



## **Speaking Notes**

The Honourable Joanne Bernard,  
Minister of Community Services

Moving On Up Employment Readiness

Dartmouth Learning Network  
260 Wise Road, Suite 200  
Dartmouth, NS

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

10:00 AM

Good morning!

I'm happy you could join us. Thanks to the Dartmouth Learning Network staff, students and board members for hosting us today.

Last year I had the opportunity to visit the Dartmouth Learning Network.

I was impressed with what I witnessed here. You can feel the passion for learning and professionalism of the staff.

You can't help but share the enthusiasm, and little wonder. Participants in the programs here don't just get a helping hand – they get a chance to change their lives, and the lives of their families.

It is important that government supports organizations like the Dartmouth Learning Network that help people overcome barriers to employment through skills, literacy and educational assistance.

I'm delighted to announce that the province is investing \$60,000 in the Dartmouth Learning Network.

This funding will create a program called **“Moving on Up: Employment Readiness”**. It will provide enhanced supports and skills development for up to 24 Nova Scotians who do not have a high school diploma and who are unemployed or underemployed.

Our department is focusing its funding on the programs and services that truly make a difference in people's lives, showing positive outcomes for our investment.

We know from labour market information that people who have a high school education are more likely to find work.

This program will help these program participants achieve the education and literacy levels they need in order to succeed in the workforce.

Those who complete the program will have a better chance at finding and keeping a job, and they will also have opportunities for work that provides better income and benefits.

I can tell you from personal experience that the benefits of improving your education don't just last for one lifetime, but for lifetimes of your children and grandchildren, who learn the value of a solid education.

In a few minutes, you'll have the chance to hear from a former participant at the Dartmouth Learning Network. I'm sure her story will inspire you as it has inspired me.

In a few months, I'm looking forward to hearing more success stories from those who have completed the Moving on Up program. Thank you.