

Shine On

YMCA opens 30th Pre-K location with more coming soon!

Congratulations to the YMCA Pre-K team members who, since October 2022, have been working hard on the Pre-K program. YMCA Pre-K programs are now operating in 30 schools throughout the province with six more set to open by late summer and into the fall. In a time of labour shortages, the Pre-K project team has been able to recruit and retain more than 95 ECEs, Trainees, Casual Caregivers, and staff working with hundreds of children. The YMCA is also working on international recruitment of ECEs to help fill the gap and get all sites operational as soon as possible.

Pre-K is funded by the Provincial Government's Department of Education and operated by the YMCA. The YMCA appreciates the dedication of the government teams. Parents and teachers alike are seeing the immediate positive impacts on children.

"The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is celebrating the opening of the 30th pre-kindergarten site in the province. Pre-K programming is an important part of the early learning and child care system as it helps prepare children for educational success by providing play-based learning in a school environment. I look forward to continuing to celebrate the opening of more sites in the coming months, and to the full implementation of a pre-kindergarten program that is accessible to all children in Newfoundland and Labrador."

- The Honourable Krista Lynn Howell, Minister of Education

"The YMCA Pre-K program has been a wonderful addition to our school. The children who attend this program before coming to Kindergarten transition very well. They are used to routines, classroom expectations, and are more independent. There are many things that we have to teach and review at the beginning of Kindergarten, but the children coming from the Pre-K program know a lot of these things before they start. They seem more comfortable and confident making the move to Kindergarten. It has been great having the Pre-K program at our school".

- Stephen Lawlor, Bay Roberts Primary

"We are delighted to reach 30 Pre-K sites as quickly as we have, and we look forward to opening many more. At the YMCA, we are collaborators and problem-solvers. It has been gratifying to work with so many others across Newfoundland and Labrador on this important project".

- Jason Brown, President and CEO, YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador

Read more about the impact for families in the [YMCA NL 2022/2023 Annual Report](#).

Information about YMCA Pre-K sites may be found here: [YMCA Pre-Kindergarten](#)