

# **GREEN NEWS**

January 2023



### **CHANGE OF DATE**

The Green Party of PEI
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
and POLICY CONVENTION
has been rescheduled to
17 JUNE 2023

Completion of POLICY CONVENTION 24 JUNE 2023

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## **ELECTION 2023**

Have you heard? Nominations are now open across PEI for those interested in becoming Green candidates in the next election!

If you are contemplating stepping up to run and have questions, or if you have any suggestions for potential Green candidates we should approach, please get in touch with our Candidate Search Committee by writing

to candidatesearch@peigreens.ca.

Because the nomination process can take some time, we are encouraging anyone considering running with the Greens to apply as soon as possible.



Go to www.peigreens.ca/nominations for more information.

We are still accepting applications from members to join the Nomination Screening Committee and the Appeals Tribunal.

Don't forget that applications are still being sought for members to join the Nomination Screening Committee and the Appeals Tribunal. You can learn more about joining these important bodies by contacting Jordan at jordan.bober@peigreens.ca.

### Can you lend a hand in this election year? There are lots of ways to help.

Susan Hartley and Charles Sanderson have been meeting with members in every district who are eager to start getting organized for the election. If you'd like to be included in these meetings, contact Charles at **charles.sanderson@peigreens.ca.** 

The Election Readiness Committee will be identifying the human resource needs for the Central Campaign Office. We're looking for members with good people skills, design skills, or organizational skills, and a bit of time to step up and help out. If you'd like to be a part of the team, contact the ERC at electionreadiness@peigreens.ca.



## **Council News**

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2023! Thank you to everyone who made a year-end donation to the Party. You have made an investment in a Green future for PEI.

The Provincial Council took a short break over the holidays and now we are more engaged than ever! Election preparations are well underway with the opening of nominations announced in late December, a call for volunteers to help Council vet applicants, and ongoing work to



Susan Hartley, President Green Party of PEI

establish a strong slate of nominees and strong campaign teams moving forward to Election 2023. Several members have stepped up to join the Nomination Screening Committee and the Appeals Tribunal, and there is still room for more. If you are interested in contributing to our Election preparedness in this way, please see the front page\_

We are also beginning our recruitment process for new Council members. Watch for opportunities to learn more about the roles on Council. Or, if you are curious, please reach out to any of us on the GPPEI Provincial Council (provincial-council@peigreens.ca) and ask us about the work we do.

In the past several months a transition team has been meeting regularly to get our new donor, membership, and financial management system, Aplos, up and running. This should be ready early in the New Year with a new website developed and designed by amazing Green volunteers. Maintaining and building a good relationship with our members and donors means we are planning to reach out to you more often in 2023 - in person and through this newsletter. As of January 1st, we are revamping our membership so that every new and renewing member will be an annual member and renewing your membership will be as easy as making a donation of \$10 or more a year.

Also in January, members will have the opportunity to give Party leaders feedback through our Annual Membership Survey. The information we receive from you helps us to plan for communications, events, and volunteer opportunities for the coming year. I look forward to reading your responses to the survey - but please, if you have anything you'd like to chat about, let me know at any time at president@peigreens.ca.

Every year brings challenges as well as moments of joy - I wish you many joyful moments in 2023.



### PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Council meetings normally take place the 3rd Monday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Monday 16 January at 7pm** 

Members are welcome to attend as observers or presenters. To request to join a meeting, please contact info@greenparty.pe.ca

### **MONTHLY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

For more on the roles of committees and caucuses visit https://www.peigreens.ca/committee s

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### **Governance Committee**

We have been working on reviewing the model charter for regional and electoral district associations. The model is a template used by individual associations to draft their own charters or constitutions. The goal is to provide these bodies, which are the primary grassroots units of the party and essential to its local governance, with improved tools to support member engagement and autonomous decision-making.

Contact: governance@peigreens.ca

### **Finance Committee**

As well as routine monthly financial tasks, we will be issuing tax receipts in late January/February 2023. We're working with the Election Readiness Committee on the 2023 election budget, and will have the 2023 annual budget ready for approval at the January Council meeting.

Contact: finance@peigreens.ca

### Membership and Volunteer Committee

Our Terms of Reference have now been approved by Council, with a mandate of recruitment of new members and retention of current members. We've started developing our communications campaign. We've also been working on the Membership Survey.

Contact: membershipcommittee@peigreens.ca

### **IDENTITY CAUCUSES**

### **Diversity Caucus**

No activities reported

Contact: diversitycaucus@peigreens.ca



### **Caucus News**

### MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER

There's no doubt that 2022 was a difficult and challenging year for Islanders. This was made even more challenging and difficult by the fact that the King government was not there to help people in their biggest times of need.

Whether it was rolling out financial support to Islanders in the wake of Fiona, putting people first in healthcare and housing, or protecting precious resources like our shorelines and beaches from reckless development and climate change - the Dennis King government has failed Islanders over and over again.

Every day I speak with people who are really struggling or having a hard time - whether they are workers, seniors, tenants, healthcare professionals, parents or students. All of these conversations are difficult and unique but they have one thing in common: they tell me that the current way of doing things is not working.



Peter Bevan-Baker Leader of the Official Opposition

That's why I am really excited for this New Year and the opportunity it brings.

2023 will be an election year where we will present Islanders with a real choice. On one hand, Islanders will have the opportunity to choose the old ways of politicking and patronage that only serve the few. On the other, they will have the opportunity to choose a Green vision of inclusion, health and security, and a responsible government that works for them. A brighter, greener future for this place we call home.

I believe that things can be so much better than they are right now. I believe that together we can make that happen. Best wishes for a New Year that brings peace and prosperity to each of you, to our Party, and to all Islanders.

### **GREEN PARTY MEMBERS**

This is your newsletter.

We welcome your comments, suggestions, and contributions.

Please contact us at newsletter@peigreens.ca



### **MLAs IN ACTION**

There are many ways to keep up with what Green MLAs are doing

Videos of Assembly proceedings

Daily Debates in Hansard

Office of the Official Opposition

Green Caucus Blog

You can also follow Green MLAs on

<u>Facebook</u>

 $\underline{\text{Twitter}}$ 

**Instagram** 

**Youtube** 

### A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

Winning an election takes great people and great ideas. But it also needs funding! If you believe in Green values like we do and would like to help bring them to government, please consider making a donation.

No amount is too big or too small.

VISIT US AT https://www.peigreens.ca/donate



## **Caucus News**

### MLA KARLA BERNARD SUMS UP THE RESIDENTIAL TENANCY ACT



Karla Bernard
MLA for Charlottetown-Victoria Park

After years in the making, the *Residential Tenancy Act* finally passed in the PEI Legislature in the 2022 fall sitting. Improvements to Island tenancy laws are something we have been fighting for since 2018. We received many messages from Islanders who wanted improvements to our tenancy laws and thanks to their help, we prepared a dozen or so amendments which we discussed with government over many months. Some were eventually adopted, including:

- Expressly recognizing housing as a human right;
- New caps on annual allowable rent increases and increases above the allowable amount to ensure Islanders don't have extreme rent increases;
- Maintaining the moratorium on renovictions and ensuring tenants have the right to make submissions to the Director of Residential Tenancy regarding an application by the landlord seeking permission to issue an eviction notice;
- The elimination of financial penalties for late payment of rent;
- Creating a regulation-making power to prescribe property maintenance standards for residential premises under the Act, as well as regulation-making power for advertising rental units.

We worked very hard at incorporating these into the legislation both on the floor of the legislature and behind the scenes as we wanted to ensure that this is what it needed to be. Although some Opposition asks were not adopted by government, including a rental registry, a tenant advisor, or improved protections for pet owners, the new legislation will offer much more robust protection than what was available under the current *Rental of Residential Properties Act*. We will continue to lobby government for improved housing policy, including the creation of a rental registry, something that this government has failed to implement for years despite publicly supporting the concept. This would protect tenants from illegal rent increases and provide greater data to understand the conditions in our provincial rental housing market.

### **GREENS FOR THE WIN!**

Our MLAs work hard to bring Green principles and ideas to government. Here are just a few of the comments we've been hearing.

People are seeing the difference that Greens can make. I'm hearing it everywhere I go.

Eddie Childs, Chair, D12 and D13 Regional Association

I'm feeling a real energy out there about the Greens. It's exciting!

Lynne Lund, MLA for District 21

Several people have commented, "Thank goodness we have a strong Green Opposition to hold the government to account."

Imagine what a Green government could do!

Susan Hartley, President

I'm sensing a real change in how people are looking at the Greens. We've proved ourselves to Islanders over the last four years, and folks are noticing the great work we've done, and the visionary policies we've been promoting on things like health care, housing and cost-of-living. I'm really excited about the upcoming election.

Peter Bevan-Baker, Party leader



# **Members' Corner**

### **TOPIC OF THE MONTH: Active transportation**

Active transportation has a positive effect on public health. But there are many benefits that make it an important component of other policy areas. This month **Richard Raiswell** identifies the many benefits of a comprehensive active transportation plan.

Active transportation involves getting around by walking, bicycle, wheelchair, roller skates, jogging or anything else that gets you out of your car. The health benefits are obvious: A/T reduces the risk of heart disease, obesity and diabetes. And good physical health and getting out and about improves your mental health and wellbeing, too.

A/T is also vital for building and maintaining modern, dynamic communities. Downtown areas benefit from lower transportation costs, less congestion, less wear and tear on roads, and better use of space—and healthy downtowns increase property values and help create a more welcoming environment for businesses. Viewing development through an A/T lens centres cities around people, not cars. And let's face it – tourists don't come to PEI to look at parking lots!

A good A/T infrastructure also helps make neighbourhoods more desirable places to live. When people are outside and active, they're more likely to interact with each other, encouraging a sense of community. It makes neighbourhoods more social, more attractive, and safer.

And of course there are all of the environmental benefits. Fewer vehicles on the road means reduced air and water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions—and less noise pollution, too.



Image courtesy of Isaac Williams

An effective A/T infrastructure is more than adding bike lanes to road construction as an afterthought, or having a few disconnected trails. It means providing resources and facilities for those who want to live better. It means making A/T an integral part of policy development—bringing together environment, health, transportation, social development and housing, urban and rural development, tourism, and public safety to help improve the quality of life of all Islanders.

And we can do it in PEI. Distances are small—and the province is pretty flat! Let's get moving and put A/T at the heart of planning and development.

### YOUR PHOTOS WANTED

Our new website is almost ready! We'd love to include photos taken by our members. Do you have any photos you'd like to share? Just get in touch with Susan at

president@greenparty.pe.ca



### **MEMBERSHIP SURVEY**

The annual membership survey will soon be arriving in your email inbox. It will be available in English and French.

When it arrives, please take a moment to fill it out. The information that you provide is important to Council. It will help us to work on behalf of members and the party in the coming year.

Completing the survey is much appreciated!



# **Party Roundup**

### **DISTRICT AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Associations are the grassroots heart of the Green Party.

Contact your local Association to be part of the action!

**D5 and D6** Regional Association is gearing up for 2023 and would like to hear from members in the area would may be interested in volunteering and supporting the efforts of MLA Michele Beaton. Interested members can send a note to Darlene at **darlene.doiron@greenparty.pe.ca**.

To learn more about Associations
visit

**D12 and D13** Regional Association is holding its winter fundraiser dinner at Shaddy's on Wednesday February the 1st. See the Events page for more details.

https://www.peigreens.ca/edas\_ras?

**D17** is holding its online AGM-Social Event on Monday January the 9th, from 6:30 to 8:30pm. See the Events page for more details.

# Districts 5 & 6 Stratford RA

Contact: stratfordchair@peigreens.ca

#### District 11

Charlottetown-Belvedere EDA

Contact: d11@peigreens.ca

**D22** is holding Green Drinks every two weeks along with D21 and D23. See the Events page for more details, and please contact us for more information.

### Districts 12 & 13

Victoria Park-Brighton RA

Contact: d1213@peigreens.ca

District 17

New Haven-Rocky Point EDA

Contact: d17@greenparty.pe.ca

Districts 21 & 23

Summerside-Wilmot and Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke RA

Contact: d2123@peigreens.ca

District 22

Summerside-South Drive EDA

Contact: d22@peigreens.ca

**D21** and **D23** Regional Association held its AGM on November the 26th, 2022 at the Inspire Learning Centre in Summerside where Sandra Hartt and Toby MacDonald were reinstated respectively for the positions of financial coordinator and communications coordinator by a unanimous vote.

On December the 1st, 2022 the RA held a sold-out fundraiser at Backwoods Burger in Tyne Valley. Peter Bevan-Baker attended, and we also acquired two new members-at-large.

We continue to hold Green Drinks at Dooly's in Summerside on the second Thursday of each month where Trish and Lynne make themselves available to answer questions and concerns from the general public.

We have also scheduled an election readiness meeting for January the 7th, 2023 at the Inspire Learning Centre in Summerside.



Fundraising fun in Tyne Valley

### **EYE ON THE ELECTION**

### The Election Readiness Committee continues its preparatory work for the 2023 election

This month, we'll be making recommendations on how to effectively staff the election for the strongest possible campaign organization. We'll also be setting up some temporary working groups to help come up with plans for specific aspects of the election such as data management, the use of signage, and communications and advertising strategies.

If you are interested in joining in any of this work, we'd love to hear from you! Please write to Elections Readiness Chair Jordan Bober at jordan.bober@peigreens.ca.

And don't miss the front page for more ways to get involved!

Be sure to check the Upcoming

Events and the Help Wanted

pages for ways to get involved in

your district association





# **Members' Corner**

### **HELP WANTED—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **COUNCIL NOTE TAKER**

Council invites a member to join them for monthly Council meetings (the third Monday of every month) and for extraordinary meetings that occur on occasion. Being a Council note taker will give you the opportunity to learn more about the work of the Provincial Council.

Contact Susan at president@greenparty.pe.ca

### **COUNCIL CLEAN-UP**

Council is seeking a person with experience in redesigning a digital space who can help provide a new approach and organization for our files and folders.

Contact Charles at charles.sanderson@greenparty.pe.ca

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

If you're interested in becoming a Party Council member, or would like to learn more about what Council does, please reach out to any of us to ask about the work we do.

Contact provincial-council@peigreens.ca

### **MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE**

Our committee is looking for members to help in a variety of areas that support our work of recruiting and retaining members.

Contact Darlene at darlene.doiron@greenparty.pe.ca

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

We're always looking for financially minded people, or people comfortable with numbers to fill roles as Financial Coordinators with EDAs and RAs, and to help during the election period.

Contact finance@peigreens.ca

### **D5 and D6 REGIONAL ASSOCIATION**

The Stratford Regional Association is eager to support our MLA Michele Beaton in the election! We've love to hear from members in the area who'd be interested in volunteering.

Contact Darlene at darlene.doiron@greenparty.pe.ca

### **D17 DISTRICT ASSOCIATION**

The New Haven Rocky Point District Association is holding its AGM-Social Event on Monday 9 January. If you're interested in being on the executive, please get in touch.

Contact Roy at Jamesrobertroyjohnstone@gmail.com

### **YOUNG GREENS**

Are you under 35? Do you want to make sure the issues that matter to you are on the agenda? The Young Greens are reforming in the new year. If you or anyone you know would like to join:

Contact Charles at charles.sanderson@greenparty.pe.ca

### **DESIGNERS**

If you're a graphic designer, we need you! There are lots of ways to put your talent and skill to good use. Posters, mailings, this news-letter—you name it! If you'd like to help:

Contact Charles at charles.sanderson@greenparty.pe.ca

### PHOTOGRAPHERS and VIDEOGRAPHERS

We are seeking people to provide photographs and videos for the website, the newsletter, and other communications. If you can attend a few events and are handy with a camera, get in touch.

Contact Susan at president@greenparty.pe.ca

### **POLICIES**

Is there a policy you'd like to see the PEI Green Party adopt before the election?

If you're interested in putting forward a policy to be considered at this year's Policy

Convention, contact Maria at maria.rodriguez@peigreens.ca





# **Upcoming events**

12 JANUARY

### Join the Summerside Green Team

the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 PM Dooly's, 298 Water St., Summerside Chat with Trish Altass and Lynne Lund

Next gathering: Thursday 12 January at 7:00 PM



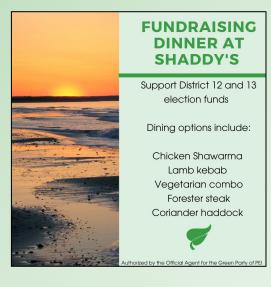
DOOLY'S Summerside 2nd Thursday every month from 7-9 pm

vert green

1 FEBRUARY

### D12 and D13 Winter Fundraiser

Wednesday 1 February 2023 at 6:30 PM Shaddy's Lebanese Cuisine, 144 Great George St, Charlottetown Join friends of Victoria Park-Brighton RA for dinner



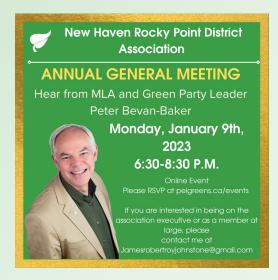
9 JANUARY

### **D17 AGM and Social Event**

Monday 9 January 2023 from 6:30-8:30 PM
Online event

Business and chat with New Haven Rocky Point members

RSVP at peigreens.ca/events



For more about all of our great events check out our calendar at www.peigreens.ca/event\_calendar



# CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE HOPEFUL FUTURE

Our party is funded by grassroots supporters like you chipping in what they can, when they can

Whether it's \$5, \$50 or more, every donation is Important and helps us continue to build a strong and vibrant Party

As we head into an election, your support is more important than ever

And don't forget—
donations are tax deductible!

VISIT US AT https://www.peigreens.ca/donate

### **OUR CORE VALUES**

Living within our ecological and financial means

Local self-reliance

Grassroots democracy, active citizenship, and self-determination

A just society

A culture of peace



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Contact us at https://www.peigreens.ca/get\_updates

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