

# Transforming the Early Learning and Child Care System



9,500 New Spaces · Average \$10-a-day · By March 2026

## Child care that is affordable

We are reducing child care fees, and providing sustainable funding for service providers. By March of 2026, child care will cost families \$10 per day, on average.

## Child care that is available when and where it's needed

By collaborating with our partners, we will strategically create more child care spaces across Nova Scotia. This includes school-aged spaces in Nova Scotia's Before and After Program, spaces in family homes, and spaces in child care centres. By March of 2026, Nova Scotia will have added a total of 9,500\* more child care spaces.

\*Total since signing the Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement in July 2021

## Child care where everyone is included

We are committed to engaging families, partners and child care providers in the development of an early learning and child care inclusion strategy and plan to address the unique needs of children, families and communities.

## Child care delivered by well educated and compensated professionals

We are focused on ensuring children receive high quality early learning programming delivered by well compensated and qualified professionals.

To learn more, visit [ChildCareNovaScotia.ca](https://ChildCareNovaScotia.ca) or scan



# Transforming the Early Learning and Child Care System



## Child care that is affordable

### PROGRESS

Fees reduced an average of 50% for licensed care, which, when combined with the Child Care Subsidy Program for lower income families, means more than 3,000 families now pay \$0 per day

Payments to help child care providers with rising operational costs like:

- Food
- Heating
- Maintenance
- Infant care

### WHAT'S NEXT

- \$10 per day for care, on average, by March 2026
- Sustainable investments in the people and places that provide licensed care
- Changes to help more lower income families access the financial supports they need

## Child care that is available when and where it's needed

### PROGRESS

Between July 2021 and December 2023, 3,861 new spaces have been created, including:

- 1,097 more spaces in child care centres
- 904 more spaces in family homes
- 1,860 more spaces in Nova Scotia's Before and After School Program

We are:

- Piloting extended child care hours
- Creating programs to connect care providers with funding for renovations

### WHAT'S NEXT

- 9,500 new child care spaces by 2026
- Activities to increase the public's awareness about Family Home Child Care
- Funding to help family home care providers get started
- Continued expansion of the Nova Scotia Before and After School Program

## Child care where everyone is included

### PROGRESS

Creation of new ECE Diploma Programs\* to ensure care is delivered by individuals reflective of Nova Scotia's communities:

- The Mi'kmaw ECE Diploma Program
- The Africentric ECE Diploma Program

\*in partnership with NSCC

More funding to increase services for children at risk of, or who have been diagnosed with a developmental delay

### WHAT'S NEXT

- A strategy to guide inclusive care
- Changes in funding to enable more inclusive programs
- Sustainable funding to support early childhood developmental intervention
- Expansion of tools to support the social-emotional development of children

## Child care delivered by well educated and compensated professionals

### PROGRESS

All ECEs in licensed centres and agencies are now paid on a provincial wage scale and will soon have access to defined benefit pensions and group benefits plans

We have redesigned the Quality Matters Program to ensure continuous quality improvement in licensed care and launched new ECE training and bursary programs

### WHAT'S NEXT

- Ensuring at least 70% of ECEs working in licensed care are provincially classified (by 2026)
- Piloting the new Quality Matters Program
- Launching more ECE Training Programs