## New child-care spaces in southwest Nova Scotia

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## Excerpts

Families looking for child care in southwest Nova Scotia will see more than 150 new spaces in licensed centres and family homes thanks to provincial and federal funding.

They are part of the Province's expansion plan to add more licensed child-care spaces across Nova Scotia.

"Improving access to affordable child care for Nova Scotia families is a top priority for this government," said Colton LeBlanc, Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie and MLA for Argyle, on behalf of Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Becky Druhan. "As we make child care more affordable, the demand will grow, so we are working hard to increase spaces to meet that demand. Adding French-speaking spaces is particularly important to Acadian and francophone families, as it contributes to the continued vibrancy of our language and culture."

Le Jardin des Petits in Tusket, Yarmouth County has already opened five new toddler and five new preschool spaces. It will also be expanding to a new location in Wedgeport, Yarmouth County by fall 2024, with a total of about 11 toddler and 11 preschool spaces.

Other planned expansions in the area and their expected openings include:

- La P'tite Academie, Church Point, Digby County about 24 new spaces (infant, toddler, preschool, school age); fall
- Learning Grove's new location at Tideview Terrace Long-Term Care Home, Digby about 10 new spaces (toddlers, preschool); fall
- The Fox and The Hare Daycare, Lockeport about 10 new preschool spaces; fall

The investment in these expansions is about \$6.4 million, through the Canada-Nova Scotia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement 2021-2026.

Quotes

"No one should have to choose between high-quality, inclusive child care and affordability. Through our expansion, we are able to accommodate more children to give families the chance to give their children the very best start in life and for that we thank you."

- Krista Spinney, Director, Le Jardin des Petits, Yarmouth County

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