

# Investing in a Stronger Nova Scotia

The budget tabled in April 2017 included new investments in youth and young families, in healthier and stronger communities, in new ideas for a better economy, support for an aging population, and in infrastructure projects across the province. Budget 2017–2018, tabled on Sept. 26, 2017, will build on this and invest an additional \$19 million to reflect what government has heard from Nova Scotians.

## Budget 2017–2018 includes

### Healthy People & Communities

- \$2.7 million more, for a total increase of \$6.4 million in 2017–2018, to hire more specialists, perform more orthopedic surgeries, and offer new pre-rehabilitation services to help patients prepare for a successful surgery
- \$846,000 to establish a new take home therapies cancer program to help cancer patients pay for high deductibles and co-payments for these medications—this investment will grow to more than \$2 million per year over the next three years
- \$799,000 more, for a total of \$1.36 million this year, to support actions under the Opioid Use and Overdose Framework, including expanding opioid treatment programs to eliminate the waitlist
- \$2 million for youth mental health—including \$1.8 million to expand youth mental health services and outreach across the province as part of a new four-year \$12.9 million commitment, and \$192,000 for more youth mental health supports in Cape Breton resulting from the report by Dr. Stan Kutcher, including hiring an additional two guidance counsellors and one social worker for the Cape Breton–Victoria Regional School Board—for a total mental health and addictions increase of more than \$7.8 million

- \$238,000, for a total of \$458,000, to support the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Government will also hire three community outreach specialists who have experience in dealing with trauma to provide cultural support to the families and community members involved

### Education for a Stronger Nova Scotia

- \$750,000 more, for a total 2017–2018 investment of \$4.5 million, for the free pre-primary program. This fall, parents will have access to 52 classes at 45 sites as the first phase of a four-year roll-out across the province
- Additional funding for Acadia University (\$3.5 million) and Cape Breton University (\$1 million) to address funding gaps created when the 2008 funding formula was implemented

### New Ideas for a Better Economy

- \$2.5 million in the first year, for a total investment of \$38 million over seven years, in the Atlantic Fisheries Fund—the federal government and four Atlantic provinces will invest more than \$400 million in innovation, infrastructure, and science in the fish and seafood sector
- \$4.7 million to complete site preparation for the Queen's Marque project

