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Families and Communities

Families

Budget 2014–2015 will support families and communities through investments that will allow more seniors to stay in their homes, give children and parents access to more resources, and ensure that survivors of sexual assault receive compassionate support.

- Expand eligibility for the Child Tax Benefit to 1,300 more children from low-income families (\$450,000)
- Help 300 more seniors each year stay in their homes through a \$1.5 million increase in the Senior Citizens Assistance Program (for a total investment of \$4.15 million)
- Provide more early education for children and parenting support through Family Resource Centres (\$2 million)
- Reactivate a rate-review process for providers of residential services for persons with disabilities (\$2 million)
- Continue work to implement a roadmap to improve the range of supports available for persons with disabilities that puts people first
- Develop a three-year sexual assault strategy focused on prevention and victim services (\$2 million)
- Increase funding for transition houses, women's centres, and 2nd stage housing organizations (\$500,000)
- Provide more support to foster families (\$363,000)

Communities

Budget 2014–2015 will upgrade our infrastructure, help Nova Scotians navigate government services, and improve public transportation to connect more people to opportunities, businesses, and places of employment.

- Invest in the Community Transportation Assistance Program to help Nova Scotians in communities without bus service stay mobile (\$500,000)
- Invest in public transit in the Halifax Regional Municipality (\$2 million) and public and community-based transit outside the capital region (\$1 million)
- Make capital investments in schools, hospitals, highways, and technology through the capital plan (\$535 million)
- Invest in regional libraries and locally managed museums (\$427,000)
- Continue helping Nova Scotians navigate all available social, health, and government services through 211, a free information and referral service (\$38,000)

The Environment

Budget 2014–2015 will help create a cleaner, healthier future by pursuing new ways to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and supporting communities and companies in making greener choices.

- Reduce energy costs by making more government buildings energy efficient through retrofits (\$1 million)
- Ensure provincial protected areas are safe for all to enjoy (\$100,000 per year, for two years)
- Invest in infrastructure to prevent flooding (\$700,000)
- Help Nova Scotians drive less distance, move more actively and efficiently, use cleaner energy, and access a wider range of sustainable transportation options (\$2 million)

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