

# 6

## Implement a system to robustly measure and monitor the rights and well-being outcomes of children and youth in Nova Scotia

**We recommend that the provincial government and municipal governments across Nova Scotia take clear action to create a system for measuring and monitoring the well-being outcomes of children and youth and ensuring their rights are respected as established by the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.<sup>3</sup> Data about child rights and well-being in Nova Scotia is currently gleaned in a patchwork fashion with critical gaps that prevent informed decision-making. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has repeatedly called for a cross-national collaboration to improve data availability about children and youth in Canada.<sup>3</sup>**

### **Action 11**

Enact legislation that entrenches a duty to systematically collect robust data for the purposes of measuring, monitoring, and reporting on progress made to realize child rights and well-being. This legislation should:

- Recognize key child rights and well-being outcomes that will be systematically measured and monitored.
- Support the implementation of modern systems of data collection and linkage.
- Affirm a duty to collect the data needed to monitor rights and assess well-being outcomes across all relevant sectors.
- Affirm a duty to collect data that can be analysed by key factors such as age, race, or ethnocultural group; sexual orientation; gender identity; disability; and family income.
- Give special attention to monitoring the rights and measuring the well-being of children and youth in special situations of vulnerability, such as children in care.
- Affirm a duty to work directly with communities that have faced systemic racism and discrimination to ensure data sovereignty and representation is respected.



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## **Action 12**

Align efforts to measure and monitor the well-being and enshrine the rights of children in Nova Scotia with federal and international efforts and standards. Such efforts would facilitate national and international comparisons as benchmarks to track provincial progress. Such model efforts include the electronic monitoring tool Global Child and UNICEF's *Canadian Index of Child and Youth Well-being*.<sup>1,40</sup>

