

Background: [Green plan for agriculture, fisheries, and tourism](#)

1. Work with industries to develop commodity-specific climate adaptation strategies to help mitigate risks and explore opportunities.

Recommendation from the [Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability fall 2022 report](#), following hearings with industries on the impacts of hurricane Fiona.

2. Promote the development of carbon credit markets in agriculture and aquaculture, so we can pay farmers and fishers for sequestering carbon.

Carbon markets are an emerging concept where, almost like a reverse carbon tax, we pay people for taking carbon out of the atmosphere. Sequestering carbon has public value that benefits everybody. Carbon credits compensate those who provide this public service and encourage them to do more of it.

There are many opportunities emerging where this could be done in both agriculture (e.g. biochar, cover cropping, reduced tillage) and aquaculture (e.g. seaweed farming and [regenerative ocean farming](#))

3. Enhance supports for adopting new technologies and practices that reduce environmental impacts (ALUS, ASP, FACTAP, Environmental Impact Reduction Strategy for Aquaculture and Marine Fisheries).

The [Alternative Land Use Services \(ALUS\) program](#) provides “assistance to implement beneficial management practices (BMPs) or remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production”. Farmers have for years complained that the assistance levels are too low.

- Costing: Increase budget from \$800,000 to \$1,200,000

The [Agriculture Stewardship Program](#) “is a suite of initiatives designed to increase environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation by providing technical and financial support to encourage producers to voluntarily implement Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs).” It is very popular with farmers and its funding level is nowhere near enough to meet the demand.

- Costing: Increase budget from \$1,195,000 to \$1,800,000

[PEI Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program](#) (PEI FACTAP) provides “financial support to encourage the fisheries and aquaculture sectors of PEI to adopt and implement market-ready clean technologies, processes or sustainable practices to reduce the potential for negative environmental impacts” (from 2022-23 operational budget handouts). Supported projects to date have been mostly solar systems.

- Costing: increase program budget from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

The [Environmental Impact Reduction Strategy for Aquaculture and Marine Fisheries](#) provides support to industry to adopt new technologies, improve productivity, reduce environmental impacts, and become better stewards of the environment. Examples of projects: removing polystyrene buoys, adoption of electric/alternative propulsion technologies, reducing fossil fuel

and electricity use in processing operations, reducing fossil fuel-based packaging.

- Costing: Increase budget from \$350,000 to \$500,000.

4. Facilitate succession planning by exploring lease-to-own models, tax incentives for collective purchasing, and interest-free loans for new farmers and fishers.

Succession planning has been identified as a major concern in agriculture. As farms have gotten larger over the years, they are also much more expensive to sell when a farmer looks to retire. New farmers typically do not have the capital to invest in purchasing an entire farm. Government can play a role in facilitating the transfer of farms and land to new farmers. These recommendations were made by the PEI Federation of Agriculture in its presentation to the *Land Matters* Committee.¹

We have heard similar concerns in fisheries with regard to purchasing licenses or fleets. We would explore ways to provide similar services, if appropriate, for the fisheries sector.

5. Protect farmland and waterways through a comprehensive land use plan from tip-to-tip.

According to recently released data from Statistics Canada,² PEI is losing staggering amounts of farmland to urban sprawl — 39 acres every day. Uncontrolled development is one of the biggest threats to Island farmers and agriculture, the biggest driver of the Island economy.

A Green Government will establish land use planning across the entire Island. Agricultural land will be classified as resource land to protect it from poorly planned development and keep farmland in production. This was a recommendation of the PEI Federation of Agriculture in its presentation to the *Land Matters* Committee.³

What happens on the land also directly affects our waterways. We still have regular fish kills due to pesticide runoff, anoxic events due to excess fertilizer runoff, and erosion and siltation due to clear cutting and development. Land use regulations will also be designed to protect waterways from land-based threats.

6. Make land ownership and purchases more transparent to make sure the *Lands Protection Act* can be properly enforced. Take the politics out of land purchases by letting IRAC make the final decision, instead of Cabinet.

This is a recommendation from the Federation of Agriculture in their presentation to the *Land Matters* committee.⁴

1

https://www.landmatterspei.ca/sites/www.landmatterspei.ca/files/LandMatters/presentations/Federation%20of%20Agriculture%20-%20Land%20Advisory%20Committee%20Presentation%2002_23_21.pdf

² <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-farmland-loss-1.6736714>

³ See note 1.

⁴ See note 1.

The Green Caucus presented a motion in 2020⁵ in support of giving IRAC the final say on land purchase decisions, instead of Cabinet. The motion was defeated by the PCs and Liberals. Grens also presented a more general motion in 2021⁶ in support of making IRAC more independent of government as an independent office of the Legislature. Debate on the motion was not concluded.

7. Work with the Tourism Industry Association to implement their industry growth strategies.

A Green Government will work with the Tourism Industry Association of PEI (TIAPEI) in implementing its current 2022-2023 strategic plan⁷ for the sector. We will also continue to support future strategic plans and generally to promote the sustainable development of the tourism sector.

8. Provide free or low-cost access to artistic, cultural, and social activities for Islanders. Make sure that artists and community groups are fairly compensated for providing these activities.

Arts, culture, and social activities are a critical part of the province's tourism sector, so giving them a boost will help strengthen the tourism industry and make it more sustainable.

These programs could be implemented in various ways, including through financial support for community organizations, tax rebates for individuals and families, or direct payments. The exact model would be determined in consultation with health experts and other stakeholders. We are committing to an initial annual budget of \$1 million for this purpose.

Participation in artistic, cultural, and social activities has also been shown to be very beneficial for a person's mental and physical health. Helping Islanders more easily meet their social and emotional needs by removing cost barriers will improve health outcomes. As such, this program is also part of the Green Party plan for *Promoting the Health and Wellness of Islanders*.

9. Create a provincial museum in partnership with federal and community partners. This will not only be an attraction for tourists, but more importantly will help promote the preservation and development of Island culture, which is one of our greatest tourism assets.

The Green caucus has long promoted the idea of creating a provincial museum. The main

⁵

[https://docs.assembly.pe.ca/download/dms?objectId=ed45f173-f762-42b6-abf4-848cb8f5fdcf&fileName=Motion%20No.%20106%20\(on%20Lands%20Protection%20Act%20orders\).pdf](https://docs.assembly.pe.ca/download/dms?objectId=ed45f173-f762-42b6-abf4-848cb8f5fdcf&fileName=Motion%20No.%20106%20(on%20Lands%20Protection%20Act%20orders).pdf)

⁶

<https://docs.assembly.pe.ca/download/dms?objectId=f7d57517-31fb-4fed-b7a7-a3d1037c02d4&fileName=motion-13.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.tiapei.pe.ca/tourism-strategy-2022-2023/>

barrier is likely to be the cost to build and operate it, which could be substantial. It would likely take a year or two of planning and consultation (i.e. a feasibility study) to determine the scope and cost of the project.