N.L. creating new daycare spaces for health professionals with irregular hours [1]

Spaces will be ready in 6 months, says Premier Andrew Furey

Author: CBC News Source: CBC News Format: Article

Publication Date: 17 Nov 2023

AVAILABILITY
Access online [2]

Excerpt

The Newfoundland and Labrador government is partnering with the YMCA to create new daycare spaces exclusively for health-care professionals with hours outside the standard workday.

The province will open around 160 new \$10-per-day spaces in at a new building on St. Michael's Avenue in St. John's, Discovery Collegiate in Bonavista and Eastside Elementary in Corner Brook. The spaces should be ready in the next six months and will have hours that meet the needs of medical professionals, said Premier Andrew Furey at an announcement Thursday.

Furey said the program's longer-term goal is to provide 24/7 child-care options for those who work varying shifts, adding it could attract more nurses and other medical professionals to the province.

"It has prevented nurses coming back from maternity leave, or paternity leave who have held permanent positions having to resign to go casual because they have no one to care for their children during their shifts," Coffey said, adding she hopes the program can increase the number of permanent employees in the system.

YMCA Newfoundland and Labrador president Jason Brown said the organization is happy to be a part of the program. He said staffing the sites within six months could be challenging but there are many early childhood educators in the training pipeline who will be ready to begin work within a year.

Related link: Extended hours, overnight child-care pilot for healthcare workers in Sydney [3]

Region: Newfoundland [4]
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