



The Early Years For Everyone: Lessons from Nova Scotia

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Nova Scotia is in Mi'kma'ki,
the traditional and
unceded territory of the
Mi'kmaq people.

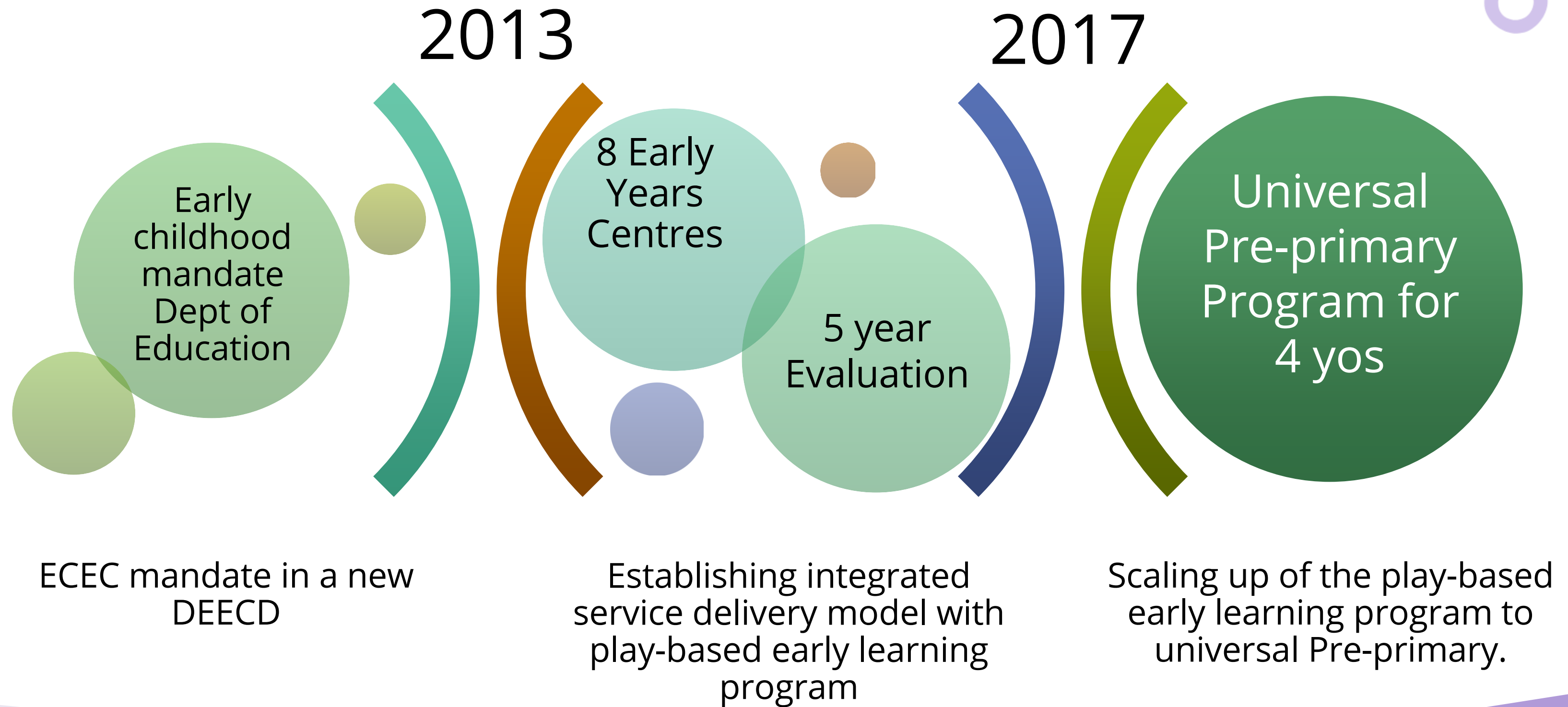
Population: 1 million people

- Founding cultures: Mi'kmaq, Acadians, African Nova Scotians, and Gaels
- 40% live in rural areas
- Rise in immigrant families

Births: ~8000 per year

~1 in 4 children live in poverty

The Nova Scotia Journey.....



Early Years Centres (introduced in 2013-14)

- Located in schools, providing a stable platform to allow integration, serving more families effectively in the community
- Increase collaboration and access to services for children and families
- Aimed to improve outcomes for children, prenatal to school entry
- Free, play based early learning program for 4 year olds for all children in school catchment
- Family supports and resources
- Licensed child care responsive to the needs of families



Pre-primary Program

- Introduced in 2017, fully implemented in 2020-21
- No-fee, play-based early education for all 4-year-olds in the school catchment
- Led by early childhood educators who follow Nova Scotia's Early Learning Curriculum Framework
- Across all seven Regional Centres for Education and le Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
- Inclusive and respectful of diversity, welcomes children and families into the school community



Implementation of Pre-primary

- Lead ECE
- Support ECE
- Support (Additional staff to support inclusion)
- Pre-primary Lead (Manager)
- Principal
- Pre-primary Consultant (EECD)
- Manager, Early Childhood Development & Pre-primary Operations



Supporting access to Pre-primary

- Bus transportation gradually rolled out starting in 2018-19 - and fully implemented in 2020-21
- Nova Scotia Before and After Program (NS-BAP) implemented in partnership in schools with community organizations (Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage)
 - Focus on outdoor, active and adventurous play
 - Parents able to access subsidy through CWELCC



Key learnings of Pre-primary

- Provides early learning experience to support the transition to school
- In-kind supports and growing connection to schools (recent move to Education Innovation, Programs and Services)
- Outdoor play
- Inclusion and diversity





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