



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal year: 2025-2026

www.childsafetylink.ca

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Manager Message

A Successful Year

I am continually amazed and proud of the resilience and passion of the CSL team. With only eight staff in total (6.6 FTE), we manage a broad mandate and many competing priorities. Yet 2025–2026 was another highly successful year, with the team continuing to support partners and communities with their injury prevention goals.

This year's highlights included our multiple car seat grant programs, our baby gate grant program across Nova Scotia, ongoing fall-prevention and child passenger safety promotion, the launch of a new poisoning prevention campaign, and a multilingual helmet safety video series. We also completed a comprehensive "Contribution Analysis" evaluation of the CSL program and received valuable feedback to help guide our continued growth and improvement. Our work is made possible not only through the generous support of our donors, but also—most importantly—through the partnership of the communities who understand the necessity of injury prevention for the health and wellness of the families and caregivers they serve every day.

About Us

Child Safety Link (CSL) is an injury prevention program at IWK Health dedicated to reducing the incidence and severity of unintentional injury to children and youth in the Maritimes (and Atlantic Canada as appropriate). CSL is committed to working with community organizations, governments and other partners to ensure children are as safe as necessary at home, at play and on the road.



At Home

Falls Prevention
Poisoning Prevention



At Play

Off-Highway Vehicle
Safety
Active Transportation



On the Road

Child Passenger Safety

CSL Strategic Long Term Goals

1. Improving the resilience and sustainability of our program.
2. Advancing equity and inclusivity in the context of child and youth injury prevention.
3. Expanding child and youth injury prevention research and knowledge.
4. Providing leadership in our priority areas to drive system change.

Please find the detailed plan here: [Child Safety Link Strategic Plan](#)

Thank you

Thank you to our Funders

CSL receives contributions from several sources, and we would like to thank the following for their generous support: Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador governments, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, and CTV (in-kind support). This year, we also continued to work in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to develop and promote our Safety At Home resources, baby gate grants, and poisoning prevention supplies across Nova Scotia. CSL is also grateful to have received 50 car seats from a Buckle Up for Life grant to support car seat workshops in early 2026-2027.



Land Acknowledgment

Child Safety Link (CSL) acknowledges that our office is in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all Treaty people who benefit greatly from the shared resources of this land and honouring our shared Treaty relationship is one of many important steps we take toward reconciliation.

We also recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

CSL aspires to partner with our Indigenous and African Canadian communities to improve our services. Together we are committed to working to make sure that families have access to the best resources, information and support to keep their families healthy and safe. Every child matters.



Safety At Home

Fall Prevention

Fall Prevention Month

Theme: *Safe Steps Start Early (November)*

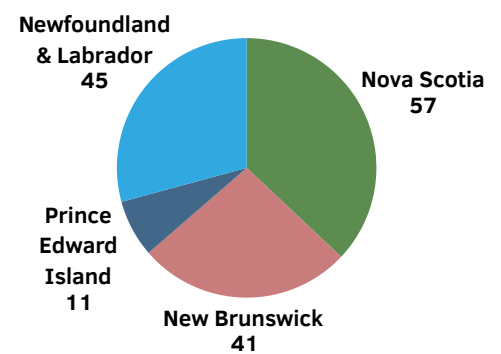
The theme focused on helping families understand how small, early actions can reduce the risk of serious falls. Our work during Fall Prevention Month 2025 aimed to:

- Increase access to child fall-prevention resources for families and service providers.
- Strengthen engagement with community partners and government.
- Increase public awareness of fall-prevention practices.

Highlights included:

- Fall Prevention Month proclamations from all Atlantic provinces (See below).
- Developed and distributed the Child Fall Prevention Toolkit [A guide to support fall prevention programming] to service providers and caregivers across Atlantic Canada (154 Fall prevention toolkits distributed).
- Developed a *Do's and Don'ts of Baby Gates* handout in multiple languages.

Toolkit Distribution by Province



Fall Prevention Month Proclamations

Child Safety Link partnered with the Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention (ACIP) to engage government partners in supporting Fall Prevention Month 2025. Together, we coordinated proclamations recognizing Fall Prevention Month, which were sent to each Atlantic province. In New Brunswick, we collaborated with NB Trauma to ensure provincial recognition and support.

This was the first time that all four Atlantic provinces issued proclamations in support of an injury prevention event, representing a significant milestone in regional collaboration and enhancing the visibility of child injury prevention efforts.

Safety At Home



Fall Prevention

Baby Gate Grant Program

With generous support from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, CSL established a Baby Gate Grant Program in Nova Scotia in 2024–2025, which continued in 2025–2026. The program aimed to improve home safety by increasing access to baby gates and related safety tools. Grants ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 were awarded to service providers across the province.

In 2024–2025, a pre-survey was distributed to gather feedback to inform the development of the fall prevention toolkit. In 2025–2026, an evaluation survey was shared with service providers who received grants to collect feedback on the grant program and process. A summary of post-survey feedback is on page 20.

50 Grants Awarded

With the grants service providers

**Purchased 656
gates**

**Supported ~400
Families**

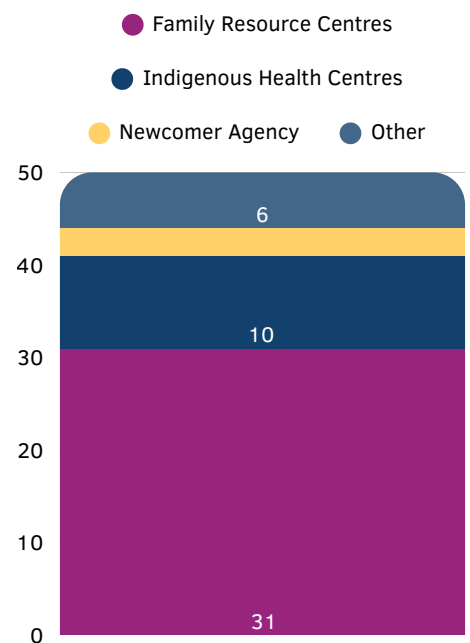
Note: Some families received more than 1 gate.

Comments from Grant Recipients

“We are grateful to support our vulnerable families in need of gates and/or infant car seats. The families are appreciative and would not have within their capacity to purchase these items on their own”.

“This grant became an integral part of the perinatal offerings that helped to support families who otherwise would not have the funds or knowledge of the importance of baby gates, even when not around stairs”.

Baby Gate Grants Awarded (2 years) to Service Providers in Nova Scotia



A community baby gate event in Antigonish

**November is
Fall Prevention
Month**

Safe Steps Start Early

CHILDSAFETYLINK
Here for you

Safety At Home



Poisoning Prevention

Poison Prevention Week

Theme: *Think Like a Kid* (March 15-21)

CSL partnered with the Atlantic Canada Poison Centre to celebrate Poison Prevention Week (PPW) with a focus on safe storage in the home and the prevention of unintentional poison exposures among children.

The campaign theme, "*Think Like a Kid*" encouraged caregivers to view their home environment from a child's perspective. This approach emphasized that children do not recognize the dangers associated with common household items such as medications, cleaning products, and other everyday hazards. The campaign included traditional media (e.g. TV interviews) and the social media campaign with 5 new visuals to use in posts (English/French), 4 social media videos (English/French), and a poster. For more information:

<https://childsafetylink.ca/news/march-15-21-2026-national-poison-prevention-week>



Safety Equipment Distribution

Throughout the year, CSL provided safety equipment (lock bags and cabinet locks) to service providers to order (free of charge) to support programming in centres helping families with young children. Over the year, 1624 lock bags (NL 55, NS 1569) and 4128 cabinet locks (NS only) were distributed.



Special Thank You

We were pleased to work in partnership with the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to develop and promote our Safety At Home resources, baby gate grants, poisoning prevention supplies, and other related initiatives across Nova Scotia. **Over the two-year period (2024-2026), CSL:**

- Provided 50 baby gate grants, supporting 381 families with 656 baby gates (some families received more than 1 gate);
- Provided 21 car seat grants supporting 118 families with 133 car seats;
- Developed educational resources including two fall prevention toolkits (1 for families, 1 for service providers), and a Do's & Don'ts of Baby Gates handout in 8 languages (English, French, Arabic, Mi'kmaq, Chinese, Ukrainian, Spanish, Somali).
- Conducted an Ipsos survey on cannabis storage practices;
- Distributed 2,205 lock bags and 5000 cabinet locks (Over 2 year period);
- Celebrated Fall Prevention Month and Poison Prevention month with new material, and
- Conducted an Evaluation of CSL

Safety On the Road



Child Passenger Safety (CPS)

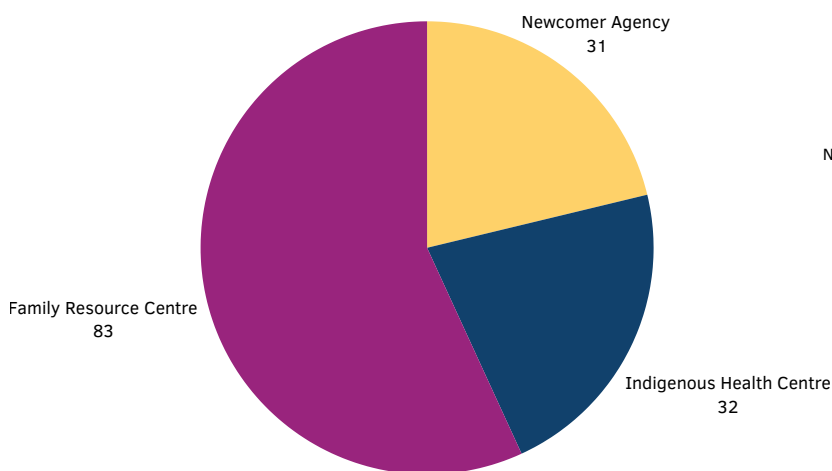
CPS Week (CPSW)

Theme: *Breaking Down Barriers to Buckling (September 21-27, 2025)*

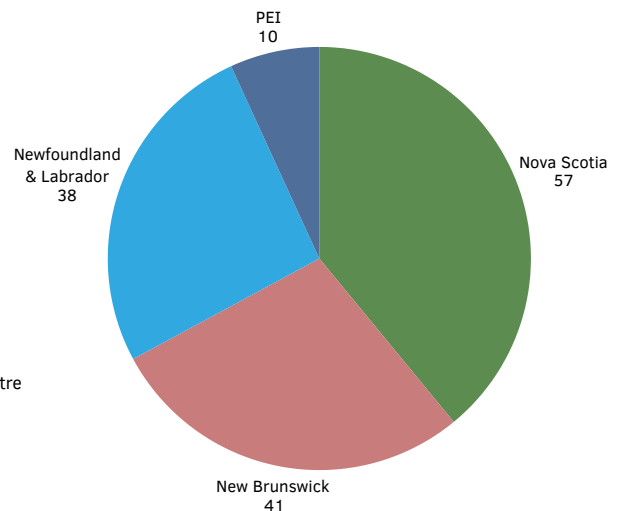
The purpose was to enhance child transportation safety by promoting best practices for car seat, booster seat, and seat belt use. This was a unique year for CSL as the results of a Nova Scotia Roadside study, conducted by Dalhousie and CSL, were also being released by the funder, Cybex Canada and the Child Passenger Association of Canada (CPSAC). CSL aligned the campaign to showcase the results of the study and to encourage both caregivers and professionals to consider how children are being transported. Highlights Included:

- Improved Access to education: 146 educational packages mailed out across Atlantic Canada. Package included a link to a contest (see Engagement bullet), a multilingual poster promoting the Right Seat resource and the Right Seat poster in the language specific to the community.
- Engagement: CSL encouraged organizations to join a contest through the CSL virtual Community of Practice for the opportunity to win a car seat, booster seat, and gift card for their centre.
- Awareness/Promotion: Social and traditional media.
- CSL Webinar (see webinars on page 18).

Educational packages mailed out by Organization



Package Distribution by Province



**la Semaine de la sécurité
des enfants passagers
20 au 28 septembre 2025**

Sans barrières, tous attachés

Safety On the Road



Child Passenger Safety

Grant Programs

CSL implemented two car seat grant programs (76 grants awarded in total) for service providers to help reduce financial barriers and promote safe transportation for children: 1) Atlantic Canada-wide program with funding from the Insurance Bureau of Canada and 2) A Newfoundland & Labrador car seat grant program with funding from the province. The Grant Program was designed to improve access to child passenger safety equipment for families and caregivers by providing funding to community-based organizations. The program aimed to leverage the knowledge and relationships of these organizations to support the safe and effective distribution of car seats within their communities.

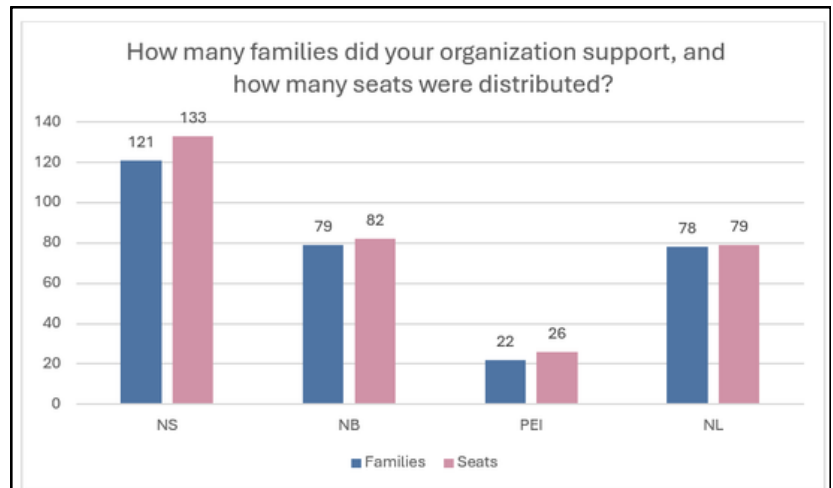
300 families supported

320 car seats distributed

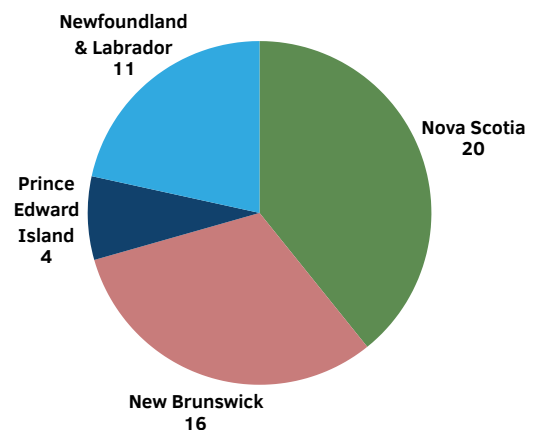
Comments from Grant Recipients

“One family immediately springs to my mind – they were struggling financially and did not know where the money was going to come from to purchase a booster for their child. I asked mom to step into my office one day after program was over, and I gave her a brand-new booster. She became very emotional, and likewise, so did I.”

“While meeting with a family (parents and two young children) who are new to Canada, not familiar with the car seat requirements, and not having enough money for two car seats, they shared that they are only able to afford one car seat. Having to choose which child has a car seat is a choice no parent should have to make. Because of the CSL grant, we had the capacity to provide a car seat right away, ensuring that the family is well supported with their children’s safety goals.”



Atlantic Car Seat Grants Awarded by Province



Newfoundland & Labrador Car Seat Grant Program

25 grants awarded

A full report will be available in
2026-2027

Safety On the Road



Child Passenger Safety

Capacity Building

CSL trains and assists service providers across Atlantic Canada to support child passenger safety in communities and health centres. Those who transport children for their work have also been supported with free access to an on-line child passenger safety basics course (i.e. Driver's Program).

Summary of Child Passenger Safety Technician Training (CPST) courses

9 courses

[NS: 5; NL: 1, PEI: 1; NB: 2]

65 new CPST

[NS: 41; NB: 16; NL: 8]

Recertifications: NS: 9; PEI: 7

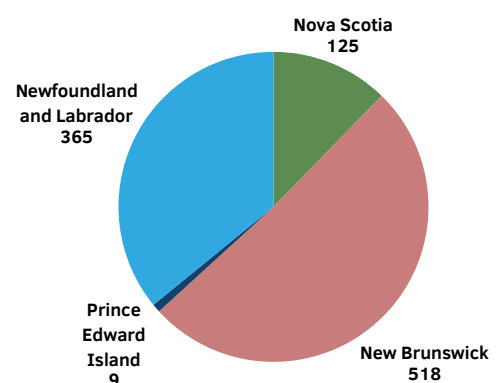
[Summary of both CSL & Instructor Hub courses - see Instructor Hub below]

Drivers Program

CSL offers free access to a virtual "Child Passenger Safety Basics for Drivers" course through a partnership with the Child Passenger Safety Association of Canada (CPSAC) to enable those who transport children as part of their work to learn the basics of child passenger safety.

29% increase in enrollment in the Drivers Program from 2024-2025

Drivers Program Enrollment by Province (1017 participants)



Instructor Hub

CSL established an Instructor Hub in 2025 with the aim to support and sustain child passenger safety technician instructors throughout Atlantic Canada to provide technician training and education in communities. With financial support from the Insurance Bureau of Canada, in 2025-2026, CSL trained and supported **4 new Instructors**. There are currently **15 Instructors** throughout Atlantic Canada in the Hub. These Instructors have conducted **7 Child Passenger Safety Technician training course** training **48 new CPST** and **7 recertifications** this year. CSL provides on-going support including consultations, newsletters, and posting on the Community of Practice. We want to thank them for their commitment to child passenger safety and for helping increase capacity across Atlantic Canada.

Safety On the Road



Child Passenger Safety

STAC

CSL supports the safe transportation of children with special healthcare needs (STAC). As you can see below, in the past six months alone, CSL has supported 118 inquiries specific to STAC. This number highlights the scale and growing demand for specialized consultation. STAC Inquiries come from a variety of service providers including nurses, occupational therapists and social workers.

Safe Travel for All Children (STAC) 2 Courses

1 course in NS: 11 new STAC technicians from across NS, NB, & Ontario.

1 course in Montreal, Quebec: 8 new STAC technicians in healthcare

2 new instructors mentored

Safe Travel for All Children (STAC) Patient Consults

153

19% in person at IWK
81% virtual

118 inquiries in last 6 months of fiscal year alone

(There was a change in how this data was tracked)

137.5% increase in in-person consults compared to Fiscal 2024-2025

Fiscal 24/25: 8 patients supported in person

Fiscal 25/26: 19 patients supported in person

Safe Travel for All Children: Transporting children with special healthcare needs

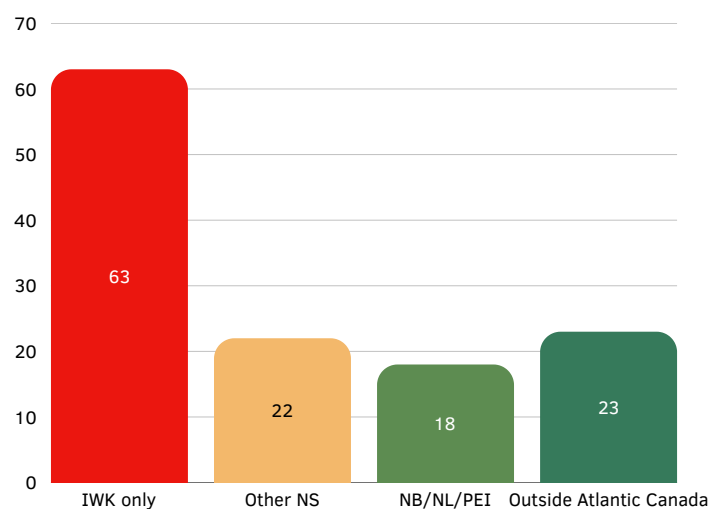


Learn about adaptive transportation alternatives for infants, children and youth with special healthcare needs.

Offered by IWK Health / Child Safety Link

HALIFAX, NS
Saturday, June 21, 2025
(1-day in-person + on-line)
Location: IWK Cineplex

STAC Consultations by Province (6 months only)



STAC Community of Practice (CoP)

CSL hosts a STAC CoP, with 92 key interested parties joining to support continual learning of STAC and networking with other key interested parties. See page 14 for more information about the CoP.

Safety On the Road



Child Passenger Safety

Other Support

CSL also provides orientation training about child passenger safety and applicable policies to both IWK and Nova Scotia Health nurses throughout Nova Scotia.

Nurse Orientation: The nurse presentations for both IWK and Nova Scotia Health are intended to ensure nurses facilitating the discharge of infants are competent in infant car seat safety and can consistently provide accurate, evidence-based education to caregivers in accordance with Nova Scotia law, best-practice recommendations and internal policies. It also outlines available supports for staff who do not routinely discharge infants, helping maintain a consistent standard of safety education across the organization.

IWK Health presentations (2 hours) support the [IWK Infant Car Seat Education Policy 1108](#) and is part of the in-person IWK orientation to nurses who will work at the Neonatal Intensive Care unit (NICU), Family Newborn unit and birth units. The NSH nurse presentations (1.5 hours) support [Infant Car Seat Education Policy MC-SR-001](#) and is delivered virtually ~6 times per year to nurses in NICU and Family Newborn/Maternity units throughout NSH. In 2025-2026, CSL conducted 4 orientation presentations reaching 74 IWK nurses/19 NSH nurses.

IWK Virtual Learning (LMS): The IWK virtual learning is aimed at health care providers who want a refresher in the information provided in the orientation. In 2025-2026, there were 105 participants who completed the virtual learning. Participants included: NICU (41%), PMU (12%), FNU (11%)

Inquiries

CSL answers inquiries from both families and service providers (e.g. nurses, Family Resource Centres staff, occupational therapists, etc.) and provides consultation services (e.g. policy development) to organizations across Atlantic Canada and beyond.

Total Inquiries
1198

Inquiries/Month
99

6%
decrease from
2025-2026*

There was however a significant increase in STAC consults.

Inquiries by Province

Nova Scotia	PEI	NB
692 (58%)	56 (5%)	171 (14%)
Other/Unsure	Newfoundland/Labrador	
208 (17%)	71 (6%)	

Professionals: Family Resource Centres, Police, Fire personnel, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, etc.

Method of Inquiry

400 Phone (33%)
533 Emails (45%)
265 Facebook (21%)

Audience

Caregivers: 24%
Professionals: 76%

Overarching

Community of Practice

CSL's On-line Community of Practice (CoP) was established in November 2022 and membership continues to grow. The purpose of the CoP is to encourage networking and the promotion of injury prevention initiatives. *Long-Term Goal Outcome Results:* Increase CoP membership by 5% in each Atlantic province. *Update:* CoP membership has grown significantly from 380 in 24-25 to 508 in 2025-2026 (33% increase). Per province growth: NS (26% increase), NL (48% increase), NB (25% increase) and PEI (13% increase) .

506 Members in the CoP

**33% increase from
2024-2025**

Engagement

21,002

**43% increase from 2024-2025
(surpassing fiscal goal of 2% growth)**

In 2025-2026

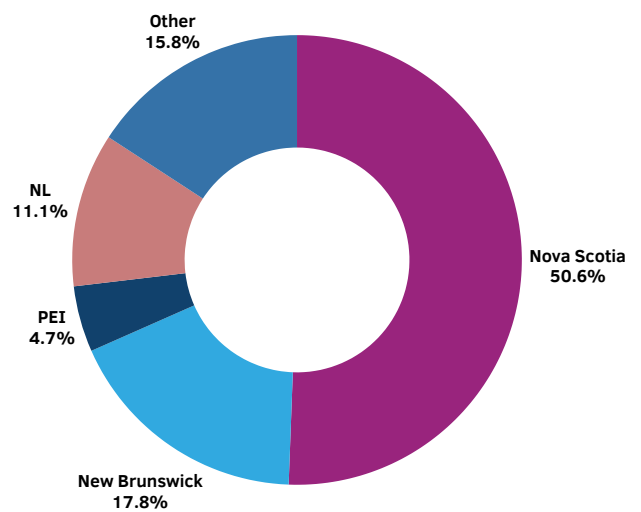
There were 147 posts with information on upcoming trainings, webinars, news items, etc on the CoP

This is a 4% increase in posts from 2024-2025

There were 20,250 views of the information posted on the CoP.

This is a 38% increase from 2024-2025

CoP Membership by Province



Membership since launch Nov 20, 2022



The Link: Atlantic Children's Injury Prevention

509 Group Members | child-safety-link@groups.mobilize.io

Overarching

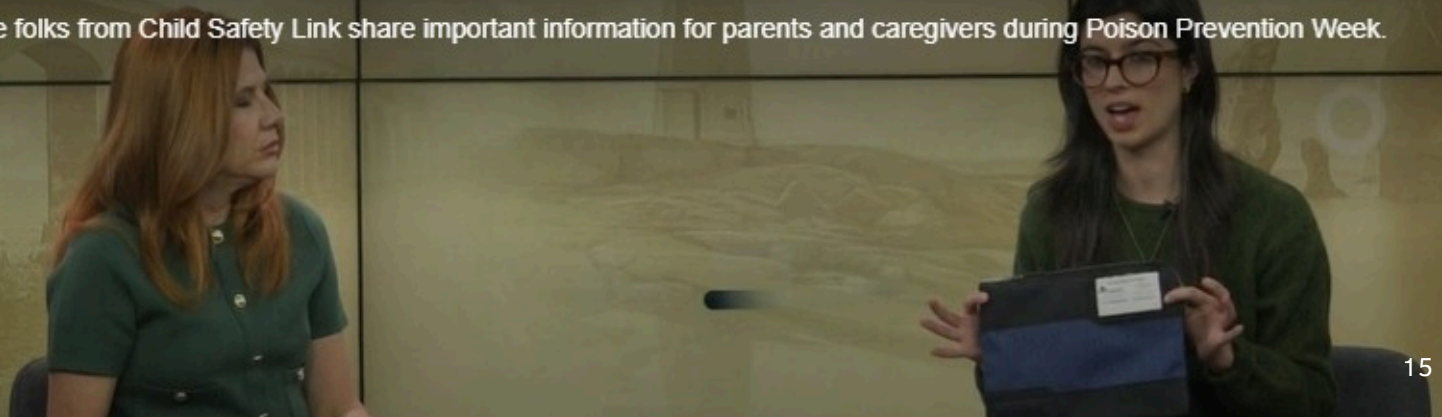
Advocacy

CSL supported several advocacy opportunities in fiscal 2025-2026 - for example:

- June 2025: National Advocacy to support Children with Disabilities: CSL met with Transport Canada to discuss challenges in Canadian regulations and provincial/territorial issues in accessing adaptive car seats for children with special healthcare needs.
- Nov 2025: CSL supported E. Jones in advocating for Hailie and Trent's Law with a meeting with NB government officials. The campaign focuses on raising the minimum legal requirements for child restraints to reflect "best practice" safety standards rather than minimum standards.
- January 2026: Contributed to a joint submission to Health Canada's consultation on proposed safety standards for button and coin batteries, in partnership with the Atlantic Canada Poison Centre.
- February/March 2026: IWK Accessibility Plan Update 2026-2029. IWK Health recognizes that accessibility is a core component of health equity, with a focus on safety, dignity, and inclusion for all children and families. The report highlights the work of Child Safety Link, as a leading example of advancing accessible transportation for infants, children, and youth, including those with complex or specialized transportation needs.
- March 2026: CSL responded to the NS government's provincial call request for feedback on accessibility standards. CSL's submission focused on safe transportation.
- March 2026: CSL worked with the Child Passenger Safety Association of Canada to revise recommendations to provincial and territorial legislation related to child passenger safety specific to the transportation for children with disabilities. This document will be sent by Parachute across the country in April 2026.

Important poison prevention tips

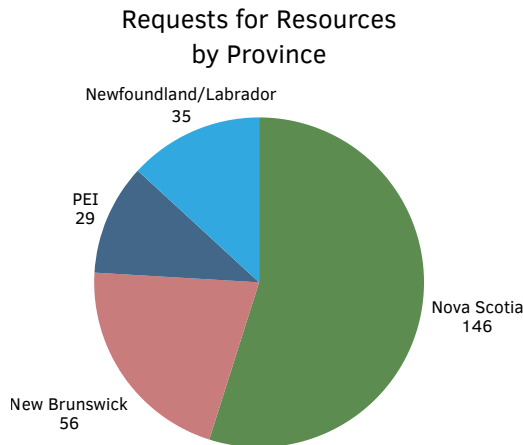
The folks from Child Safety Link share important information for parents and caregivers during Poison Prevention Week.



Overarching

Educational Resources

CSL distributes educational resources across Atlantic Canada free of charge to support service providers.



of Requests
266

53.75% increase in requests
from 2024-2025

Print Resources Distributed
26,126

Note: safety equipment distribution is captured on page 8

New Resources



Helmet Safety

- Helmet fact sheet updated to reflect more diversity and available in English, French, Arabic, Mi'kmaq, Mandarin Chinese, and Ukrainian
- Helmet safety video expanded from English and French to Arabic, Chinese, and Ukrainian



Safety in the Home

- Children's Fall Prevention Toolkits for caregivers and Service Providers (English/French)
- Baby gate installation guides (English/French)
- Do's and Don'ts of Baby Gates handout expanded to Simplified Chinese, Somali, Ukrainian

Highlight: CSL Long-Term Outcome Results

Outcome: *Educational resources support literacy challenges and diverse language needs of population.*

Long-Term Goals

- Increase CSL's educational resources available in Arabic, Mi'kmaq, and at least 2 other additional languages by 20% by 2028: *Completed:* Several resources were translated into 11 new languages.
- 50% of new educational resources have been reviewed/revise by a plain language expert by 2028: *Completed:* 4 new educational resources developed - 3 reviewed/developed by plain language expert. In addition, the PPW campaign was developed using plain language.
- Increase the number of educational resources available for those who are visually impaired by at least 1, by 2028: *Completed:* A screen reader version of the Fall Prevention Toolkit for families and caregivers was developed.
- Increase the number of educational videos/reels in multiple languages by 3 by 2028: *Completed:* helmet videos now available in Arabic, Chinese and Ukrainian and *Think Like a Kid* videos (2) are available in French.

Overarching: Media

Media

CSL Media interviews

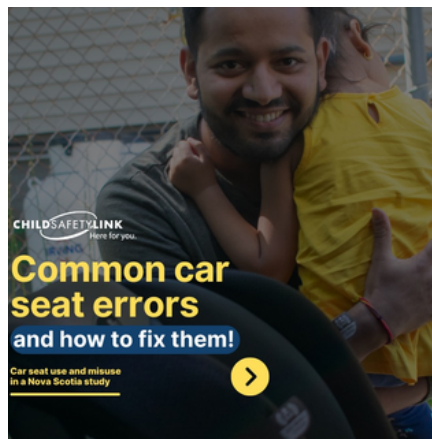
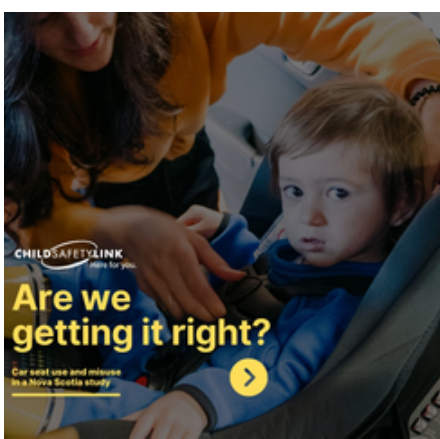
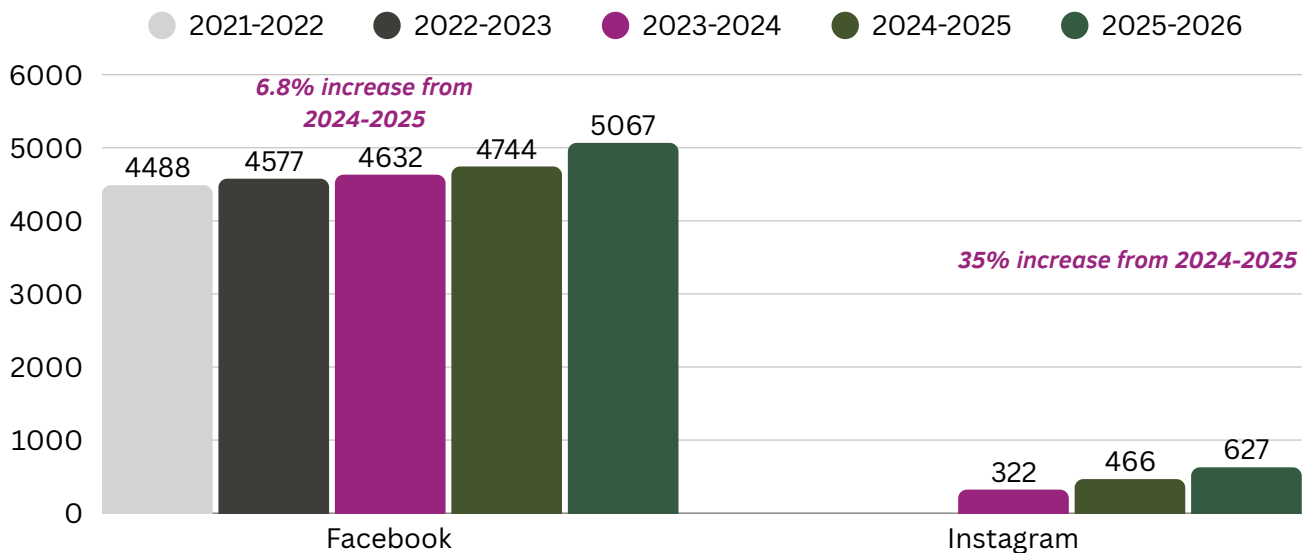
- CSL appeared 7 times on CTV Morning Live. Each segment was on a different topic including safe helmet use, poisoning prevention and child passenger safety.
- CSL conducted interviews on several local, provincial and national news media channels. For example:
 - CTV news, Global Halifax, Global Toronto, CBC news, Radio-Canada, Todd Veinotte Show, etc.



In addition to Child Passenger Safety Week, Fall Prevention Month and Poison Prevention Week, CSL promotes other days/weeks/months through social media, Blog spotlights(e.g. 4 CPS blogs in 2025-2026), internal IWK intranet and traditional media. Several mini campaigns included the promotion of Safe Kids Week (June 2-8): Theme: *Kids and Concussions* and Safe Sleep Week.

Social Media

Social Media followers by Year



Overarching

Presentations/Webinars

Staff presented at several local, provincial and national events/conferences:

Conference Presentations/Workshops: Child Passenger Safety

Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals/Parachute Conference (Quebec City)

- *From Inquiry to Action: A Roadmap for Real-World Roadside Research* - K. Hutka (CSL) with T. Van Every (Dalhousie)
- *An Observational Roadside Survey of Child Restraint use and misuse in Nova Scotia, Canada* - K. Hutka (CSL) with T. Van Every (Dalhousie)
- *Observations from a roadside survey in Nova Scotia: Comparing driver information sources, sociodemographic factors and child restraint use* - K. Hutka (CSL) with T. Van Every (Dalhousie)
- *Enhancing Occupant Safety for Children: Exploring an Online, On-Demand Knowledge Tool* - K. Hutka (CSL) with E. Jones (NB advocate)

Cybox Canada Child Passenger Safety Summit 2025: Fireside chat, Live in Toronto and broadcast online

- *Observations from the Roadside: Car Seat Use and Misuse Discussion of study findings and why it matters* - K. Hutka (CSL) was the keynote presenter

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. On The Move: The Canadian Driving and Rehabilitation Transportation Conference: Ottawa, ON. - K. Hutka (CSL) co-presented with F. Bidel (CHEO)

- *Bridging safety gaps: Adaptive transportation solutions for children* (2-hour workshop)

Other

- CHEO: 3-hour presentation: *Child passenger safety basics when transporting infants, children, and youth with special healthcare needs in an in-patient and out-patient setting.*
- CPS session at IWK Emergency Department rounds
- Newfoundland & Labrador Health/Newcomer Organization presentation: *CPS Basics*
- Webinar for all CPSTs in Canada: *2025 LATCH Manual 101*
- Newfoundland & Labrador Injury Prevention Coalition: *Child Safety Link*
- IWK Quality Summit Poster: *Newcomer Needs Assessment*



CSL Staff at the IWK Quality Summit

CSL Webinars

CSL hosted three webinars:

1. *Lessons from the Roadside: Car Seat Use and Misuse in Nova Scotia*: Katherine Hutka (CSL)
2. *Social Determinants of injury-attributable emergency department visits in Canada*: Dr. Claire Benny (University of Alberta & Alberta's Injury Prevention Centre)
3. *Understanding and Promoting Caregiver's Home Safety Practices*: Dr. Barbara Morrongiello (University of Guelph)

141 participants overall

70% of participants were from Atlantic Canada

Average 47 participants per webinar

Research & Evaluation

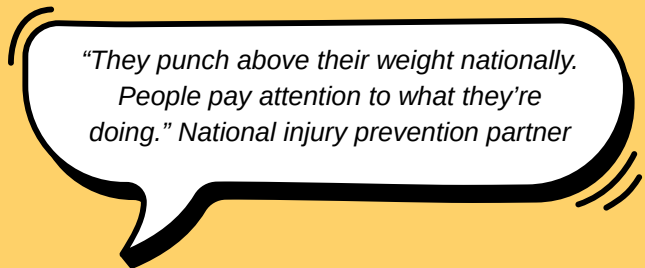
CSL Projects

Evaluation of Child Safety Link

CSL commissioned an independent agency to examine CSL's work over the past decade, with the purpose of understanding how and to what extent CSL's activities have contributed to child injury prevention outcomes. The analysis focused on contributions to increased awareness, capacity-building, equitable access to resources, shifts in social norms, and influence on policy and practice. Key Findings: CSL's contributions are strong and wide-reaching.

Evidence from the interviews, focus groups, surveys, and documents confirms that CSL is:

- Highly Trusted and Widely Known
- Producer of High-Value Resources
- A Leader in Professional Capacity-Building
- Advancing Equity and Inclusion
- Influencing Systems and Policy
- Continually Evolving



Quotes that summarize findings

"Without CSL, I don't know who would be doing this work. And I don't know if anyone could do it with the same level of equity and clarity." Family Resource Centre staff

"They have over 14 languages and photos that look like our communities, that really matters." Indigenous community health organization

"They are intentional about equity...." Family Resource Centre staff

Evidence collected using a variety of methods



1 Focus Group



22 Interviews



Survey (N=67)



Review of strategic plans and reports

Backgrounders

CSL creates Backgrounder documents to capture the most recent evidence to support the work. In 2025-2026, two Backgrounders were developed:

- Youth Injury Prevention
- Autism challenges in car seat safety



Research and Evaluation

Baby gate grant - Post survey

CSL, in collaboration with Horizons Community Development Associates, conducted a web-based survey to gather feedback from recipients of their Baby Gate Grant program. The survey sought input on the program, what worked for the organizations, and what could be improved.

- Response rate (41.3%)
- 60% indicated that the grant has become an integral component of the perinatal programming, supporting families who may lack the financial means to purchase safety equipment.
- 100% reported that participation in the program contributed to increase home safety and improved access to resources supporting child safety.



IWK Health staff survey

Throughout the year, CSL actively promoted their activities, accomplishments, new initiatives, etc. throughout IWK Health. Activities included 10 PULSE articles (IWK Internal newsletter) and a CSL staff was featured in *Your IWK* Podcast to talk about our baby gate program. In February/March, CSL conducted a survey with IWK staff to access awareness. A full report is available. The results will inform the development of an internal communication strategy. Some highlights (n=106 respondents)

- 77% were aware of CSL
- 50% were aware that CSL offers resources in diverse languages



Atlantic Canada Newcomers' Language Access Report

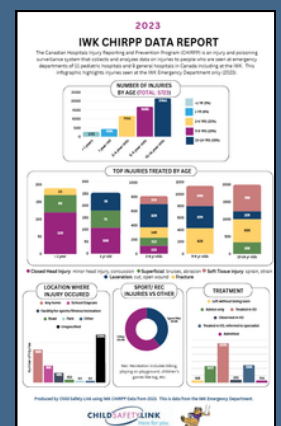
Starting in 2024–2025, CSL began gathering information to strengthen its understanding of regional language needs to support the development of a communication strategy on children's injury prevention for newcomers. Data were collected between 2024–2026 from three sources: IWK Health internal data, the CSL Newcomers' Needs Assessment Survey involving grassroots community organizations, and consultations with key provincial newcomer-serving organizations in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. CSL identified four high-priority languages for immediate focus in resource development and translation (Arabic, Mandarin, Somali, Spanish). Other languages were also identified. A CSL Newcomer Communications Strategy has also been developed.



New CSL Promotional Poster

Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP)

CHIRPP is an injury and poisoning surveillance system that collects and analyzes data on injuries to people who are seen at emergency departments of 11 pediatric hospitals and 9 general hospitals in Canada including at IWK Health. CSL created an infographic that highlights injuries seen at the IWK Emergency Department only (2023).



Spotlight

In the Community

Helmet Video Launch

CSL held a launch event for the new helmet video at a school in Halifax in June 2025. CSL expanded its helmet safety educational video that includes information about helmet safety for sports such as bicycling, hockey, scootering, skateboarding. In 2025-2026, the video was translated and is available in English, French, Arabic, Mandarin and Ukrainian. Educational print resources were also updated to reflect more diverse families. See Educational Resources on page 16.



Safety Information

As outlined above, CSL held 2 child passenger safety technician training sessions in two Nova Scotia communities (see page 11). As part of our Atlantic-wide Car Seat grant program, CSL also visited a centre in each province to celebrate the grants and learn from grant recipients. CSL also visited Sipekne'katik for a screening day and provided home safety equipment and educational resources.



Newcomer Workshop

In March 2026, CSL started to pilot a new injury prevention workshop for newcomers. They gathered what they learned and will be making adjustments for piloting the program in fiscal 2026-2027. Thank you to the Insurance Bureau of Canada for funding to support this project.



Images from various community events



Our Team

CSL Staff

Sandra Newton

Manager

Mallorie Cornelius

Health Promotion Specialist

Julie Harrington

PR Coordinator

Ashley Holden

Child Passenger Safety Assistant

Katherine Hutka

Health Promotion Specialist

Sarah Mavrak

Health Promotion Specialist

Ana Ojeda

Administrative Assistant

Dhruv Patel

Health Promotion Specialist



IWK Patient Safety Champion

Congratulations to our own Katherine Hutka who was awarded the IWK Patient Safety Champion STARS award. *"The Patient Safety Champion Award recognizes individuals whose passion, leadership, and dedication meaningfully reduce preventable harm. Katherine's work inspires colleagues across Canada through innovation, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to patient safety. This postponement ensures her recognition reflects the significance of her contributions."* Krista Jangaard – IWK CEO. A ceremony will be held in May 2026.



CSL Team

Front sitting: L-R: Julie Harrington, Sandra Newton

Back: L-R: Sarah Mavrak, Katherine Hutka, Ashley Holden, Ana Ojeda, Mallorie Cornelius, Dhruv Patel

Advisory Council

CSL Advisory Council

Natalie Bakody

NS Dept of Education & Early Childhood
Development

Melanie Doyle

IWK Health

Jill Duncan

Atlantic Canada Poison Centre

Shannon Gallant

(Alternate Courtney Swinimer)

Indigenous Services, First Nations and Inuit Health

Breanne Gillis

(Alternates: Kenzie MacLean & Darby Green) (New)

NS Trauma Program

Shelley Landsburg (New)

Public Health Branch, Department of Health

JoAnna LaTulippe-Rochon

Cape Breton Family Place Resource Centre

Dr. Richard Louis

NB Trauma Program

Katherine MacIntyre

Family Resource Centre - Moncton

Tanya Murray (New)

IWK Health

Stephanie O'Brien

Dept of Health and Community Services,
Government of NL

Breana Rubin (New)

NS Public Health (Early Years)

Michelle Proctor-Simms

NS Department of Health & Wellness

Kaileigh Smith

CHANCES Family Centre

Cindy Russell

Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention

Acknowledgements

We welcomed several new members - see the list above. This year we also said farewell to some Advisory Council members. Thank you to them for their support, commitment and passion.

Advisory Council

- Janine Arsenault (Public Health Agency of Canada)
- Flora Murphy (NS Health)

CONTACT US



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CSL's Social Media



www.facebook.com/ChildSafetyLinkIwk



<http://www.youtube.com/c/childsafetylink>



<https://www.instagram.com/childsafetylink>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/child-safety-link/>

Join CSL's Community of Practice



www.childsafetylink.ca