



Investing in youth, education, and job training

This year's budget will recognize the early years as the most important years in a child's development, investing in child care, and giving a much-deserved increase in wages for workers.

Budget 2016–2017 will also deliver on government's commitment to students, making direct investments in class caps, math, and language arts.

Budget funding will also make it easier for business to access skilled and knowledgeable workers, through ongoing funding for the Graduate to Opportunity program and Graduate Scholarship Program. More young people are staying and working in Nova Scotia, and this support will help continue that trend.

This year, government will hire more than 150 students across the province for summer jobs, as well as another 75 for internships and co-op placements, giving them valuable work experience and an opportunity to earn money for school.

Budget 2016–2017 includes

- \$1.6 million more for the Graduate to Opportunity program, helping recent grads land their first job in Nova Scotia
- \$6.6 million to subsidize childcare spaces, increase wage grants for early childhood educators, and support childcare centres in providing inclusive programming
- \$2.3 million for employers to provide co-op opportunities for students across the province
- \$2.8 million to help employers provide summer jobs for Nova Scotia youth
- \$21 million for the Education Action Plan, (a government commitment of \$65 million over four years), including
 - * \$9.8 million more for the Action Plan, including the literacy strategy, early intervention for support in math, coding, and streamlining curriculum
 - * \$6.4 million to reduce class sizes
 - * \$2.5 million more for the math strategy
 - * \$1.2 million more for language arts for P–3 classes
 - * \$672,000 for Mental Health Clinicians in Schools Plus Sites
 - * \$600,000 for early literacy initiatives
 - * \$100,000 for virtual schools
- \$500,000 more for four new Schools Plus sites, one in the Halifax Regional School Board, one in Chignecto Regional School Board, one in Conseil scolaire acadien provincial, and one in the Tri-County Regional School Board
- \$1.0 million more for Graduate Research and Innovation Scholarships
- \$940,000 for the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers Program, preparing workers ages 55–64 for new employment