

### **Support for the Early Years**

- The province is establishing a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development with a mandate to support families and children from birth through high school.
- This new department will integrate programs and services for young children and their families into one focused Early Years branch.
- Government staff from the current departments of Education, Community Services, and Health and Wellness will be brought together in the Early Years branch of the new department.
- Early learning, child development, child care (child care subsidies, child care facility regulation) and early intervention are examples of programs that will fall under the Early Years branch.
- For families, this will mean more coordinated and accessible support in the earliest years of their children's lives.
- This new approach builds on the success of SchoolsPlus, a program that provides social services, health services, mentoring, and parenting workshops for students and families, now available in 98 schools.

### **Student Health**

- Through Thrive!, the province is investing in recreational facilities and expanding provincial support for community use of schools by recreational, sports, and other volunteer groups.
- Five Mi'kmaw communities are adopting physical activity as part of their daily routine through a new partnership with the province. Annapolis Valley/ Glooscap, Eskasoni, Millbrook, and Paqtnkek will hire full-time staff to develop and implement physical activity plans.

### **Math & Reading**

- This year Nova Scotia's schools are adopting a highly successful math curriculum to ensure that more students build a solid foundation in this critical subject. Starting this fall, the Mathematics 10 course will be year-long to provide more learning time.
- Succeeding in Reading is helping more of Nova Scotia's youngest students learn to read. More than 3,800 children got help last year. With this year's extension of the program into Grade 3, even more children will benefit.