

Youth & Jobs

Government continues to help prepare our children, youth, and young adults for opportunities to succeed here at home.

When we help families, we strengthen our province. Budget 2017–2018 provides more support for young families, more support for middle-class Nova Scotians, and more jobs for recent grads.

This budget improves spending on child care and pre-primary programs, connects youth to more mental health supports, provides healthy breakfasts, expands Reading Recovery, and invests in coding.

We are making apprenticeship more accessible, and making it easier for employers to hire grads, while cutting taxes for new grads, the middle class and those who need it most.

Budget 2017–2018 includes

Support for Young Families

- Reduce taxes for more than 500,000 people by increasing the basic personal amount by up to \$3,000 for taxable incomes of up to \$75,000. People with a taxable income under \$25,000 get the full benefit. The benefit decreases as income increases. With this change, effective January 1, 2018, more than 60,000 additional Nova Scotians will no longer pay provincial income tax.
- \$3.7 million to add 30 new pre-primary sites where early learning programming is offered to 4-year-olds in schools, for a total of 38 across the province
- \$800,000 to allow Autism Nova Scotia to deliver a new pilot program to 50 families before they receive EIBI services, and to support the organization's work with families across the province through its regional centres

Training and Connecting to the Workforce

- \$1.7 million more for the Graduate to Opportunity program, helping recent grads land their first job in Nova Scotia
- \$1.7 million to fund a new Innovate to Opportunity program for employers to hire recent Masters and PhD graduates for research and innovation-focused jobs
- \$1.3 million to eliminate the tuition apprentices pay for technical training
- \$2 million to expand the Apprenticeship START program, providing incentives for small and medium-sized businesses hiring apprentices from underrepresented groups or rural areas
- \$379,000 to create 94 additional research internships through the Mitacs Accelerate program
- \$1.8 million to increase employment support services for youth at risk and youth in the care of the Minister
- Expanded student assistance support with higher weekly loan allowances and extended loan forgiveness to students who complete programs in five years from four, which can eliminate a student's entire provincial loan

Education and Early Childhood Development

- \$1.8 million to connect more children and youth with community and mental health supports, for a total investment in SchoolsPlus of \$8.2 million

- \$1.4 million for additional school psychologists and speech-language pathologists
- \$1.1 million to expand the school breakfast program through Nourish Nova Scotia to serve 5.5 million healthy, nutritious breakfasts across the province this year
- \$1 million to double the investment in coding and computer skills initiatives for P–12 students
- \$1.1 million to continue expanding the Reading Recovery program to 73 more schools
- \$10 million to support new initiatives identified by the Council to Improve Classroom Conditions, as part of a two-year commitment
- \$5.1 million, in partnership with the federal government, to continue to support the wages and training of early childhood educators