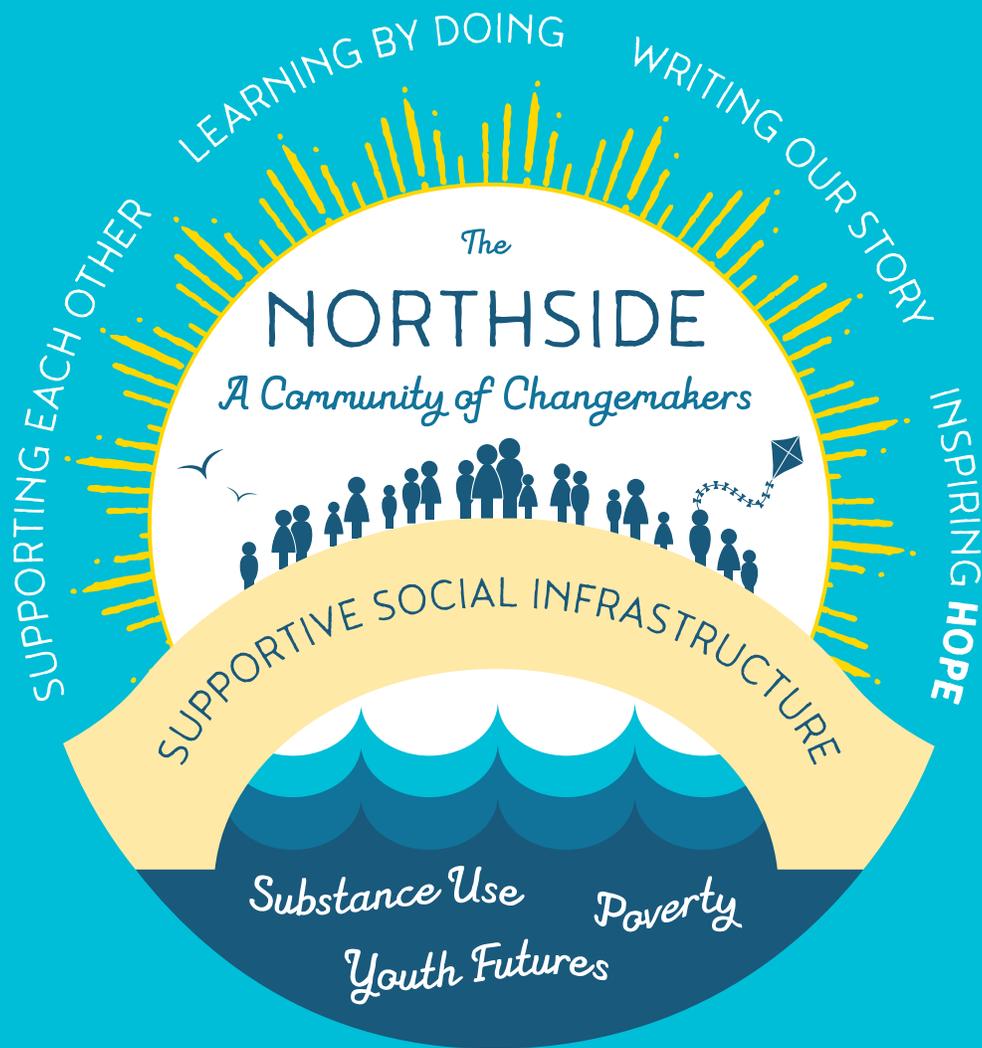




**NORTHSIDE**  
*rising*

**Community Impact Report 2020-21**



**CREATIVE CREDITS:**

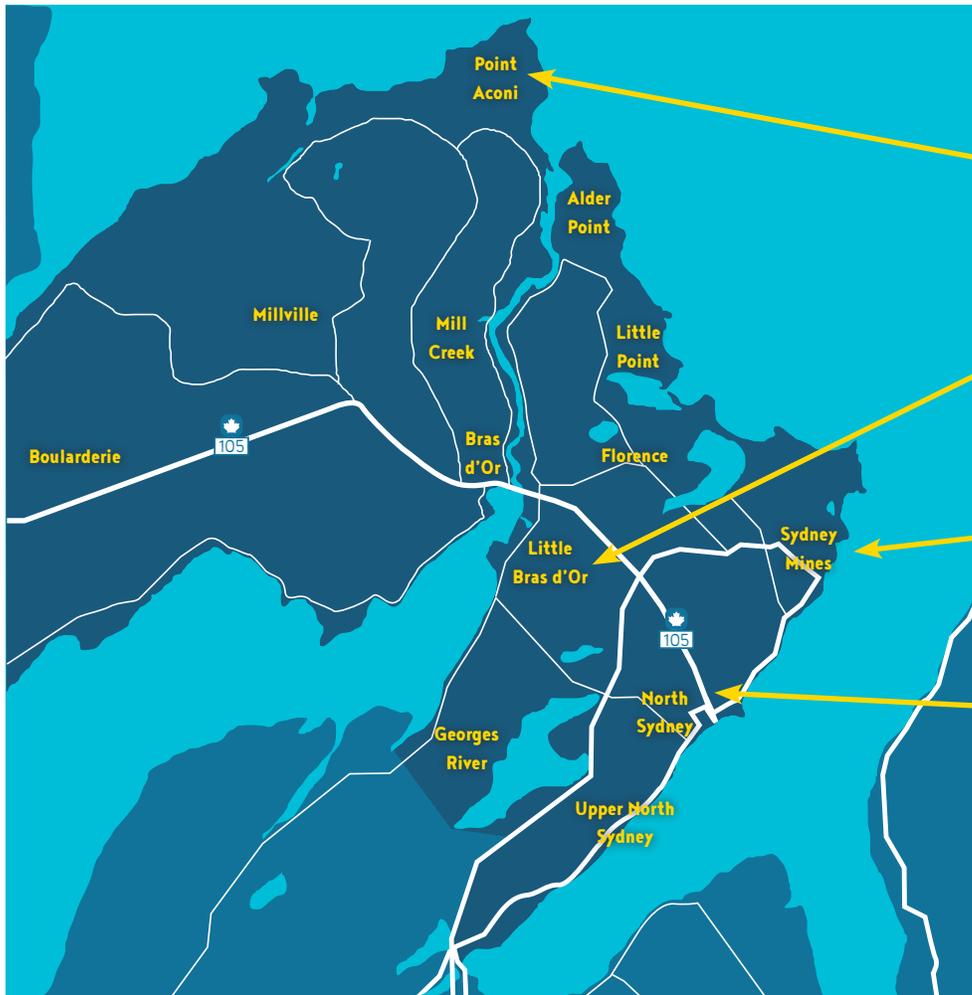
Photos: While gathering all of the pieces for this report, we found an incredible lack of photos, a reminder of the isolation we have all experienced during the pandemic. To fill the gap, we reached out to local photographer [Adam Hill](#), who kindly donated the use of his transportive landscape photos of the Northside, capturing the distinctive beauty of this community of communities.

Other photos were taken by staff and partners of Northside Rising and Inspiring Communities.

Design: Emily Rankin, Take Note Graphic Design

# WHERE WE WORK

## The Northside



Point Aconi:  
**Puksetewe'katik**  
(Burning charcoal embers)

Little Bras D'Or:  
**Panuskek**  
(At the opening)

Sydney Mines:  
**Klmuejuapskwe'katik**  
(Place of the coal)

North Sydney:  
**Kweso'mkiaq**  
(Sandy point)

(source: Mi'kmaq Place Names  
Digital Atlas)

The Northside lies within Unama'ki, the land of fog, traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship", first signed in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyi (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. We are privileged to live, work, and play on these lands.

# WHO WE ARE



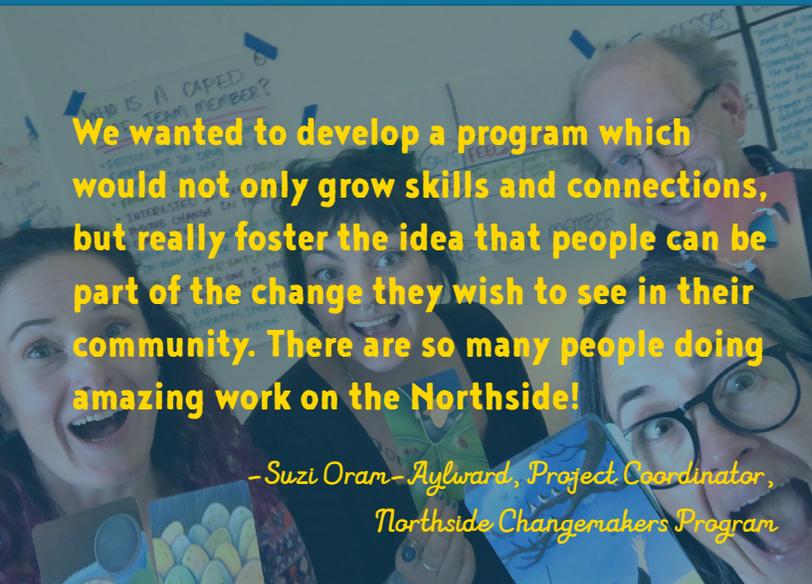
Believing that things can be different is the first step, and more Northsiders are taking these steps every day. Seeing the enthusiasm, passion, and desire of residents to create more supportive communities is what fuels me to keep creating spaces where people turn ideas into action.

*- Megan MacLeod, Community Lead, Collaboration & Engagement*

An old friend wrote a book called “Communities on Their Way.” That’s how I see the Northside. Challenges like all communities, but more and more people coming together to create the future they want. As my 10-year-old and his friends would say, ‘Let’s go!!’



*- Eric Leviten-Reid, Community Lead, Research & Evaluation*



We wanted to develop a program which would not only grow skills and connections, but really foster the idea that people can be part of the change they wish to see in their community. There are so many people doing amazing work on the Northside!

*- Suzi Oram-Aylward, Project Coordinator, Northside Changemakers Program*

I see something special on the Northside... a sense of togetherness and hope that inspires me every day to want to support people in their efforts to revitalize the community..

*- Jody Nelson, Project Lead*

Northside Rising is a nested initiative of [Inspiring Communities](#). Check out [our story](#) on Wayside to learn more about how NSR began.



# DEAR NORTHSIDE RISING COMMUNITY, COLLABORATORS & FRIENDS,

What a year it has been for all of us. We have all been affected by changes in our lives as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, but we have also witnessed how well Nova Scotians have been able to adapt and show resilience when facing rapidly shifting systems and interruptions to our ways of being. We have all experienced this year differently; we must acknowledge that our most vulnerable and marginalized have felt these changes the most. This year forced many recalibrations in planned activities and drove the creation of new ones. It has certainly been a year of growth and learning for Northside Rising.

Things we tried, supported or pivoted towards as a result of the pandemic:

- In support of the Food for Thought - Virtual School Meal Program, NSR connected volunteers, restaurants and organizers, to get nutritious daily meals to students impacted by sudden school closures. The project, created by the NS Department of Business, provided 28,579 meals to kids in CBRM, with 10,103 of those reaching Northside youth.
- NSR launched the Virtual Coffeehouse as a way to create dialogue and connection around the community-level impacts of the pandemic.
- We adapted how we connect. As for many, Zoom became the norm, but we worked to create a supportive environment for technology and incorporated visual tools for collaboration, such as Jamboard. NSR also began a small computer loan program to support the participation of citizens facing barriers to accessing a computer.
- In addition to the pandemic, long-standing tensions around racial injustices that erupted around the world this year forced us all to pause, reflect, and realign. NSR has hosted internal conversations on anti-oppression and created space for public discourse through our Virtual Coffeehouse and within our Northside Changemakers learning environment. We also continue to prioritize amplifying the voices of people with lived experience as a crucial lever for changing the systems of oppression.
- Ground-breaking exemptions to the Controlled Substances Act rolled out across Canada in response to the devastation of facing dual public health emergencies: opioid-related overdoses and Covid-19. This created an opportunity to reorient dialogue with current and potential partners about harm reduction approaches to safe supply as a viable option for PWUD (people who use drugs) in CBRM.

Looking towards pandemic recovery, we continue to reimagine our work, responding to and grounding our efforts around community members as the force for positive change. We are pleased to share some of the impacts of work we have led or been a part of over the past year.

Sincerely,

*Northside Rising Backbone Team*

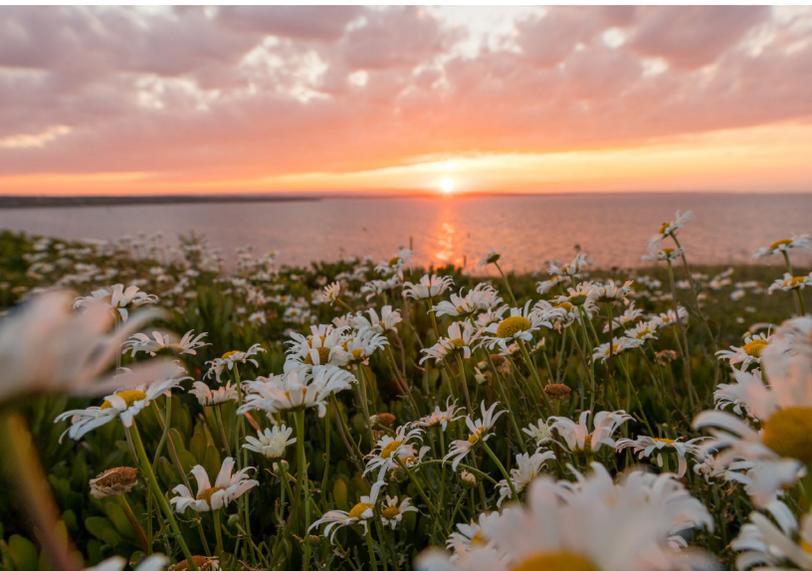


# WHAT WE DO

We create supports, connections, and pathways for Northsiders to be **changemakers** for a more hopeful, healthy and just community.

Northside Rising supports people and organizations in achieving shared goals and maximizing impact. We take action on issues and opportunities the community cares about in a way that builds the conditions for change. We do this by creating **supportive social infrastructure**: the governance, facilitation, relationships, networks, and programs that empower a **community of changemakers**.

We cultivate a **culture of mutual support**, which feeds our collective capacity to be creative, try new things, address complex issues, and learn together as we go, ultimately inspiring **hope in action** and nurturing the sense that we have what it takes to achieve our goals as a community.



# WHAT WE HOPE FOR

The Northside, a community of **changemakers**, with an abundance of **hope** and a sense of **agency**, working together to affect positive change.

# WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

## NORTHSIDE RISING BELIEVES IN...

...INVESTING IN  
NORTHSIDERS.

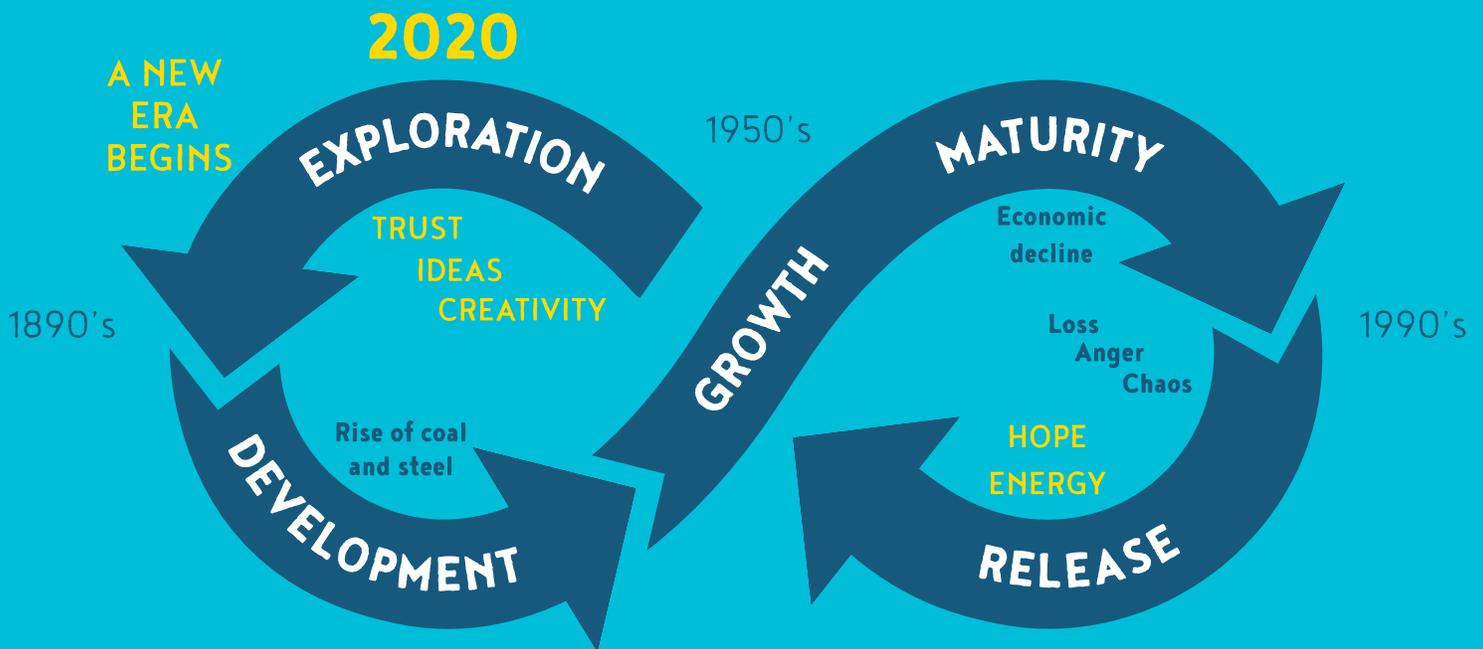
The Northside is a community of changemakers that care about the Northside and have the collective capacity to bring about positive change.

...THE POWER OF  
HOPE IN ACTION.

Hope is a prerequisite for positive change; in order for change to happen, people must believe that positive change is possible, and that we have what it takes to achieve our goals.

...WORKING AND  
LEARNING TOGETHER.

A long period of decline has undermined the conditions that foster hope and agency. A new era begins with rebuilding these prerequisites for positive change, while renewing a **sense of belonging** and **mutual support**.



The 'Ecocycle' is a tool used to map the natural rise, fall, and renewal of dynamic systems, like communities. The Northside is emerging from a long period of decline. There are signs of a new era beginning, fueled by hope and a desire to try new things.

# WHAT WE MEAN BY...

## *Hope:*

In order to bring about positive change, we need to believe that a better future is possible.

## *Agency:*

Agency involves the sense that we as a community have the power, confidence and ability needed to achieve our goals.

## *Changemakers:*

Changemakers, agents of change, are the people and organizations with the care, hope and motivation to take creative action to contribute to a more hopeful, healthy, and just community.



# HOW WE WORK

## Framework for Change

In 2021, Northside Rising launched our Framework for Change. This ‘reframing’ of our work allowed us to take a step back from the collective-impact model we were using to reposition ourselves to serve a more holistic role in community change efforts on the Northside. Our framework puts citizens at the centre, around which we build the necessary support to help the community align and step into shared action. We do this through 3 pathways that we believe can build the conditions for increased hope and agency at the community level:



### CREATING SUPPORTIVE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE:

We facilitate collaborative processes and co-create programs and initiatives that lift Northsiders up, giving people, organizations and the community as a whole the tools, resources, connections, confidence and power to be changemakers.

### MOBILIZING COMMUNITY:

We work differently with stakeholders, from community members to organizations to government; listening, opening dialogue, inviting diverse voices, making connections, and creating strong relationships. We reinforce a ‘culture of mutual support’ as a driver for individual and collective well-being and systemic change.

### WRITING OUR STORY:

The story we tell ourselves about ourselves affects what we believe and how we act. We support Northsiders in telling their stories and in writing new chapters grounded in hope and agency.

# BACKBONE SUPPORT



**There is truly a place for organizations that bring people together.**

*-Community partner*

**The word that comes to mind in terms of the Backbone team is glue. Full-time support with boots-on-the-ground, helping to hold all the pieces together means a variety of practical things – meetings, keeping of notes, designing of agendas, and helping the group have conversations that are needed. I think there is another piece that is around leadership of this kind of process as well.**

*-Community partner*

“Backbone” is a term used in the [Collective Impact model](#) to describe organizations that function as the ‘connector’ and process-holder in a collaborative community initiative. Backbone organizations work to create the conditions for strong collaboration among groups that want to work together on a shared issue. Northside Rising has provided the backbone support needed to work together across differences, build trust-based working relationships, create communication pathways, define shared goals, and embed a culture of learning and evaluation. With this approach, NSR has brought partners together around a variety of initiatives.

The growing capacity of the backbone team to engage community, foster collaboration and catalyze action has positioned NSR as a connector between agencies and Northsiders. The relationships being developed with new partners are opening doors to other collaborative initiatives that support Northside renewal.



## NORTHSIDE RISING'S BACKBONE ROLE

### **NSR LEADS**

- Substance Use Roundtable
- Northside Community Coalition
- Northside Changemakers Program
- Invictus: Exploring Hope & Agency on the Northside
- Northside Virtual Coffeehouse

### **NSR SUPPORTS**

- Cape Breton Association of People Empowering Drug Users (CAPED)
- Naloxone Business Engagement Initiative
- Food for Thought Pilot
- Several citizen-led Changemaker projects



**OUR ACTIONS  
FOR CHANGE**

# Northside Virtual Coffeehouse:

*Impact* > Opening Dialogue on Things that Matter to the Community

💧💧 Discussions like this are so essential as our communities recover and find new ways to support each other. 💧💧

- *livestream comment*

## COMMUNITY HEALTH

Cape Breton Welcome Network  
Ally Centre Mobile Street Health Clinic  
Harm Reduction & Naloxone

## POLITICS OF HOPE

Wapna'kikewi'skwaq - Women of First Light:  
Journeys of Resilience, Hope and Love  
Collaboration & Friendship  
Allyship

## Northside Virtual Coffeehouse Themes



## PANDEMIC PERSPECTIVES

Heritage & Tourism  
Non-profits & Fundraising  
Storytelling  
BIPOC Connection  
Youth & Youth Centres  
Music Industry  
Accessibility  
Restaurant Industry  
Small Farms  
Grief  
Mental Illness

The coffeehouse is a unique and inviting space that gets below the surface on things that matter to the community. The format has evolved since NSR first began hosting this space in response to emerging issues and community isolation amplified by Covid-19. It is currently offered as a livestreamed “talk show” hosted by NSR with a range of guests representing perspectives around different issues and opportunities in the community. This public forum provides a space for surfacing and exploring topics that are sometimes difficult. It is

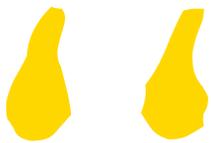
a candid conversation space designed for learning together and getting to the heart of issues. We highlight people working for positive change and give citizens a new way to learn and engage with others outside their typical social circles. This space contributes to building a new community narrative, including addressing misconceptions, e.g., attitudes around substance use. We heard comments like, “I never really thought of it that way...” and “this is a really important conversation...”

# Northside Changemakers Program:

*Impact* > Empowered, Supported Community Changemakers

💧💧 I feel like I finally have somewhere to share my ideas, and weirdness that can add to the whole. Everyone needs value of some kind to shine. 🎧🎧

*- Northside Changemaker Program participant*



The Changemakers Program is a door which helps people take their dreams and talents and turn them into something which will impact them and their surroundings.

*- Northside Changemaker Program participant*

How do you support a community to build its capacity for positive change? One way is to celebrate and empower its changemakers. This is the purpose of the Northside Changemakers Program: 10 bi-weekly learning sessions that enable local changemakers to grow their skills, connections and hope for the change they want to see and be part of creating. Our approach is rooted in the power of hope. At the community level, hope has the potential to be the foundation for broader change.

Launched in January 2021, the program offers a participation stipend of \$1,000, provides supports to reduce barriers to participation and provides seed funding for participant-led community projects

developed throughout the program. The learning sessions address key topics related to the work of making change: generating ideas, mobilizing community action, managing projects, and fostering the values and relationships that build strong, inclusive communities. Personalized coaching is also provided to facilitate individual learning and project planning. The Northside Changemakers Program is a space for co-learning, testing community change ideas, building relationships and connections, and stepping into action for positive change. The first group of participants in the program has achieved one of the main goals of the program: creating a network of mutual support for local changemakers.

# Northside Changemakers

## Community Change Prototypes



10 Participants in the Northside Changemakers Program took part in learning sessions that prepared them for leading projects. Each project was designed as a prototype – a scaled-down version of an innovative solution.

### 1 THE BRIGHTSIDE PROJECT

Natalie Couture

Handmade and donated ties for graduates of Memorial High School. Natalie uses her sewing expertise to address poverty and accessibility issues for youth.

- 100+ ties donated
- Supplies donated for sustaining project for years to come
- [CTV interview](#)

### 2 GROWING HOPE

Wayne O'Toole

A prototype vertical microgreen grow system for use in community centres (partner: CCYO). Through growing nutritious greens, Wayne contributes to community members' mindfulness and health.

- Tested through 10 trays of greens
- Resourced to continue growing all summer
- 3 "how-to" short [videos](#) produced (50+ shares)

### 3 HARVEST AT HOME

Shalom Jose

A food security pilot program which provides guidance for self-directed learning on how to grow mushrooms at home. Shalom brings learning and growing to life.

- 30 Northside households grew their own oyster mushrooms

### 4 OPEN SPACE

Shelley Allen, and Dinao MacCormick

An arts-based wellness space using music, visual art, movement and story as the pathways for inclusive and trauma-informed programming.

- 2 Workshops (3rd cancelled due to lockdown)
- 20 Participants (100% said they gained a new connection)
- Grant proposal submitted to scale-up

### 5 AUDITION GUIDANCE

Shealyn Varnes

Audition coaching for emerging theatre artists. Shealyn created a space for one-on-one support to help take actors to the next level.

- 6 participants – 1 got into University with their audition

### 6 MENTAL HEALTH FOR ALL

Jim Clarke

Mental health training for medical first responders of Northside fire departments. Jim tested an approach to build capacity and fill gaps in emergency response to community mental health issues that he saw first-hand through being connected to local fire departments.

- 2 Firefighters trained in Mental Health First Aid
- Grant proposal submitted to train 30 first responders

### 7 THE SPARK PROJECT

Des Ong

Video mini-series (4 episodes) showcasing inspiring projects and people on the Northside. Designed to inspire positive action and hope. Des, a newcomer, loves to give back to the community that welcomed her family.

- Videos (6000+ views):
- [Teaser](#)
- [Episode 1: North Sydney Food Bank](#)
- [Episode 2: New Venture for Newcomers](#)
- [Episode 3: Northside Changemakers Program](#)
- [CBC Mainstreet Interview](#)

### 8 WELLNESS CARE PACKAGES

Kelsey Stevens

Aimed to provide free wellness care packages for people experiencing mental distress in the community. Packages included items to contribute to mental wellness: hand sanitizer, pen, notebook, mints, coloring book, coloring pencils, and mindful breathing tips. Distributed through the Ally Centre, and CCYO.

- 30 packages shared

### 9 HOUSING PROBLEMS IN THE COMMUNITY

Kayla Steele

Interviews with people with lived experience with housing issues, compiled as a series of articles. Kayla wants to increase awareness of housing issues on the Northside.

- 5 lived-experience interviews (to be used for forthcoming articles)

# Northside Community Coalition:

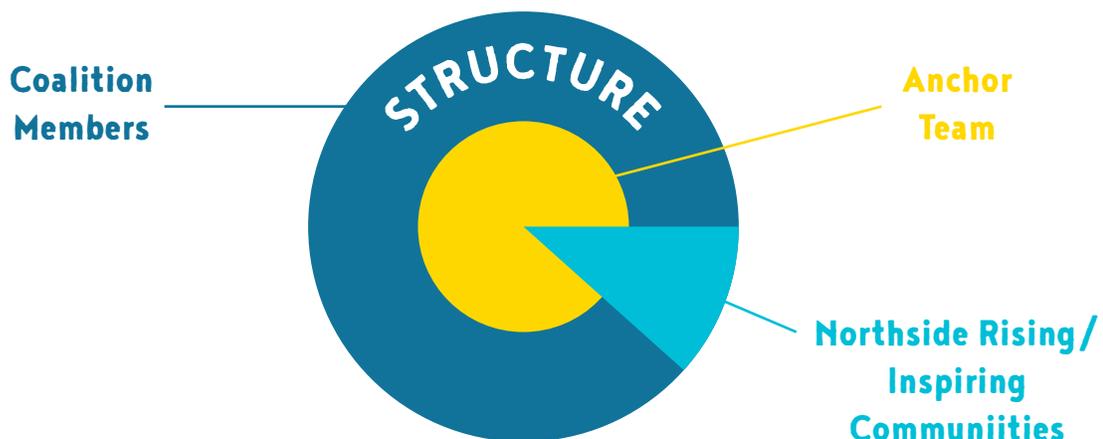
*Impact* > Diverse, connected community leadership

“ I felt honoured to be in the same space as all of the wonderful folks I met yesterday...It was a bit of a ‘these are my people’ moment. ”

*- Northside Changemaker Program participant*

The Northside has many active community members playing leadership roles of various kinds. Some hold formal positions in organizations, and many contribute informally as volunteers, community connectors, or ‘go-to’ members in their respective networks. Unfortunately, no space existed where all of these people could connect and support each other. The Northside Community Coalition has been initiated to fill that gap: ‘a shared space where people with hope and heart for the Northside can connect, learn and create together.’

Development of the Coalition has been a collaborative process throughout. To build membership, an initial set of contacts were asked to share ten names of individuals they thought would like to be invited to such a gathering, including the ‘unusual suspects’ who may not be in traditional leadership roles but bring energy and wisdom. In February 2021, we launched the Coalition with a Co-Creation Session. A leadership team, called the ‘Anchor Team’ took shape. Coalition members aligned around the desire to “connect compassion



with action to renew our community’s sense of hope and shared goals” by creating a space to:

- learn and discuss,
- get behind existing and emerging initiatives,
- and shape positive narratives on the Northside.

While we work to establish terms of reference, we decided to dive into some early action together. In April, the Coalition began experimenting with these pathways by diving straight into ‘getting behind’ the North Sydney Food Bank’s project to re-develop Seton Elementary School. The session generated numerous ideas and offers that the members continue to explore.



Lawrence Shebib, Director of the North Sydney Food Bank, pictured above



# Substance Use Roundtable:

*Impact* > Community Alignment and Action Around Issue of Substance Use



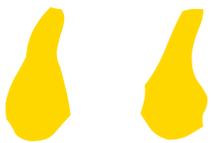
In 2019, Cape Breton University's Dr. Margaret Dechman shared insights from years of research on the importance of creating safe and inclusive communities for all. An integral part of Northside Rising's Data Working Group, Margaret passed away earlier this year leaving a legacy of knowledge and wisdom that continues to shape the Northside work. Margaret's call to "make the community the safe place people need" echoes through our work.

Megan MacLeod, NSR Backbone Team with Substance Use Roundtable members, Jillian Roach and Blair Kasouf, at Overdose Awareness Day at Wentworth Park, Sydney. August 28, 2020.



“ I think the Roundtable has done a great job engaging the community, building trust and enabling the community to have a voice around their issues. ”

*- Government partner*



I find it refreshing to have the opportunity to work directly with first voice participants....to have people who have used or are using drugs right there in the conversation being given an equal voice.

*- Roundtable member*

Covid-19 exacerbated existing challenges faced by people who use drugs (PWUD) in Cape Breton, but also made room for new ways of working and learning together. Innovative models of health care, specifically low-barrier pathways for PWUD to access safe opioid supply, seemed out of reach when the roundtable began planning to create the conditions for safe supply in the [Substance Use Action Plan](#) (developed in 2019). Federal exemptions to prescribing policies removed some obstacles to reaching this goal, fueling a restructuring of the collaborative substance use work and realignment of activities with NSR key partners.

The #1 priority of the action plan was to support CAPED (Cape Breton Association of People Empowering Drug Users), the first independent voice for people in Cape Breton with lived and living

experience in drug use. This year, we worked with CAPED to build capacities in facilitation, board development, strategic relationship building, digital skills, and more.

Along the way, we have learned a lot about working with people with lived experience. This year we applied this learning to a co-developed policy at Inspiring Communities; these guidelines will support our organization with strategy, planning and decision making regarding the equitable participation of all community members. While this policy is internal, we are always happy to share what we are learning with other organizations to support stronger citizen engagement in our sector. To learn more about our journey to date, see [Collective Impact in Substance Use: a 3-Year Snapshot.](#)



## Key Insight:



Context Expert

*(people with lived and living experience)*



Content Experts



*(professional skills and knowledge)*



New Pathways  
Through Complex Issues



# Activities Emerging from Substance Use Roundtable

## *Long-Term Intended Impacts for People who Use Drugs (PWUD)*

Reduced  
Stigma

Sense of Inclusion,  
Belonging and Hope

Strong Continuum  
of Care

### *NSR Convened or Supported Collaborative Initiatives*

#### NALOXONE BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

(Working group on gaining support for Naloxone and sensitivity training)

Leadership team met 10x

#### SUBSTANCE USE ROUNDTABLE

(Multi-stakeholder, collective impact initiative)

6 bi-monthly meetings

#### CAPE BRETON ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE EMPOWERING DRUG USERS (CAPED)

(User advocacy group)

Core Team met 25x

### *Key Actions*

- Business Engagement Coordinator hired (25+ applications)
- Developed pitch to interest local businesses
- Featured project in Coffeehouse (most watched livestream to date)

- Adjusted and adapted to Covid-19-related changes in member capacity and the landscape of the substance use issue
- Reflection and evaluation process initiated

- [CAPED Core Team 2020-21 Report](#) produced
- Hosted online knowledge exchange session, "Safe Supply, Prescribing and Models of Care"
- [Published CAPED Zine](#)

Shine On: NSR artist, Suzi Oram-Aylward, worked with CAPED to create an art installation for Lumiere, CBRM's art at night festival. In a North Sydney storefront, a chandelier made entirely of empty pill bottles brought light (literally and figuratively) to the impacts of substance use, with each lit pill bottle representing a lost life due to opioid overdose or tainted drug supply. [View VIDEO of the installation.](#)



# Invictus:

## *Impact* > Learning How to Grow Hope and Agency



**42**  
people  
interviewed



**502**  
people responded to  
community survey  
hundreds of people  
encouraged to think  
about hope and  
agency as a key facet  
of community life



What gives us hope?  
What gets in the way?  
How do we strengthen hope and agency  
on the Northside?

Dr. Ed Michalik leads 'Invictus,' a research project exploring hope and agency on the Northside.

"The most important contribution to date is the feeling of hope that comes in when they speak about it; the changing of a mindset. It is hope and knowing there is support for the community coming together, and that we can fix our communities ourselves; that understanding and mentality is wonderful.

*- Community participant*

Hope and agency are widely recognized as key drivers of community health and well-being. Under the direction of a working group combining researchers, community members and NSR staff, the Invictus research project is exploring the state of hope and agency on the Northside and factors that contribute to it. The project is using a community survey, individual interviews and focus groups to develop a rich picture of hope and agency in our community: how strong are hope and agency overall, how do they vary among different groups, where is work needed to bolster hope and agency on the Northside?

Already, the thinking behind the project has had an impact on our work in the community. Hope and agency have become key ideas in the initiative's Framework for Change and a review group of local leaders has affirmed the importance of these ideas for achieving the community's goals. Early findings from the research are revealing important themes for ongoing work: how hope and agency is shaped by factors such as income and gender; the vital role that trust plays in determining people's sense of hope and agency; strengths we can build upon to further enhance hope and agency on the Northside.

# Narrative Shift:

*Impact* > Shifting the Way People See the Northside by Telling the Stories of Positive Change

💧💧 We need to work on this for each community. The Northside has it right! We need leaders to come forward and work together to make it happen. 🎧🎧

*- Facebook comment (on Northside Changemakers video)*



I'm excited to tell the true, real stories of the Northside.

*- Coalition member*

Many local residents have lost hope for a better future on the Northside. We seed hope by telling the stories of change efforts and impacts. Northside Community Coalition members identified “shaping positive narratives” as a primary objective of the group’s efforts. How we do this through the Coalition is still taking shape.

NSR has also prioritized telling the stories of our community Changemakers, celebrating their contributions and the contagious hope and energy they bring to the community. Some of these stories were based on interviews with participants in the Northside Changemakers Program - narratives directly from the mouths of community members.

These people are actively writing a more hopeful story for their lives and their community. These stories have been shared across social media platforms and are published as blog articles on [Wayside](#) (hosted by Inspiring Communities). These stories have opened doors and built confidence for Changemakers. One participant reshared the following Facebook post, “I didn’t know I was a Changemaker until now...now I am proud to be one.” Each participant has shed light on what it means to them to be a Changemaker, and events in their lives that have contributed to their motivation to make a difference. This in turn changes the collective story of what is possible on the Northside.



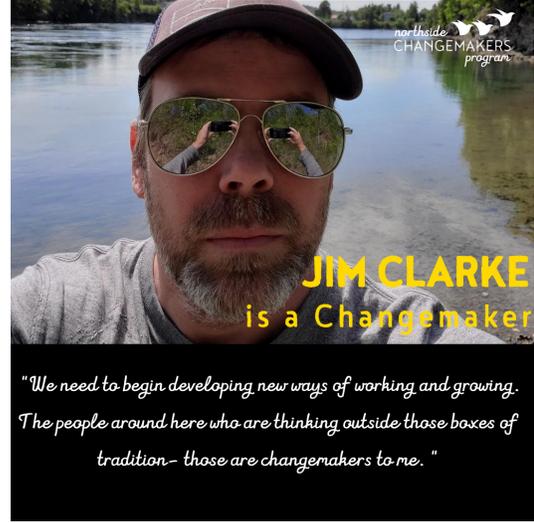
# 9 stories of community Changemakers sowed seeds of hope far and wide




northside  
CHANGEMAKERS  
program

**DES ONG** is a Changemaker

*"Being a changemaker - It's more than a badge, it's a responsibility to yourself and your community. Anyone can call themselves a changemaker, but to actually do the work of becoming one - that's what makes it special"*



northside  
CHANGEMAKERS  
program

**JIM CLARKE**  
is a Changemaker

*"We need to begin developing new ways of working and growing. The people around here who are thinking outside those boxes of tradition - those are changemakers to me."*



northside  
CHANGEMAKERS  
program

**SHALOM JOSE**  
is a Changemaker

*"Fresh food, air, water, shelter is essential for healthy communities. Availability of fresh and healthy food for the people in the community is critical. I would love to see that access here"*



northside  
CHANGEMAKERS  
program

**NATALIE COUTURE**  
is a Changemaker

*"The Northside shows up in a big way and the people in the community really are rooting for you to win. The women on the Northside have been a continuous source of inspiration for me, through their support of my business, offering their advice, experience and opportunities."*



northside  
CHANGEMAKERS  
program

**SHEALYN VARNES**  
is a Changemaker

*"I want to see our sense of community flourish. We have done such a good job at holding on to our sense of community, but for the people who have lost it - I hope they find that connection back to the Northside. Even if we can't gather, we can be a community in unison."*



northside  
CHANGEMAKERS  
program

**SHELLEY ALLEN**  
is a Changemaker

*"I like to see the Northside have more hope, we are aiming for that - to give some hope back to the community. There are already Changemakers giving the community hope, it's about elevating, supporting and adding to those voices"*



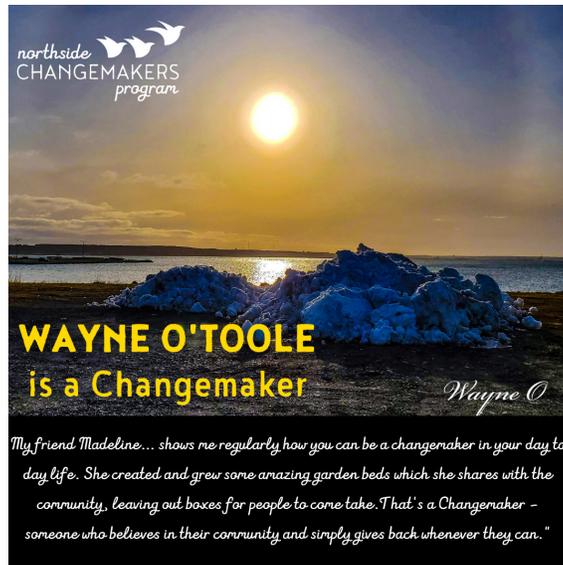
**DINAO MACCORMICK**  
is a Changemaker

*"In every community I've lived in, there have been changemakers. In my opinion, changemakers are the people who value the health of the whole community, who listen to the voices of all community members, and who allow these voices to inform their supportive work"*



**KAYLA STEELE**  
is a Changemaker

*"Changemakers are people who want to change the community and make it better for everyone. Lawrence Shebib is a Changemaker. I'm a Changemaker! Anyone who can see the change and are passionate about helping the community."*



**WAYNE O'TOOLE**  
is a Changemaker

*Wayne O*

*"My friend Madeline... shows me regularly how you can be a changemaker in your day to day life. She created and grew some amazing garden beds which she shares with the community, leaving out boxes for people to come take. That's a Changemaker - someone who believes in their community and simply gives back whenever they can."*



**12073**

people were reached  
(across all social media platforms)

NSR's Pathway for Change, "Telling Our Story" also comes to life through the dialogue and sharing made possible by the Northside Virtual Coffeehouse.

## NORTHSIDE VIRTUAL COFFEEHOUSE:

### *Stories and Dialogue on What Matters to Northsiders*

May 2020 to May 2021

## NEW VOICES

21 Coffeehouses

32 Guest  
Speakers

17 Livestreams

"Living record"  
of our collective  
experience



1400  
engagements  
on live videos  
(Likes, Shares,  
Comments, and  
responses to  
Facebook events)

Expanded  
Network: 54%  
of livestream  
viewers were  
not FB followers

Indigenous guest speakers  
had highest rates of engagement

325 New  
Followers

Livestreams  
reached over  
28,000 people

## NEW AUDIENCES

333 hours of  
live videos  
viewed

# WHAT'S COMING UP FOR 2021-22



## Backbone Support

We will continue to support change efforts on the Northside through a range of capacity building measures.



## Northside Virtual Coffeehouse

We will host a Virtual Coffeehouse session every 2 months, exploring themes such as history & heritage, hope & agency, and building support for the Overdose Prevention Site in Sydney.



## Northside Community Coalition

We will continue to work and learn with the Coalition, "getting behind" good work and good stories on the Northside.



## Northside Changemakers Program

We will run 2 more cohorts (20 participants in total), and form a community of practice across cohorts - funded by Communities, Culture and Heritage (\$40K) and the Catherine Donnelly Foundation (\$30K).



## Substance Use Roundtable

We will lead a theory of change process to support the reframing of this work. The roundtable will continue to support ongoing activities emerging from the Action Plan.

**HOPE & AGENCY**

## Invictus

We will report back to the community and engage Northsiders in conversations about what the research findings mean and how we can use them towards positive change



## Narrative Shift

We will continue to work with local Changemakers to sow seeds of hope through stories of positive change.

**Connect:**

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**NORTHSIDE**  
*rising*