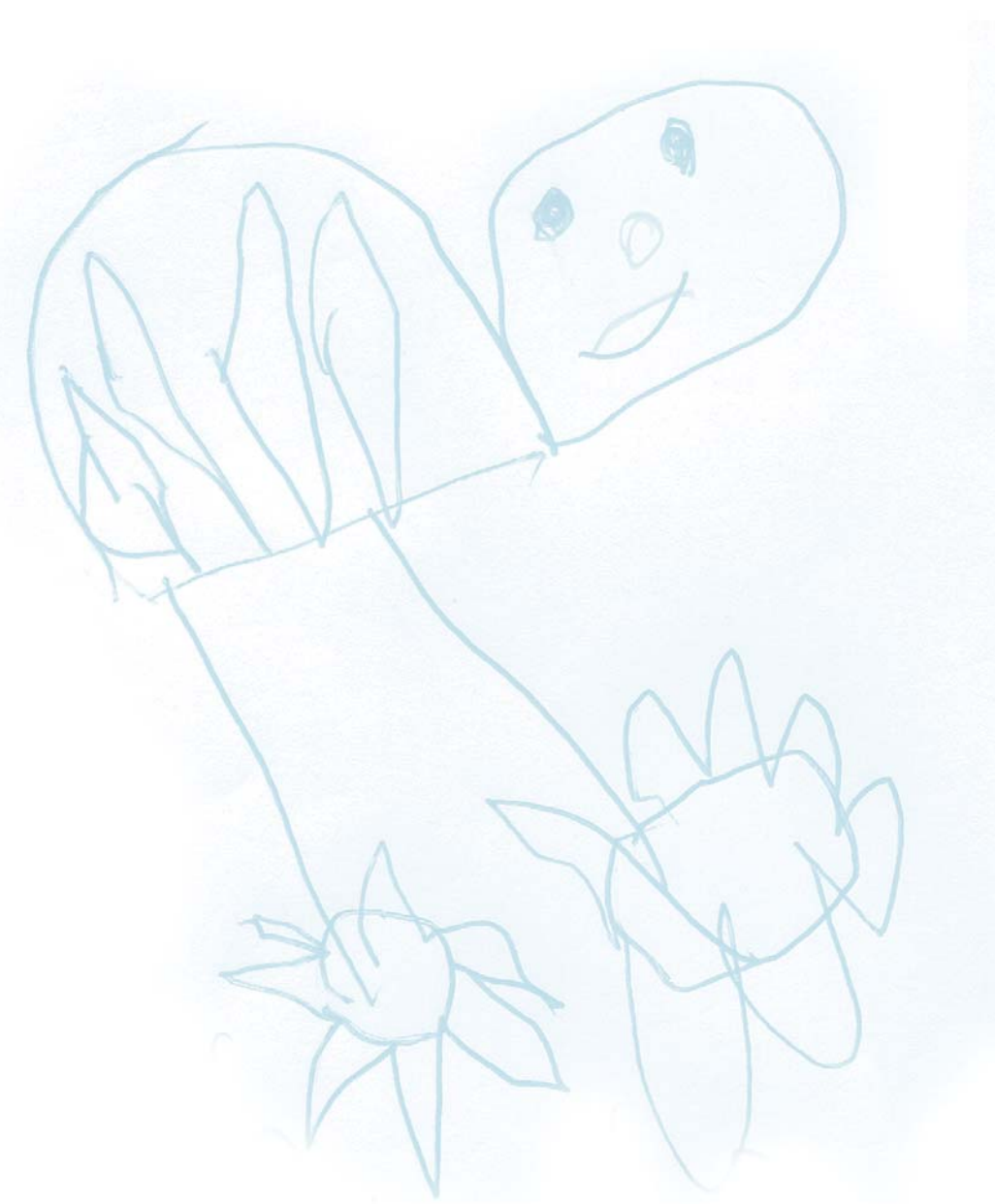


Nova Scotia's Early Learning & Child Care Plan



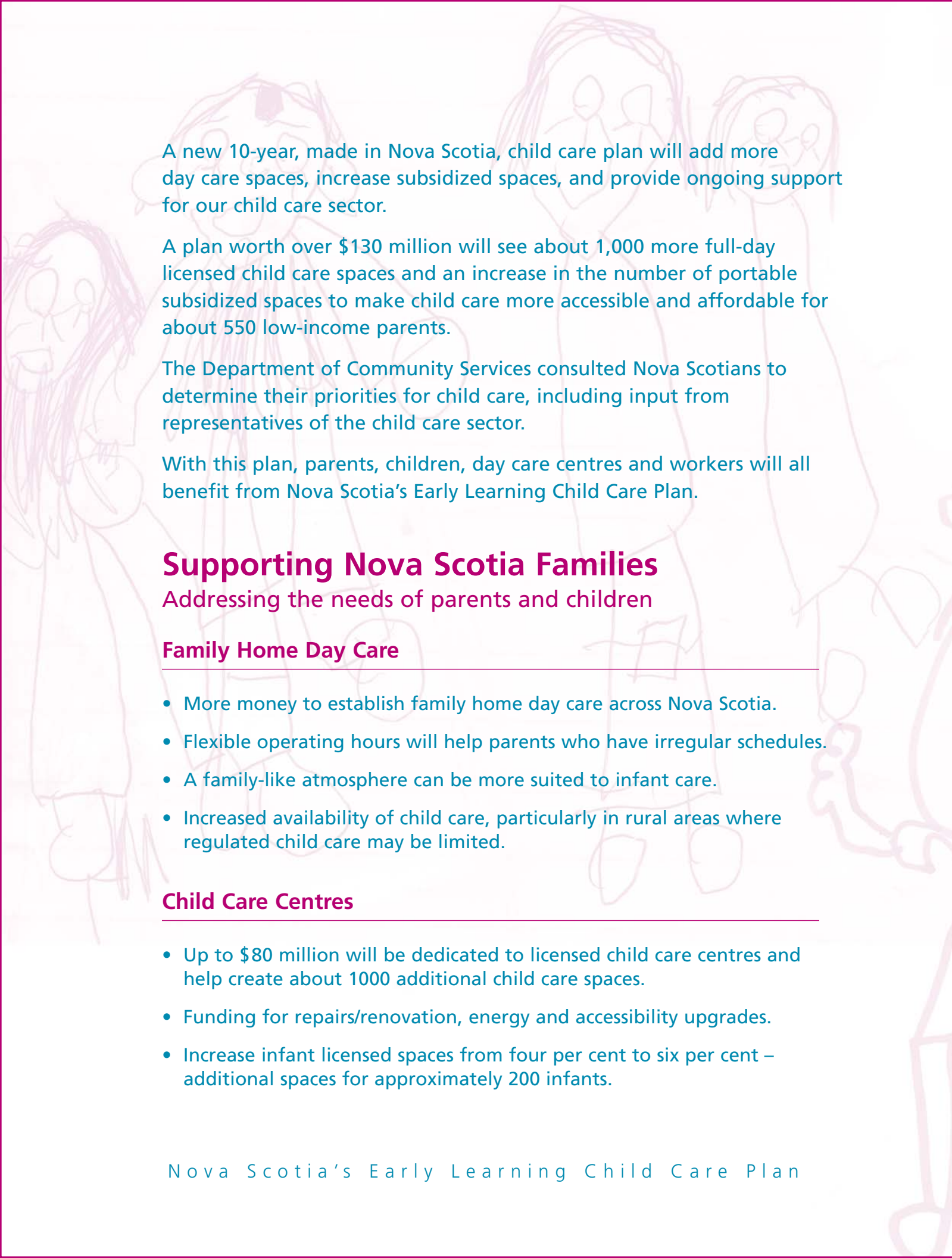
*Building strong, healthy
communities together*

NOVA SCOTIA
Community Services

May, 2006

**Early Learning
and Child Care**
Our children. Our future.

NOVA SCOTIA
Community Services



A new 10-year, made in Nova Scotia, child care plan will add more day care spaces, increase subsidized spaces, and provide ongoing support for our child care sector.

A plan worth over \$130 million will see about 1,000 more full-day licensed child care spaces and an increase in the number of portable subsidized spaces to make child care more accessible and affordable for about 550 low-income parents.

The Department of Community Services consulted Nova Scotians to determine their priorities for child care, including input from representatives of the child care sector.

With this plan, parents, children, day care centres and workers will all benefit from Nova Scotia's Early Learning Child Care Plan.

Supporting Nova Scotia Families

Addressing the needs of parents and children

Family Home Day Care

- More money to establish family home day care across Nova Scotia.
- Flexible operating hours will help parents who have irregular schedules.
- A family-like atmosphere can be more suited to infant care.
- Increased availability of child care, particularly in rural areas where regulated child care may be limited.

Child Care Centres

- Up to \$80 million will be dedicated to licensed child care centres and help create about 1000 additional child care spaces.
- Funding for repairs/renovation, energy and accessibility upgrades.
- Increase infant licensed spaces from four per cent to six per cent – additional spaces for approximately 200 infants.

Subsidized Spaces

- Create 550 subsidized portable spaces over the next five year and increase the total number of subsidized spaces to 3430.

Supported Child Care

- Increase spaces for children with special needs from about four per cent to eight per cent – approximately 530 children.

Recruitment and Retention

- Early Childhood workers in rural and remote communities will have the same access to early childhood development programs as people in urban settings, with the development of on-line learning opportunities.

Keeping Parents Informed & Streamlining Processes

- Information will be more accessible through the internet - parents looking for information to support them in raising their children will have access to user-friendly child development material.
- Parents and child care centres are demanding faster, better service and information so application forms and assessment tools (subsidy, licensing and renewals) will be available on the internet.

Parent Information

For more information about Nova Scotia's Early Learning Child Care Plan go to the Department of Community Services website at: www.gov.ns.ca/coms/ or call us at 1-877-424-1177.