

# Breakout Sessions

School Advisory Council Provincial Conference  
Halifax Convention Centre, November 28, 2025

**Morning (AM) Breakout Sessions:** 10:25 am – 11:05 am (40 minutes)  
11:15 am – 11:55 am (40 minutes)

**Afternoon (PM) Breakout Sessions:** 2:05 pm – 2:45 pm (40 minutes)

*\*Please note breakout sessions have limited availability. Maximum capacity is noted below.*

## Morning (AM) Breakout Sessions: 10:25am – 11:05 am (40 minutes)

	Session Title and Overview	Speaker(s)	Room Number (capacity)
AM	<p><b>Community Projects 101</b> (English)</p> <p>So, you're interested in a project or program at your school – where do you start, and what options are available for support?</p> <p>This session will discuss the steps of developing a project, grant opportunities from the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage (CCTH) and others, and tips on preparing a strong grant application.</p>	<p><b>Andrea Redmond</b> Regional Manager (Central Region), CCTH</p> <p><b>Courtney Nicholson-Patriquin</b> Regional Manager (Fundy), CCTH</p>	Room B1 (max. 500)
AM	<p><b>Use of School Data</b> (English; French available with simultaneous translation)</p> <p>This session will help SACs understand what data is available to them, how they can get access to it and how to interpret and leverage it to support their students and school. It will include ways to use the data to understand the diversity in their school community, how data can help support the School Success Plans and how early development data can be used to identify student progress and potential vulnerabilities and how the SAC can influence and support continued improvement in these key areas. There will also be a component of the session related to the role of the principal in using the data to share and collaborate with the SAC Chair for improvements at their schools.</p>	<p><b>Chris Boulter</b> Senior Executive Director (Pre-primary to Grade 12)</p>	Room B2/B3 (max. 752)

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## Morning (AM) Breakout Sessions: 10:25am – 11:05 am (40 minutes)

	Session Title and Overview	Speaker(s)	Room Number (capacity)
AM	<p><b>Celebrating School Success</b> (Bilingual)</p> <p>This session will include success stories from various SACs and principals that have been successful in their work with community connections and other aspects of the SAC role in the school system. How are we celebrating success? How do we share them with the community and encourage participation in the SAC?</p>	<p><b>Dave Jones</b> Regional SAC Chair</p>	Room 501/502 (max. 72)
AM	<p><b>Early Years Information Session</b> (Bilingual)</p> <p>The first five years of a child's life are crucial for cognitive, emotional, and social development, laying the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour, well-being, and success.</p> <p>This session explores how the Early Development Instrument (EDI), Capable, Confident, and Curious: Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework, and the Nova Scotia Before and After (BAP) Program promote holistic development for young children across licensed childcare and Pre-primary programs. Join us to learn about how the Early Learning Curriculum Framework supports continuity of learning from PP-3, and what SACs can do to action EDI data and advocate for BAP programs in their schools to promote positive outcomes for children.</p>	<p><b>Hoa Truong-White</b> Director, Quality, Innovation and Professional Learning, EECD</p> <p><b>Lisa Davies</b> Manager, Family Home Child Care and BAP</p> <p><b>Marianne Mercier</b> Program Specialist, FHCC and BAP</p> <p><b>Cathy Ramos</b> Curriculum Specialist, Early Years</p> <p><b>Kassandra Vaughan</b> Quality and Professional Learning Consultant, Early Years</p>	Room 503 (max. 120)

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## Morning (AM) Breakout Sessions: 11:15am – 11:55 am (40 minutes)

	Session Title and Overview	Speaker(s)	Room Number (capacity)
AM	<p><b>Community Projects 101</b> (French)</p> <p>So, you're interested in a project or program at your school – where do you start, and what options are available for support?</p> <p>This session will discuss the steps of developing a project, grant opportunities from CCTH and others, and tips on preparing a strong grant application.</p>	<p><b>Lise Poirier</b> Manager of Acadian and Francophonie Partnerships, Office of Acadian Affairs</p>	Room 506/507 (max. 72)
AM	<p><b>Celebrating School Success</b> (Bilingual)</p> <p>This session will include success stories from various SACs and principals that have been successful in their work with community connections and other aspects of the SAC role in the school system. How are we celebrating success? How do we share them with the community and encourage participation in the SAC?</p>	<p><b>Dave Jones</b> Regional SAC Chair</p>	Room 503 (max. 120)
AM	<p><b>Partnering for School Well-Being: A Health Promoting Schools Approach</b> (English)</p> <p>Schools are powerful settings for promoting lifelong health and well-being. Join this interactive session to learn more about a Health Promoting School (HPS) approach and how Public Health HPS staff can support your School Advisory Council in creating healthier school communities.</p>	<p><b>Renee Bujold</b> Healthy Communities Program Specialist, Public Health</p> <p><b>Sagar Jha</b> Partnership and Engagement Consultant</p>	Room B1 (max. 500)

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## Afternoon (PM) Breakout Sessions: 2:05 pm – 2:45 pm (40 minutes)

	Session Title and Overview	Speaker(s)	Room Number (capacity)
PM	<p><b>The Gifts of Partnership: Community Engagement Fundamentals</b> (English; French available with simultaneous translation)</p> <p>This interactive session offers insight into the fundamentals of community engagement. The “gifts” (benefits) that come from engaging with communities will be explored, including practical ways to help make school environments more inclusive. Participants will be invited to share feedback through an online poll, engage in conversation with their peers, and apply what they have learned during a community mapping activity.</p>	<p><b>Natasha Jackson</b> Director/Executive Lead, Community Engagement, Municipal Affairs</p> <p><b>Caroline Hemstock</b> Senior Policy Analyst, Municipal Affairs</p>	Room B2/B3 (max. 752)
PM	<p><b>Partnering for School Well-Being: A Health Promoting Schools Approach</b> (French)</p> <p>Schools are powerful settings for promoting lifelong health and well-being. Join this interactive session to learn more about a Health Promoting School (HPS) approach and how Public Health HPS staff can support your School Advisory Council in creating healthier school communities.</p>	<p><b>Annick Arseneau</b> Healthy Communities Program Specialist</p> <p><b>Jacqueline D'Eon</b> School Health Promoter</p>	Room 501/502 (max. 72)
PM	<p><b>Early Years Information Session</b> (Bilingual)</p> <p>The first five years of a child’s life are crucial for cognitive, emotional, and social development, laying the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour, well-being, and success.</p> <p>This session explores how the Early Development Instrument (EDI), Capable, Confident, and Curious: Nova Scotia’s Early Learning Curriculum Framework, and the Nova Scotia Before and After (BAP) Program promote holistic development for young children across licensed childcare and Pre-primary programs. Join us to learn about how the Early Learning Curriculum Framework supports continuity of learning from PP-3, and what SACs can do to action EDI data and advocate for BAP programs in their schools to promote positive outcomes for children.</p>	<p><b>Hoa Truong-White</b> Director, Quality, Innovation and Professional Learning, EECD</p> <p><b>Lisa Davies</b> Manager, Family Home Child Care and BAP</p> <p><b>Marianne Mercier</b> Program Specialist, FHCC and BAP</p> <p><b>Cathy Ramos</b> Curriculum Specialist, Early Years</p> <p><b>Kassandra Vaughan</b> Quality and Professional Learning Consultant, Early Years</p>	Room B1 (max. 500)