



Welcoming communities.

Space and place for peace and wellbeing.

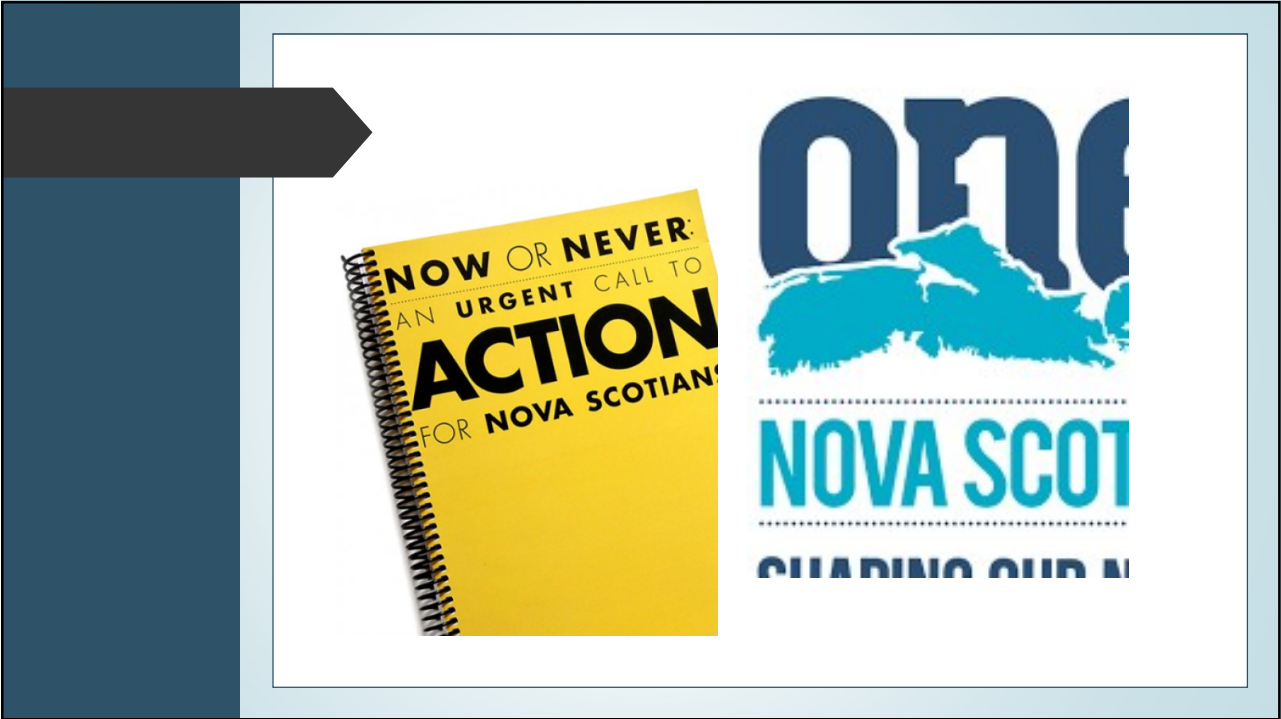
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Disclosures

All images have been obtained from open access sources.
I have no third-party conflicts to disclose.









Citizen.

The notion of "welcome."

it isn't "integration", or "assimilation", or "social cohesion."

defining welcome.

antonyms: unwelcome; rel. punishment, disdain

Ravanera et al.
“welcome-ability”

Williams
“welcomeness”

- gainful participation and inclusion
- education/enrichment
- Housing
- Transit
- Healthcare
- Ability and opportunity to socialize/participate/belong
- Being positively received
- Political participation

Ravanera et al. 2013. Integration and Welcome-ability Indexes: Measures of Community Capacity to Integrate Immigrants.



There are
some things
we can
agree on:

- Welcome is dependent on the behaviors of another
- It is active, not passive
- It is therefore beyond the absolute control of the person being "welcomed"
- It isn't "rocket science."

Most of us can tell when we are welcome
...or not.

There are
some things
we can
agree on:

- Welcome is dependent on the behaviors of another
- It isn't "rocket science."

Most of us seem to inherently know how to
extend "welcome" to another.

- "attachment" and "welcome" are related concepts.
- children benefit from environments where the adults are happy to see them.
- Hertzman et al. describe family environments, relational communities, programs and services, regional, national and global environments as impacting on child development.
- Mustard, McCain and McQuag point to family-centred schools as important to child development and as providing "welcome, openness, 'neighborliness', and democracy"

We know, too,
that there is a
plethora of
medical and
economic
evidence for
how much
attention needs
to be paid to
early child
development.

Irwin, Siddiq, and Hertzman, 2007. Mustard, McCain and McQuag 2011.

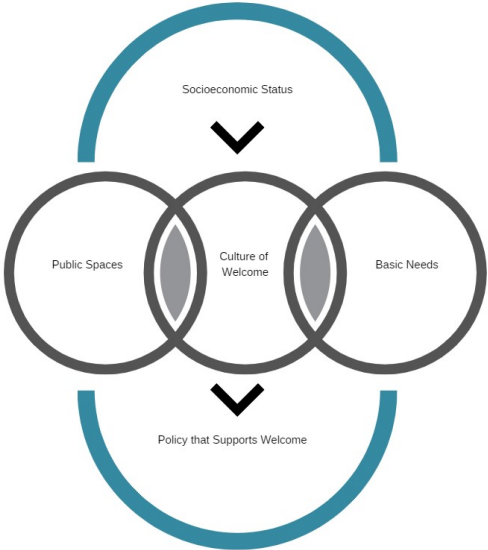
"It's a loving lap
for every babe -
and you can't
write a
prescription for
that."

Dr. Robin Williams, 2015



Welcome

- Welcome is both felt and demonstrated through tangible and intangible means.
- Intangibly, there is a culture of welcome that is communicated to mothers and babies through inclusion, belonging, acceptance, and demonstrations of caring.
- Tangibly, welcome is experienced by the security of having basic needs met, and met in a non-discriminatory way. Discrimination by service providers was prevalent (from landlords to healthcare to foodbanks).
- These basic needs include: transportation; housing; food security; and health care access.
- Welcome is impacted by intersecting identities: gender; race; class; mental health status
- The welcome of babies cannot be separated from primary caregiver - statistically most often the mother, therefore the mother-baby dyad was examined as a unit
- Socioeconomic status as overarching indicator of welcome
- Public spaces, culture of welcome, and basic needs are intertwined and all create sense of welcome or unwelcome for mother-baby dyads



The diagram illustrates the interconnectedness of various factors influencing a culture of welcome. At the center is a circle labeled 'Culture of Welcome'. It is surrounded by four other circles: 'Socioeconomic Status' at the top, 'Public Spaces' on the left, 'Basic Needs' on the right, and 'Policy that Supports Welcome' at the bottom. Arrows point from the outer circles towards the central 'Culture of Welcome' circle, indicating that these factors all contribute to or influence the culture of welcome. The circles are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'Socioeconomic Status' at the top, 'Public Spaces' on the left, 'Basic Needs' on the right, and 'Policy that Supports Welcome' at the bottom.

Laura Fisher, 2019, Welcoming Moms and Babies: Barriers, Supports, and Transitioning to a Culture of Welcome

There is a
bottom line
here.

Welcome.

Matters.

Once you become 'woke'...

Who creates welcome? - **adults**

Who is welcome or unwelcome?

What elements of welcome can be added? – relational communities

How can others become aware of their (un)welcoming impact? - individuals

How do you design welcome? – municipalities (and beware the “program trap”)

How activated/motivated/engaged/healthy could our children be if they understood they were welcome all the time?

