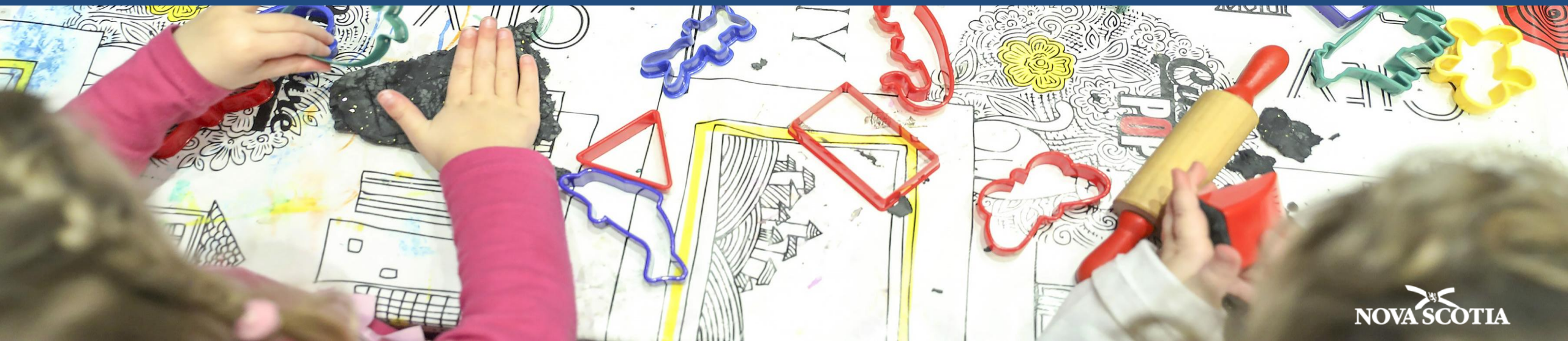




Early Learning and Child Care Sector Call

September 24, 2025





We would like to begin by recognizing that the land upon which we work, live, and gather is the traditional territory and ancestral homeland of the Mi'kmaq Nation. Our relationship is based on a series of sacred and historic Peace and Friendship Treaties. We pay our respect to the Mi'kmaw People, and recognize in Nova Scotia, we are All Treaty People.

We acknowledge the existence of people of African descent in Nova Scotia for over 400 years. May we honour and offer gratitude to the ancestors who came before us to this land and their commitment to not let this history be lost.

 **Ask a Question?** Use the Q&A feature anytime - just click the Q&A icon.

 **Mic & Camera:** These are off by default.

 **Missed a Question?** We'll follow up with a Q&A document after the call if needed.

 **Captions:** Turn on captions: Go to top bar → More → Language and Speech → Turn on live captions.

 **Recording Notice:** This session is recorded and transcribed. An FAQ will be shared later.

 **Note: Do not use AI tools during this session.**

Agenda

- **Updates (40~ mins)**
 - Engagement (Lead: Erika)
 - Space Creation Initiatives & Progress (Lead: Krystal)
 - Quality, Innovation & Professional Learning (Lead: Hoa)
 - Sector Development, Accountability (Lead: Ryan)
- **Q&A (15~ mins)**

Engagement



Engagement




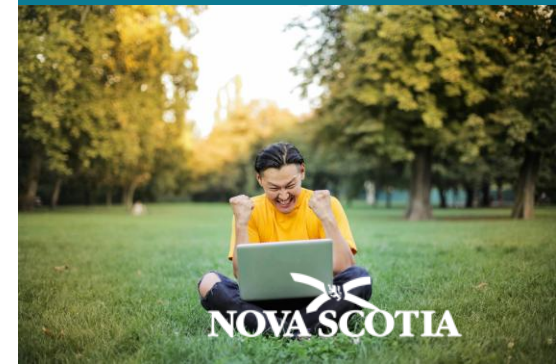
Minister's Engagement Table

- Meets quarterly - typically Saturdays, typically in-person. The 12th MET meeting was held **Saturday, September 20th**
- Topics included Health Association Nova Scotia, Sector Development, School Aged Care in Nova Scotia, and Digital Services
- Meeting summaries are posted quarterly – you can view the summaries here <https://childcarenovascotia.ca/engagement-table>



Workforce Surveys

- **July 2025:** Directors and operators were invited to complete a workforce survey focused on staffing needs.  84 responses received
- **September 2025:** Hands-on educators in licensed child care, Family Home Child Care, NS BAP, and Pre-Primary programs will be invited to participate in a similar survey.
- **Purpose:** These surveys will help ELCC better understand workforce needs across child care settings—both provincially and regionally.
- **Results:** Will be shared in a future sector call



Space Creation Initiatives & Progress



Space Expansion: Progress & Commitments

7,363 spaces created, on track to reach 9,500 by March 2026

	Spaces Opened									
	2021-2023 ⁽¹⁾	2023-2024				2024-25				2025-26
Program Type	July 13, 2021 - March 31, 2023	Q1 Apr 1 - Jun 30	Q2 Jul 1 - Sep 30	Q3 Oct 1 - Dec 31	Q4 Jan 1 - Mar 31	Q1 Apr 1 - Jun 30	Q2 Jul 1 - Sep 30	Q3 Oct 1 - Dec 31	Q4 Jan 1 - Mar 31	Q1 Apr 1 - Jun 30
Licensed child care centres	377	310	302	108	200	348	253	147	169	184
Licensed family homes	546	100	150	108	198	120	294	132	114	162
NS Before-and-After Program (NSBAP)	768	0	804	288	264	41	627	57	96	96
Total	1691	410	1256	504	662	509	1174	336	379	442
Cumulative Total	1691	2101	3357	3861	4523	5032	6206	6542	6921	7363

Our space progress is updated quarterly
Next Update: October 15, 2025
www.childcarenovascotia.ca

Infrastructure Programs Highlights

	Minor Infrastructure	Major Infrastructure
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 applications received • 8 approved • 161 new spaces opened • 168 spaces in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82 applications received • 20 approved • 52 new spaces opened • 711 spaces in progress
In-Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dare to Dream Children's Society - 78 • East Coast Early Learning (Margaree Daycare) – 14 • Lower Onslow Preschool Association Satellite - 52 • Tots Academy - 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coldbrook YMCA – 63 • Small World Learning Centre – 86 • NSCEC Kingston – 42 • New Dawn – 49 • Citizens Healthy Pictou County – 20 • Centre d'appui (Pomquet) – 40 • Wentworth – 41 • Plymouth Community Recreation Association – 58 • Oxford Community Centre Association – 36 • Cunard – 54 • YMCA Lake Charlotte – 72 • By the Sea – 64 • Lunenburg Dare Care Centre – 86
Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Kids Early Learning Organization - 13 • North End Community Day Care Centre - 29 • It Takes a Village-Hammonds Plains - 78 • Silver Crescent - 41 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tots Lantz - 52

Public Partnerships – Recent Announcements

St. Francis Xavier University – 104 Spaces, Cape Breton University – 104 spaces, & Acadia University – 104 Spaces



Quality, Innovation & Professional Learning



Quality, Innovation & Professional Learning

Professional Learning Updates

Fall professional learning opportunities:

Learning Through Active Play (Active for Life, in-person):

- Oct 18, 9-4 pm – Truro
- Oct 18, 9-4 pm – Yarmouth
- Oct 18, 9-4 pm – Sydney
- Nov 8, 9-4 pm – Kentville
- Winter 2026 – Halifax

Contact: Melissa Dulong at Melissa.Vail@nsc.ca

Responsive Feeding Part 1 (virtual, MSVU):

- Nov 5, 7-9 pm
- Nov 12, 7-9 pm

Mi'kmaw Ways of Being and Knowing (Mi'kmaw Services Branch, in-person)

- Oct 25, 9-4 pm, Sydney

For access to all professional learning opportunities and to register, visit:

www.ednet.ns.ca/ece/early-years-professional-learning



Quality, Innovation & Professional Learning

Workforce Updates

High Skills Major in Early Childhood Education – Pilot

- 1 Child studies course, 1 Co-op credit, 2 supplementary credits
- Students who graduate with an HSM in ECE may qualify for credit toward NSCC's Professional Practice I course (part of ECE diploma program).
- Collaborating with CSAP and U-Ste-Anne to launch French HSM in fall 2026.
- For more information and list of pilot schools, visit:

www.careerpathways.ednet.ns.ca/high-skills-major

Virtual Diploma for Hard-to-Recruit Areas – NSCC (Work and Learn for New to Sector)

- Registration open for November 2025 start
- Tuition, textbooks, student fees fully funded
- Potential to hire untrained staff on a Temporary Staffing Plan (they can be counted as trained in-ratio staff while they are studying)
- Areas eligible for funding:
 - Northern (**Pictou, Antigonish and Guysborough** Counties)
 - South Shore (**Lunenburg and Queens** Counties)
 - Western Cape Breton (**Inverness, Victoria & Richmond** Counties)



Sector Development



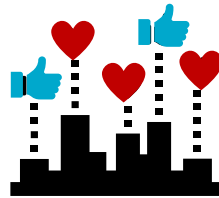
Business Administration

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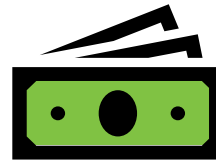
Provide opportunity for development of Business Administration and Financial skills in areas of:



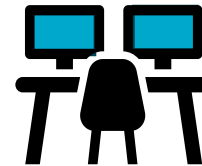
Accounting



Budgeting



**Cash Flow
Management**



**Technology
(i.e., Excel)**



Partner Collaboration

1. **Mount Saint Vincent University**
 - Course content
2. **Health Association Nova Scotia (HANS)**
 - Member resources
3. **Labour Skills and Immigration (LSI)**
 - Workplace Education Initiative (WEI)

Workplace Education Initiative (WEI)

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Adult education principles are a core pillar of WEI:

Learner-centred, workplace-relevant, and co-designed with employers and participants, respecting prior experience and using flexible, **practice-based learning** that transfers immediately to the job.

WEI delivers programs in individual companies and “clusters” of small businesses hosted by community organizations.

Classes are kept relatively small, with 8 to 12 participants, to allow for individual attention and support throughout the training.

~10 weeks (3-4 hours per session), customized to the sector and organizations.



A person wearing a white lab coat and glasses is sitting at a desk, working on a laptop. They are wearing a headset with a microphone. The desk also has a notebook, a pen, and a cup. The laptop screen shows a web application with various fields and buttons. The background is a solid teal color.

Help for Improved:

- Cash flow planning
- Budget processes
- Annual Report data

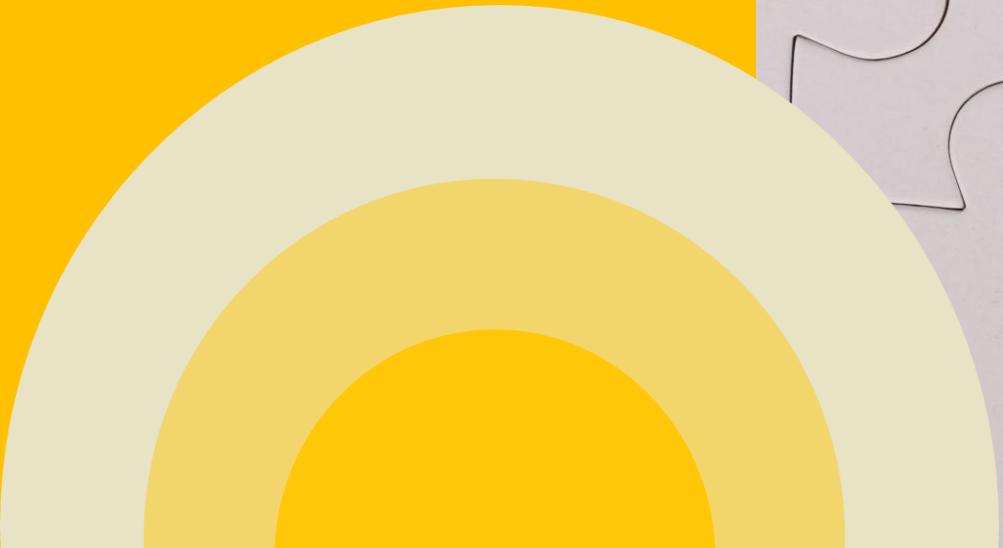
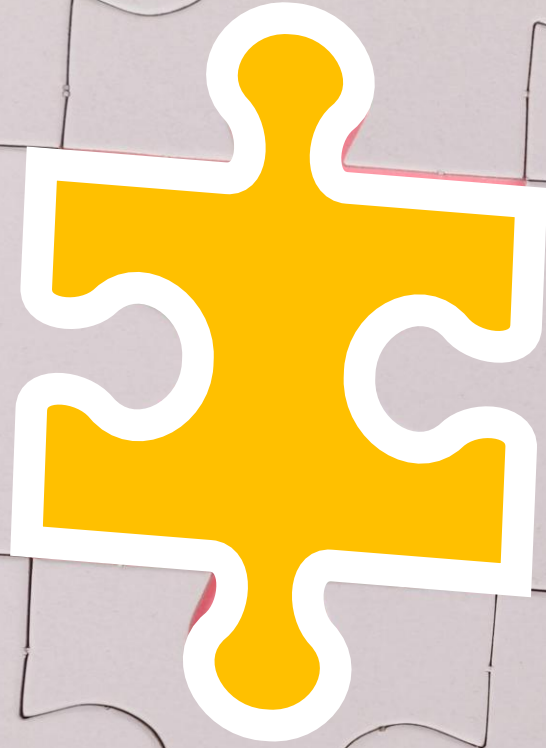
Training Opportunity

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- The Department is collaborating with LSI to initiate sector training.
- **Operators interested in participating in WEI** should email ECDServices@novascotia.ca with the **Subject Line:** *“OPERATOR NAME, Sector Development Opportunity, count me in!”*
 - Please include a brief explanation of why you’re interested in participating in training.
- Selected participants will be contacted once training timelines are confirmed.



Accountability



Funding Accountability

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Department



Responsible to ensure public funding is used as intended.

Operators



Responsible to comply with funding agreement terms and conditions.



24-25 Annual Report:

Templates: sent via email on **July 23, 2025**

Due: **October 24, 2025**

Send to: ECDSGrants@novascotia.ca



Q&A

- Use the Q&A function
- Be kind
- Be professional
- Be respectful of differences



Reminders

1. A **copy** of the sector call **deck** and an **FAQ document** will be posted here <https://childcarenovascotia.ca/operators>
2. The **Workforce Survey** for hands-on **educators** working specifically in licensed child care settings, NS Before and Afterschool program and Family Home Child Care and Pre-primary programs will be shared later this month. Keep an eye on your inbox.
3. Stay tuned for 2026 sector call information.



THANK YOU!



Reach out to us at ECDServices@novascotia.ca