



What We Have Come to Learn & Understand

Central Issues & the Need for A Shift

Through its work the Inquiry identified three central issues that reflected the understanding of the history and experience of the Home and the lessons it has to offer for the future.

Responses to Institutionalized Abuse

Insights & lessons from NSHCC experience of institutional child abuse

Experiences of Children and Youth in Care

Experience with care system (particularly for ANS children & youth)

Impacts of Systemic Racism on African Nova Scotians

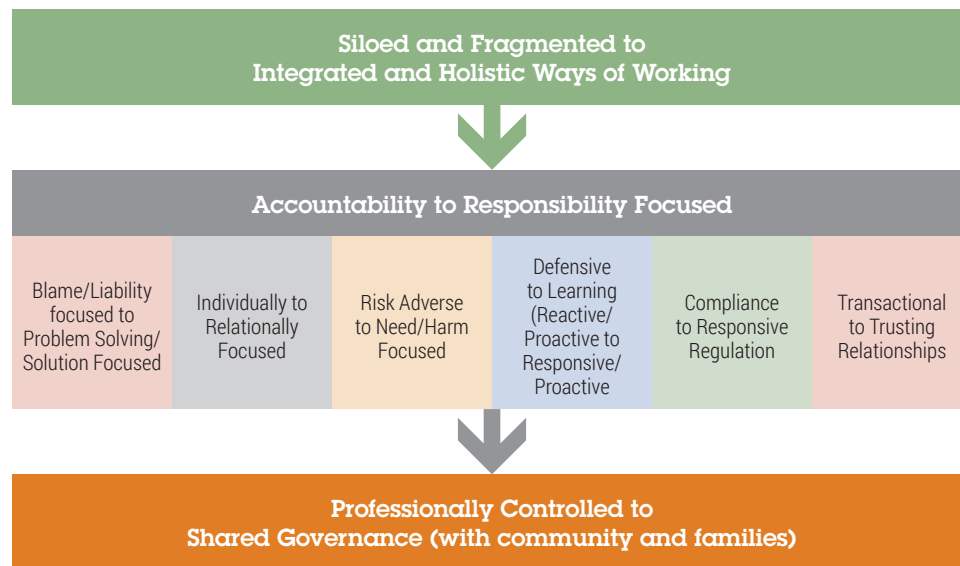
Broader patterns and experience of systemic racism (ANS) in Nova Scotia

The Inquiry heard from participants in Government and community that the lessons from the Home continue to be relevant as current systems and structures remain siloed and fragmented and reflect systemic racism in ways that pose challenges to providing the sort of care children and families need. Parties within the Inquiry identified the need for a shift from a system-centred approach to a human-centred approach.

The Restorative Inquiry modelled a human-centred process through a restorative approach. It worked with parties to learn and understand the difference this shift will make for: responding to institutional abuse (and other failures of care), experiencing of the care system and addressing systemic racism.



The Shift: System-Centred To Human-Centred



| Responding to Institutional Abuse (failures of care) | Experiencing the System of Care | Addressing Systemic Racism |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shift to human centred responses that are integrated, holistic and caring. Focused on individual and collective responsibilities to address harm and ensure just relations in future. Develop systems and processes that are responsive to needs, context and circumstances Flexible in approach Focused on problem-solving and proactive and preventative actions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overcoming silos and fragmentation across systems and services of integrated system of care Systems oriented to the needs of people not systems – focus on wellbeing as defined by young people and families Recognition of the fundamental importance of relationships/connection/identity Prioritize care by family/friends/community Centred on family-led decision making Risk sensible not risk adverse | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> System-centred, individualistic, blame oriented, siloed and fragmented approach is ill-suited to address systemic racism. It hides the systemic nature of racism from view, enabling it to continue to operate and replicate. A focus on racism through the experience of the human beings affected enables a more nuanced understanding of racism and how it operates relationally and at institutional, systemic, and structural levels including the ways it is internalized by those affected. A human-centred approach is relational and requires attention to the contexts, causes, and circumstances. This attention reveals the complexity and character of the relationships and interconnections that are essential to understanding and addressing systemic racism. It supports a forward focus on responsibility rather than a backward-focused blaming response. |