



MEDIA RELEASE

For Release: Wednesday, October 1st, 2014

Subject: Proponents for Early Childhood Education commend Premier Paul Davis for the creation of the new Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

St. John's (Oct. 1, 2014) - The Jimmy Pratt Foundation and the Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Foundation applaud Premier Davis' announcement of an integrated ministry of education to include the early years.

"This is a critical step to enhancing early childhood education and care (ECE) in our province", says Kathy Pratt LeGrow, Chair of the Pratt Foundation. "Our discussion paper, *The Early Years Last a Lifetime*, initiated an informed conversation in this province on the current landscape of ECE and the various factors that contribute to successful outcomes for our children and their families."

Integrating early child education into the Department of Education is significant because it streamlines program planning and delivery but, more importantly, it legitimizes the early years as being critical to education and human development. It affords the sharing of information between educators, a continuum of learning, and smooth transitions between each learning stage.

This announcement, coupled with the government's commitment to full day Kindergarten beginning in 2016, are commendable steps in a series of actions required to improve ECE in our province. We look forward to continuing to inform this conversation and provide our children with optimal learning experiences.

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The Jimmy Pratt Foundation, a private philanthropic foundation based in St. John's, has been advocating for the availability of quality, publicly-funded Early Childhood Education for every young child in our province. For more information, please visit: <http://jimmyprattfoundation.org/quality-early-childhood-education/>

The Margaret & Wallace McCain Family Foundation's champions effective early childhood programs across Canada that provide equal opportunities for all children, align with the school system and operate within a provincial or territorial framework.

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