

2025-2026

Annual Report

Education and
Early Childhood
Development





MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Minister of Advanced Education and Skills, I am pleased to present the 2025-26 Annual Report for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. This report was prepared in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act** as a Category 1 Provincial Government entity.

Over the 2023-26 planning period, the department's mandate encompassed early learning, inclusion and child care; K-12 education; the post-secondary education system; and apprenticeship and trades. I am pleased to share results achieved during the planning period, particularly achievement of our objectives for April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026 and three-year goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the exceptional efforts of our partners and stakeholders, and our departmental staff. Their dedication and hard work have been crucial in achieving our annual objectives and three-year goals.

Key departmental accomplishments for 2025-26 include:

- Implementation of actions from Federal and Provincial Early Learning and Child Care Action Plans,
- Implementation of full access to the new curriculum digital portal eNLightenED,
- Advancement of efforts to modernize post-secondary education and training programs, and
- Implementation of appropriate recommendations from the comprehensive review of the apprenticeship system.

My signature below indicates my accountability for the results reported.

Sincerely,

Hon. Paul Dinn
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Education
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills

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Overview

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (department) is established under the **Executive Council Act**. In 2025-26, the department was responsible for providing a system of education for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians that supports safe, inclusive, and healthy learning environments for children and youth in early childhood settings, including licensed child care and resources for families; providing high-quality kindergarten to grade 12 educational instruction; and supporting students in post-secondary education, individuals in the apprenticeship system, and adult learners.

The Apprenticeship and Trades branch became part of the department in 2025-26. Following this reorganization, a new 2025-26 Strategic Plan was tabled in winter 2026 to update the department's strategic framework. The results and achievements outlined in this report reflect work completed throughout the three-year planning period, including work on apprenticeship and trades.

Detailed information on the department's vision, mandate, primary clients, and lines of business is available in the department's [2025-26 Strategic Plan](#).

Location

The main offices of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development are located on the 3rd and 4th floor in the West Block of the Confederation Building on 100 Prince Philip Drive in St. John's.

The Learning Resources Distribution Centre is in Building 909, Pleasantville, St. John's, and Student Aid Offices are located at 95 Elizabeth Ave in St. John's.

Early learning and childcare services are delivered throughout the province in offices located in St. John's, Whitbourne, Harbour Grace, Clarenville, Gander, Grand Falls-

Windsor, Springdale, Corner Brook, Stephenville, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and Labrador City.

The Education Operations branch (NLSchools) supports the operations of the kindergarten to grade 12 English language public schools in the province and as of September 2025 is responsible for approximately 249 Kindergarten to grade 12 English language public schools.

The headquarters for NLSchools and the Avalon Region office is located on the 3rd floor of West Block in St. John's with regional offices located in Gander (Central Region), Corner Brook (Western Region), and Happy Valley-Goose Bay (Labrador Region).

Apprenticeship and trades programs and services are provided at headquarters in St. John's and in regional offices in Mount Pearl, Clarenville, Grand Falls–Windsor, Corner Brook, Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Labrador West.

Additional information on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development can be found at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/>.

Staff Complement and Budget

Branch	Employees	Budget
Executive Services*	17	\$2,009,900
Corporate Services	26	\$21,542,400
Early Learning, Inclusion and Child Development	139	\$209,792,400
K-12 Education	229	\$28,207,100
Education Operations**	6,704	\$742,531,100
Post-Secondary Education	53	\$455,261,900
Apprenticeship and Trades	46	\$11,695,100
Total	7,214	\$1,471,039,600

* This number includes communications and executive support staff

** Education Operations includes NLSchools employees except those who work in the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Public Procurement Agency

Highlights and Partnerships

The details below illustrate some of the key accomplishments and partnerships of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Highlights

Rural and Remote Program for Aspiring Educators: On September 8, 2025, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development announced the department's investment to support the Rural Education Cohort within the Faculty of Education at Memorial University. This program provides an accessible pathway to primary and elementary teacher certification for individuals in rural areas, enabling them to learn, train, and work near their home communities. Budget 2025 allocated \$850,000 to support recruitment and retention initiatives for hard-to-fill positions in rural areas of the province.¹

Recognizing Achievement and Supporting Learner Success: During 2025-26, the department continued to recognize achievement and support learner success through a range of scholarships, bursaries, awards, and grant programs. These initiatives celebrated excellence in learning and teaching, promoted leadership and inclusion in schools, supported literacy development, and enhanced educational opportunities for learners throughout the province. See Annex A: Scholarships, Bursaries, Awards and Grants for details.

Partnerships

Modernization of School Infrastructure: A \$70.5 million investment was allocated to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure in Budget 2025 to support school infrastructure projects. This supports projects such as the construction of a new school

¹ Rural Education Cohort:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/eecd/0908n02/>

in the Kenmount Terrace² neighbourhood. The department recognizes the importance of taking action to modernize school infrastructure to enhance learning environments and outcomes for students, as well as improve overall student well-being.

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Partners with Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation Inc. to Enhance Pre-Kindergarten Programming: On July 25, 2025, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development announced the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's partnership with Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation Inc. to support, promote, and enhance pre-kindergarten programming in the province.³

This partnership supports over 40 pre-kindergarten programs in the province, representing 696 child care spaces. Collaboration will support program evaluation and professional learning and curriculum development. Pre-kindergarten programs continue to expand across the province and remain an ongoing effort.

NLSchools

NLSchools is committed to preparing all students to achieve their fullest potential in an inclusive, safe and caring environment.

Investment in K-12 Teaching Services: Budget 2025 included a \$20 million investment in teaching services to hire an additional 400 educators and learning assistants across the K-12 system. Beginning in 2025-26, updates to the Teacher Allocation Model improved how these resources are distributed to better support student and classroom needs.⁴

² Contract Awarded for Construction of Kenmount Terrace School:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/ti/0617n07/>

³ Partnership with Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation Inc.

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/eecd/0725n02/>

Labrador Magazine “Them Days”: To support the preservation of culture and heritage in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development purchased 212 digital copies of the quarterly magazine to be made available in all high schools.⁵ This is aligned with Cultural Connections, a provincial fine arts and cultural strategy for K-12 education the province. This initiative aims to increase the presence of cultural content in the school curriculum and foster links between the arts and school communities.

Efforts to Enhance Student Safety in School Zones: In September 2025, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador launched a four-month pilot project using school bus stop arm cameras to support student transportation safety and promote safe driving practices.⁶ This initiative aligns with the government’s commitment to providing safe transportation services for students in the province.

Expansion of Kids in the Know Safety Program: The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development announced that Kids in the Know, a body safety education program, will further expand in the 2025-26 school year. As of September 2025, the program is offered in all K-3 classrooms, with full implementation reaching all K-9 classrooms by the end of the school year. The program enhances teaching and learning strategies in classrooms to help students build skills that increase personal safety online and offline.⁷

⁴ Investment in K-12 Teaching Services:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/eecd/0627n05/>

⁵ Labrador Magazine Them Days:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/education-en/0403n04/>

⁶ School Bus Stop Arm Camera Pilot Project:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/gmsd-en/0822n01/>

⁷ Expansion of Kids in the Know Safety Program:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/eecd/0909n03/>

Expansion of School Lunch Program: In fall 2025, the provincial government continued to expand the pay-what-you-can model across the province to support an additional 12,000 students in accessing school lunches.⁸ The program provides support to families throughout our communities and ensures that more kids have access to nutritious foods in schools.

Support for Safe Sport in Education Course: Government partnered with School Sports NL to support the delivery of the Safe Sport in Education course for NLSchools student athletes in grades 7-12. This locally developed program equips students with knowledge and tools to promote safe, respectful, and inclusive sporting environments, supporting both physical and mental well-being.⁹

⁸ Expansion of School Lunch Program:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/eecd/0912n13/>

⁹ Support for Safe Sport in Education Course:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/eecd/0909n05/>

Report on Performance

Throughout the 2025-26 reporting period, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development made substantial efforts to conclude the final year of the 2023-26 strategic plan by advancing initiatives that supported progress toward its performance indicators.

Strategic Issue One: Early Learning and Child Care

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is responsible for supporting children's learning from birth through school leaving. The department is dedicated to promoting early learning and childcare throughout the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. This goal is accomplished by implementing significant measures to improve early learning, supporting the developmental potential of children, supporting parents/caregivers and early learning professionals, supporting child care operations and Family Resource Centres, providing more available and affordable regulated childcare services, and facilitating a seamless transition into the K-12 education system.

In the 2025-26 reporting period, the department achieved significant milestones through continued implementation of actions under the Federal and Provincial Early Learning and Child Care Action Plans. The department continued to strengthen the early learning and childcare workforce, enhance supports for children and families, and expand access to early learning opportunities throughout the province. These achievements align with the government's Strategic Directions related to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development for Early Learning and Child Care.

Goal

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will have an accessible, high-quality, affordable, flexible and inclusive early learning and child care system.

Objective 2025-26

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will have increased resources and support to improve access to regulated childcare services and to create more early learning opportunities for children.

Discussion of Objective Indicator Results

Continued implementation of actions from the Federal and Provincial Early Learning and Child Care Action Plans

Affordability

In 2025-26, the department maintained affordable childcare by continuing the \$10-a-day rate for regulated childcare services participating in the Operating Grant Program and reviewing the Child Care Subsidy Program.

- As of March 31, 2026, families in Newfoundland and Labrador have access to approximately 11,300 early learning and childcare spaces at a cost of \$10-a-day or less. Additional spaces are in development to further improve affordability for early learning and childcare.
- In 2025-26, the department completed a review of the Child Care Subsidy Program to assess program eligibility and ensure it is available for all families who require assistance.

Access

In 2025-26, the department increased accessibility to enroll more children in affordable childcare services.

- Continued implementing a rural and remote plan to increase access to general and Indigenous operated early learning programming. Maintained access to funding for public post-secondary early learning and childcare programming.

- Continued supporting childcare space creation projects, resulting in a net increase of 619 childcare spaces enrolled in the Operating Grant Program compared to the previous fiscal year.
- Continued supporting Family Resource Centres to ensure families have access to quality, evidence-based early learning, parent support programs, and approved food security initiatives. The three-year initiative funded in partnership with the Maple Leaf Centre for Food Security continued. In 2025-26, 16 Family Resource Centres participated in the initiative.

Inclusion and Diversity

The following 2025-26 initiatives supported more families across Newfoundland and Labrador with access to inclusive early learning and childcare opportunities.

- Distributed resources, as part of a Universal Design for Learning approach, to all regulated early learning and childcare services throughout the province to support all enrolled children to participate fully in programming.
- Provided consultations, professional learning, and supported regulated early learning and childcare services participating in the Operating Grant Program with Staffing Grants, where appropriate, to fund additional staff within childcare.

Quality

The department continued to maintain and support improvements in the quality of early learning and childcare, to strengthen the ECE workforce, and ensure quality, inclusive early learning and childcare programming for children.

- Completed a review of the current certification process to ensure it aligns with best practice and evidence and developed a draft competency-based certification model to support the modernization of ECE certification.
- Implemented three of four remaining recommendations from the Operating Grant Program Review Final Report to modernize and improve the funding systems for childcare.
- Maintained wage grid bonuses for ECEs and administrators in Labrador, francophone ECEs, and a separate bonus for administrators.

- Providing funding for the Medical Benefits Program for childcare staff, administered by the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Developed and began implementing a new approach to supporting ECEs within regulated early learning and childcare services and established a new Early Learning Assistant role as part of regional teams.
- Continued work to support quality assessments on all early learning and childcare environments.

Accountability

In 2025-26, the department continued to enhance and maintain the Early Learning Gateway to support childcare services, ECEs, and families throughout the province. The system continued to support the collection and monitoring of early learning and childcare data, connect families with available childcare spaces, and provide administrative support for childcare services.

Continued implementation of recommendations from the Family Resource Centres Review Report

In 2025-26, the department continued addressing recommendations from a comprehensive review of Family Resource Centres that took place in the previous fiscal year. The review resulted in a proposed three-year plan with 28 recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness, governance, and service delivery of Family Resource Centres throughout the province.

In response to the review, the Family Resource Centre Review Committee was struck during the 2025-26 fiscal year and has been focused on 14 of the 28 recommendations, including the planning and reporting cycle, with the intent to complete the remaining recommendations by March 2027 for implementation in 2027-2028 and onward.

Developed a competency-based approach to certify early childhood educators with a plan for implementation

In 2025-26, the department completed a review of the current certification process and a draft competency-based certification model to support the modernization of the ECE certification process and alignment with current practices. The department is working in partnership with Association of Early Childhood Educators of Newfoundland and Labrador to support implementation of this model anticipated to begin in 2026-27.

Continued implementation of the Pre-Kindergarten Program, including space creation and development of curriculum

In 2025-26, the department continued to expand the Pre-Kindergarten Program. Nine pre-kindergarten programs became operational this year, bringing the total number of services to 48. A total of 167 new pre-kindergarten spaces were created during the year, bringing the provincial total to 796 spaces. The department developed a draft pre-kindergarten curriculum for engagement and implementation beginning in 2026-2027.

2023-26 Goal Reporting

Increased capacity for families to access childcare spaces with flexible times

Throughout the 2023-26 planning period, the department supported increased access to affordable regulated early learning and childcare services throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

By March 31, 2026, families in Newfoundland and Labrador had access to approximately 11,300 regulated early learning and childcare spaces at a cost of \$10 per day or less, with additional spaces in development to further increase access throughout the province.

Effective January 1, 2023, all regulated childcare services enrolled in the Operating Grant Program were required to reduce fees to \$10 per day for infant, toddler, preschool

and school-aged children, with this rate remaining in place throughout the 2023-26 reporting period.

Responsive, play-based learning opportunities in inclusive environments provided to children by qualified early learning professionals

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department supported responsive, play-based learning opportunities in inclusive environments through investments in qualified early learning professionals and enhanced supports for children.

As of March 31, 2026, approximately 80 per cent of staff working in regulated childcare centres fully met Newfoundland and Labrador's legislated certification requirements.

Families and communities are provided resources and support to develop optimal learning environments for children

Family Resource Centres continued to provide programs and services for families with children from birth to age six, including parent-child playgroups, parenting programs, support groups, and family resource services. Through play-based, developmentally appropriate programming, Family Resource Centres supported positive parent-child interactions and healthy child development while responding to local community needs. They also distributed Parent Resource Kits through Family Resource Centres' Healthy Baby Program to provide families throughout the province with resources to support infants' health and wellbeing.

Issue Summary

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department made significant progress in strengthening Newfoundland and Labrador's early learning and childcare system through implementation of the Federal and Provincial Early Learning and Child Care Action Plans. These efforts resulted in the continued expansion of regulated childcare and pre-kindergarten opportunities, maintenance of \$10-a-day childcare, strengthened supports for children and families, enhanced workforce development initiatives for early learning professionals, and the advancement of responsive and inclusive early learning

environments. These accomplishments contributed to continued improvements in the accessibility, affordability, quality, and inclusiveness of early learning and childcare programs and services throughout the province.

Strategic Issue Two: K-12 Education

One of the top priorities for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is to ensure that every child in Newfoundland and Labrador has access to a safe, inclusive and healthy school environment and an education system that is responsive to students' strengths and needs. Modernizing the K-12 education programs and services will enhance support to assist students in their learning journey, prepare them for future education and career prospects, and encourage their involvement in their communities and society.

Changes are ongoing within the K-12 education system to further the integration of the former English school district into the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The department is dedicated to supporting the ongoing transformation of our K-12 education system and collaborating with its stakeholders to pursue a seamless transition for students, teachers, services and systems.

In the 2025-26 reporting period, the department continued to modernize curriculum delivery and support teaching and learning through the full implementation and ongoing enhancement of the eNLightenED digital curriculum platform.

Goal

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will modernize the K-12 system, with a focus on curriculum renewal, program enhancement, and student supports that contribute to improved learning outcomes.

Objective 2025-26

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will have commenced implementation of an interactive and integrated curriculum platform.

Discussion of Objective Indicator Results

Implemented full access to the new curriculum digital portal eNLighTenED by September 2025

The eNLighTenED curriculum platform is the department's centralized digital portal for communicating K-12 curriculum to educators and the public. The platform provides interactive access to curriculum guides, learning indicators, teaching and assessment suggestions, instructional resources, and other policy and support documents that enable teaching and learning across the K-12 public education system.

In 2025-26, the eNLighTenED digital curriculum platform was fully implemented across the K-12 public education system prior to the start of the school year. Building on previous access to Grade 7-9 curriculum, the platform was expanded to provide access to all K-12 curriculum for educators and the public. Implementation of full access to eNLighTenED supported more consistent use of teaching and learning resources, and the ongoing modernization of curriculum delivery across Newfoundland and Labrador's public education system.

Continued gathering user feedback to support the curriculum platform enhancements

In 2025-26, the department continued gathering user feedback by providing multiple opportunities for users to share their perspectives and inform enhancements to the eNLighTenED platform. The platform offers functionality that allows educators to provide feedback directly within the system, enabling comments and suggestions to be reviewed and addressed by the appropriate program development staff. In addition to point-of-use feedback within the platform, eNLighTenED users had the opportunity to provide general feedback through the platform's dedicated support email address. Program implementation personnel provided feedback during implementation through professional learning sessions and ongoing program monitoring. This feedback was reviewed and used to guide platform enhancements.

Introduction of additional features to improve the curriculum platform accessibility and user experience

In 2025-26, the department continued to improve accessibility and user experience of the eNLighTenED curriculum platform. In response to feedback, the department provided dedicated platform access to Indigenous and private school teachers, as well as Memorial University Education Faculty, interns, and students. This expanded access to curriculum resources for a broader range of educators and future teaching professionals and increased engagement with the platform.

Furthermore, the department introduced platform functionality to enable simultaneous access to multiple curriculum documents. Initial sign-in authentication barriers were resolved to improve access to the platform. Additional enhancements included making teacher annotations available within both unit and strand views, adding course syllabi, and the redevelopment of platform printing features to further improve user experience.

2023-26 Goal Reporting

Enhanced educational programs

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department continued to enhance educational programs within the K-12 education system. The primary focus was on enhancing curriculum, learning resources, and instructional supports to improve educational outcomes and help learners develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed for lifelong success.

Over the past three years, the department continued curriculum renewal efforts through the release of updated curriculum and resources supporting learning from Kindergarten to Grade 12, including:

- Kindergarten English Language Arts
- Kindergarten – Grade 2: Mathematics/Mathématique
- Kindergarten – Grade 3: Physical Education/Éducation Physique
- Grade 2 – 3: Français (French First-Language)

- Grade 3: Français (French Immersion)
- Grade 6: Social Studies/Sciences Humaines
- Grade 6 – 7: Core French
- English as an Additional Language 3205
- World Literature 3207
- LEARN Science

Coding and Digital Innovation teaching and assessment strategies were incorporated into select primary curriculum guides, with supporting digital resources provided to schools. Additional literacy and numeracy supports were also introduced through the publication of resources to support reading instruction in Kindergarten to Grade 6 English and French Immersion programs and the expansion of Math Readiness assessments to additional grade levels.

Digital access to Kids in the Know resources was provided to support health programming and enhance student learning related to personal safety, healthy relationships, and online safety.

Enhanced assessment measurements for K-12

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department continued to strengthen K-12 assessment and evaluation measures through the development, implementation, and refinement of provincial assessment tools, policies, and supports.

Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Policy

The department reviewed and revised the Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Policy to strengthen assessment, evaluation, and reporting practices across the K-12 public education system. Implemented in September 2024, the policy provided enhanced guidance to teachers and school administrators on student assessment, reporting student achievement, and responding to late or missing assignments. The policy also established a more consistent approach to school-based examinations in the following courses:

- Grade 7 Mathematics
- Grade 8 Mathematics and Science
- Grade 9 Mathematics, Science, and English Language Arts
- Grade 10-12 academic and advanced-level Mathematics, Science, English Language Arts, Français, and Social Studies courses

Following implementation, feedback was collected from educators, school administrators, students, and departmental staff to assess the effectiveness of the policy and identify opportunities for improvement. This feedback informed subsequent revisions to the Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Policy, including updates to school-based examination structures, supporting continuous improvement in assessment and evaluation practices throughout the K-12 public education system.

Provincial Exam Program

Over the past three years, the department developed a new provincial approach to assessment and evaluation for high school students through the creation of the Provincial Exam Program. Curriculum-based examinations were developed for select academic and advanced Grade 12 Mathematics, English, and laboratory science courses.

The examinations were designed using current best practices for large-scale assessment and evaluation. Classroom teachers contributed throughout the development process, including item writing, validation, field testing, and participation in marking panels to help ensure the examinations reflected current teaching and learning practices.

Field testing was conducted with students in selected classrooms, and feedback from teachers and students was used to refine the examinations. Information gathered through this process informed the final development of the Provincial Exam Program, which is scheduled for operational implementation in the 2026-27 school year.

Professional learning on assessment best practices was also provided to teachers of select courses to support consistent and effective assessment practices throughout the K-12 public education system.

Provincial Assessments and Educator Supports

The department also developed the Provincial Literacy and Numeracy Assessment for Grade 9 students to strengthen the measurement of literacy and numeracy outcomes and support evidence-informed decision making. A robust pilot is planned for 2026-27, with full implementation anticipated in 2027-28.

In addition, the Provincial Reading and Mathematics Assessment was updated to provide student and school-level data. This enhancement expanded the assessment beyond its previous system-level reporting function, providing educators and schools with more detailed information to support the monitoring of student achievement and inform instructional planning, with the revised assessment scheduled for administration in May 2026.

Professional learning on assessment best practices was also provided to teachers of select courses to support consistent and effective assessment practices throughout the K-12 public education system.

Updated the Schools Act, 1997

Throughout 2023-26, the department continued to strengthen the governance and administration of the K-12 public education system through legislative and organizational changes designed to support improved educational outcomes.

Effective January 1, 2024, amendments to the Schools Act, 1997 were proclaimed and the former Newfoundland and Labrador English School District was integrated into Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The NLSchools brand represents the public K-12 English school system in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Integration allows staff to work together to support improved educational outcomes in a more unified way. Aligning program and curriculum development and enhancing service delivery will improve the education experience and help students excel.

Continued support of Responsive Teaching and Learning

During 2023-26, the department continued to strengthen responsive teaching and learning by supporting early identification of student learning needs and providing educators with tools and data to inform instructional decision-making.

During 2023-24, the department undertook full implementation of the Responsive Teaching and Learning database for NLSchools. Teachers were provided professional learning opportunities to support effective use of the database and a dedicated ministerial day, helping to improve the educational experience of students in the K-12 public English education system.

Building on this work, Responsive Teaching and Learning database reports were developed in response to educator feedback, providing enhanced access to data to support classroom instruction, student monitoring, and informed decision-making to improve learning outcomes.

Continued support of responsive teaching and learning focused on the review and selection of early literacy screeners for Kindergarten and Grade 1 students and numeracy screeners for Grade 1 and 2 students. These evidence-based tools will help teachers identify students who need intervention at an early stage, monitor their progress over time, and adjust instruction to better meet individual learning needs.

Issue Summary

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department continued to strengthen the K-12 public education system through curriculum renewal, implementation of the eNLighTenED digital curriculum platform, enhanced assessment and evaluation

practices, legislative amendments, and continued support for Responsive Teaching and Learning. These efforts resulted in modernized curriculum delivery, improved access to teaching and learning resources, strengthened assessment and evaluation measures, enhanced supports for educators and students, and a more coordinated and responsive education system focused on improving student outcomes.

Strategic Issue Three: Post-Secondary Education

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is focused on the development of a high-quality, relevant, accountable and sustainable post-secondary education system. The department is committed to supporting students and collaborating with post-secondary institutions and other partners to establish a brighter future and a stronger economic foundation for Newfoundland and Labrador. Through modernization, the post-secondary education system will be better positioned to align with changing provincial needs, including increasing access to responsive programming, micro credentials and life-long learning opportunities that will directly contribute towards meeting labour market demands, increasing innovation and achieving better social and economic outcomes.

In 2025-26, the department continued to strengthen the post-secondary education system through initiatives focused on student financial assistance, adult education modernization, and adult literacy programming. These achievements align with the government's Strategic Directions related to the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills.

Goal

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will have supported the development of a robust and responsive post-secondary system that is foundational to economic diversity and innovation.

Objective 2025-26

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will have strengthened the foundations of the post-secondary education system.

Discussion of Objective Indicator Results

Continued work to enhance student financial assistance programming

In 2025-26, the department provided \$33.5 million to strengthen financial supports for post-secondary students through enhancements to the provincial Student Aid program.

Eligible students could receive up to \$120 per week in both non-repayable grants and interest-free loans, representing a 20 per cent increase from \$100 per week of study. The Memorial University Tuition Relief Grant increased from \$345 to \$420 per course, providing up to \$4,200 per academic year to help offset tuition costs for eligible students from low- and middle-income families.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Debt Reduction Grant Program was also enhanced by lowering the program eligibility threshold from 80-week programs to include programs with a duration of 60 weeks or longer, expanding access to provincial debt relief for additional graduates.

These improvements are expected to benefit approximately 5,000 students by increasing access to financial assistance and helping reduce financial barriers to post-secondary education.

Continued modernization of oversight for the Adult Basic Education Program

In 2025-26, the department continued to modernize oversight of the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program to support efficient, responsive, and sustainable program delivery.

The department commenced a comprehensive review of the ABE program to inform ongoing modernization efforts and support efficient, responsive, and sustainable program delivery. Modernization of the program includes strengthening standards for program delivery, online instruction, learner accommodations, and assessment, while enhancing accountability for service providers. As part of these efforts, work continued

to streamline administrative processes, improve clarity in reporting and funding structures, and better align service delivery with learner and community needs. Findings from the review will inform broader modernization of the ABE program model.

Continued enhancing and expanding the Adult Foundational Literacy programming

In 2025-26, the department continued to enhance and expand Adult Foundational Literacy programming to support individuals facing barriers to employment, learning, and daily life across Newfoundland and Labrador.

Delivered through community-based organizations, Adult Foundational Literacy programming provided services in basic, financial, health, and digital literacy, as well as life skills development. Efforts during the year focused on improving access and consistency of service delivery, strengthening instructional quality, and supporting measurable learner progression.

The department continued to collaborate with service providers and increased its emphasis on performance monitoring and learner outcomes to help ensure programming remained responsive to individual needs and aligned with labour market and community priorities.

2023-26 Goal Reporting

Increased collaboration with post-secondary institutions on provincial priorities for social and economic development

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department strengthened collaboration with Memorial University, College of the North Atlantic, and other post-secondary institutions to better align education and training opportunities with provincial workforce and economic development priorities.

Through ongoing engagement with institutions, the department advanced initiatives that connected post-secondary planning with labour market needs, including work to support health care, skilled trades, technology, education, and other sectors experiencing workforce pressures. Collaboration also focused on improving pathways between K-12 education, adult learning, post-secondary education, and employment, helping learners access flexible opportunities to develop skills and credentials throughout their lives.

The department worked with institutions to support regional and community needs, encourage responsive program development, and improve access to education and training across Newfoundland and Labrador. These efforts strengthened alignment between institutional priorities and government objectives while helping ensure graduates were equipped with the skills needed to support the province's social and economic development.

Improved accountability and evaluation mechanisms for post-secondary education

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department strengthened accountability and evaluation processes to improve oversight of public investments in post-secondary education and support informed decision-making.

The department worked closely with Memorial University and the College of the North Atlantic to implement performance-based planning and reporting requirements under the **Transparency and Accountability Act**. Through annual plans, performance reports, and ongoing monitoring, institutions reported their progress toward strategic objectives, student outcomes, operational performance, and contributions to provincial priorities.

The department also advanced policy and governance initiatives aimed at strengthening accountability across the post-secondary system. This included enhancing mechanisms to assess program effectiveness, monitor system performance, and support evidence-based decision-making related to education, training, and workforce development.

These efforts improved transparency, reinforced clear expectations for publicly funded institutions, and strengthened the department's ability to evaluate how post-secondary education investments contribute to provincial social and economic outcomes.

Increased services to targeted adult literacy groups

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department increased services for targeted adult literacy groups through initiatives that enhanced literacy programming and learner supports across Newfoundland and Labrador.

This included strengthening alignment between adult literacy programming and post-secondary education pathways and supporting the delivery of Adult Basic Education and foundational literacy services through community-based organizations. The department also continued to support programs serving adults facing barriers to learning, employment, and participation in post-secondary education, including individuals with low literacy levels, limited prior educational attainment, and other socio-economic challenges.

Efforts focused on ensuring adult literacy and high school equivalency programs remained accessible and responsive to learner needs, while supporting learner progression toward post-secondary education, training, and employment.

Improved the responsiveness of the Student Financial Assistance Program to support access to post-secondary education

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department continued to improve the responsiveness of the Newfoundland and Labrador Student Financial Assistance Program to support access to post-secondary education and reduce financial barriers for students.

The program continued to be recognized as one of the most generous and accessible student financial assistance programs in Canada. Newfoundland and Labrador maintained the lowest average provincial student loan debt in the country, at less than

\$1,000, and the lowest overall combined federal and provincial student debt. The province also had the second lowest weekly loan limit, the third highest weekly grant limit, and a 50-50 loan-to-grant ratio, providing students with a balanced approach to financial assistance that helps reduce reliance on repayable debt.

In addition, the Newfoundland and Labrador Debt Reduction Grant Program continued to provide eligible graduates with full forgiveness of accumulated provincial student loan debt, supporting access to post-secondary education and helping to reduce the financial burden associated with student borrowing.

Initiated development of a data system to better monitor outcomes for students and graduates of post-secondary institutions in the province

During the 2023–26 planning period, the department initiated work to strengthen the collection and use of data related to Adult Basic Education (ABE) learners across the province. This included identifying key learner outcomes to be tracked, reviewing existing data collection processes, and advancing policy, planning, and reporting mechanisms needed to support a more coordinated approach to monitoring learner success.

Work undertaken during the planning period focused on improving the department's ability to gather and analyze information on learner participation, progression, completion, and transitions to further education, training, and employment. The department also continued to strengthen performance planning and reporting processes to support greater consistency in how results are measured and reported.

While development of a comprehensive learner outcomes data system remains ongoing, this foundational work has helped establish the framework required to support future data collection and reporting. Over time, enhanced access to learner outcome information will support evidence-based decision-making, program improvement, and a better understanding of how adult literacy and foundational learning programs contribute

to educational, employment, and workforce development outcomes in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Issue Summary

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department continued to strengthen Newfoundland and Labrador's post-secondary education system through enhanced student financial assistance programming, modernization of Adult Basic Education programming, increased services for adult literacy learners, strengthened accountability and evaluation mechanisms, and increased collaboration with post-secondary institutions. These efforts resulted in reduced financial barriers to post-secondary education, improved supports for adult learners, stronger connections between education, skills development, and employment, and a more responsive and accountable post-secondary system.

Strategic Issue Four: Apprenticeship and Trades

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is focused on strengthening the apprenticeship system in Newfoundland and Labrador by providing training, supports and services to apprentices, journeypersons, trade qualifiers, employers, training providers and industry partners. Apprenticeship is a comprehensive workforce training strategy to provide individuals with a high-quality education that encourages attachment to the labour force. Given the current status of the economy, the evolution of education systems, and our own demographic trends, an innovative and flexible apprenticeship system is essential to ensuring apprentices have the supports needed to obtain certification and contribute to the growth of the provincial labour market. The department is committed to prioritizing a successful apprenticeship system through continuous renewal and diversification.

In the 2025-26 reporting period, the department continued to strengthen Newfoundland and Labrador's apprenticeship and trades certification system through the implementation of recommendations arising from the comprehensive review of the provincial apprenticeship system. These achievements align with the government's Strategic Directions related to the Minister of Advanced Education and Skills.

Goal

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will have undertaken initiatives to strengthen the overall effectiveness, sustainability, governance and accessibility of our provincial apprenticeship system to optimize opportunities to achieve certification.

Objective 2025-26

By March 31, 2026, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will have continued implementation of the findings of the review of the apprenticeship system to strengthen the overall effectiveness, sustainability, governance and

accessibility of our provincial apprenticeship system to optimize opportunities to achieve certification.

Discussion of Objective Indicator Results

Continued implementation of all appropriate recommendations from the comprehensive review of the apprenticeship system

As of March 31, 2026, nine initiatives established from the review of the provincial apprenticeship system have been completed, with 28 in progress and one awaiting implementation. Twelve of the initiatives in progress have been contracted to the NL Workforce Innovation Centre for completion.

In the 2025-26 fiscal year, the department progressed on following initiatives:

- Continued work on the new Apprenticeship and Certification Management System, which will include improved documentation handling, self-service functionality and streamlined processes for apprentices, employers, journeypersons and Apprenticeship and Trades Certification staff.
- Implemented the Essential Skills for Success Assessment to assist in early identification of literacy and numeracy needs to support apprentice progression and completion.
- Proceeded with a Request for Proposals to outsource exam invigilation, anticipated to expand capacity, reduce staff workload, and support continued growth in exam volume.
- Expanded presence at career fairs and classrooms, with updated apprenticeship materials and branded promotional items to increase visibility among youth and job seekers.
- Hired five new Apprenticeship Program Officers to increase employer outreach, promote apprenticeship benefits, assist with registrations, and encourage employers to take multiple apprentices at once.
- Developed and implemented annual employer and apprentice satisfaction surveys to directly engage with industry and collect Newfoundland and Labrador specific data

that measures overall program satisfaction, outlines experiences and identifies areas for improvement.

2023-26 Goal Reporting

Completed a comprehensive review of apprenticeship and trades certification programs and policies and implemented appropriate recommendations to enhance program delivery and supports to stakeholders

During the 2023-26 planning period, work continued to strengthen and modernize the provincial apprenticeship system to better support apprentices, employers, and industry needs.

A comprehensive independent review of the provincial apprenticeship system was completed in summer 2024 and resulted in 31 recommendations. Following approval of the review in fall 2024, an implementation plan consisting of 38 initiatives was finalized in February 2025, and work commenced immediately to advance the identified initiatives.

As of March 31, 2026, in addition to the progress outlined under the 2025-26 objective indicator, the department also advanced this goal through the following initiatives:

- Launched the “Make It Excellent” campaign to encourage youth and underemployed individuals to pursue careers in the skilled trades through apprenticeship, and to highlight the benefits of hiring apprentices to employers.
- Continued support to Skills Canada NL as it implements the Youth Apprenticeship Summer Program (Labour Market Development Agreement funded), which allows students to gain hands on work experience as well as opportunities to gain hours toward future journey person certification.
- Continued support to external partners that promote trades pathways for underrepresented groups, including Skills Canada NL, Office to Advance Women Apprentices, and the Indigenous Skilled Trades Office.

Maintained a red seal pass rate above the national average

Throughout the three-year planning period, work continued to support apprentices in successfully progressing through training and certification requirements while strengthening supports to improve Red Seal examination outcomes.

Provincial Red Seal pass rates consistently exceeded the national average throughout the planning period:

- 2023 calendar year: 58 per cent, exceeding the national average by eight percentage points
- 2024 calendar year: 51 per cent, exceeding the national average by four percentage points
- 2025 calendar year: 51 per cent, exceeding the national average by six percentage points

The department actively works toward continuous improvement of student supports to ensure provincial Red Seal pass rates remain above the national average. Supports and training available to apprentices include the self-study program, the recently implemented Essential Skills for Success Assessment, the Virtual Learning Strategist Program, and virtual resources such as study guides and videos to assist with identifying skill gaps and preparing for examinations.

Maintained a percentage of female apprentices in non-traditional trades above the national average

During the 2023-26 planning period, the department continued initiatives to encourage and support the participation of women in apprenticeship programs and non-traditional trades. Nine per cent of female apprentices in Newfoundland and Labrador were employed in non-traditional trades in 2024, compared to the national average of 12 per cent. While the department promotes and encourages women to become apprentices and connect with employers, it does not have direct control over the number of women employed in the trades or the trades they choose to pursue.

Government demonstrated its commitment to supporting female apprentices in non-traditional trades through its investment in the Office to Advance Women Apprentices (OAWA). The OAWA works with stakeholders to assist female apprentices in non-traditional trades in finding employment opportunities and achieving journey person status. Funding provided from the Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development allows OAWA to maintain a client registry database, administer a wage subsidy and offer mentorship programming for female apprentices.

Supported the completion of an independent review of the Office for Indigenous and Northern Skilled Trades with a view to ensuring the office is maximizing resources over the 2023-2026 fiscal years to support Indigenous people seeking training and employment in the skilled trades

During the 2023-26 planning period, work continued to support initiatives aimed at increasing Indigenous participation in apprenticeship training and skilled trades employment through collaboration with partners and implementation of review recommendations.

The review of the Indigenous Skilled Trades Office (ISTO) was completed in 2023-24 under the Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development, with continued support provided in 2024-25 through funding to assist Indigenous apprentices in securing employment opportunities and progressing toward certification.

In 2025-26, the department continued to sit as a member of the Review Implementation Steering Committee, working with ISTO and the Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development to advance implementation of review recommendations, where possible. The department also met regularly with ISTO to identify and register new apprentices and determine the apprenticeship supports and services available to clients.

Issue Summary

Throughout the 2023-26 strategic planning period, the department continued to strengthen Newfoundland and Labrador's apprenticeship and trades certification system through implementation of recommendations arising from the comprehensive review of the provincial apprenticeship system, enhanced supports for apprentices and employers, and targeted initiatives to promote participation in the skilled trades. These efforts resulted in improvements to program delivery and apprentice supports, helping apprentices progress toward certification and employment.

Opportunities and Challenges

The department faces significant opportunities and challenges as it strives to provide high-quality, accessible, and inclusive education to all learners in the province

Opportunities

Despite ongoing challenges, the department is committed to advancing opportunities that will further enhance and modernize the education system.

The following initiatives represent some of the key opportunities expected to contribute to improved educational outcomes and a stronger education system.

- Continued federal and provincial investments in early learning and childcare present opportunities to strengthen workforce capacity, support service expansion, and improve access to high-quality programs for children and families throughout the province. These investments will help advance recruitment and retention efforts, support workforce development, and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Early Learning and Child Care sector.
- Advancements in artificial intelligence, digital technologies, and educational innovation present opportunities to modernize curriculum, programs, and service delivery across the education system. Continued investments in curriculum renewal, digital learning tools, and program modernization will help ensure learners are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to succeed in an increasingly technology-driven society and economy.
- Continued investments in educational pathways and workforce development initiatives tailored to rural and remote communities present opportunities to increase local participation in education and training programs, strengthen workforce capacity, and improve access to educational services across the province. These

efforts can help address regional workforce needs while supporting sustainable access to high-quality educational opportunities.

- Continued collaboration with industry, educational institutions, and training providers presents opportunities to strengthen apprenticeship and skilled trades pathways and support workforce development across the province. Initiatives that promote early exposure to skilled trades and strengthen transitions from secondary to post-secondary education can help address labour market needs and support future economic growth.

Challenges

The Early Learning and Child Care sector continues to face workforce challenges that can affect the availability of regulated childcare services and limit opportunities to expand access for families. Recruiting and retaining qualified ECEs remains important to supporting high-quality, inclusive early learning environments and meeting growing demand for childcare spaces.

Rapid technological change, including the growing use of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, continues to transform how learners access information, develop skills, and prepare for future employment. Ensuring curriculum, programming, policies, and supports remain current and responsive to emerging technologies and evolving workforce needs presents an ongoing challenge across the education system.

Learners in rural and remote communities may face additional barriers in accessing educational opportunities and services due to geographic distance, smaller populations, and challenges in recruiting and retaining qualified professionals. These factors can affect the long-term sustainability of programs and services and require ongoing efforts to ensure equitable access to education throughout the province.

Newfoundland and Labrador continues to face skilled labour shortages in several sectors and occupations. Ensuring learners and workers have access to education, training, and apprenticeship opportunities that align with current and emerging labour market needs remains an ongoing challenge.

The department remains committed to fostering a high-quality, inclusive, and responsive education system that supports learners at every stage of life. Through continued investments in early learning and childcare, K-12 education, and post-secondary education and skills development, the department will work to strengthen learner outcomes, improve accessibility, and support lifelong learning opportunities.

Financial Information

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RELATED REVENUE (UNAUDITED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026^{1, 2}

Area	Estimates		
	Actual (\$)	Amended (\$)	Original (\$)
Executive Services (1.1.01 - 1.2.01)			
Executive Services (1.1.01 - 1.2.01)	\$2,029,425	\$2,062,700	\$2,005,500
Total	\$2,029,425	\$2,062,700	\$2,005,500
Corporate Services (2.1.01 - 2.2.02)			
General Administration (2.1.01 – 2.1.03)	\$8,261,425	\$7,486,000	\$7,579,900
Provincial Information and Library Resources Board (2.2.01 – 2.2.02)	\$13,006,800	\$13,006,800	\$13,006,800
Total	\$21,268,225	\$20,492,800	\$20,586,700
Early Learning, Inclusion and Child Development (3.1.01 – 3.2.01)			
Early Learning (3.1.01)	\$99,202,040	\$80,654,600	\$67,133,800
Student Support Services (3.2.01)	\$5,557,426	\$5,917,000	\$5,040,900
Total	\$104,759,466	\$86,571,600	\$72,174,700
Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education (4.1.01 – 4.2.01)			
Program Development (4.1.01 – 4.1.02)	\$11,294,107	\$17,482,200	\$17,171,900
Educational Programs (4.2.01)	\$4,463,622	\$4,607,600	\$4,347,600
Total	\$15,757,729	\$22,089,800	\$21,519,500
Education Operations (5.1.01 – 5.2.01)			
Education Operations (5.1.01 – 5.1.04)	\$667,068,619	\$652,938,200	\$668,952,400
Francophone Schools (5.2.01)	\$11,382,210	\$11,389,000	\$10,390,900
Total	\$678,450,829	\$664,327,200	\$679,343,300
Post - Secondary Education (6.1.01 – 6.4.02)			
Post – Secondary Education (6.1.01)	\$5,829,756	\$5,893,200	\$5,216,700
Memorial University (6.2.01 – 6.2.02)	\$311,188,835	\$313,388,500	\$313,388,500
College of the North Atlantic (6.3.01 – 6.3.02)	\$86,623,600	\$86,623,600	\$86,623,600
Student Financial Services (6.4.01 – 6.4.02)	\$22,322,209	\$26,392,200	\$27,157,000
Total	\$425,964,400	\$432,297,500	\$432,385,800
Apprenticeship and Trades (7.1.01)			
Apprenticeship and Trades (7.1.01)	\$4,934,725	\$5,109,400	\$4,935,500
Total	\$4,934,725	\$5,109,400	\$4,935,500
Total Department	\$1,253,164,799	\$1,232,951,000	\$1,232,951,000

1. Expenditure and revenue figures included in this document are based on public information provided in the Report on the Program Expenditures and Revenues of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the Year Ended March 31, 2026.

2. Audited financial statements are a requirement at the government level and are made public through the Public Accounts process. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is not required to provide an audited financial statement.

Annex A: Scholarships, Bursaries, Awards and Grants

The following provides detailed information on scholarships, bursaries, awards, and grants administered or supported by the department during the 2025-26 reporting period.

Early Childhood Educators' Week and Early Childhood Education Scholarship: In May 2025, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development joined the Association of Early Childhood Educators Newfoundland and Labrador to mark May 25 to May 31 as Early Childhood Educators' Week. The week recognizes the dedication and commitment of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and their essential role in enriching early childhood experiences.

In 2025-26, Sarah Peters of St. John's was the recipient of the Joanne Juteau Early Childhood Education Scholarship.¹⁰

Awards for Teaching Excellence: In recognition of teaching excellence among K-12 teachers, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the recipients of the 2025 Premier's Award for Teaching Innovation and the 2025 Minister of Education's Award for Compassion in Teaching.¹¹

The 2025 Premier's Award recipients were:

- Angela O'Brien, Prince of Wales Collegiate, St. John's
- Sara Barry, Holy Trinity Elementary, Torbay

The following were the 2025 Minister of Education's Award recipients:

- Heather Cull-Tilley, St. Joseph's Academy, Lamaline

¹⁰ 2025 Joanne Juteau Early Childhood Education Scholarship recipient:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/eecd/0526n03/>

¹¹ Recipients of Awards for Teaching Excellence:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/exec/0620n03/>

- Janice Spencer, Corner Brook Regional High
- Luce Landry, École des Grands-Vents, St. John's
- Matthew Hillier, St. Teresa's, St. John's
- Sherry Maher, Cowan Heights Elementary, St. John's
- Valerie Sheppard, Peacock Primary, Happy Valley-Goose Bay
- Paula Courage, Beachy Cove Elementary, Portugal Cove-St. Philip's

2025 Lester B. Pearson Scholar: Taylor Ash, a Level II student at Heritage Collegiate in Lethbridge, received the 2025 Lester B. Pearson Scholarship for two years of pre-university study at Pearson College in Victoria, British Columbia. The department contributed \$34,000 toward the \$50,000 scholarship supporting leadership development and long-term educational goals through United World College.¹²

Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Graduating Student Leadership Bursary: The Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Graduating Student Leadership Bursary promotes awareness of the Safe and Caring Schools Policy and encourages students to challenge harmful behaviour and foster welcoming and inclusive school environments.

In 2025, eleven students received the Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Graduating Student Leadership Bursary.¹³ Each recipient was awarded \$500 in recognition of their leadership in promoting inclusive, respectful, and empathetic school environments.

Council of the Federation Literacy Award for Newfoundland and Labrador: Stella's Circle was the recipient of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award for Newfoundland and Labrador.¹⁴

¹² 2025 Lester B. Pearson Scholar recipient:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/eecd/0626n02/>

¹³ 2025 list of Safe, Caring and Inclusive Graduating Student Leadership Bursary recipients can be found:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/eecd/0904n05/>

¹⁴ 2025 recipient of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award for Newfoundland and Labrador:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/exec/0908n11/>

Stella's Circle is a charitable organization dedicated to supporting learners through adult literacy education, employment services, mental health programming and affordable housing. The organization continues to expand program access across the province to support learners facing additional barriers and to strengthen foundational reading, writing, and speaking skills.

Provincial Scholarships: In 2025-26, a total of \$275,000 in provincial scholarships were awarded to 201 recent high school graduates across Newfoundland and Labrador. Scholarships ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and recognized the hard work, determination, and academic performance among the graduating class.¹⁵

The scholarships awarded included:

- The Junior Jubilee Scholarship (\$2,500): Awarded to the student with the highest overall scholarship score.
- The Constable W.C. Moss Scholarship (\$1,000): Awarded to a child of a police officer with the highest score, excluding the Junior Jubilee recipient.
- Electoral District Scholarships (\$1,000): Awarded to three top-scoring graduates per electoral district.
- Centenary of Responsible Government Scholarships (\$1,000): Awarded to the next highest-scoring graduates.

Safe and Inclusive Schools Grants: In January 2026, 11 schools were awarded \$1,000 through the Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Special Initiatives Grants. These grants support student-focused projects that value equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility while promoting safe, caring and inclusive learning environments.¹⁶

¹⁵ Recipients of Provincial Scholarships:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2025/eecd/1127n01/>

¹⁶ Recipients of Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Special Initiatives Grants:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/releases/2026/eecd/0115n01/>

