



Bring Back Jobs!

Helping Parents Get Ahead Backgrounder

To match a growing economy, give our kids the head start they deserve, make life more affordable, and make it easier for parents to participate in the workforce, a PC Government will introduce new, family-friendly measures to boost access to early childhood education. We will also support much-needed federal investments in early childhood education.

Affordable access to early childhood education is vital. The Liberal approach lacks any long-term, holistic planning. A PC Government will act immediately to establish a panel of early childhood education operators and care providers and meet regularly to ensure proper consultation informs all decisions.

- This panel will include operators and care providers from all areas of the early childhood education system, including home based care and early childhood education centres. We will adapt policies based on advice we receive.

A PC Government will follow through on its 2019 commitment to \$25-a-day early childhood education while working with the federal government to introduce a universal publicly funded early childhood education program that adequately addresses quality, affordability, capacity and fair wages, commencing with a three-year bilateral agreement.

- We understand that the current Liberal program does not work for everyone (source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/25-a-day-daycare-begins-newfoundland-labrador-1.5862890>).
- We will make the needed to changes to ensure that all children can get the head start they deserve, to ensure that parents do not have to choose between early childhood education and staying home, and to ensure that care givers and operators do not have to take a financial loss in order to offer the \$25 a day rate.
- The PC plan will include an improved rate for home-based early childhood education, not only improved rates at child care centres.

A PC Government will ensure early childhood education subsidies are provided to operators in a more streamlined and timely manner.

A PC Government will reduce wait lists at College of the North Atlantic to train early childhood education providers.

A PC Government will explore opportunities to enable early childhood educators to attain Levels I to III certification more easily.

A PC Government will ensure student parents continue to receive child care benefits between academic semesters.

In consultation with stakeholders, a PC Government will explore utilizing our schools, where possible, as year-round community centres, making them available for early childhood education, non-profits, and other social supportive programming.

A PC Government will revisit the specifications for new schools to provide space for early childhood education.

In an effort to increase the number of affordable infant and early childhood education spaces, a PC Government will help to offset the cost of undertaking necessary home modifications to upgrade providers' status from non-regulated to regulated.

- Following the necessary home modifications, a PC Government will provide a grant to offset a portion of the costs associated with the modifications.
- These grants will be awarded after an unregulated day home has completed the transition to a regulated day home.