery of programs or participation in community events that promote social inclusion, healthy aging, mental wellness and overall well-being.</p> <p>Worked closely with all government departments and agencies, as well as persons with disabilities and advocacy groups, to develop policies and programs that include persons with disabilities and that are barrier-free disabilities.</p> <p>Provided annual financial support to community agencies under Support to Community Agencies. CSSD administers a number of grants to support accessibility and inclusion.</p> <p>The Accessible Vehicle Funding Program, with an annual budget of \$350,000, is making a real difference in people's lives. The Accessible Vehicle Program provides grants up to \$25,000 to individuals and their families to retrofit or acquire an accessible vehicle for personal use. The application process is open for continuous uptake with eligible applicants being approved as funding permits. Throughout the province, 140 individuals and families now have accessible transportation because of this program.</p> <p>The Accessible Taxi Program, with annual budget of \$50,000 to provide grants for taxi providers, is actively addressing transportation barriers by helping taxi companies add</p>
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	<p>accessible taxis to their fleet. A total of 14 grants have been provided for accessible taxis since the program opened: four to Newfound Cabs in St. John's; one to Jonavex Cabs in Dildo; one to Blagdon's Taxi in Grand Falls-Windsor, one to Pittman's Taxi in Norris Point; two to Star Taxi in Corner Brook; one to Bursey's Taxi in Conception Bay South; two have gone to Lewisporte Taxi in Lewisporte; one to My Taxi Cabs in Bay Roberts; and one to Appy Cabs in Gambo. In St. John's, as an example, ridership of accessible taxis has gone from zero in 2015 to well over 2,000 trips a month.</p> <p>With an investment of \$250,000 for Capacity Building Grants, supported initiatives that advance accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities. Grants were provided to community-based organizations for capacity building or resource development projects. Capacity grants are crucial to enable persons with disabilities to become fully engaged in their community and lead transformative change towards more independence, self-management and genuine community inclusion, and support the removal of systemic barriers to inclusion and accessibility.</p> <p>To date, 50 projects have been awarded a Capacity Building Grant. Examples include Promoting Universal Design, Employers Forum on Disability Confidence, and Supporting Electoral Participation.</p> <p>The Inclusion Grants Program, with an annual budget of \$75,000, provides funding to community-based organizations to increase accessibility of their facilities and events. Facility related examples include ramps, automatic door openers - maximum grant of \$25,000. Event related examples include disability-related accommodations such as captioning, listening devices or American Sign Language interpretation - maximum grant of \$5,000.</p>
<p>Initiated an individualized funding model</p>	<p>Led a series of public consultations on Individualized Funding (IF) in partnership with the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Community Living (NLACL) and Coalition of Persons with Disabilities Newfoundland and Labrador (Coalition) along with focus groups with individuals receiving multiple support services and representatives from Health and Community Services. An IF Design Committee, DPO as chair, comprised of representatives from CSSD, HCS, AESL,</p>

	<p>Newfoundland and Labrador Housing, NLACL and Coalition was struck, and drafted an IF Model to be implemented in a demonstration pilot led by HCS.</p> <p>The IF model for supportive social programs and services to individuals is based on the premise that all individuals are equal, are full citizens, and have the right to determine how they receive services based on individualized planning. IF is based on the principle in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>IF, drafted in collaboration with community partners and persons with disabilities, utilized a social co-design model. It used the principle of “Nothing About us, Without Us” to inform its development. The experiences and expertise from a group of clients from the Community Supports program of Health and Community Services provided feedback and helped inform the draft model of funding.</p> <p>Each department and agency involved in the provision of social supports to individuals with disabilities is working collaboratively to streamline supports, services, processes and requirements, sharing of information and documentation processes. This is being done to move towards meeting service delivery via single entry and with an eye to expanding the application of the IF model.</p> <p>HCS is preparing a demonstration project to start the implementation and evaluation process.</p>
<p>Inclusion-based legislation developed.</p>	<p>Concluded the legislation consultation and engagement process concluded in 2019. CSSD received feedback from the Provincial Advisory Council on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities, as well as other stakeholders. This feedback has informed the development of our What We Heard report.</p> <p>The What We Heard document was released December 3, 2019, the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. What We Heard was published online in video format using American Sign Language, with closed captioning, and was read aloud to ensure accessibility for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or who have limited vision.</p>

	<p>It was made clear to DPO through community feedback that community needed CSSD to slow down the process of developing accessibility legislation, to ensure that stakeholders have a better understanding of the meaning of enabling legislation. DPO is preparing to introduce a “Made in Newfoundland and Labrador” proposal to draft enabling accessibility legislation, as well as updating plain(er) language documents describing enabling legislation.</p>
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Opportunities and Challenges

The Strategic Plan for 2017-20 focused on the safety and protection of children and youth and a healthier and inclusive tomorrow for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. CSSD committed to the government priorities of improving child protection and in-care services and improved health and well-being for the people of the province through healthy living initiatives, poverty reduction, inclusion initiatives, and by implementing an IF model.

As we move forward into the 2020-23 planning period, CSSD highlights the following opportunities and challenges:

Opportunities

- The new **Children, Youth and Families Act** was proclaimed in June 2019. This will continue to provide opportunities for the department to engage with stakeholders and develop policies and programs to strengthen child protection services and relationships with Indigenous governments and organizations.
- Partnering with HCS in a Request for Proposal process to review residential supports to children, youth and adults receiving services from CSSD and HCS programs, in an effort to broaden available supports and improve outcomes.
- Public engagement on the **Adoption Act, 2013** may create opportunities to improve the Act and adoption services to children, youth and families throughout the province.
- Collaboration with the Federal Government and provincial Indigenous governments and organizations on the implementation of the federal legislation respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families.
- Collaboration with an Interagency Steering Committee led by Key Assets Newfoundland and Labrador to open the first Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) in this province in 2020. CYACs are child-focused centres that coordinate the investigation, interviewing, prosecution and treatment for children who are victims of and witness to abuse and violence.
- Continued collaboration with interested community stakeholders, individuals with disabilities, government departments and agencies as well as Provincial Advisory Council on the Inclusion of Person with Disabilities to inform the drafting of an enabling accessibility legislation and standards development.
- The Minister Responsible for the Status of Person with Disabilities has a mandate to establish an Advocate for Persons with Disabilities. Continued collaboration with

stakeholders will provide opportunities to work toward creating this authority to identify, review and analyze systemic issues related to disability and advance accessibility in Newfoundland and Labrador.

- Continued collaboration and oversight for the development and implementation of IF across government departments and agencies.
- Continued collaboration with the Federal Government on Opportunity For All: Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy, to support reducing poverty across Canada and the Comprehensive Review of the Market Basket Measure (MBM).
- Exploring ways to strengthen the **Adult Protection Act** to ensure balance of the dual commitment to protect vulnerable adults, as well as uphold the autonomy of those adults

Challenges

- Recruiting social workers in rural and remote regions of the province is an ongoing challenge.
- During the accessibility legislation engagement process, as outlined in the **What We Heard** report, there are various accessibility barriers facing people with disabilities in this province. The scope of these issues will require complex multi-departmental approaches involving the development and review of policies, standards, and service delivery.
- Weather events in Newfoundland and Labrador present additional challenges in emergency management services for persons with disabilities; this is an area of renewed focus for the Disability Policy Office. As well, protracted winter storms may affect income, food security, and accessibility of health care, child care and other supports crucial to the health and well-being of many children, families and seniors.
- Preventing and removing attitudinal barriers i.e., stigma – presents a unique set of challenges which must be addressed through public education, awareness and activities that promote systemic change.
- The reasons why people experience poverty are complex. Components of poverty include vulnerabilities such as low levels of formal education and literacy levels, disruptive events such as job loss, and gender-based violence, as well as lack of access to services, life stages, family status, gender, and ability/disability.
- Emerging research on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic indicates that the pandemic has magnified existing inequalities between socioeconomic groups and

the loss of income, social isolation, lack of access to needed supports (health care, mental health care and social supports) have disproportionately negatively affected vulnerable populations.

- The presence of COVID-19 and the associated public health regulations creates challenges in carrying out direct child welfare service delivery.

Financial Information

Revenue and expenditures in this document are based on the information province in the public Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the Fiscal Year ended 31 March 2020.

	Actual (\$)	Estimates – Amended (\$)	Estimates – Original (\$)
Executive and Support Services	9,031,383	9,279,870	9,929,800
Child and Youth Services	125,585,825	133,374,230	125,432,200
Seniors and Social Development	15,933,869	15,595,800	15,952,900
Total (Department)	153,551,077	158,249,900	151,314,900

