

Full Plan for Addressing Labour Shortages:

A **Green Government** will:

- Make sure we have the infrastructure (housing, healthcare, schools, transit, etc.) to support a larger workforce.
- Update our student debt forgiveness program to encourage more graduates to work on PEI after graduation.
- Establish a \$2,000 bursary program to encourage students to work in the construction sector.
- Improve opportunities for students to participate in experiential learning to increase awareness and interest in trades.
- Work with industry to identify labour shortages and help recruit and retain internationally-trained professionals to fill those gaps.
- Work with community organizations, such as the Immigration & Refugee Services Association of PEI, the Greater Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce, and the Atlantic Student Development Alliance, to support newcomers and retain recent graduates.
- Promote the connection between workforce development and higher education within government.
- Streamline accreditation for internationally-trained workers.
- Convene a panel of employer and employee representatives from the construction industry to explore the creation of a wage grid for construction.

Plan For Enhancing Post-Secondary and Skills Training

A **Green Government** will:

- Set the zero-payment threshold for PEI Student Loans to \$40,000 gross income, indexed to inflation and with upward adjustments for family size. This would bring PEI in line with every other Atlantic province and make sure Island graduates do not have to repay loans if their annual income is below \$40,000.
- Cover student loan repayments for the 2023-24 year to support recent graduates in this period of high inflation and economic uncertainty.
- Promote enrollment in programs that address key labour shortages on PEI.
- Review debt forgiveness programs to support more students who choose to work on PEI after graduation.
 - Increase debt reduction grants.
 - Explore the possibility of expanding debt reduction programs to include students from other provinces and international students as incentive to stay and work on PEI.
- Work with community organizations and employers to retain skilled graduates.
- Support employers to provide experiential learning opportunities that are relevant to students' area of study.

- Continue to make investments in open educational resources (OERs) to reduce the cost of textbooks for students.
- Explore opportunities for student-led housing cooperatives.
- Review post-secondary financial assistance programs to ensure there is adequate support for Island workers looking to reskill or upskill.
- Increase financial assistance for graduate students doing innovative research.
- Support the implementation of UPEI's new strategic research plan.
- Review funding agreements with Island postsecondary institutions to make sure they have adequate and predictable funding.