

# Maximizing the 'early years': Premier Shawn Graham calls on Margaret Norrie McCain to assist early childhood development committee [CA-NB] <sup>[1]</sup>

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## AVAILABILITY

See text below.

## EXCERPTS

A well-known early childhood advocate with roots in the Upper St. John River Valley has been selected to advise a New Brunswick Cabinet Committee on Early Childhood Development.

Premier Shawn Graham announced in his State of the Province speech Thursday evening that former Lt. Gov. Margaret Norrie McCain would provide assistance and direction to the cabinet committee directed to work with community groups and stakeholders.

"In order to transform our economy and fully capitalize on these numerous opportunities, I believe we simply must transform our workforce. And it starts by giving every child the chance to reach his or her own full potential," Premier Graham stated. "The first five years of a person's life are key to their longer term development.. Mrs. McCain has co-authored two ground-breaking reports on early childhood and her expertise will be invaluable to us as we make important progress in this key area of early childhood development."

Premier Graham said he witnessed some of the initiatives that have developed from McCain's work in Ontario, and "I am extremely grateful that such a distinguished New Brunswicker and distinguished Canadian will be returning to her roots here in our province to help us transform early childhood development and care."

In November McCain spoke to valley parents, educators and community leaders about society's role in the optimal development of children by the Early Years Planning Group. She stressed that an infant needs plenty of tender loving care, a structured environment and healthy social interaction to blossom into a productive adult.

"The bottom line is genes need nurturing. And the message here that I want you to take away is this, experience, experience, experience. The powerful critical lifelong impact that experience in early years have on the development of the brain and learning health and behavior," McCain told the audience.

McCain stressed that poverty is an important national issue, but if society wants to truly provide a better environment for our children, people must realize that wealth does not equal health.

"What matters most in how children turn out is parenting. The evidence is overwhelming that good parenting skills, the quality of family function and quality of the community in which they live, has the greatest impact on the optimal development of children."

McCain said society must see early child care as tier one in human

development, not a baby-sitting service for working parents. She proposed an integrated early child development system linked to the school system would include child care and education and much more.

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-reprinted from the Bugle-Observer

**Region:** New Brunswick <sup>[2]</sup>

**Tags:** quality <sup>[3]</sup>

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**Source URL (modified on 27 Jan 2022):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/08/02/maximizing-%E2%80%98early-years%E2%80%99-premier-shawn-graham-calls-margaret-norrie>

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[1] <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/child-care-news/08/02/maximizing-%E2%80%98early-years%E2%80%99-premier-shawn-graham-calls-margaret-norrie> [2] <https://childcarecanada.org/taxonomy/term/7854> [3] <https://childcarecanada.org/category/tags/quality>