

Supporting Seniors and Inclusive Communities

Our government is committed to providing services that are fundamental to the social and economic well-being of individuals and families. Budget 2018 continues to provide support to seniors, women, children, persons with disabilities and vulnerable individuals.

Community-Based Care

Budget 2018 includes investments in the delivery of care in the home and community, primary health care services and to support community groups. Budget 2018 includes:

- \$43.3 million over five years for home and community care through the bilateral agreement with the Federal Government. In 2018, \$8.6 million will be invested in palliative, dementia and complex care needs.
- Funding for increased home care supports for people with dementia.
- A province-wide palliative care approach with greater training for clinicians, service providers and caregivers.
- A Home First Integrated Network, with wrap around services for seniors, and an extension of nursing and other professional services in the community beyond traditional work hours.
- Over \$115 million for operational funding for community groups, as well as support for projects and programs.

Healthy Aging Initiatives

Budget 2018 supports the continued development of age-friendly communities. Budget 2018 includes:


- \$300,000 for the Age-Friendly Transportation Project to support initiatives that demonstrate evidence of volunteer involvement and collaboration.
- Healthy living assessments will provide seniors and their families with information to improve their overall health and quality of life. These assessments will start to roll out in select communities in 2018.

Income Supports

To support low income seniors, individuals, families and persons with disabilities, Budget 2018 includes:

- \$65 million for the Newfoundland and Labrador Income Supplement. This program benefits approximately 155,500 individuals and their families.
- \$56 million for the Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors' Benefit, which was increased in 2016. This program benefits approximately 47,000 seniors and their families.

 **\$121 Million**
For Income Supports

 **\$56 Million**
For the Seniors' Benefit

Benefits approximately
47,000 seniors
and their families

 **\$65 Million**
For the Income Supplement

Benefits approximately
155,000 individuals
and their families

Persons with Disabilities/Inclusive Communities

Our government is committed to creating inclusive communities that support all citizens. Budget 2018 includes:

- \$400,000 for accessible transportation options through accessible taxis, retrofitting or acquiring accessible vehicles for personal use.
- \$75,000 for inclusion grants to non-profit community organizations.

Injured Workers

The Provincial Government has enhanced benefits available to injured workers and their families by increasing the income replacement rate from 80 to 85 per cent, effective April 1, 2018. This will improve benefits without increasing the average assessment rate for employers. The Maximum Compensable Assessable Earnings for 2018 is \$64,375.

Community Support

Our government partners with community organizations that support social, legal and cultural initiatives. Budget 2018 includes:

- \$3.4 million in core operational funding for 10 Regional Coordinating Committees Against Violence, eight women's centres, the Transition House Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Multicultural Women's Organization of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Newfoundland Aboriginal Women's Network and the Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Centre.
- \$11.8 million to support not-for-profit groups engaged in the delivery of transitional and emergency housing.

Children in Care

The health and well-being of children is paramount. When children and youth are placed into care, some require a permanency plan. Budget 2018 provides \$395,000 over the next two years for dedicated resources to develop adoption profiles for children and youth and to help complete the matching and approval process.

Housing

Budget 2018 reflects our government's commitment to improving housing outcomes that address the needs of residents. Budget 2018 includes:

- A new Home Purchase Program where our government will provide \$3,000 grants towards the purchase of a newly constructed or never before purchased home under \$400,000.
- A First Time Homebuyer's Program, that provides down payment financing and also includes a \$2,000 grant for eligible first time home buyers. The eligibility threshold is raised from \$65,000 to \$75,000 for full benefit and up to \$85,000 for partial benefit.

Over  **\$39 Million**
For Housing Supports to Meet
the Needs of Residents

Other Budget 2018 commitments that support accessible and affordable housing include:

- \$10.2 million for maintenance, repair and upkeep of public housing properties.
- \$8.6 million for the Supportive Living Program and Provincial Homelessness Fund.
- \$3.6 million to modernize and renovate public rental housing.
- \$2.7 million to leverage federal funding to continue developing affordable housing options through the Investment in Affordable Housing Program.
- A \$2 million increase in the number of rent supplement units and to support the portable rent supplement pilot program.
- In partnership with the Federal Government, new housing units will be built, as well as upgrades made to some social housing units to reflect present day family size and seniors' needs.