

Highlights of the coming year include:

- expanding SchoolsPlus into more regions
- tripling the number of students who can participate in online virtual classrooms
- increasing funding per student to \$10,457, the highest it has ever been
- ensuring that class sizes remain at current 20-year low
- doubling the number of schools offering skilled trades, and helping students prepare for upcoming shipbuilding opportunities
- establishing skilled trades centres in other parts of the province
- expanding Succeeding in Reading into Grade 2
- launching a social marketing campaign on cyberbullying and reviewing all recommendations in the recent report

Ensuring That Government Lives Within Its Means

Government's fiscal plan is working. Nova Scotians want their government to have solid financial footing and the province is delivering on its plan to get the Nova Scotia budget back to balance.

For the third year in a row, departmental spending is forecast to be under budget. That hasn't happened in at least 45 years. Moving forward, government continues to maintain spending discipline.

Highlights of the coming year include:

- merging administrative services of district health authorities and the IWK, with anticipated savings of \$7.6 million this year growing to \$41.5 million
- continuing to evaluate departmental programs and services for effectiveness and affordability
- saving more money through strategic purchasing
- continuing restraint on out-of-province travel and the purchase and use of cell phones, Blackberries, and office space

Conclusion

Nova Scotia is moving forward with a plan. This plan will ensure that the government aligns its resources to support what matters to Nova Scotians: better health care, creating good jobs and growing the economy, making life affordable for families, and ensuring that government lives within its means. Government will also work to ensure that our children succeed at school through the Kids & Learning First plan. In the coming year, these priorities will provide the overarching framework for the work of government.



Government Business Plan

for the fiscal year 2012–2013

Message from Premier Darrell Dexter

Nova Scotia is on the verge of some of the largest economic projects in the province's history. Opportunities like the shipbuilding contract, the Lower Churchill hydroelectric project, and Shell Oil's commitment to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in exploration off our coast are going to significantly boost our economy. Much careful work and planning went into securing these projects, and much work lies ahead.

In the coming year, the province will work hard to build upon this momentum, capitalize on these opportunities, and aggressively seek others.

This is year three of our multi-year plan to make life better for Nova Scotia's families.

Our plan is focused on the priorities that matter most for Nova Scotians:

- creating good jobs and growing the economy
- better health care for you and your family
- making life more affordable
- putting kids and learning first, and
- ensuring that government lives within its means

Nova Scotia is positioned to succeed. The future starts here.

Sincerely,

Darrell Dexter
Premier of Nova Scotia



Creating Good Jobs and Growing the Economy



Today, more people are working in Nova Scotia than at any other time in the province's history. Over the next 30 years, Nova Scotia will see growth like it's never seen before, thanks to the shipbuilding contracts, offshore exploration, and the Lower Churchill hydroelectric project. These projects will provide significant benefits to our economy and allow Nova Scotians to succeed at home.

The province is also creating a competitive business environment, and investing in the skills and hard work of Nova Scotia's workers and businesses. Thanks to investments in training and innovation under jobsHere, Nova Scotians will be able to take advantage of present and future opportunities.

Highlights of the coming year include:

- implementing a \$610 million Jobs and Building Plan, including investments in roads, infrastructure, buildings, IT, and land purchases
- supporting upgrades to Irving Shipbuilding, and enabling the next generation of Canada's navy fleet to be built in Nova Scotia
- dropping the small business corporate income tax rate from 4 per cent to 3.5 per cent, as well as other measures to make Nova Scotia more competitive in business

- creating a regional venture capital fund to provide early-stage seed capital, in partnership with others
- helping to fund the cost of technologically advanced machinery
- increasing skills and training opportunities for Nova Scotians
- providing a ten-year extension of the Equity Tax Credit and Labour-Sponsored Venture Capital Tax Credit

Better Care Sooner



The province is improving access to health-care professionals and addressing long waits at emergency rooms. There will be more Collaborative Emergency Centres opened in Nova Scotia in the coming year, along with significant investments in seniors, children, and families. Better Care Sooner is the province's plan to create a sustainable health-care system that meets the needs of the entire province.

Highlights of the Better Care Sooner plan include:

- providing more Nova Scotians with same-day or next-day appointments and 24/7 access to emergency care at Collaborative Emergency Centres
- increasing the number of paramedics and nurses at Collaborative Emergency Centres
- enhancing the ability of seniors to stay in their homes longer by increasing funding for home support visits
- providing additional in-home nursing care services

- opening 76 new and 440 replacement nursing home beds across Nova Scotia
- providing significant investments in hospital facilities
- purchasing new hospital equipment such as anesthesia machines, monitors, and patient beds
- supporting additional in-home dialysis treatment
- reducing wait times for radiation therapy
- protecting more than 100,000 seniors against increases to Pharmacare premiums and copayments
- supporting health promotion by investing in recreation facilities and physical activity development
- developing and implementing a strategy for people living with mental health and addiction issues
- expanding addictions treatment in the Annapolis Valley

Making Life More Affordable for Nova Scotians



The government is committed to making life more affordable for families. This coming year, the government will put more money back into the hands of families, low-income Nova Scotians, students, and seniors.

Highlights of the coming year include:

- reductions in personal income tax, which will allow about 78,000 Nova Scotians to keep more income
- increasing the Nova Scotia Child Benefit, which will help 24,000 families and nearly 40,000 children
- providing additional funding, on top of last year's increase, that will support people with disabilities to live more independently
- providing funding to protect seniors against increases to their Pharmacare premiums and copayments
- increasing the Poverty Reduction Credit

Kids & Learning First



Nova Scotia has many hard-working teachers, and the province is investing more money per student than ever before. But there are also serious challenges, such as a declining number of students and increasing concern about results in fundamental skills such as math, reading, and writing.

Kids & Learning First is the province's plan to help students succeed. It is about doing things differently.