

Province Moves Ahead on Early Learning and Child-Care System

Nova Scotia is taking the next step toward affordable, accessible, high-quality and inclusive child care for all families.

On October 15, the Province released expressions of intent (EOI) to Nova Scotia's not-for-profit child-care operators and those delivering the Nova Scotia Before and After Program. The Province is asking them to indicate their interest in expanding as it aims to create 9,500 new spaces for children under six, with a priority on communities where specific services are most needed.

This step comes as Nova Scotia moves to a 50 per cent reduction in child-care fees by the end of 2022 and a further reduction to \$10 a day by March 31, 2026.

"Safe, affordable, quality child care should be available to every family in Nova Scotia," said Becky Druhan, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. "Our goal is accessible child care in every community at a price that is affordable for all."

The EOI will help implement the historic agreement Nova Scotia signed with the



federal government in July to transform Nova Scotia's early learning and child-care system. The \$605 million Canada-Nova Scotia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement will accomplish the following:

- reduce child-care fees by an average of 50 per cent by December 31, 2022
- ensure child-care fees are, on average, \$10 per day by March 31, 2026
- create at least 9,500 new early learning and child-care spaces by March 31, 2026, including new spaces for infants and toddlers, and
- enhance care options at schools for before and after school, prioritizing children aged five and under.

Nova Scotia will introduce new funding models, reduced fees, a compensation framework for early childhood educators and a renewed subsidy program for families. Under the terms of the Canada-Nova Scotia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, Nova Scotia must create new spaces in not-for-profit, publicly funded child care.

The Province is committed to working with all existing for-profit or commercial child-care operators who want an opportunity to join the Canada-wide system through an expression-of-interest process. All for-profit or commercial child-care programs that were licensed and provincially funded as of July 13, 2021, are able to take part in the new Canada-wide system, and receive funding to support items such as lower parent fees, as long as they follow the terms and conditions of the agreement.

This EOI process will serve as a first step for the for-profit or commercial child-care sector to understand and explore what it will mean to become part of the Canada-wide early learning and child-care system.

Former Councillor, Bill Masters Passes

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 In his spare time, he enjoyed being a member of Mountain Golf and Country Club and Truro Curling Club, coaching hockey and baseball, and acting as treasurer for Brookfield Minor Hockey where he also coached his own boys.

Along with his mother, Myrtle (Donald) Comeau, Centreville, Bill is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Debbie (Dickie); sons, Scott (Teri-Lynn) Masters, Murray Siding; Steven Masters, Old Barns; Brian (Angela) Masters, East Mountain; grandchildren, Taylor Masters, Holly Masters, Riley Masters, Annika Masters, Linden Masters, Parker Masters; sisters, Carol-Ann Hass, Brampton, Ontario; Sharon Marsters, Kingston, Nova Scotia; brothers, Ricky (Eleanor) Marsters, Onslow Mountain; Paul Marsters, Brantford, Ontario; Phillip (Audrey) Marsters, Kentville; Kenny Marsters, Glenwood, Nova Scotia; sister-in-law, Roberta Marsters, Canning, Nova Scotia. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law, Gayle (Ricky) Randle, Truro; Carlene Dickie (Dave Stephens), Halifax; brothers-in-law, John Dickie (Darlene Bates), Onslow; George (Susan) Dickie, Old Barns; many nieces and nephews. Along with his father, he was predeceased by his brother, Gary Marsters; par-

ents-in-law, Carl and Vera (Ferns) Dickie.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Mattatall - Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro, where Bill's family will receive friends from 3:30-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., Monday, October 25, 2021. Funeral service will be held 2 p.m., Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at Old Barns United Church, 2603 Highway 236, Old Barns, Reverend Phillip Kennedy officiating. (Please note that proof of double vaccination and photo identification will be requested prior to entry to the funeral home for visitation and at the church for the funeral service, and masks must be worn at all times; thank you for your co-operation and understanding.) Interment in Old Barns Cemetery. Family flowers only. If so desired, donations in Bill's memory to the Fundy Discovery Site Playground Project, c/o Municipality of Colchester are welcomed. Private messages of condolence may be sent to the family by viewing Bill's obituary on-line and selecting "Send A Condolence" at: www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

He was co-owner and General Manager of Nova Enterprises and retired in 2011. Bill served for many years on the Freightliner Dealer Council.

Community minded, he was a very active member of County Council, was County Councillor (District 2) for 20 years and also served as Deputy Mayor of Colchester County for eight years. He served on many committees over these 20 years. He was instrumental in the creation and planning of Cobequid Trail and the Fundy Discovery Site. He was an avid supporter of the RECC and was active on the steering committee in its early development and planning stages.

Please note that Bill's surname "Masters" is correct as published, as is the surname "Marsters" for other members of his family. Thank you.

Live for Local Rally Launched

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 are eligible to enter. Upload a receipt from any business in Colchester County you receive one entry for over \$15,000 in prizes. If you upload a receipt from one of the chambers "Participating Businesses" you will automatically receive two entries.

To enter: take a photo or scan your receipt from any business in Colchester County; go to website: truro-colchesterchamber/live-for-local-rally; upload picture or scan of your receipt. Some businesses may choose to have you do an activity/challenge to earn an entry.

Check out the Chamber's Facebook page "Live for Local Rally" for more chances to win.

As a backgrounder, the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce started the "Live Local" campaign in 2012. It was spearheaded by a committee focused on bringing together members of the chamber, along with several

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stakeholders in the community to encourage people to spend their money at businesses located in the Truro/Colchester region, rather than having that money leave the community. The Chamber continues this mission today.

Various studies and surveys have shown that many in the

local area are choosing to spend their money in outside communities or online, which means nothing is returned to the local economy. Even a small shift in shopping habits would mean more money in the local economy, more jobs and businesses would be better equipped to support local charities, sports teams, events, etc.

In an effort to slow down or perhaps curtail "online" shopping from national and international businesses outside the province or local area, the "Live for Local Rally" was revamped for 2021 as the province eases CoVid-19 restrictions, but is worried "online" shopping fad will

continue. The initiative is called the "10% Challenge".

If the 375,000 households in Nova Scotia shifted 10% of their existing purchases from non-local businesses to Local Independents (locally owned and independent businesses), it would result in the creation of new jobs and millions of dollars of new economic activity in Nova Scotia, all without raising taxes or spending a dime more than we planned.

The elegance of the 10 per cent shift is that it doesn't ask people to expand their budgets and spend more. It asks people to be more conscious about where they spend what they've already budgeted for.



VOTE

Victoria Lomond

for District 10 Municipal Council

"Let me be your navigator"

Advance polls are at The Great Village Fire Hall on Saturday, October 30 and Tuesday, November 2 from 12 noon to 8pm.

Election day is Saturday, November 6th from 8am to 7pm.

For information: **(902) 890-4242**

... BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT ...

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