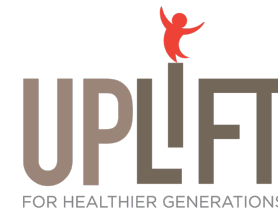


UPLIFT PARTNERSHIP

Partnership & Leadership Evaluation Report
Summary Report



September 2024





01

Introduction



02

Findings



03

Conclusion





The **UpLift** Partnership's vision is *a healthier Nova Scotia through a youth-engaged Health Promoting Schools approach*. In working towards this vision, a focus of the **UpLift** Partnership is to align with and enhance work that is currently underway to support the health and well-being of children and youth through effective implementation of the HPS model using a youth engagement (YE) approach. The vision is achieved through six areas of work. These areas and associated goals are:



Partnerships & Leadership:

Health Promoting Schools (HPS) approach that is resourced by and embedded within the Nova Scotia (NS) health and education system;



Planning & Evaluation:

Evidence-informed HPS approach across NS with a comprehensive accountability framework aligned with partner goals;



Youth Engagement:

Engaged and empowered NS youth who support child and youth health and well-being through a HPS approach;



School & Community Engagement & Action:

School and community environments across NS that support child and youth health and well-being through a HPS approach;



Capacity Building:

Evidence-informed practice within the NS health and education systems to support HPS;



Communication & Knowledge Exchange:

Community support across NS for a HPS approach.

This evaluation of *partnerships and leadership* work gathered data to describe activities done by **UpLift** to build relationships and partnerships at the provincial and regional level, as well as to assess the outcomes of partnerships and leadership:



Committed and shared provincial and regional leadership for HPS and YE



Increased provincial and regional collaboration to support **UpLift** and HPS outcomes



YE in HPS embedded in provincial and regional system processes and structures and enhanced alignment of goals and strategies

The evaluation used both quantitative and qualitative methods:



Tracking forms completed by the project manager and other **UpLift** staff



A review of program documents

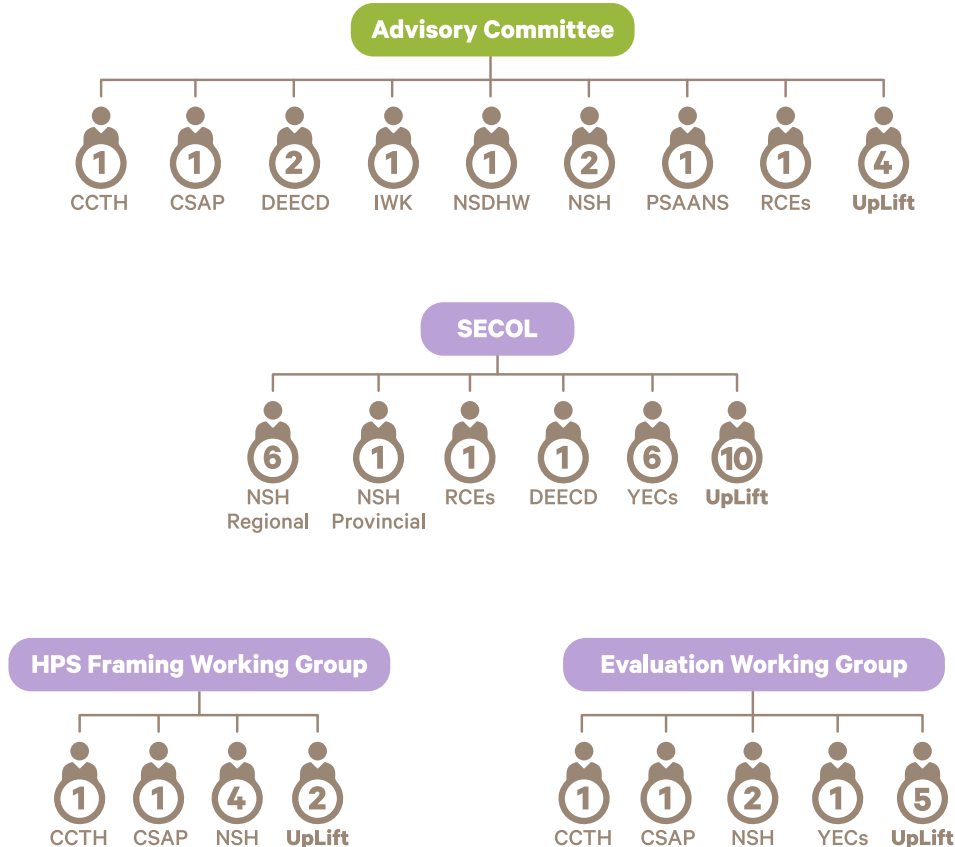


A partnership survey

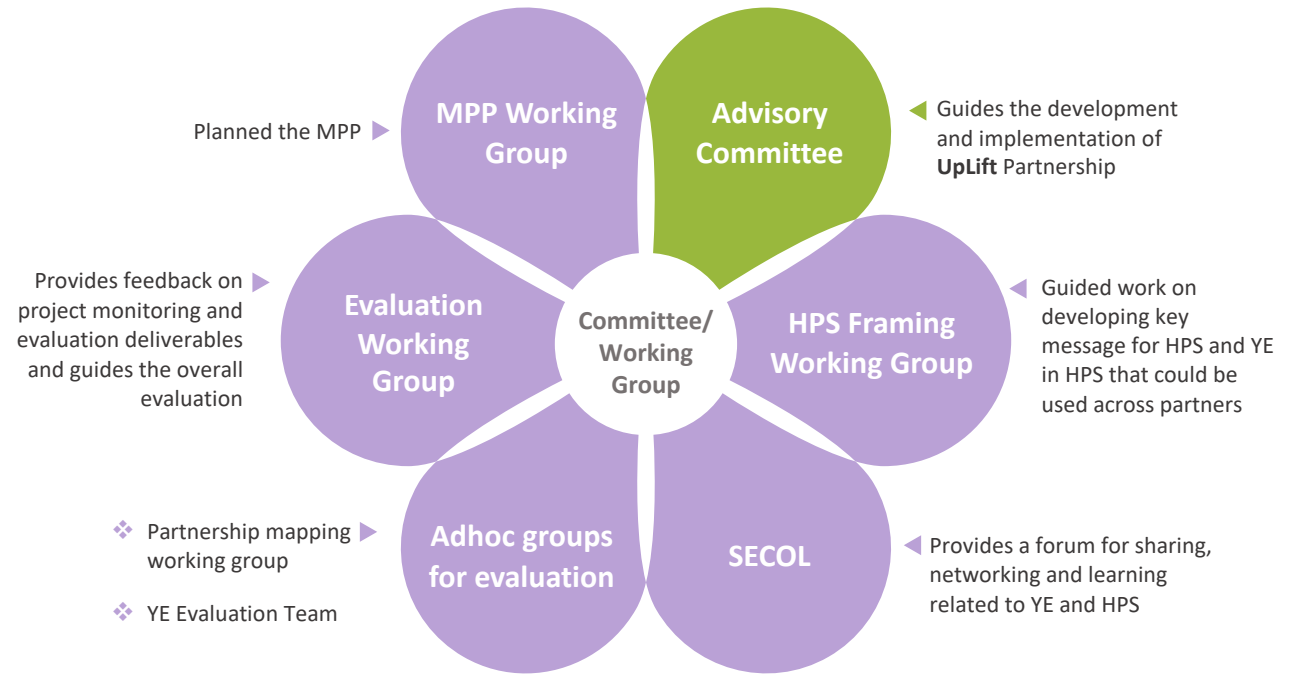


Interviews with 16 partners, 8 YECs, and the PM and Co-Lead

UpLift Partnership Structure



Purpose of UpLift Partnership Structure



{ Acronyms List }

- | | |
|--|--|
| CSAP: Conseil scolaire acadien provincial | NSELC: Nova Scotia Education Leadership Consortium |
| CCTH: Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage | NSH: Nova Scotia Health |
| DEECD: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development | PHAC: Public Health Agency of Canada |
| HPS: Health Promoting Schools | RCEs: Regional Centres for Education |
| MPP: Municipal Policy Project | SECOL: Student Engagement Community of Learning |
| NS: Nova Scotia | YE: Youth engagement |
| NSDHW: Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness | YECs: Youth Engagement Coordinators |

➤ Outcomes

Short Term Outcome:

Committed and shared provincial and regional leadership for HPS and YE.

As described, a key role of the **UpLift** core staff (particularly the Project Manager and Co-leads) is to build partnerships at the provincial and regional level. While **UpLift** staff have built relationships and facilitated partnerships with many organizations working to support HPS and YE, three sectors were most often engaged including health through NSH Public Health provincially and regionally; education through the DEECD and CSAP provincially and RCEs regionally; and CCTH provincially and regionally.

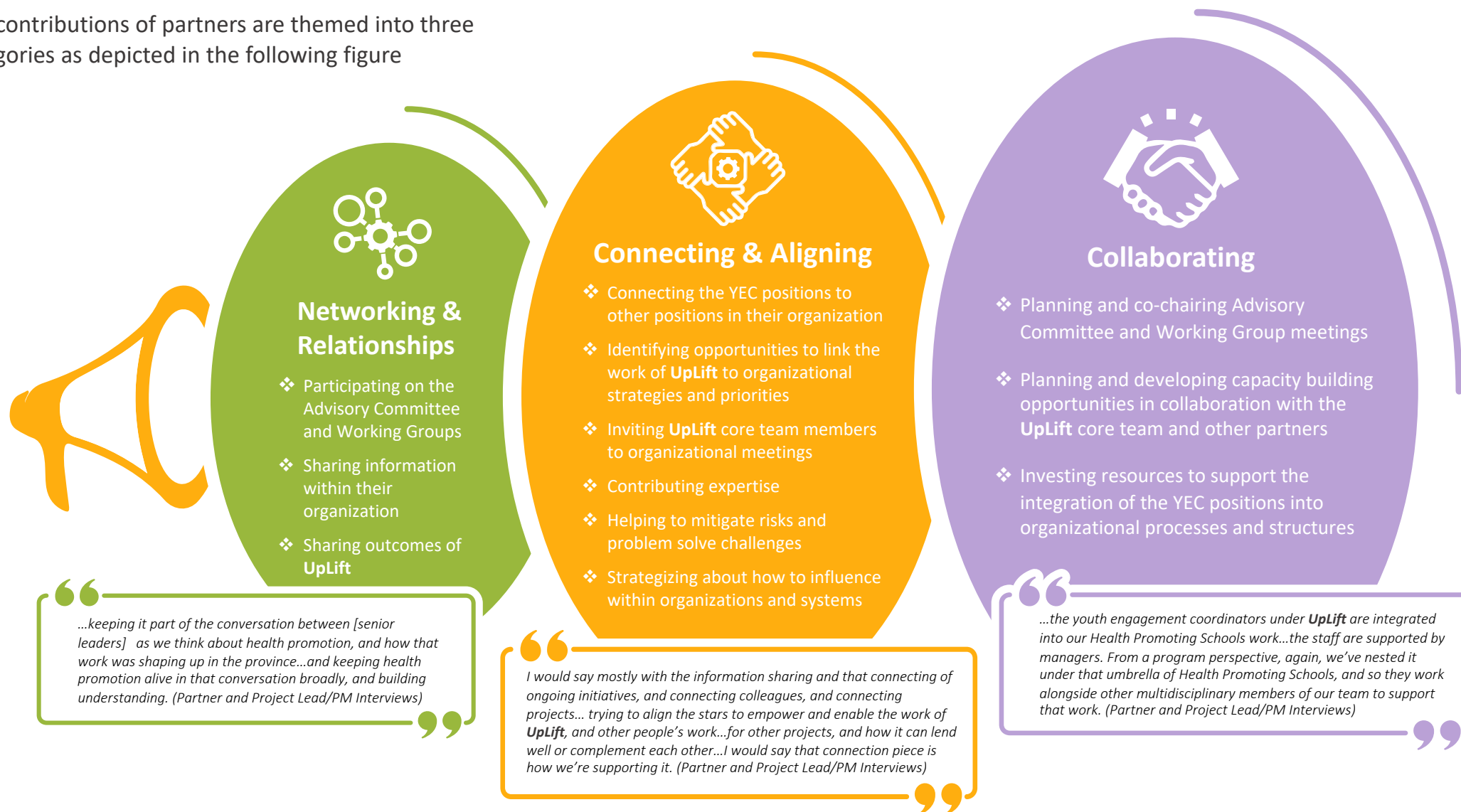
Partner Contributions & Level of Engagement

Organization	# of Meetings Per Staff*				Total
	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	
Participation of the Main UpLift Partners					
NSH – Provincial	40	91	78	59	268
NSH – Regional	47	76	92	49	264
DEECD – Provincial	30	22	23	22	97
RCEs – Regional	30	38	48	21	137
CSAP	24	29	20	5	78
CCTH – Provincial	14	21	16	4	55
CCTH - Regional	7	19	11	2	39
Participation of Other UpLift Partners					
Community Organizations/ municipalities	-	-	-	2	2
Department of Community Services	-	-	-	1	1
DHW	3	-	6	5	14
IWK	8	5	4	6	23
PSAANS	2	8	5	3	18
Universities	-	-	-	2	2
ELCNS	3	2	5	-	10
TOTAL	208	311	308	181	1,008

*Calculated based on the # of meetings per person within the organization so if more than one staff member participated in a meeting the number would be calculated based on # of staff attending



The contributions of partners are themed into three categories as depicted in the following figure





Short Term Outcome:

Increased provincial and regional collaboration to support **UpLift** and HPS outcomes



As previously described, the building of relationships and networking among partners to enhance HPS and YE in HPS was an important outcome of the UpLift Partnership. The benefits and success of UpLift in supporting and increasing collaborative action for HPS and YE were described by partners.



...when you bring in those concentrated resources, and you have all those collaborations and partnerships, that's what I see is a big benefit. Especially in the field...health promotion...a field that's very hard to articulate what it is...I think that having some of that demonstration of what's possible... some of that infusion of resources also just has that spinoff, and helps bring people together...sometimes it is challenging across sectors. I think when there's an opportunity, that can help facilitate people coming together, and I'm sure there will be a legacy of that in NSH and with the education system. (Partner and Project Lead/PM Interviews)



A few key informants noted the benefit of the partnership with Dalhousie University and link to academia to connect the work to research and best practices related to student health and well-being, HPS and YE.



I think it is helpful to have that link with academia for some of this work...to give it some credibility... through [co-lead] work, having the One Chance report work, and being able to connect...would connect back to HPS work,...other pieces she's involved in...and the connection there is very important, and the connection through Dalhousie and HPI as, this is credible, validated work that we're doing. (Partner and Project Lead/PM Interviews)





Intermediate Term Outcome:

YE in HPS embedded in provincial and regional system processes and structures and enhanced alignment of goals and strategies

Outcomes within organizations and across systems as a result of the work of the **UpLift** Partnership are depicted in the following figure.



An evaluation was conducted of partnerships and leadership to describe high level activities and measure outcomes.



Partnership building with a range of organizations in various sectors has been a key activity of the **UpLift** core team.



Partners have invested significant staff time, particularly NSH (both provincially and regionally), the Education sector, and CCTH.



Partners have contributed through networking and sharing; connecting and aligning **UpLift** activities within their organizations and networks; and collaborating to move YE in HPS forward.



Provincial and regional collaboration to support HPS and YE has been strengthened.



HPS and YE has been embedded within provincial and regional processes and structures with enhanced alignment of goals and strategies including:

- ❖ Building awareness and understanding about YE in HPS resulting in increased visibility of and credibility for the work;
- ❖ Embedding of HPS and YE in organizational training and planning and evaluation processes;
- ❖ A shift in culture to ensure more meaningful and evidence-based YE in HPS; and
- ❖ Investment by Public Health, NSH in nine YE focused positions across the province to help sustain and continue YE in HPS in the long-term.



The **UpLift** Partnership's vision was *a healthier Nova Scotia through a youth-engaged Health Promoting Schools approach*. In working towards this vision, a focus of the **UpLift** Partnership was to align with and enhance work that is currently underway to support the health and well-being of children and youth. This work focused on the effective implementation of the HPS model through catalyzing meaningful YE within the model. **UpLift** included the following areas of work: partnerships and leadership, capacity building, planning and evaluation, communications and KE, and school community engagement and action with a focus on YE.

The **UpLift** Partnership provided a significant investment of resources in Nova Scotia to support YE in HPS and student health and well-being. This investment has demonstrated the value of YE in HPS, culminating in an investment by NSH in nine YE focused positions across the province. Valuable products and processes have been developed, and many will be sustained to support YE in HPS moving forward. The vision of **UpLift** -- *a healthier Nova Scotia through a youth-engaged Health Promoting Schools approach* – guided the work of the **UpLift** Partnership and will continue to guide HPS and YE work in Nova Scotia in the longer term. Continued investment in YE in HPS catalyzed through **UpLift** will help to ensure a sustainable and consistent approach across Nova Scotia, build healthy communities, and improve student achievement and health and well-being of Nova Scotian children and youth. The **UpLift** Partnership has achieved what it set out to do, and sustained YE is a critical legacy of the last 6 years.

Thank You

