

# Increasing Access to Quality Early Learning and Child Care for Nova Scotians



In 2018, Nova Scotia signed a three-year, \$35 million child care funding agreement that increases access to regulated child care for children and families and helps our regulated child care sector meet the needs of their communities.

**\$1.8 million** to 5 new and 8 existing regulated child care centres to create 455 new spaces:

- 220 spaces in Halifax County
- 31 spaces in Lunenburg County
- 15 spaces in Shelburne County
- 56 spaces in Pictou County
- 51 spaces in Inverness County
- 8 spaces in Queens County
- 8 spaces in Cape Breton County
- 66 spaces in Hants County

**Total 455 Spaces:** 60 infant spaces, 152 toddler spaces, 65 preschool spaces, and 178 before- and after- pre-primary program spaces

**\$600,000** to 14 family home child care agencies to create and sustain up to 301 new spaces in 43 additional approved family home child care sites across the province:

- 70 spaces in 10 sites in Halifax County
- 14 spaces in 2 sites in Shelburne County
- 21 spaces in 3 sites in Pictou County
- 28 spaces in 4 sites in Cape Breton County
- 28 spaces in 4 sites in Hants County
- 42 spaces in 6 sites in Annapolis County
- 14 spaces in 2 sites in Digby County
- 49 spaces in 7 sites in Yarmouth County
- 35 spaces in 5 sites in Colchester County

**\$2.9 million** to offer a second round of the Strategic Growth Initiative fund. This investment is focused on growing and supporting child care spaces in targeted communities where they are needed most.

**\$3 million** to offer a second Space Conversion Grant and to create a Program Enhancement Grant for non-profit centres:

- The Space Conversion Grant is one-time funding that allows centres to improve their existing space to support younger children.
- The Program Enhancement Grant is one-time funding for non-profit centres to make minor repairs and renovations, replace equipment, or purchase new materials to support high-quality, inclusive programming.

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Since 2014, government has increased investments to the sector by about \$25 million annually. Over this same period, we have seen 2,245 new regulated child care spaces created.