

# Budget2015

## Balancing Choices for a Promising Future

### Education and Early Childhood Development

#### Implementing Lifelong Learning from the Early Years to Post-Secondary

Budget 2015 investments continue to support learning and development through a series of investments in programs and services.

#### Early Childhood Learning

Budget 2015 allocates \$45.7 million to continue the implementation of the Caring for Our Future strategy, representing a \$3.2 million increase over last year and the third consecutive year of funding increases. Investments under this strategy include:

- \$17.3 million for the Child Care Service Subsidy.
- \$10.7 million for the newly implemented Operating Grant Program.
- \$6.5 million for Early Learning and Child Care Supplement.
- \$2 million for the Inclusion Supports Program.
- \$1.8 million for the Child Care Capacity Initiative.
- \$1 million for the Family Child Care Initiative.
- \$500,000 for the Workplace Training Program.

#### Full-Day Kindergarten

More than \$10.5 million to continue implementation of full-day Kindergarten beginning in September 2016. Implementing full-day Kindergarten is an investment in the early learning and development of children and supports the province's Early Learning Strategy, Learning from the Start.

#### Strengthening K-12 School Infrastructure

Budget 2015 includes \$95 million for school infrastructure projects, which include:

- Over \$8.2 million for:
  - New intermediate schools for the Witless Bay/ Mobile area and Paradise.

- Planning for a new high school in Paradise.
- Modular classrooms for Villanova Junior High, Holy Trinity Elementary, Riverside Elementary and St. Bernard's Elementary.
- School extension projects at Villanova Junior High, Riverside Elementary, St. Peter's Elementary.
- An assessment for future classroom needs in Conception Bay South.
- Teacher housing in Rigolet and Nain.
- Over \$65.2 million for ongoing school construction projects, including the new elementary school in Paradise, and schools in Conception Bay South, Virginia Park, Torbay, Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Coley's Point, Gander and the completion of Waterford Valley High School in St. John's.
- Nearly \$22 million for repairs and maintenance.

#### Post-Secondary Education

Budget 2015 includes investments that are focused on continuing to develop a highly-skilled, well-educated workforce.

#### Loans to Grants

\$12.6 million towards the elimination of provincial student loans and replacement of these loans with up front non-repayable grants.

#### Apprenticeship Renewal

Approximately \$20 million in Budget 2015 will go towards skilled trade development and a variety of initiatives to revitalize the apprenticeship system.

### *Memorial University*

The Provincial Government will continue to support a tuition freeze for Canadian undergraduate students.

### *College of the North Atlantic*

The Provincial Government will continue to support a tuition freeze for students at College of the North Atlantic.

### **Population Growth Strategy**

\$500,000 for the implementation of the Population Growth Strategy, which is designed to help increase the province's population.