

On April 24, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador delivered a budget focused on people and prosperity. Budget 2012 reflects responsible fiscal management while protecting key public services and enhancing economic growth.

Responsible investments that matter to you and to the future of Newfoundland and Labrador include:

Supporting Apprentices and Fostering a Thriving Skilled Labour Force

- Over \$100 million in new and continued funding to increase apprenticeship training, support post-secondary institutions and students, and enhance workforce development
- Introduction of a Journeyperson Mentorship Program, expansion of the Apprenticeship Wage Subsidy Program, and registration of pre-apprentices in the Apprentice Tracking System
- Establishment of the Workforce Development Secretariat
- Continued tuition freeze, non-repayable grants for post-secondary students, and no interest on the provincial portion of student loans

Fueling Business and Economic Growth Through Innovation and a Progressive Tax Regime

- Almost \$200 million to support innovation and development of traditional and emerging industries such as aquaculture, ocean technology, and tourism, as well as film and television
- This includes \$91 million in continuing incentives and credits for business owners and operators
- Continuation of tax initiatives such as Personal Income Tax reductions, the supplementary Child Care Tax Credit, the Low Income Seniors' Benefit, and the Residential Energy Rebate

Supporting Economic Growth and Creating Jobs Through Investments in Infrastructure

- Almost \$900 million for infrastructure improvements including:
 - » \$60.1 million in the Provincial Roads Improvement Program
 - » \$19.7 million for the continued construction of the Team Gushue Highway extension and \$10.5 million for the continued construction of the Conception Bay South By-Pass Road

- » \$10.4 million to continue to replace aging ferries, including funding to begin the process of constructing a new ferry for Fogo Island and Change Islands
- » Funding for planning, construction and renovation of public buildings, including schools, hospitals and long-term care facilities

Continuing to Improve Access to Vital Health Care Services

- Nearly \$3 billion to improve health care for all residents
- \$1.9 million to expand dialysis services in Harbour Breton, St. Anthony, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Carbonear, and Corner Brook
- Over \$508,000 to expand breast cancer screening in existing sites to women aged 40-49
- \$7.1 million to enhance the 65Plus Plan to protect seniors from paying more for their drug costs
- \$4.4 million for the coverage of new drug therapies
- Over \$230 million for continued construction and redevelopment of health care facilities, including \$81 million for long-term care infrastructure projects
- An additional \$14 million for the Home Support Program

Investing in Education

- Over \$866 million for the K-12 education system, an increase of \$18.2 million over last year
- \$115 million for new and ongoing infrastructure projects, including funding for potential new schools in the province's growth areas

Investing in Strong Social Programs

- \$150.8 million through the Poverty Reduction Strategy to help the province's most vulnerable, an increase of approximately \$11.3 million from last year
- Over \$200 million to enhance vital program areas, such as child care and protective intervention for children and youth, and to increase regulated child care spaces and operating grants to child care centre operators
- \$3.7 million to provide a 35 per cent reduction to seniors aged 65 and older on driver's licence, vehicle registration fees, and other licences and fees for such things as hunting, fishing, cutting wood and camping