

# LET'S GET IT RIGHT!

*Early Childhood Education  
for the Next Generation*

## JUNE 13 - CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

#### KEYNOTE PRESENTATION FROM DR. EMIS AKBARI

**8-9am**      **Registration + Light Breakfast**

**9-9:15am**      **Welcome to the Jimmy Pratt Foundation  
Welcome MHA Tom Osborne, Minister of Education**

**9:15-9:45am**      **Presentation from the Jimmy Pratt Foundation  
Let's Get It Right: Early Childhood Education for the Next Generation**

**9:45-9:50am**      **Stretch Break**

**9:50-11:00am**      **Panel on Inclusion**

Every child in Newfoundland and Labrador has a right to Early Childhood Education, but in reality, access to quality programming is highly unequal. Children facing poverty, living with disabilities, and living in rural, remote and racialized communities face many barriers before their first day of kindergarten. How can we make the early years truly inclusive, equitable, and accessible?

Moderator:  
Raven Khadeja, Ravensong Consulting

Panellists:  
Valerie Collins, Executive Director, Family Childcare Connections  
Bernice Hancock, Executive Director, Community Education Network of Southwestern Newfoundland  
Jennifer Hierley, Gander Women's Centre  
Debbie Ingram, Child Development Coordinator, First Light  
Kristen Pittman, Manager of Education and Training, Qalipu First Nation Band

**11-11:15pm**      **Break**

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CONFERENCE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



*Keynote speaker*

**Dr. Emis Akbari**

*Senior Policy Fellow, Atkinson Centre*

*Professor, School of Early Childhood, George Brown College*



JIMMY PRATT  
FOUNDATION

**11:15-12:00pm Breakout sessions -  
What does high-quality Early Childhood Education mean to you?**

**12-1:00pm Lunch**

**1:00-2:30pm Keynote with Dr. Emis Akbari:**

Canada's Children Need a Professional Early Childhood Education Workforce  
The best Early Childhood Education uses a play-based pedagogy uniquely suited to children under 6. But Early Childhood Educators, trained in this style of learning, are in short supply across Canada. ECE's leave the field due to low wages, poor working conditions, and a lack of respect. These same reasons keep potential recruits to the field on the sidelines. How do we support ECE's and the work that they do?

Dr. Emis Akbari is a Senior Policy Fellow at the Atkinson Centre and the co-author of the Early Childhood Education Report: Transition and Transformation.

**2:30-3:00pm Break**

**3:00-4:15pm Panel on Leadership**

Transition & Transformation in the Sector  
The federal childcare plan is a total transformation of the early years' sector - from a market system to public service - in a very short period. How do we make sure that we get it right?

Moderator:  
Neria Aylward, Jimmy Pratt Foundation

Panellists:  
Morna Ballantyne, Child Care Now!  
Jenny Lyall, Nunatsiavut Government  
Joanne Morris, Early Childhood Education Resource Council  
Vicky Smallman, Canadian Labour Congress

**4:15-4:30pm Closing Remarks**