

Investing in Education and Preparing Youth for the Workforce

Investments will improve access to child care services, strengthen early years programming, and allow government to maintain its focus on student achievement, inclusive education, and skill building.

Budget 2019–20 includes

Early Years and Education

- \$10.2 million to expand pre-primary classes, for a total of \$34 million this year — by September 2020 every four-year-old in Nova Scotia will have access to a free, pre-primary, early learning opportunity
 - \$67 million this year, which includes a federal government contribution of \$11 million, for the regulated childcare sector — this investment is helping increase subsidies, raise the income threshold to be eligible for the maximum subsidy, and make subsidies available to families using part-day programs
 - \$15 million increase, for a two-year total of \$30 million, to continue implementing recommendations from the Commission on Inclusive Education
 - \$20 million in continued funding for smaller class sizes and additional supports put in place following recommendations from the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions
- \$1.4 million increase, for a total of \$12 million, to complete the reinstatement of the Reading Recovery program to all elementary schools by September 2019, giving our youngest students access to focused support to help improve their reading
 - \$2 million for a pilot program called the Technology Advantage Program that will bring together high school, college, and the IT sector through a partnership with NSCC and IBM
 - Completing work and opening Yarmouth Elementary School and LeMarchant–St. Thomas Elementary School (Halifax), and completing renovations to Frank H. MacDonald Elementary School (Sutherlands River) and Ferrisview Elementary School (North Sydney)

Connecting Youth to the Workforce

- \$3.6 million increase to the university operating grant, as the province prepares to enter another multi-year MOU with these post-secondary institutions
- Eligible Nova Scotia students studying at our province's universities will no longer have to repay their Nova Scotia student loan if they complete their undergraduate degree within five years, regardless of the amount owing. The Student Loan Program will also phase out upfront grants for Nova Scotia students studying out of province in programs that are available here.

- \$500,000 to provide funding to municipalities to create employment in their communities, particularly for youth, through the new Community Works Program
- \$350,000 provided to Clean Foundation to support 73 internships across the province this summer to do research, manage events, develop leadership skills and innovative ideas, and take on projects that help the environment