

# ENHANCING PEDIATRIC ORAL HEALTH: EXPANDING SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE USE IN NORTHERN HEALTH

## ▶ BACKGROUND

Newcomers to Canada (those who have been in Canada for less than a year (1) do not qualify for the Canadian Dental Care Plan, as filing tax returns in the previous year is an eligibility requirement (2). This poses a barrier to accessing oral health care for newcomer children to Fort St. John (FSJ) and surrounding communities, where many refugees have settled in recent years. Furthermore, the northeast (NE) health service delivery area experiences a high burden of dental caries, as evidenced by the kindergarten dental survey. The 2021 Census Immigration Profile found that there were 95 children aged 0-14 years in the FSJ Census Agglomeration Area who'd immigrated between 2016-2021. Of the 95, 70% are aged 0-9 years, ~65 children.

1. Benefits, credits, and taxes for newcomers - Canada.ca
2. Canadian Dental Care Plan - Do you qualify - Canada.ca

## ▶ AIM STATEMENT

**What will improve? Where? By how much? By when?**

Increase the newcomer children aged 0-6 years residing within 100km of Fort St. John receiving SDF in the public health dental program in a two-month period (Dec 1, 2024 - Jan 31, 2025) by 50% by March 31, 2025.

## ▶ BUSINESS CASE FOR SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE

- This project will help achieve more equitable oral health outcomes.
- It will also help save costs in the long term by diverting ED/OR-based dental interventions.
- The results of this project will help shape the ongoing delivery of SDF programming and inform the rollout of SDF programming in other communities in the NH region.

## ▶ CHANGE IDEAS



Engagements with newcomer serving organizations to promote the clinic



Targeted advertisements / promotion campaigns



Solicit & incorporate feedback about advertisement

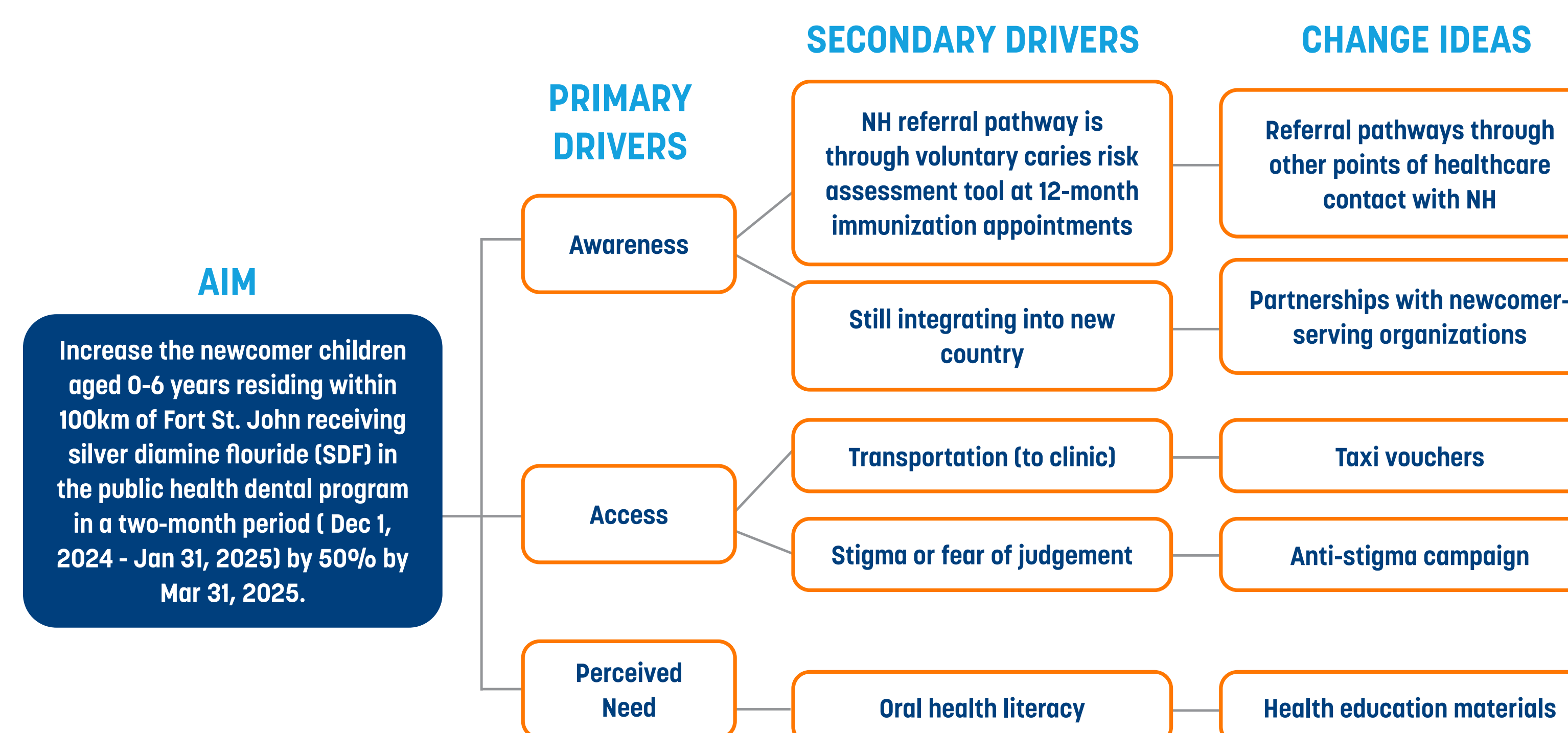
## ▶ CHANGE IDEAS CONT'D

### MEASUREMENT PLAN

Measure	Measure	Baseline (Dec 1, 2024 - Jan 31, 2025)	Current Status - as of 31st of March 2025	Comments
Outcome	# Assessed for SDF	7	8	On Track
Outcome	# Eligible for SDF	2	3	
Outcome	# Received SDF2	2	9	On Track
Outcome	# Declined SDF	0	0	On Track
Process	# Engagements with newcomer - serving organizations	1	7	On Track
Process	# Posters distributed	0	12	On Track
Process	# Feedback survey	0	1	On Track

Current status as of March 31st, 2025

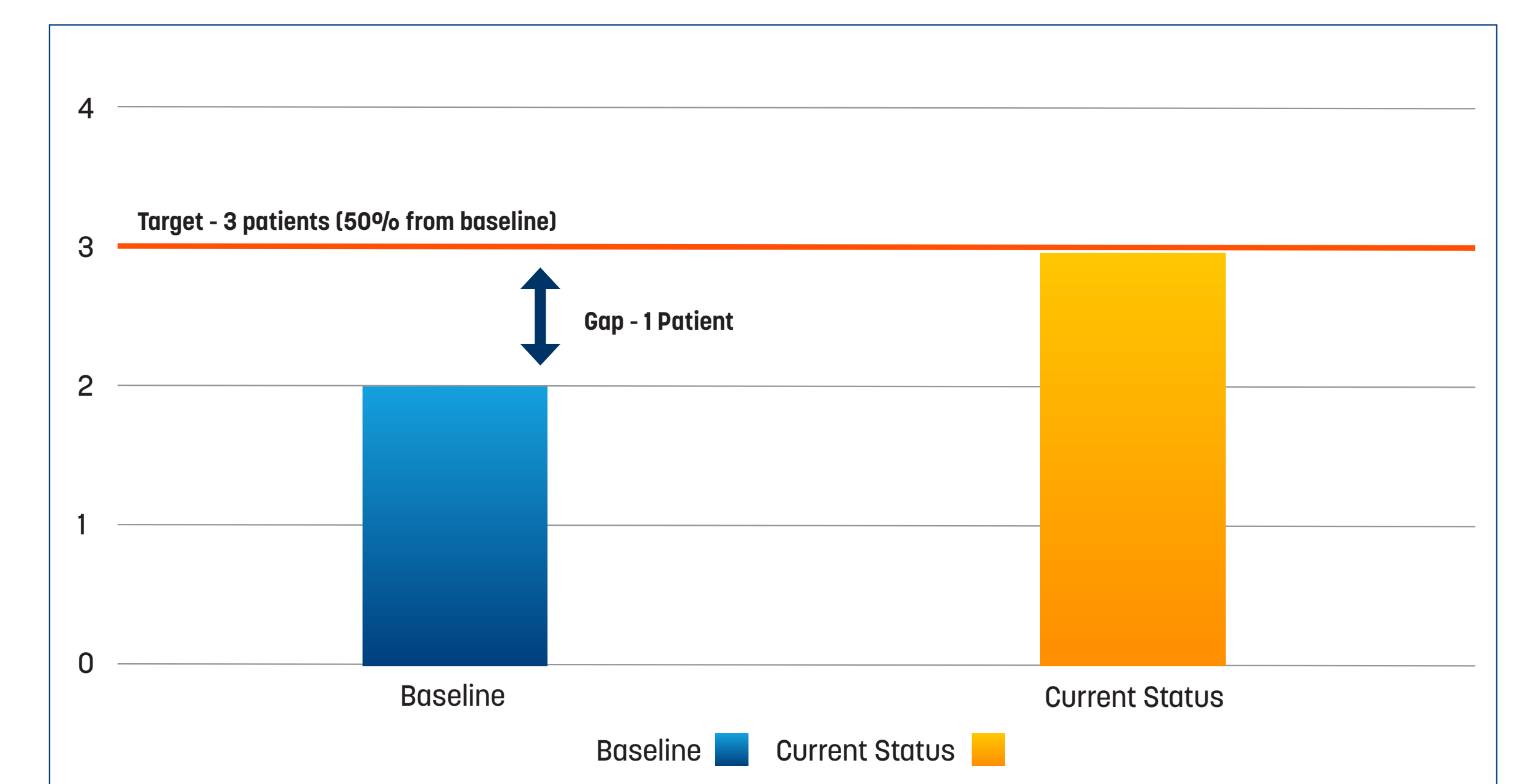
## ▶ DRIVER DIAGRAM



## ▶ DATA

### # OF PATIENTS RECEIVED SDF1

Baseline - Baseline (Dec 1, 2024 - Jan 31, 2025)  
Current Status as of March 31st, 2025



"Some of the immigrant families were hesitant about coming to the clinic, because they feel badly about their children's teeth and didn't want to be judged or looked down upon. The families saw that I did not judge them or make them feel badly and felt comfortable. They want to bring their children back to future clinics in addition to spreading the word about the clinics."

– A newcomer mother who was instrumental to initiating the community-centred drop-in clinics

"The poster made it clear when the drop-in clinic would be so they could share with their community, they had a good understanding of what services are provided, and it was easy to share a photo of the poster in their group chats."

– North East Immigrant Services Society (NEISS)

## ▶ FEEDBACK

- Building new relationships (Project team, NH Communications, school employees, clients, families)
- Chance for visits to new communities – Wonowon and Upper Halfway
- Possibility of further expansion to more rural communities in the NE
- Staff satisfaction from doing good work and making a difference
- Organized and well-structured project e.g. efficient weekly PQI meetings
- Nurturing environment through support and encouragement



## ▶ NEXT STEPS

- The Team dental hygienist will continue the manual data collection for newcomer children seen in clinic.
- Conversations about expansion into new communities (Wonowon and Upper Halfway), continued partnership, and engagement with identified clients are ongoing.
- A story about the Project, its approach and results will be highlighted on my NH site.

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### TEAM MEMBERS

**Physician project lead:** Dr Diana Bark  
**Project Co-Lead:** Lara Frederick  
**Project sponsors:** Dr Jong Kim and Tanis Hampe  
**PQI Coaches:** Nadia Tagoe, Lee Cameron  
Taylor Edean, PHP Dental Team Ethan Ready -  
Communication Partner, Amanda Wagman - Dental Hygienist