

Goal: 2026 – APPROVED BY ASI BOARD, February 12, 2026

To shape a culture of well-being for current and future generations in Atlantic Canada by strengthening community engagement in policy, structures, and legislation, mobilizing networks and connections, using new evidence and considering emerging trends to guide meaningful action.

Objectives:

1. To explore the challenges facing communities in the context of the polycrisis¹ – positively or negatively - the wellbeing of people and communities in Atlantic Canada.
2. To learn from the transformative intergenerational initiatives of communities in shaping well-being, in particular the mental health of infants, children and youth.
3. To expand our understanding of Indigenous world views, in particular the seven generations principle
4. To develop knowledge and skills for inspiring collaborative leadership and governance across generations, sectors and communities including youth, civil society, public and private sectors in support of a well-being society.
5. To determine how to bring about the adoption of a Well Being of Future Generations Act in the Atlantic Provinces and Beyond.
6. To increase the adoption of the ASI policy brief “Upstream Investment: Placing infant, child, and youth mental health promotion at the forefront.”
7. To model a supportive and inclusive environment for learning and wellbeing – and have lots of fun together again!

Design Principles:

Youth Engagement: Youth will be involved in the process of planning the ASI 2026 program and participating in the intergenerational event.

Universal Design for Learning: Whole society representation will be welcomed in the planning process and diverse audiences will participate in ASI 2026.

Engagement of community influencers: Those in a position to influence and implement action that supports mental health promotion for infants, children and youth at policy and community levels will mobilize at ASI 2026.

Equity: Subsidies will be offered to reduce barriers to participation.

Adult Education: Styles are interactive and engaging – everyone is a teacher and a learner.

Experiential Learning: Arts, culture, connectedness to community and nature will be incorporated in hands-on, and land-based learning.

¹ Changing political, cultural, environmental, social, economic, technological and other determinants of health that will affect and beyond., e.g., Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics, climate change, shifting world order.

Online Interaction: A robust online conference platform will simulate a face-to-face experience by encouraging networking, relationship building, knowledge sharing with translation support, and post conference connection.

Overarching frameworks and strategies

Two eyed seeing • Evidence-based Decision Making • Mental Health in All Policies
Whole-of-society approach • Respecting Rights of Children • Respecting Voices of Lived Experience
Sustainability of Policies and Programs • Truth and Reconciliation Commission
Circle of Health framework/tool • Universal Declaration of Human Rights • Ottawa Charter
Social determinants of health • First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework
Sustainable Development Goals • The Geneva Charter for Well-Being
UN Convention on the Rights of the Child • Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)