

The Mega Board Organizing for Stability

Dr. Jessie-Lee McIsaac

Assistant Professor, Tier II Canada Research Chair, Early Childhood: Diversity and Transitions
Faculty of Education and Department of Child and Youth Study, Mount Saint Vincent University





Nova Scotia is in Mi'kma'ki (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Population: 1 million people

- Founding cultures: Mi'kmaq, Acadians, African Nova Scotians, and Gaels
- 40% live in rural areas
- Rise in immigrant families

Births: ~8000 per year

~1 in 4 children live in poverty

NOVA SCOTIA EARLY LEARNING CONTEXT



- Market-based regulated child care system
 - Fee-for-service offered by private commercial and not-for-profit operators
 - Subsidized through provincial and federal funding (operational grants, capital loans, parent subsidy)

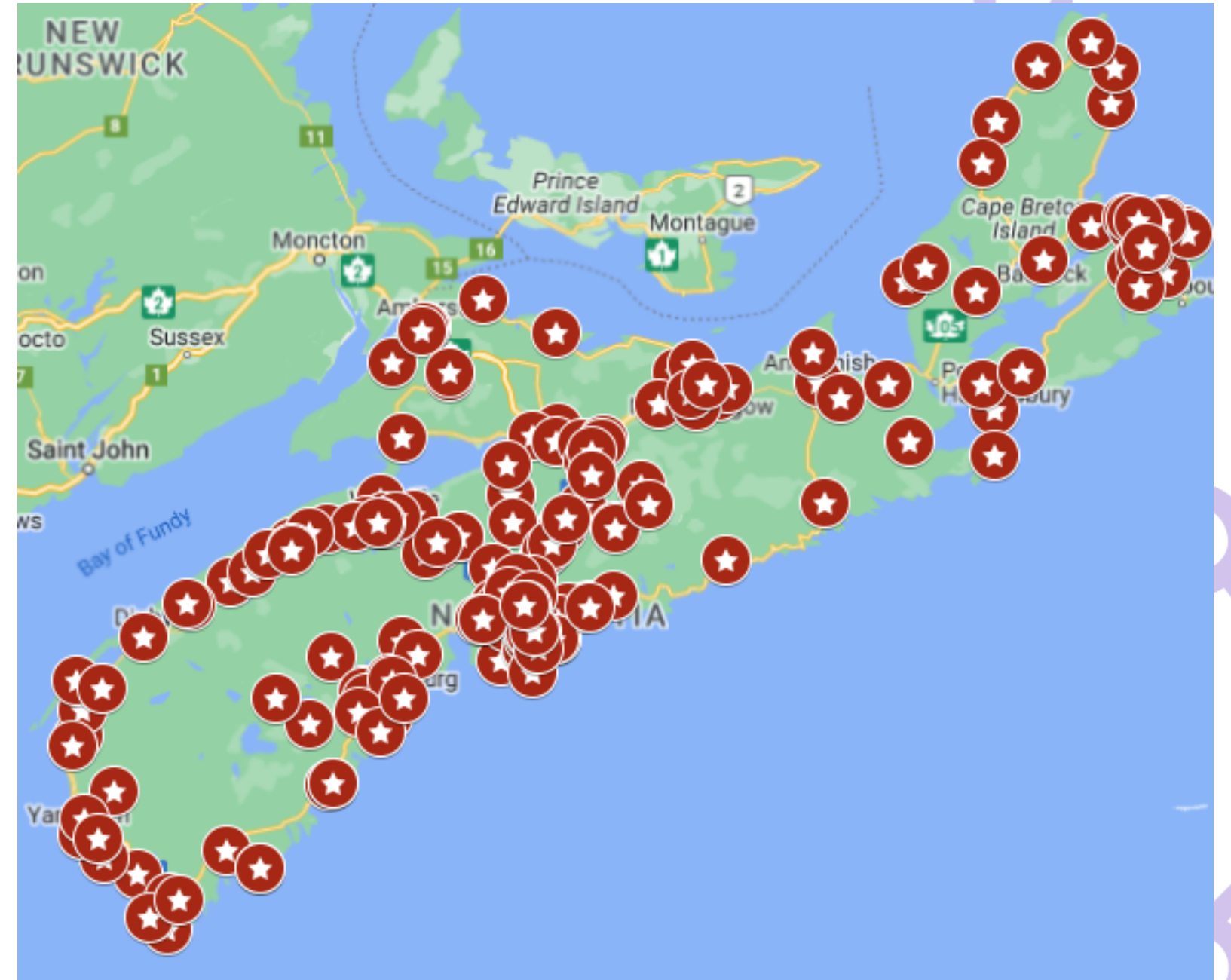
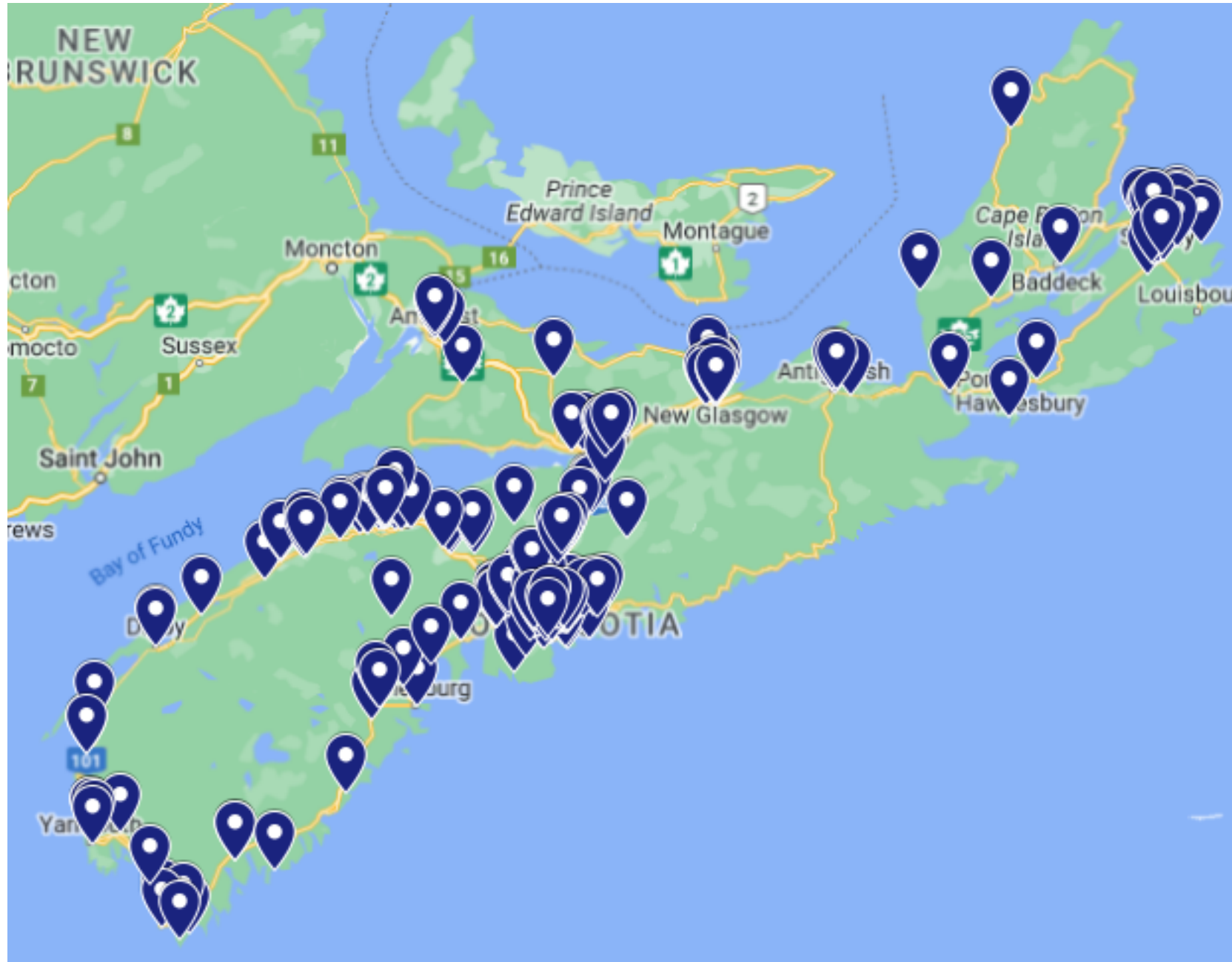
- Publicly delivered Pre-primary Program through the public education system (in or near schools)
 - Targeting children the year before school entry (4 years old)
 - Free to families for the school day with school bus transportation available
 - Before and after programs available in some schools (for a fee)



297 child care centres with infant, toddler, and preschool age groups (including 14 Family home agencies).



252 Pre-primary locations





A case example of child care gaps from a family living in Ingonish, Cape Breton (point A).

- Cape Breton-Canso has historically high rates of poverty.

To access child care, travel is ~ 1.5 hrs to Cheticamp (point B) or ~1.2 hrs to Baddeck (point C).

- Much further travel is required for infant care
- Access depends on available spaces
- No public transportation is available and the route can be difficult during the winter months

To access Pre-primary, travel is ~25 minutes -

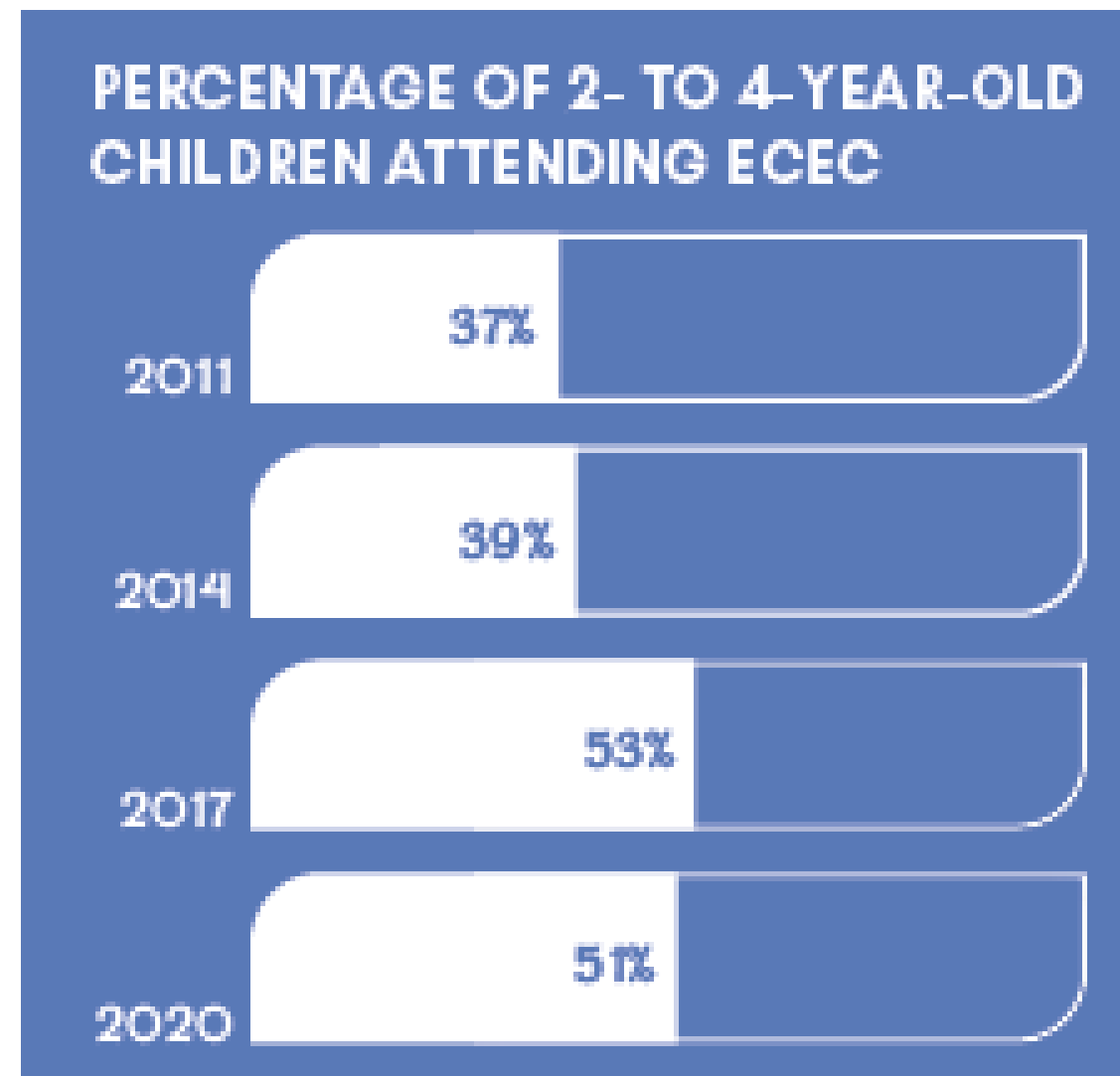
- Universal access to a space
- Bus transportation is provided
- *Before and after school care may be available.*

 Regulated Child Care Centres

 252 Pre-primary locations

*Please note this map does not include day home centres

Increased access through a publicly delivered program



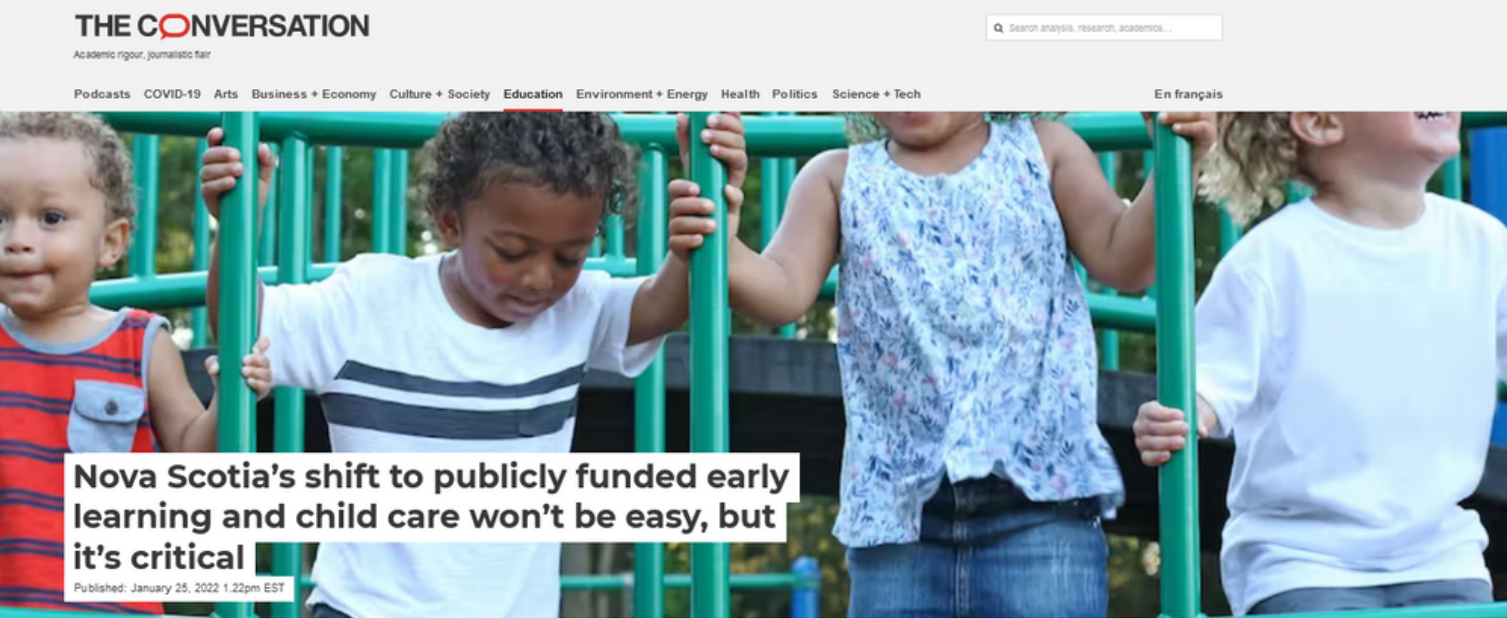
Source: Early Childhood Education Report <http://ecereport.ca>

- In 2020-21, over 6000 children were enrolled in the Pre-primary Program at 252 school locations, representing about 73% of eligible children (based on a projected cohort for Grade Primary in 2021-22).

Source: One Chance to be a Child <https://www.onechancens.ca/>

Nova Scotia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (Announced Jan 2022)

- A new provincial organization to manage child care
- Prioritization of not-for-profit care
- Action plan focused on:
 - Affordability (lower parent fees)
 - Accessibility (additional spaces)
 - Quality and Inclusion
 - Compensation of early childhood educators



THE CONVERSATION
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Nova Scotia's shift to publicly funded early learning and child care won't be easy, but it's critical
Published: January 28, 2022 1:22pm EST

Finding a good path towards publicly funded early learning and care will require input from all stakeholders, including current providers and early childhood educators. (Shutterstock)

On Jan. 14, as part of the Canada-wide early learning and child care agreement, Nova Scotia announced a reduction in child-care fees by 25 per cent retroactive from Jan. 1, 2022 and other related changes that are part of a historic shift in early learning and care in the province.

Nova Scotia will see 1,500 new not-for-profit child-care spaces beginning this fall, and the province is implementing a strategy to increase wages for early childhood educators and invest in their tuition and training. These changes are tracking towards a federal vision of \$10-a-day quality early learning and care across the country by 2026.

The changes follow tireless advocacy for publicly funded early learning and child care, grounded in the acknowledgement of the importance of women's participation in the labour force, children's right to quality early learning opportunities and the importance of high-quality and accessible services for families.

Authors

- Christine McLean
Assistant Professor, Child and Youth Studies, Mount Saint Vincent University
- Jessie-Lee Molisac
Assistant Professor, Canada Research Chair in Early Childhood, Diversity and Transitions, Mount Saint Vincent University

Disclosure statement

Christine McLean is the chair of a not-for-profit child care centre board. Through her work as a researcher at MSVU, she has been involved in research that has been funded by the Margaret and Wallace McLean Family Foundation and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

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Early response on CWELCC

Nova Scotia's private daycares facing tough decisions



Province has told for-profit owners they have option of changing business model

Erin Pottie · CBC News · Posted: Jan 17, 2022 6:00 AM AST | Last Updated: January 17, 2022



A staffer at Momentum Montessori, a daycare centre in Toronto, takes a child's temperature on Thursday.

Female entrepreneurs in N.S. vow not to 'cave' in child-care showdown



Some daycare owners say they feel bullied and backed into a corner by the province

Preston Mulligan · CBC News · Posted: Jan 19, 2022 6:00 AM AST | Last Updated: January 19, 2022



Daycare owners in Nova Scotia say they feel 'bullied' by the province and the ultimatum that underpins its

EDUCATION

Private daycares get more time as N.S. lifts deadline



By Alicia Draus · Global News

Posted January 21, 2022 6:24 pm · Updated January 21, 2022



Nova Scotia lifts Mar. 18 deadline for private daycares
A week after the provincial government gave private daycares

Nova Scotia seeks advice on child-care transformation

Atlantic Briefs Desk | Posted: March 17, 2022, 11:40 a.m. | Updated: March 17, 2022, 11:40 a.m. | 1 Min Read



Education Minister Becky Druhan said the province is looking to the new Child Care Engagement Table with 10-18 people who will

Current focus in highlighted goals

<https://childcarenovascotia.ca/#highlights>

Affordability

Child care fees reduced, on average, by 50% by December 2022.

Pay \$10 a day, on average, per child in child care by 2026.

Accessibility

1,500 new early learning and child care spaces coming by the end of 2023 (all non-profit spaces).

9,500 new early learning and child care spaces will open by March 31, 2026.

Enhanced before and after care options for 3-5-year-olds using schools and school resources.

Workforce

Nova Scotia Excellence in Early Childhood Education Workforce Strategy
(compensation framework in fall 2022)

Provincial organization

Engagement table established and consultation underway.



Achieving equity in the path ahead

- There is a need to critically examine and address the socioeconomic and geographical disparities to build an equitable early childhood system
 - Market-driven model influences access to child care for families
 - There is an opportunity to expand upon existing publicly funded systems to enhance access to early learning and child care



Email: Jessie-Lee.McIsaac@msvu.ca
Website: www.msvu/eccrc
Twitter: @jlmcisaac



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