

2023 ELECTION PLATFORM



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 MESSAGE FROM PETER / MESSAGE DE PETER

4 PLAN FOR STRONG PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

- 5** Getting healthcare out of crisis
- 9** Valuing our healthcare workers
- 10** Making long-term investments in public healthcare
- 12** Promoting the health and wellness of Islanders

14 PLAN FOR MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE

- 15** Getting more money in the pockets of Islanders
- 16** Respecting Seniors
- 17** Eliminating poverty

18 PLAN FOR WORKERS AND A FAIR ECONOMY

- 19** Respecting Island workers
- 20** Addressing labour shortages
- 21** Supporting Island businesses
- 22** Supporting farmers and fishers
- 24** Supporting tourism and culture

26 PLAN FOR ADDRESSING THE HOUSING CRISIS

- 27** Protecting housing rights
- 28** Regulating the housing market
- 28** Restoring the strong public role in housing

30 PLAN FOR SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

- 31** Improving maternal, infant, and child care
- 32** Providing the best K-12 education
- 32** Enhancing post-secondary and skills training
- 32** Respecting and supporting children and youth

34 PLAN FOR PROTECTING THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENT

- 35** Protecting our shorelines
- 36** Improving the health of our forests
- 38** Implementing sustainable land use planning Island-wide

39 PLAN FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

- 40** Moving to clean and efficient energy
- 41** Planning for climate change
- 42** Supporting the transition to a clean economy

44 PLAN FOR A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE ISLAND

- 45** Advancing Reconciliation
- 46** Giving Islanders a greater say
- 47** Strengthening municipalities
- 48** Building an Island free from discrimination
- 49** Protecting vulnerable Islanders

51 SUMMARY OF NEW SPENDING

52 DETAILED ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1

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MESSAGE FROM Peter

Dear Islanders,

This beautiful province that we all love is facing some significant challenges. Our healthcare system is on the verge of collapse. We don't have enough housing. Life is becoming increasingly unaffordable for more and more Islanders. Our environment is being allowed to waste away.

These issues need to be addressed immediately – in fact they should have been dealt with years ago, but inaction from PC and Liberal governments has made them worse.

The underlying cause of all of this is a void in leadership.

We can't afford to let these many challenges continue to get worse. Islanders need a Premier and government that can step up and get things done.

While we deal with the immediate, we also need to think long-term. Many of the actions (or inactions) taken today will have ripple effects for years or decades into the future.

That's why the Green Party has consistently pushed for better long-term planning. We want to make sure the choices we make today help build the future we want.

Our long-term vision is one where all Islanders can access the healthcare they need. Where no Islander has to live in poverty and everyone can afford the basics they need to survive. Where Island workers are respected and well-paid for their work. Where our environment is healthy and thriving. Where our communities and our economy are vibrant and inclusive.

A Green future is a future for everyone.

Achieving that vision won't just happen on its own – it requires well-planned action.

Through the tumultuous last few years PEI has seen strong economic growth numbers. But what is becoming increasingly apparent to Islanders is that this prosperity is not reaching everyone. It's the job of the Premier and the government to make sure that it is. A job that the current Premier and government are failing at.

This election, put your trust in a party with a proven track record of making a difference for all Islanders.

Vote Green.



Peter Bevan-Baker
Leader of the Green Party of PEI



Chères et chers insulaires,

Cette belle province que nous aimons bien fait face à des défis importants. Notre système de soins de la santé est près de s'effondrer. Nous n'avons pas suffisamment de logements. La vie devient de plus en plus inabordable pour beaucoup d'insulaires. On permet le dépérissement de notre environnement.

Ces enjeux doivent être abordés immédiatement - en fait, ils auraient dû être réglés il y a plusieurs années, cependant l'inaction des gouvernements libéraux et conservateurs les a empiré.

La cause sous-jacente de cette situation est un manque de leadership.

Nous ne pouvons pas permettre à ces défis de s'aggraver. Les insulaires ont besoin d'un premier ministre et d'un gouvernement qui peuvent agir et accomplir le travail.

Alors que nous nous occupons de l'immédiat, nous devons aussi penser au long terme. Beaucoup de nos actions (ou nos inactions) prises aujourd'hui auront des incidences dans l'avenir pour des années ou des décennies.

C'est pourquoi le Parti vert a constamment poussé pour une meilleure planification à long terme. Nous voulons nous assurer que les décisions que nous rendons aujourd'hui aident à bâtir le futur que nous désirons.

Notre vision à long terme en est une où tous les gens de l'Île peuvent accéder aux soins de santé dont ils ont besoin. Où aucune personne de l'Île ne doit vivre dans la pauvreté et tout le monde peut se payer le nécessaire pour survivre. Où la main d'œuvre de l'Île est respectée et bien rémunérée pour son ouvrage. Où notre environnement est sain et florissant. Où notre économie et nos collectivités sont dynamiques et inclusives.

Un avenir Vert est un avenir pour tout le monde.

Cette vision ne se fera pas d'elle-même – elle nécessite une action bien planifiée.

L'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, naviguant ces dernières années tumultueuses, a connu une forte croissance économique. Cependant, il est de plus en plus évident aux insulaires que cette prospérité ne rejoint pas tout le monde. C'est le travail du premier ministre et du gouvernement de s'en assurer. Un travail auquel le premier ministre et le gouvernement actuels échouent.

Pour cette élection, placez votre confiance dans un parti qui a fait ses preuves en faisant une différence pour toutes et tous les insulaires.

Votez Vert,

Peter Bevan-Baker
Chef du Parti vert de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard

PLAN FOR *strong* PUBLIC HEALTHCARE



WHAT ISLANDERS ARE TELLING US

Islanders want access to the care they need when and where they need it, regardless of how much they make or if they have health benefits through their work. To achieve this, government must play a bigger role in healthcare, not a smaller one.

Our healthcare workers, the backbone of our healthcare system, are exceptionally caring and professional and need to be better valued and respected. We need to fix the issues at the top that are preventing our healthcare professionals from delivering the quality care that Islanders expect and deserve.

Wait times have gotten worse, leading to Islanders needlessly suffering for longer while they wait for care. The shortage of family physicians and walk-in clinics is driving people to the emergency room to receive basic primary care, which is overloading our hospitals.

Healthcare workers at every level are telling us that our system is collapsing and are begging for systemic change. **This crisis in healthcare is a result of years of poor planning and inaction from successive Liberal and PC governments.** We need change, and we need it now.

OUR APPROACH

Care should be equally accessible to all Islanders through strong public healthcare. The public system should expand to cover all areas of healthcare, including pharmacare, dental, eye care, hearing, physiotherapy, counselling and mental health, long-term care, and other critical services.

We will focus on retaining workers by improving their working conditions. Happy workers and a respectful workplace are the best strategy for retaining and recruiting health professionals.

Primary healthcare providers will work in multi-disciplinary teams to deliver timely and more focused care across the province.

Improving access to care in underserved areas, including rural communities, will be a priority.

We will invest in active living and improve quality of life to keep Islanders healthy and reduce chronic illness.

We will adopt a health-in-all-policies approach in government initiatives.

OUR ACTION PLAN

Getting healthcare out of crisis

Healthcare staff are sounding the alarm on our healthcare system. It is collapsing and we must take decisive action if we want to save it. We can't keep doing the same old, same old that we've seen from the PC government and governments before them. Getting our healthcare system out of the current crisis will not happen overnight, but there are many things that can be done quickly to improve care for Islanders. A Green

Government commits to finally prioritizing healthcare for Islanders with substantial increases in funding, supports, and services.

Currently medical homes are slowly being staffed by a range of healthcare staff who are not allowed to work to their full scope of practice. The planned medical school would add physicians to the medical homes eventually. However, these physicians would graduate **8 years from now** at best, while taking already overworked physicians away from the frontlines to teach. The medical school was a political promise made without the necessary background work to determine whether it is truly the best way to address our healthcare staffing issues. We need to pursue healthcare solutions that will achieve the best health outcomes for Islanders and will give Islanders the best return on investment for their tax dollars. For this reason, a Green Government would pause the medical school until we have properly studied its feasibility and determined whether it is the best way to address our healthcare worker shortage. At the same time, we will start implementing a plan **now** to get more healthcare workers, including but not limited to physicians, into our healthcare system.



A Green Government will:

In 2023:

- Initiate a feasibility study to determine if a medical school is the best way to address our healthcare worker shortage.
- Amend the Health Services Act to remove political interference from the operations and delivery of healthcare on PEI.
 - Simplify the recruitment and hiring of healthcare professionals.
 - Government will hold Health PEI accountable for providing excellent patient-centred care across PEI while providing the funding and support they need to succeed.
- Support family physicians to open medical homes or collaborative practices across PEI by providing them with the flexibility, support, and funding they need to succeed.
- Amend the Medical Act to allow nurse practitioners to work more effectively in a collaborative practice or to manage nurse practitioner-led clinics. Both will allow nurse practitioners to take more patients off the patient registry.
- Allow pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives and order blood work for prescription renewals.
- Respect healthcare workers by improving wages and working conditions.
- Immediately fund one additional support staff for family physicians and nurse practitioners who request additional support. This may be in the form of a nurse, counsellor, medical administrator, admin support, etc., based on the needs of the practice.
- Review the Rural Physician Program to provide direct financial incentives to physicians who live and practise in under-serviced communities.
- Create a Rural On-Call Program to provide remuneration to physicians providing emergency on-call services at eligible facilities in rural areas.





- Finally deliver midwifery and improve supports for new mothers.
 - Give all Islanders free access to virtual care services when they need them. Consult with physicians on how to best integrate virtual care into our healthcare system.
 - Immediately implement management training for all management within Health PEI. This includes nurse managers, upper level management, and all other health managers. This training will focus on providing effective, psychologically safe, and respectful support for frontline staff and patients.
 - Reduce illness and keep people out of hospital.
 - Give workers 10 days of paid sick leave - don't force Islanders to go to work sick, make their colleagues sick, and then clog ERs and walk-in clinics.¹
 - Increase diabetes supports and education to keep people healthier.
 - Improve and increase mental health services so that people don't end up needing to be in acute care.
 - Add counselling positions to family clinics and emergency rooms across PEI.s
 - Reopen the Psychiatric Urgent Care Clinics (PUCCs).
 - Open more walk-in clinics, such as cough and fever, mobile blood work, and prescription renewal clinics.
 - Add dedicated health professionals to our ER waiting rooms to provide continual assessment and communication to patients awaiting care.
- In 2024:**
- Build new state of the art medical simulation labs to help in training, research, and professional development.
 - Amend legislation to allow Physician Assistants (PA) to work in healthcare on PEI. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia already allow PAs to work in their healthcare systems.

¹ See "Respecting Island workers" under Workers and Fair Economy.

- Offer employment to all Nurse Practitioner graduates of UPEI. Once the range of care is increased to allow nurse practitioners to work independently, immediately hire additional nurse practitioners to take on patient panels directly from the patient registry.
 - Implement regional bursaries to registered nurses to train to become nurse practitioners at UPEI. Target RNs currently living or working in underserved regions.
 - Work with UPEI to allow current physicians and nurse practitioners to use medical labs for research and professional development - an evidence based approach to retention.
 - Increase family physician residency spots from 5 to 10, supported by new state of the art training technology at UPEI. Physicians tend to stay where they do their residency.
 - Review family physician salaries and supports in consultation with the medical community to make PEI more competitive with other Canadian provinces.
 - Review our capacity to train students across all levels of nursing (registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, registered care worker) in PEI.
 - Make it easier for internationally trained health professionals to practise on PEI.
 - Work with the medical colleges to speed up and simplify the process for internationally trained health professionals.
 - Reduce fees that internationally trained health professionals must pay to practise on PEI.
- In 2025:**
- Work with UPEI to create a Physician Assistant (PA) training program. There are only 3 universities in Canada that train PAs.
 - Hire Physician Assistants to work in our healthcare system.
 - Increase the training seats for Nurse Practitioners at UPEI with the support of new state of the art simulation technology labs.





Valuing our healthcare workers

Healthcare workers are the backbone of our healthcare system. We need to value and respect them by making sure they have good working conditions and a good quality of life.

A Green Government will:

- Immediately invest \$37 million directly into wage increases and benefits for frontline healthcare staff at Health PEI. This includes all levels of nursing, medical lab technologists, radiation technologists, porters, cleaning staff, and all others who work on the frontline of patient care.
- Within the first 90 days meet with healthcare union leaders to begin addressing the culture of silence in healthcare.
- Increase paramedic wages to at least the level of other Maritime provinces.
- Regularly review wages of health professionals and make sure they are competitive with other provinces.
- Make sure that healthcare workers can take their vacation. For example:
 - Look for managers that can go back to the frontline to cover shifts.
 - Cut back on the administrative work of health professionals so they can focus on patient care.
 - Use medical transcriptionists and leverage technology to reduce physician work loads.
- Create childcare services within or near healthcare facilities that are flexible to meet the needs of shift workers.²
- Support existing healthcare workers to increase their skills and certifications:
 - Create a LPN to RN bridging program.
 - Cover expenses for English language tests.

² See “Improving maternal, infant, and child care” under Supporting the Next Generation.

Making long-term investments in public healthcare

Healthcare should be accessible to everyone and responsive to their needs. Private healthcare, where profit takes precedence over people, is a road we will not go down.

A Green Government will:

- Provide Islanders with comprehensive and timely mental health and addiction services:
 - Finally start construction of the new mental health hospital.
 - Increase the number of guidance counsellors in schools.³
 - Expand access to counselling services.
 - Establish Psychiatric Urgent Care Clinics (PUCCs) outside of Charlottetown.
 - Conduct a full review of the Mental Health Act.
- Expand residency opportunities on PEI for medical students and work to retain them.
- Continue creating patient medical homes and neighbourhoods, with priority placed on those serving in rural areas. These would include primary care, mental health services, chronic disease management, physiotherapy, and other complementary care.
- Continue with the replacement of Kings County Memorial Hospital.
- Create a withdrawal management (detox) facility in Summerside and expand residential and outpatient treatment options Island-wide.
- Build a new facility for the Harbourside Medical Clinic in Summerside.
- Use a proven Electronic Medical Record system and work to integrate it with EMR systems in other Maritime provinces.
- Boost funding to provincial pharmacare by \$18 million to match the Canadian average per capita investment in pharmacare. Work with the federal government to implement universal pharmacare.
 - Review the provincial pharmacare program to make sure Islanders are not overburdened by drug costs and dispensing fees, and simplify drug programs for Islanders and pharmacists.
 - Provide free access to contraceptive care.
- Expand homecare services to seniors and other Islanders in need to make sure they can age in place with access to appropriate supports and services.
 - Adopt a wraparound approach for seniors. The application process must be simplified so Island seniors do not miss out on needed services.
 - Increase resources for Seniors Navigator.

³ See "Providing the best K-12 education" under Supporting the Next Generation.

- Improve our Island long-term care system:
 - Expand our public long-term care capacity to support our growing and ageing population.
 - In funding agreements with private, for-profit long-term care facilities, seek an ownership stake to begin the transition away from for-profit care.
 - Offer low-interest loans to private long-term care facilities to make capital improvements.
 - Legislate the national standards for long-term care on PEI.
 - Review fees in long-term care and community care homes to make sure they are fair to seniors and their families.⁴
- Create a restorative care unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to free up acute care beds more rapidly.
- Add paramedic positions within the public healthcare system.
- Create a Perinatal Mental Health strategy to provide clear guidelines and protocols for the prevention, assessment, and treatment of perinatal mental health disorders.
- Increase funding to the adult ADHD clinic and make it permanent.
- Increase supports to reduce the cost of hearing aids.
- Explore the possibility of locating a specialty healthcare service in PEI.



⁴ See “Respecting Seniors” under Making Life More Affordable.

Promoting the health and wellness of Islanders

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the important role that public health plays in protecting the health of the population. By making early, upstream investments in health, our province will not only reduce the strain on our healthcare system in a fiscally responsible way but will more importantly improve outcomes and help Islanders live happier and healthier lives.

A Green Government will:

- Improve access to fitness activities, including by partnering with community gyms to deliver no or low-cost fitness programs for all ages. Collaborate with healthcare professionals to design programs.
- In recognition of their positive impact on wellbeing, provide free or low-cost access to artistic, cultural, and social activities.
- Explore opportunities to expand wastewater testing to new municipalities and to cover new viruses to inform the public health response to illness.
- Better integrate public health in the education system:
 - Improved health education in the K-12 curriculum.
 - Expand vaccine clinics in schools.
 - Partner with UPEI to support public health research and analysis.
- Enhance immunization programs to prevent vaccine-preventable disease and reduce vaccine hesitancy.
- Develop a new strategic plan for the Chief Public Health Office.
- Conduct more frequent inspections of public care facilities.
- Review our COVID-19 pandemic response and update our pandemic plan to ensure we are prepared for future pandemics.
- Promote improved ventilation on Prince Edward Island.
- Improve data collection and analysis, including to understand unequal health outcomes in different demographics.
- Pursue initiatives to reduce substance abuse in PEI.
- Recognize the connections between climate change and public health.
- Invest in recreation infrastructure like playgrounds, sports fields, and community gardens so that Islanders of all ages can stay active in their communities. It's also important public washrooms are available at these facilities.⁵
- Expand active transportation and trail infrastructure, especially within municipalities.⁶
- Modernize planning rules to promote more walkable communities.⁷

⁵ See "Strengthening municipalities" under *Diverse and Inclusive Island*.

⁶ See "Planning for climate change" under *Addressing Climate Change*.

⁷ See "Implementing sustainable land-use planning Island-wide" under *Protecting the Land and Our Environment*.



PLAN FOR MAKING LIFE MORE *Affordable*



WHAT ISLANDERS ARE TELLING US

Islanders are finding it increasingly difficult to deal with the rapid rise in the cost of living, which is affecting everything from food to energy to housing. Home heating and basic grocery costs have pushed many Islanders into difficult choices - food, heat, or medication? The cost of housing and home ownership are increasingly out of reach.

PEI has the fastest growing economy in Canada, one of the wealthiest countries in the world. **It is unacceptable that Islanders continue to fall further behind and that so many live in poverty.** We absolutely can provide the basic needs for everyone to live a happy, healthy, and comfortable life. Islanders deserve nothing less.

OUR APPROACH

Poverty is a policy choice. It is the root cause of many of the difficulties Islanders face. No Islander should live in poverty and eliminating poverty is our top priority.

We will treat Islanders with compassion and respect rather than telling them to tighten their belts

We will be mindful of the way inflation impacts people differently, specifically as it relates to gender identity, race, sexuality, and socio-economic identity.

ACTION PLAN

Getting more money in the pockets of Islanders

Prince Edward Island has the fastest rising prices of all Canadian provinces and Government has a responsibility to help Islanders weather this difficult period. Affordability has been an issue for many years. Our province has some of the lowest wages in the country, leading to more hardship. We need to do more to help Islanders in the long term.

We believe the best way to tackle the rising cost of living and stimulate economic growth is to get more money directly into the pockets of Islanders. When people have more money they spend it. This is good for the local economy.

A Green Government will:

- Introduce tax breaks for lower and middle income earners in PEI and create a more equitable tax system for all Islanders:
 - Index tax brackets to ensure our tax system reflects increases to the cost of living.
 - Create a refundable tax credit for lower- and middle-income workers to complement the Canada Workers Benefit. This will help 32,000 Islanders.
 - Raise the Low-Income Tax Reduction threshold to \$25,000, helping 11,000 additional Islanders.
- Reduce childcare costs to \$10/day, increase the number of childcare spaces, and negotiate with the federal government to further reduce the cost of childcare on Prince Edward Island.⁸
- Modernize the laws governing our electricity system to make sure they give Islanders fair and affordable rates.⁹
- Review the provincial pharmacare program to make sure Islanders are not overburdened by drug costs and dispensing fees.¹⁰
- Add more public transit routes in both urban and rural communities to ensure all Islanders have access to affordable transportation.¹¹
- Reduce or eliminate fees for transportation services like Pat and the Elephant and Transportation West.
- Expand energy efficiency and retrofit programs to reduce energy costs (and emissions) for Islanders.¹²
- Raise income thresholds for accessing government programs.
- In recognition of their positive impact on wellbeing, provide free or low-cost access to artistic, cultural, social, and fitness activities.¹³
- Advocate for the elimination of fees on both the Confederation Bridge and Wood Islands ferry.

⁸ See "Improving maternal, infant, and child care" under Supporting the Next Generation.

⁹ See "Planning for climate change" under Addressing Climate Change.

¹⁰ See "Making long-term investments in public healthcare" under Strong Public Healthcare.

¹¹ See "Planning for climate change" under Addressing Climate Change.

¹² See "Moving to clean and efficient energy" under Addressing Climate Change.

¹³ See "Promoting the health and wellness of Islanders" under Strong Public Healthcare.



Respecting Seniors

Seniors helped build the province we know today and continue to be an important part of our Island community. Government must provide for them as they age and into retirement.

A Green Government will:

- Reduce drug costs for seniors by investing \$18 million into provincial pharmacare programs and eliminating unnecessary fees.¹⁴
- Immediately make repairs to government-owned seniors housing and ensure that maintenance is always up to date.
- Improve and expand public housing for seniors:¹⁵
 - Increase funding for public housing repairs and renovations
 - Improve security and access to in-person maintenance support in public housing
 - Improve access to food programs and technology
 - Review eligibility thresholds for seniors public housing.
 - Retrofit public housing to net-zero¹⁶
- Increase supports to reduce the cost of hearing aids.¹⁷
- Invest in more long-term care beds in the public system.¹⁸
- Review fees in long-term care and community care homes to make sure they are fair to seniors and their families.
- Make the Seniors' Food Program pilot permanent and expand it to include all of Prince Edward Island.
- Establish an independent seniors' advocate to ensure the interests of Island seniors are protected.
- Increase resources for the Seniors Navigator.
- Review the income thresholds and cutoffs of government programs to make sure seniors in need are not being excluded.¹⁹
- Conduct a review of funeral services to increase consumer protections for Island seniors and their families.
- Create a fund to help families recoup money lost if a funeral home mismanaged funds in trust for pre-paid funerals.
- Increase funding for the Seniors Independence Initiative.
- Explore and support the development of alternative living arrangements for Island seniors, such as supported living household models, that will better meet the varied needs of seniors.

¹⁴ See "Making long-term investments in public healthcare" under Strong Public Healthcare.

¹⁵ See "Restoring a strong public role in housing" under Addressing the Housing Crisis.

¹⁶ See "Moving to clean and efficient energy" under Addressing Climate Change.

¹⁷ See "Building a Strong Public Healthcare System" under Strong Public Healthcare.

¹⁸ See "Building a Strong Public Healthcare System" under Strong Public Healthcare.

¹⁹ See "Protecting vulnerable Islanders" under Diverse and Inclusive Island.

Eliminating poverty

Poverty is a policy choice. Government has a responsibility to make sure Islanders can live with security and dignity.

A Green Government will:

- Create a basic income pilot, as recommended by the Special Committee on Poverty in PEI. Strongly advocate for financial support from the federal government to create a full universal basic income.
- Prepare a comprehensive poverty elimination strategy in consultation with the community and Islanders affected by poverty, pursuant to the Poverty Elimination Strategy Act.
- Immediately increase the minimum wage to \$15.20 to ensure our minimum wage keeps pace with inflation, and increase the minimum wage by at least \$1 per year thereafter until it reaches a living wage.
- Increase social assistance rates and index them to inflation.
- Increase the Assured Income Allowance for Islanders living with a disability.
- Give more money to Island food banks who are facing record numbers of clients.



PLAN FOR *workers* AND A FAIR ECONOMY



WHAT ISLANDERS ARE TELLING US

Workers are the backbone of a successful economy. Yet, while PEI has led the country in economic growth, wages are still lower than other provinces. PEI's claim of having a low cost of living is becoming more and more untrue.

Islanders are tired of working hard for poverty wages. **People are increasingly finding it too expensive to live here** and end up moving away in order to earn a decent living.

Island **businesses are also struggling to find workers** with the right skills. This means it is difficult for Islanders to get the services and repairs they need. There needs to be a greater emphasis on skills development to support both businesses and workers.

The past few years have shown that our economy is vulnerable to disruption. We need to diversify our economy so that these disruptions do not threaten the overall economic well-being of the province.

OUR APPROACH

The Green Party is proud to be the voice for Island workers. We secured whistleblower protections and new pay transparency rules that increase wages for Island workers.

We will address labour shortages primarily by increasing wages, improving working conditions, and promoting education and training opportunities.

We will make sure PEI has the infrastructure (e.g. healthcare, schools, homes, land planning) to support the population growth we expect over the coming decades.

Business development supports will focus on diversifying our economy, improving our skill base, and building our Atlantic markets.

ACTION PLAN

Respecting Island workers

Worker satisfaction and better worker protections lead to more productive workplaces, fewer injuries, and increased retention. Government can and should play a stronger role in promoting better working conditions for Islanders.

A Green Government will:

- Legislate 10 paid sick days for workers, and establish supports for smaller businesses.
 - Immediately increase the minimum wage to \$15.20, to ensure our minimum wage keeps pace with inflation, and increase the minimum wage by at least \$1 per year thereafter until it reaches a living wage.
 - Create a refundable tax credit for lower- and middle-income workers to complement the Canada Workers Benefit. This will help 32,000 Islanders.²⁰
 - Review and implement recommendations from the comprehensive review of the Employment Standards Act to improve working conditions of all Island workers.
 - Develop a workforce strategy, in consultation with industry and workers, to address shortages in key industries like construction and implement long-term solutions.
- Create an experiential learning fund to support work placements for postsecondary students.
 - Explore ways to better protect gig workers.
 - Work with the Workers Compensation Board to develop a strategy to recognize and prevent the most prevalent workplace injuries.
 - Review post-secondary financial assistance programs to ensure there is adequate support for Island workers looking to reskill or upskill.²¹
 - Create a voluntary four-day work week pilot program.
 - Proclaim the Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act.
 - Promote unionization through education campaigns. Unionized workers tend to have better wages and benefits than non-unionized workers, and are an essential part of growing the middle class.
 - Support opportunities to provide equity, diversity, and inclusivity training in Island workplaces.

²⁰ See “Getting more money in the pockets of Islanders” under Making Life More Affordable.

²¹ See “Enhancing post-secondary and skills training” under Supporting the Next Generation.



Addressing labour shortages

Labour shortages are limiting PEI's economic potential, and are making it harder for Islanders to access important services like healthcare, housing and maintenance services. This is impacting the quality of life of Islanders.

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.²²
- 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.²³
- Convene a panel of employer and employee representatives from the construction industry to explore the creation of a wage grid for construction.

²² See "Providing the best K-12 education" under Supporting the Next Generation.

²³ see "Getting healthcare out of crisis" under Strong Public Healthcare.

Supporting Island businesses

A healthy and sustainable business community is a critical part of our economy. Government can help address some of the big challenges facing business, and help them take advantage of opportunities brought on by changing technologies and societal trends.

A Green government will:

- Review and update commercial tenancy laws to protect Island businesses.
- Support businesses to adopt the technology they need to compete online.
- Explore ways to promote cooperative ownership of Island businesses.
- Emphasize initiatives to attract new businesses and bring well-paying jobs to PEI.
- Eliminate incorporation and name search fees for new business start-ups.
- Along with federal partners, advocate for a national right-to-repair strategy to make repairs easier and more affordable.
- Promote clean technology and information technology sectors.
- Complete the expansion of high-speed internet in rural PEI, and make sure our broadband infrastructure keeps up with future demand and technological changes.
- Work with Island industry associations to implement their industry growth strategies.
- Convene a panel of employer and employee representatives from the construction industry to explore the creation of a wage grid for construction.²⁴

²⁴ See “Addressing labour shortages” above.



Supporting farmers and fishers

Fishing and farming are pillars of our Island way of life. Government needs to make sure these critical industries can adapt in a rapidly changing world. We need to work with Island farmers, fishers, and food processors to meet increasing demands for environmentally sustainable and socially responsible products.

A Green Government will:

- Create industry-specific employee support programs and emergency management plans in case of extreme weather events.
- Work with industries to develop commodity-specific climate adaptation strategies to help mitigate risks and explore opportunities.
- Promote the development of carbon credit markets in agriculture and aquaculture, so we can pay farmers and fishers for sequestering carbon.
- Promote more value-added processing opportunities and new markets for our products.
- Review labour programs to improve worker retention during slower periods. This could include bridging programs, job sharing, advocating for changes to EI eligibility, and other initiatives.
- Continue to bring workers to the province through immigration programs targeted to the specific labour gaps and skill needs of industry. Improve population growth planning to make sure we have the services and infrastructure needed to help newcomers stay on PEI.

- Support the agriculture sector:
 - Increase funding to the Agriculture Stewardship Program, Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program, and other initiatives to help reduce emissions and environmental impacts (e.g. precision agriculture, planting hedgerows).²⁵
 - Create an agri-voltaics demonstration project to explore the potential of combining farming with solar panels in the same field and create a new revenue stream for Island farmers.
 - Facilitate farm succession planning by exploring lease-to-own models, tax incentives for collective land purchasing, and interest-free loans for new farmers.
 - 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.
 - Classify agricultural and forestry land as resource land to protect it from poorly planned development and keep farmland in production.²⁶
- Support fisheries and aquaculture sectors:
 - Continue funding existing programs to support fisheries.
 - Increase funding supports for the adoption of clean technologies, alternate fuels for fishing vessels (e.g. electric, hydrogen), and reducing environmental impacts. These include the Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program (FACTAP) and Environmental Impact Reduction Strategy for Aquaculture and Marine Fisheries.
 - Explore new techniques such as regenerative ocean farming.
 - Support the industry to explore alternate bait options.



²⁵ See “Improving the health of our forests” under *Protecting Our Land and Environment*.

²⁶ See “Implementing sustainable land-use planning Island-wide” under *Protecting Our Land and Environment*.

Supporting tourism and culture

The Island's breathtaking beauty, rich culture, storied history, and diverse people make it one of the best places in the world to visit. Tourism is an integral part of our Island but we must do more to make sure it keeps up with a changing global market, and can adapt to the realities of climate change.

The Island's cultural sector is one of our greatest assets when it comes to economic growth, tourism and our collective identity. We must do more to make sure this sector is reflective of our diverse, ever-changing province and is supported through proper funding and investment.

A Green Government will:

- Create a new Culture Strategy for PEI and increase investment in culture.
- 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.
- In recognition of their positive contribution to the economy and overall well-being, 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.
- Increase investment in trails and active transportation, especially within municipalities.
- Integrate tourism objectives into Island-wide land use planning (protecting viewscales, beach access, farmland, infrastructure, etc.).
- Support new tourism initiatives in the off-season, including at our provincial parks

²⁷ See "Promoting the health and wellness of Islanders" under Strong Public Healthcare.

²⁸ See "Planning for climate change" under Addressing Climate Change.

²⁹ See "Implementing sustainable land-use planning Island-wide" under Protecting our Land and Environment.





PLAN FOR ADDRESSING THE *housing* CRISIS



WHAT ISLANDERS ARE TELLING US

Every Islander requires housing and it must be treated as a human right. Housing is critical to every person's well-being. Having a roof over your head is the foundation to a healthy life.

The private sector is not meeting Islanders' housing needs. Government must play a much larger role to make sure every Islander has a roof over their head. It must build more public housing, support non-profit and co-operative housing, and improve the planning and development process.

A "free market" approach has failed to deliver Islanders the housing they need. Island families can't afford to buy homes and tenants can no longer afford rents. Lax rules are letting wealthy investors and corporations buy up huge amounts of housing and make massive profits. More must be done to protect Islanders who need housing. We need much stronger regulation of housing.

The housing crisis is making it harder to attract workers to PEI and is hurting our efforts to retain workers. This is true not only in healthcare but across the entire Island economy. The higher cost of housing is draining the disposable income of Island families, reducing their participation in the local economy and hampering their ability to build their future. Housing is therefore a critical piece of a successful Island economy.

OUR APPROACH

- Treat housing as a human right and apply a Housing First policy.
- Meet the legislated target of ending chronic homelessness by 2025.
- Regulate the housing market to make sure it serves Islanders, and prevents speculation and profiteering;
- A Green Government will play a stronger role in housing. This means a much heavier investment in public (government-owned) and non-profit housing.
- Significantly increase the stock of public/ non-profit housing; improve rental vacancy rate to a healthy 4%.
- Make sure the next generation can still afford to buy a home in the community where they want to live.

ACTION PLAN

Protecting housing rights

Tenants experience a unique power imbalance when it comes to housing. We must ensure all tenants are able to enjoy security of tenure—protection against forced displacement, harassment, and other actions that undermine their right to housing.

A Green Government will:

- Protect Islanders from illegal rents by establishing a rental registry.
- Make the moratorium on renovations permanent to protect tenants from unnecessary evictions.
- Establish a tenant advocate for tenancy proceedings before IRAC.
- Increase the compensation available to tenants who are evicted without cause.



- Create regulations setting out what information is permitted to be collected and what information is not during the vetting of prospective tenants.
- Support unhoused Islanders by shifting away from the failed strategy of continued displacement. Move toward stability and better services by working with unhoused Islanders.
- Expand government-funded emergency and transitional shelter facilities.
- Move away from the use of police to respond to encampments.
- Make sure those living in encampments have access to basic services like clean water, sanitation facilities, electricity and heat.
- Give IRAC the resources necessary to investigate and consider complaints under the Residential Tenancy Act in a timely manner.

Regulating the housing market

Islanders need a housing market that works for the many, not the few. Unfortunately, successive Liberal and PC governments have done little to improve the housing market. This has made it more difficult for Islanders to buy a new home and it has made it more expensive than ever to rent. Immediate action must be taken to address the root causes of our housing crisis.

A Green Government will:

- Amend the Planning Act and work with municipalities to improve development processes, promote density, encourage development in transit corridors, and reduce the loss of farmland to development.
- Promote inclusionary zoning to encourage the creation of more affordable units in new housing projects.
- Create a speculation and flipping tax to discourage financial practices that unduly raise the cost of housing for Islanders.
- End blind bidding to ensure that the home purchase process is transparent.
- Review the Down Payment Assistance Program to ensure it is continuing to meet the needs of first-time homebuyers, wherever they choose to live.
- Produce and publish better data on the financialization of our housing market.
- Move toward Lands-Protection-Act-styled regulation of housing to protect Islanders against speculative housing activities. Appoint a commissioner to make recommendations on its design and implementation.

Restoring the strong public role in housing

Over the last 30 years, there has been minimal investment in public housing. This staggering failure of successive PC and Liberal governments is a big reason we are in the housing crisis we face today. By making significant investments in housing, particularly public housing, a Green Government will make it easier for Islanders to find affordable homes that meet their needs.

A Green Government will:

- Commit at least \$385 million over the next 5 years to build new public housing and repair existing housing.
 - Commit at least \$100 million over four years to buy existing residential and commercial accommodations and convert them into public housing. In addition to provincial funds, leverage federal funds available for this purpose.
 - Establish a right of first refusal on the sale of multi-unit residential and commercial accommodations to ensure government has the first opportunity to buy housing.
 - Retrofit public housing to net-zero.³⁰
 - Provide funding for equity-seeking groups to provide appropriate housing to meet the specific needs of their communities.
- Expand government-funded emergency and transitional shelter facilities.
 - Establish a co-op registry to bring together Islanders and encourage the creation of additional co-op housing, including student-led housing cooperatives.
 - Introduce programs to address labour shortages in the construction sector so we can build more housing.³¹
 - Explore the creation of a public developer to build public and non-profit housing. This could be done in partnership with other Atlantic provinces.
 - Work with municipalities to encourage garden suites and other accessory dwellings.
 - Make low-interest loans available to housing developers.
 - Ensure all new public builds have accessible units.
 - Support the development of new housing in rural PEI.
 - Create a new housing action plan to provide longer-term direction for housing initiatives in the province.
 - Improve housing-related data collection and reporting to inform local housing decisions.

³⁰ See "Moving to clean and efficient energy" under Addressing Climate Change.

³¹ See "Addressing labour shortages" under Workers and a Fair Economy.

PLAN FOR SUPPORTING THE *next generation*



WHAT ISLANDERS ARE TELLING US

Children and youth deserve to lead their best possible lives. Islanders expect their government to do everything it can so that all Island children and youth reach their potential.

Parents are finding it too hard to access childcare. Many parents are having to delay re-entering the workforce because they cannot find care for their children. With over 2000 children on the childcare wait list, families are waiting years for a spot.

Children are also waiting far too long for critical education and healthcare assessments to get the supports they need.

Islanders are worried about how future generations will afford housing, education, and survive in increasingly difficult economic times.

OUR APPROACH

We will eliminate child poverty and food insecurity so all Island children can grow and prosper to their fullest potential.

Island children will be safe and supported from birth to adulthood.

Our education system will adapt to meet the needs of students, Island communities, and our province.

Teachers and other school staff are best equipped to know what they need to support their students and will be trusted and empowered to do so.

We will take a rights-based approach to children's issues, and will include the views of children and youth in decisions and initiatives that affect them.

ACTION PLAN

Improving maternal, infant, and child care

Children deserve the best possible start in life. It is important that both mother and baby are cared for and supported. Childcare is essential for many families. Improved access to quality childcare across PEI will positively affect our Island's wellbeing, labour force, and economy.

A Green Government will:

- Immediately implement midwifery across PEI so that all mothers can access the type of care they want, where they want it.
- Improve supports for new parents by increasing health, educational, and social resources.
- Create a Perinatal Mental Health strategy to provide clear guidelines and protocols for the prevention, assessment, and treatment of perinatal mental health disorders.³²
- Immediately increase wages for early childhood educators to at least a living wage, so childcare centres can better attract and retain staff.
- Create a capital fund to build new childcare centres, expand existing ones, and keep centres from closing.
- Encourage more individuals to open in-home childcare centres by making the process easier and financially viable.
- Create childcare services within or near healthcare facilities that are flexible to meet the needs of shift workers.³³
- Reduce childcare costs to \$10/day, increase the number of childcare spaces, and negotiate with the federal government to further reduce the cost of childcare on Prince Edward Island with a long-term goal of free childcare.

³² See "Making long-term investments in public healthcare" under Strong Public Healthcare.

³³ See "Valuing our healthcare workers" under Strong Public Healthcare.



Providing the best K-12 education

Islanders believe children should have access to a high quality education. Educators need the right resources and supports to help their students achieve the best possible educational and social outcomes.

A Green government will:

- Respect and value teachers by allowing schools, or families of schools, more control and autonomy over their budget, their daily schedules, professional development, and the implementation of curriculum.
- Increase funding to allow more teachers and educational assistants to work directly with students.
- Hire more school counsellors to address the mental health needs of students.
- Better plan school infrastructure for expected population growth, while keeping rural schools open.
- Actually build the schools previously announced, like the planned Stratford school.
- Implement air quality monitoring in all schools and make the upgrades needed to ensure all schools have clean air.
- Provide free water safety lessons to all primary age students.³⁴
- Expand access to vaccinations in Island schools.
- Support and encourage play-based and project-based learning in all grades, and increase outdoor education opportunities.
- Improve opportunities for students to participate in experiential learning to increase awareness and interest in trades.
- Make sure that our schools are safe and inclusive spaces that promote diversity and the acceptance of all people.
- Allow permanent residents to vote in school board elections.



³⁴ See “Promoting the health and wellness of Islanders” under Strong Public Healthcare.



Enhancing post-secondary and skills training

Postsecondary education is associated with better overall employment earnings and better quality of life. By giving Islanders every opportunity to receive a quality education here on the Island, we can improve the economic and social wellbeing of individuals and our province.

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.³⁵
- 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.³⁶
- Review post-secondary financial assistance programs to ensure there is adequate support for Island workers looking to reskill or upskill.³⁷
- 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.

³⁵ See "Addressing labour shortages" under *Workers and A Fair Economy*.

³⁶ See "Restoring a strong public role in housing" under *Addressing the Housing Crisis*.

³⁷ See "Respecting Island workers" under *Workers and A Fair Economy*.

Respecting and supporting children and youth

Respecting our children and youth starts with listening to them and taking them seriously.

A Green Government will:

- Immediately modernize the Child Protection Act to ensure all Island children are protected and well cared for. In doing so, consult with youth, children in care, parents and caregivers who would be directly impacted by this legislation.
- Meaningfully consult the Child and Youth Advocate on any policy or legislative changes affecting children and youth, unlike the Progressive Conservative government.
- Lower the voting age to 16.
- Explore ways to address cyber-bullying and protect children and youth from harassment.
- Invest in community infrastructure that supports the wellbeing of youth. This may include sports fields, theatres, rinks, and other spaces.³⁸
- Continue to invest in community libraries and consult with the public on service expansion.
- Support children and youth as they age out of care.

³⁸ See “Strengthening municipalities” under *Diverse and Inclusive Island*.



PLAN FOR *protecting* THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENT



WHAT ISLANDERS ARE TELLING US

Development on our shorelines and waterways is out of control and needs to be reined in. The rules in place to protect our environment are not strong enough and not well enforced. The provincial government is letting wealthy people, often from off-Island, do whatever they want wherever they want. This has to stop.

Protecting the environment is not only an ecological issue. Many of our primary economic sectors (agriculture, fisheries, tourism) are dependent on a healthy and clean environment. Land is our most precious resource.

We are 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.

Island forests have been hit hard in recent years, not only from storms like Fiona, but also from climate change and bad land use practices like clear cutting, monocultures, and urban sprawl. We need to reverse this trend.

Land use affects nearly every aspect of Island life and our environment. This includes housing, health, agriculture, water, forests, tourism, transportation, shoreline protection, climate change, infrastructure, cost of living, recreation, healthcare, and education. It's critical that we use our land sustainably so that future generations can enjoy a high quality of life on the Island.

Island Mi'kmaq have been the stewards of the land from time immemorial. Responsible land use planning must include proper consideration of Mi'kmaq land rights and traditional knowledge.



OUR APPROACH

A healthy environment is key to the health of Islanders and our economy.

We will strengthen Island-wide land-use planning to stop inappropriate and destructive development. This will give Islanders a greater say in developments that affect them.

By protecting the land, we will improve the lives of Islanders, strengthen the Island economy, and create a healthier environment.

We will partner with Island Mi'kmaq to put their rights and traditional knowledge at the centre of how we protect our land and environment.

ACTION PLAN

Protecting our shorelines

Our shorelines are an iconic part of our identity as Islanders and must be protected. The Department of Environment recently placed a moratorium on Buffer Zone Activity Permits, but the Department of Land is still issuing building and development permits in those same areas.

A Green Government will:

- Maintain the shoreline development moratorium until new shoreline protection legislation is in place.
- Introduce shoreline protection legislation to:
- Guarantee and improve public access to beaches for all Islanders.

- Tightly limit what activities are permitted in buffer zones.
- Eliminate any grandfathering policies that allow developers to circumvent rules designed to protect our environment and the public interest.
- Better protect delicate coastal ecosystems.
- Account for increasing erosion and flood risk due to climate change and more severe storms.
- Create public consultation and participation requirements for coastal developments.
- Increase penalties for ignoring the rules and require those who do not follow the rules to undo the harm they cause at their own cost.
- Integrate protection of shorelines, wetlands, waterways, and other sensitive coastal ecosystems in land-use planning rules across the Island.³⁹

Improving the health of our forests

Forests - including private woodlots, protected areas, and urban forests - provide a wide range of benefits to Islanders. They absorb carbon, provide habitat for wildlife, purify water and air, control erosion, improve soil health, provide recreation, supply food, and improve mental health.

The 2023 Auditor General’s Report found that the province does not follow its own forest management laws and policies. We must better protect our forests.

A Green Government will:

- Review and strengthen forest management legislation and policies, with a strong focus on native Acadian species.
- Review and implement the recommendations of the Emergency Forestry Task Force.
- Invest in training programs for sustainable forestry practices.
- Create financial incentives and market opportunities so sustainable harvesting practices are more valuable than clear cutting.
- Explore ways to monetize sequestration of greenhouse gases.
- Pursue a certification (stamping) process for local, sustainably harvested wood products, so they can be sold by retailers.
- Better support farmers to convert marginal agricultural land into forest and plant hedgerows.⁴⁰
- Integrate forest protection into land-use planning policies Island-wide.
- Increase supports to small and medium sized property owners to replant non-agricultural fields and open spaces with native trees and shrubs.
- Expand on-Island tree nursery capacity so we can meet our tree planting and climate goals.

³⁹ See “Implementing Sustainable Land-Use Planning Island Wide” below.

⁴⁰ See “Supporting Farmers and Fishers” under Workers and A Fair Economy.

Implementing sustainable land use planning Island-wide

Every report, study, task force, and commission on land for the last 50 years has come to the same conclusion: we need province-wide land use planning to protect our Island and improve the lives of Islanders. For 50 years, every government has refused to act. This failure must end.

A Green Government will:

- **Implement land use planning** Island-wide. Staff in the Department of Agriculture and Land have said this can be done within 2 to 3 years.
- **Design planning policies to:**
 - Protect the shoreline and coastal ecosystems.
 - Protect and enhance forests, and increase carbon capture.
 - Reduce carbon emissions.
 - Adapt to climate change, erosion, flooding, and storm surges.
 - Protect prime agricultural land and keep it in production.
- Protect waterways and groundwater.
- Promote higher density housing and reduce urban sprawl.
- Increase affordable and accessible housing.
- Better plan infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing population.
- Reduce the cost of utilities and improve access to services.
- Improve public transit and active transportation.
- Allow Islanders to participate in decisions that affect their community.
- Integrate Mi'kmaq rights and traditional knowledge into how we manage land.
- Give municipalities the resources they need to implement strong local planning.⁴¹
- Better protect species at risk and increase the amount of protected natural areas.
- Make land ownership and purchases more transparent to make sure the Lands Protection Act can be properly enforced.⁴²

⁴¹ See "Strengthening Municipalities" under *Diverse and Inclusive Island*.

⁴² See "Supporting Farmers and Fishers" under *Workers and a Fair Economy*.



PLAN FOR ADDRESSING *climate change*



WHAT ISLANDERS ARE TELLING US

Climate change is one of the greatest threats facing PEI and we need to transform our society to both combat it and adapt to what is already happening.

Climate change affects all of us and we need strong leadership from government to guide and support Islanders so that each of us can be part of a just transition.

While there have been some recent improvements in our climate policies, we are still nowhere near where we need to be to reach our targets.

After storms like Fiona it's clear we can't just rebuild the same—we need to rebuild in ways that will withstand the stronger storms that will continue to come.

The transition to a decarbonized economy gives us an **opportunity to make the Island a better place to live**. But that won't happen unless we use **good planning and take decisive action**.

OUR APPROACH

We will build on government's "Path to Net Zero" with decisive action to make sure we meet our climate targets (net-zero by 2040).

Smart decisions today will make it far easier and less expensive to reach net-zero in the future.

A Green Government will support low and middle-income Islanders to transition to a cleaner, carbon neutral reality. Our biggest emitters will make better, more responsible choices.

Our province absolutely can have a thriving economy that treats people fairly while meeting our climate goals. Not meeting our climate targets is a sure way to economic catastrophe.

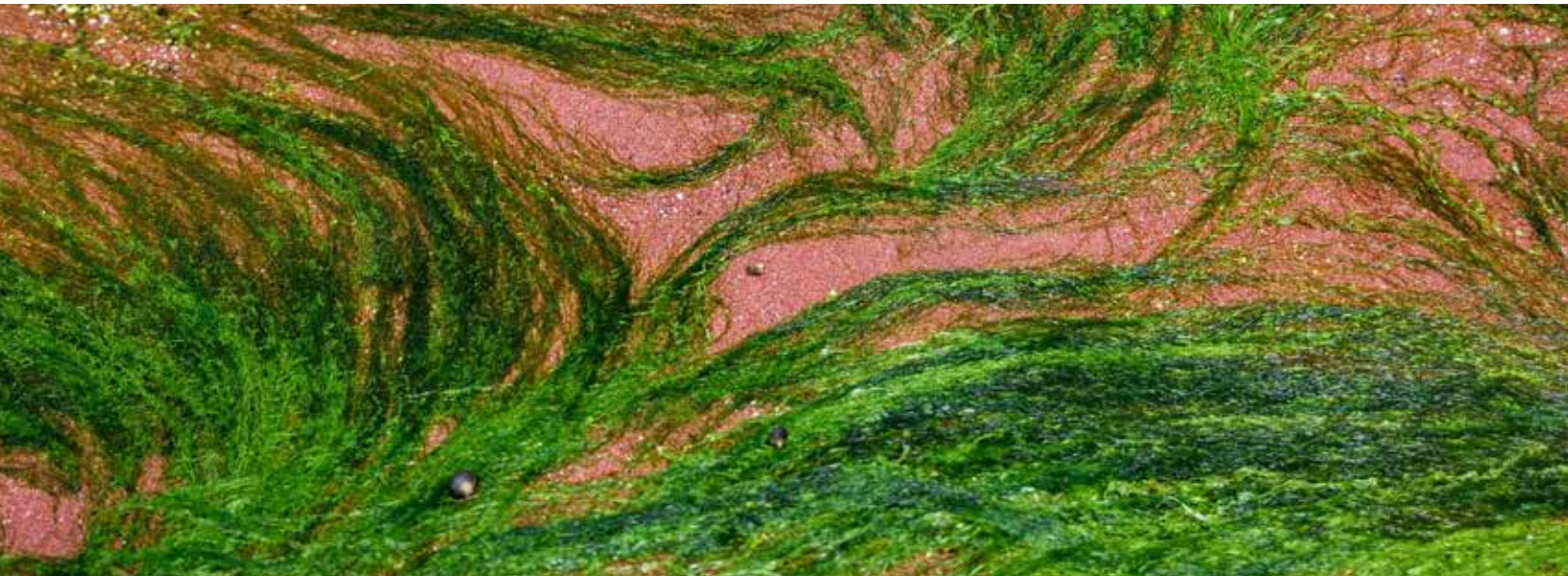
ACTION PLAN

Moving to clean and efficient energy

Most greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy we use, whether that's to move our cars, heat our homes, or power our lights. The cheapest and cleanest energy is always the energy we don't use, so reducing our overall energy use should always be the first goal. We then need to make sure the energy we do use is clean and affordable.

A Green Government will:

- Aggressively pursue energy efficiency:
 - Continue funding all existing energy efficiency programs. The federal carbon tax backstop will come into effect this year. This will return money directly to Islanders, instead of going to provincial government revenues. We will make sure existing efficiency and climate programs are not cut.
- Make the building code net-zero by 2030 and provide more help for Islanders to build and renovate to net-zero.
- Retrofit public housing to net-zero.
- Extend the Switch program to the entire province (currently only in Stratford and Charlottetown) so that all Island homeowners can benefit from zero-interest loans for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- Increase the amount of clean renewable energy generated on the Island:
 - Build new wind and solar farms with communities as part-owners, instead of fighting against local municipalities.
 - Buy electricity from the West Cape wind farm, which could immediately double the renewable energy on our grid.
 - Install more solar arrays on government and community buildings.
- Increase the amount of energy storage on the Island so that we can better use wind and solar:
 - Pursue more grid-level battery storage (e.g. Summerside Sunbank).



- Partner with other Atlantic provinces on regional storage and transmission.
 - Start a vehicle-to-grid pilot.
 - Provide help for Islanders wishing to install battery storage in their homes.
- End investments in new diesel power plants.
 - Support the transition to smart electricity metres to allow for more efficient use of energy and better integration of distributed generation and storage.

Planning for climate change

It's important that we plan ahead so we can make smart decisions now that will help us get to net-zero by 2040. We need to make our communities more walkable, transit-friendly, less car-dependent, denser, less expensive, and generally more sustainable.

We can't get to net-zero without healthy ecosystems, including soils, water, and forests. We can't achieve any of these goals without better land-use planning.

A Green Government will:

- Conduct a public inquiry into the response to hurricane Fiona to make sure we are better prepared for the next big storm.
- Bring in Island-wide land-use planning with a strong focus on making communities more sustainable, reducing emissions, protecting the shoreline and forests, and moving development away from areas prone to flooding or erosion.⁴³

- Improve the health of our forests so they can, among other things, absorb as much carbon as possible. This includes woodlots, protected areas, and urban forests.⁴⁴
- Improve low-carbon public transportation options:
 - Increase the operating grant to the Capital Area public transit system.
 - Renew transit subsidies to keep bus fares affordable.
 - Increase the number of transit routes and frequency of runs in rural and urban locations.
 - Help Islanders carpool.
 - Pursue a regional transportation strategy in partnership with other Maritime provinces.
 - Expand active transportation and trail infrastructure, especially within municipalities.
- Encourage and support remote and hybrid work arrangements to reduce transportation emissions.
- Promote the uptake of cycling through programs that reduce the costs of buying a bike.
- Increase the supply of electric vehicles on PEI and reduce their cost by creating a zero-emission vehicle mandate (similar to Quebec and BC).
- Modernize the laws governing our electricity system to make sure they are in line with our climate goals and give Islanders fair and affordable rates.
- Study the possibility of making Maritime Electric a public utility.

⁴³ See "Implementing Sustainable Land-Use Planning Island-Wide" under *Protecting Our Land and Environment*.

⁴⁴ See "Improving the Health of Our Forests" under *Protecting the Land and Environment*.



Supporting the transition to a clean economy

Both Islanders and Island businesses need help to move to a clean economy. With some well-targeted government supports, the shift could offer many opportunities to make our Island a better place to live and work.

A Green Government will:

- Invest in construction and trades sectors to increase our capacity to build and retrofit homes to net-zero, as well as maintain energy efficiency equipment (e.g. heat pumps).
 - Provide free net-zero training for construction workers and contractors.
- Create a refundable tax credit for lower- and middle-income workers to complement the Canada Workers Benefit.⁴⁵
- Improve opportunities for students to participate in experiential learning to increase awareness and interest in trades.⁴⁶
- Convene a panel of employer and employee representatives from the construction industry to explore the creation of a wage grid for construction.⁴⁷
- Create demonstration projects to show how to convert existing buildings to net-zero.
- Promote clean technology sectors.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ See “Getting more money in the pockets of Islanders” under Making Life More Affordable.

⁴⁶ See “Providing the Best K-12 Education” under Supporting the Next Generation.

⁴⁷ See “Addressing Labour Shortages” under Workers and a Fair Economy.

⁴⁸ See “Supporting Island Businesses” under Workers and A Fair Economy.

- Work with farmers and food processors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the changing climate, and increase farmers' bottom lines.⁴⁸
 - Developing carbon credit markets so farmers can be paid for sequestering carbon.
 - Diversifying crops by studying the viability of new crops suited to our changing climate.
 - In addition to our international exports, focus on increasing local and regional market opportunities.
 - Shift to crops and varieties that reduce the need for inputs (such as fertilizers).
 - Adopt low and no-till practices where possible.
 - Adopt precision agriculture and other technologies that reduce inputs.
 - Explore agri-voltaics and other new farming techniques.
 - Increase value-added processing on PEI.
- Work with fishers to reduce emissions and transition to clean technologies, alternate fuels, and explore new techniques such as regenerative ocean farming.⁵⁰
- Encourage Islanders to reduce waste:
 - Advocate for a national right-to-repair strategy to make repairs easier and more affordable.⁵¹
 - Review Island Waste Management Corporation recycling and composting processes to reduce emissions and improve customer satisfaction.
- Help Islanders lower the cost of heating and cooling their homes by transitioning to cleaner forms of energy.

⁴⁹ See "Supporting Farmers and Fishers" under Workers and A Fair Economy.

⁵⁰ See "Supporting Farmers and Fishers" under Workers and a Fair Economy.

⁵¹ See "Supporting Island Businesses" under Workers and A Fair Economy.



PLAN FOR A *diverse and inclusive* ISLAND



WHAT ISLANDERS ARE TELLING US

We are all treaty people. **Reconciliation between Indigenous and settler peoples is fundamental to the future of our province.** We must do more to affirm the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights of Island Mi'kmaq in our laws and in our everyday lives.

Our province is becoming increasingly diverse. While Islanders are known for being friendly and welcoming, **we are not immune to racism and discrimination in our society and our government institutions.** We need to do more to make all Islanders feel safe, welcome, and included.

Islanders living with a disability face barriers to their full and equal participation in Island life. We need to improve accessibility standards.

Far too often, **Islanders and community stakeholders do not have good opportunities to participate in important decisions affecting them.** This leads to bad decisions and government policies that do not work well for Islanders.

Government programs and policies can be **nearly impossible for Islanders to navigate.** The many barriers and hoops people must jump through often result in people giving up or being disqualified from getting the help they need.

OUR APPROACH

All Islanders will have more opportunities to actively participate in the decisions that affect them. Nothing for us without us.

We will apply an equity lens to all aspects of government.

These changes require a broad cultural shift within government and society in general. A Green Government will make this a priority across government departments.

Government programs will be delivered in a simple, kind, and compassionate way that puts the needs of Islanders first.

ACTION PLAN

Advancing Reconciliation

In recent years we have talked about reconciliation and what it looks like, but done little to advance it. The time for talking has passed. Now the time has come to put words into action and to do the hard work of reconciliation.

A Green Government will:

- Review progress and accelerate the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' calls for justice.
 - For example, immediately establish a senior-level position in government at the assistant deputy minister level or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education as per the TRC Calls to Action #62.
- Work with Mi'kmaq and foster the nation-to-nation relationship and self-government for Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq. Support Mi'kmaq initiatives in housing, economic development, and other priorities identified by Mi'kmaq to improve quality of life on PEI.
- Work to establish a Mi'kmaq-specific business equity fund for long-term projects that promote the prosperity and long-term well-being of First Nations communities in PEI.
- Work with L'nuey in fostering culture, education, and language preservation and promotion across the Island. For example, this could include more signage in Mi'kmaq and official publications in Mi'kmaq.
- Help Mi'kmaq acquire new land holdings (Mi'kmaq have among the smallest reserves of any Indigenous group in Canada).
- Support the exercise of Treaty rights, including the right to a moderate livelihood fishery.
- Integrate Mi'kmaq rights and culture into provincial laws. For example:
 - Protect the duty to consult.
 - Strengthen laws and regulations around land stewardship and environmental protection.
 - Strengthen Mi'kmaq values, connections, and traditions in child protection laws.
- Commit to implementing the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in partnership with Mi'kmaq.
- Advocate for renaming the Confederation Bridge to Epekwit Crossing.
- Provide UPEI with a recurring \$100k grant to contribute to the Indigenization of UPEI, and work with other post-secondary institutions on similar initiatives.
- Amend the table of precedence to improve the representation of Mi'kmaq voices at provincial events and ceremonies.

Giving Islanders a greater say

Islanders should be able to participate fully and fairly in our democratic system. Getting more Islanders involved in the decisions that impact them will only make government more reflective of the people who live here.

A Green Government will:

- Create Citizens' Assemblies to tackle important issues. The first of these would be proportional representation. From there, this assembly would get to work on issues such as climate change, housing, rural governance, poverty, and other issues of importance to Islanders.
- Legislate proportional representation, based on the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly.
- Lower the voting age to 16 years.⁵²
- Allow permanent residents to vote in municipal and school board elections.
- Make political parties transparent and accountable for the money and information they gather from Islanders:
 - Require financial statements outside of elections.
 - Regulate loans.
 - Create privacy requirements for personal information collected by political parties.
- Complete a review of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and make sure sufficient resources are available to process requests in a timely manner.
- Make government spending more transparent by implementing results-based financial management in government departments.

⁵² See "Respecting and supporting children and youth" under Supporting the Next Generation.



Strengthening municipalities

Municipal governments provide important services for promoting the well-being of Islanders, creating vibrant communities, and ensuring the sustainable development of the Island. They are also critical spaces for civic engagement, allowing Islanders to take part in decisions that affect them. However, the province does not sufficiently fund and support municipalities to carry out their important roles.

A Green Government will:

- Negotiate a new funding arrangement with PEI municipalities that makes sure our communities have the resources they need:
 - Give municipalities the resources they need to implement strong local planning.
 - Work with municipalities to make sure emergency and fire protection services are appropriately resourced.
 - Review the Property Tax structure to provide additional tax room for municipalities and make sure it is equitable for Islanders.
- Allow permanent residents to vote in municipal elections.⁵³
- Increase the operating grant to the Capital Area public transit system.⁵⁴
- Extend the Switch program to the entire province (currently only in Stratford and Charlottetown) so that all Island homeowners can benefit from zero-interest loans for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.⁵⁵
- Increase funding to municipalities for recreation infrastructure like playgrounds, sports fields, and community gardens so that Islanders of all ages can stay active in their communities. It's also important public washrooms are available at these facilities.

⁵³See "Giving Islanders a say" above.

⁵⁴See "Planning for climate change" under Addressing Climate Change.

⁵⁵See "Moving to clean and efficient energy" under Addressing Climate Change.



- Increase funding to municipalities for active transportation and trail infrastructure.⁵⁶
- Amend the Planning Act and work with municipalities to improve development processes, promote density, encourage development in transit corridors, and reduce the loss of farmland to development.⁵⁷
- Explore opportunities to expand wastewater testing to new municipalities and to cover new viruses to inform the public health response to illness.⁵⁸

Building an Island free from discrimination

Aside from the Epekwitnewaq Mi'kmaq, we are all settlers on this Island — whether we came here six generations ago or six days ago. If we want to live up to the claims that we love and wish to protect this Island, that means including and protecting everyone who calls this place home. A truly rich Island means welcoming a diversity of voices and experiences, where our culture is reflective and inclusive of all its people.

Our Island culture has always been a living, dynamic and ever-changing entity. That's precisely what makes Prince Edward Island such a special place to live.

A Green Government will:

- Allow permanent residents to vote in municipal and school board elections.⁵⁹

- Develop an anti-racism strategy in partnership with community members and equity-seeking groups.
- Make public all recommendations of the Anti-Racism Table to promote greater public discussion and improved government accountability on matters of racism and discrimination.
- Support better collection of disaggregated demographic data as required to better understand disparities in our society, with a particular focus on health, education, housing, and employment outcomes.
- Increase funding to the Human Rights Commission to provide for the timely resolution of complaints.⁶⁰
- Make sure there is adequate education for public servants on equity, diversity and inclusion issues.
- Introduce stronger legislation on accessibility standards to make sure persons living with a disability can fully participate in all aspects of Island life.
- Provide funding for equity-seeking groups to provide appropriate housing to meet the specific needs of their communities.⁶¹
- Support opportunities to provide equity, diversity, and inclusivity training in Island workplaces.⁶²
- Promote culturally appropriate healthcare.

⁵⁶See "Planning for climate change" under Addressing Climate Change.

⁵⁷See "Regulating the housing market" under Addressing the Housing Crisis.

⁵⁸See "Promoting the health and wellness of Islanders" under Strong Public Healthcare.

⁵⁹See "Giving Islanders a greater say" above.

⁶⁰See "Protecting vulnerable Islanders" below.

Protecting vulnerable Islanders

As Islanders, we are naturally kind and compassionate people, and our government should be too. Our frontline workers are some of the most compassionate people around, but still we hear regularly of people who can't get the help they need. Our systems are too complicated and present barriers that prevent people from getting and providing help.

A Green Government will:

- Make sure the overdose prevention site in Charlottetown has all the resources needed to succeed, including consultation with the community and those accessing the service.
- Create a community outreach list of vulnerable Islanders that government must check in with during emergencies.
- Promote restorative justice approaches that focus more on rehabilitation rather than punishment.
- Raise income thresholds for accessing government programs.
- Improve access to justice for all Islanders.
 - Increase the budget for Legal Aid and make sure it is appropriately staffed to meet the demand for legal services.
 - Increase funding to the Human Rights Commission to provide for the timely resolution of complaints.
 - Establish a tenant advocate for tenancy proceedings before IRAC.⁶³
- Update and strengthen the province's animal protection policies and enforcement. This would be led by a new office of animal welfare under the Department of Justice and Public Safety. The scope of this review would include regulation of animal breeding (e.g. puppy mills) which is not adequately controlled. It would also look at trapping rules to make sure pets can be kept safe.

⁶¹See "Restoring the strong public role in housing" under Addressing the Housing Crisis.

⁶²See "Respecting Island workers" under Workers and A Fair Economy.

⁶³See "Protecting housing rights" under Addressing the Housing Crisis.



- Increase resources for Seniors Navigator.⁶⁴
- Implement the recommendations of the Midpoint Evaluation of the Crime Prevention and Police Services Model Review, particularly:
 - Establish a provincial police board.
 - Review existing police standards and legislate updates to police standards where recommended.
 - Develop a strategic plan for policing services on PEI.
 - Determine the number of staff and the roles required to establish and maintain effective provincial leadership and oversight of policing in PEI.
- Collaborate with Islanders to create diversity training for police, along with catch-up training and regular refresher training.
- Adopt an electronic reporting system to allow the public to submit incident reports to police online.
- Conduct a review of funeral services to increase consumer protections for Island seniors and their families.⁶⁵
- Create a fund to help families recoup money lost if a funeral home mismanaged funds in trust for pre-paid funerals.⁶⁶

⁶⁴See “Respecting Seniors” under Making Life More Affordable.

⁶⁵See “Respecting Seniors” under Making Life More Affordable.

⁶⁶See “Respecting Seniors” under Making Life More Affordable.



SUMMARY OF *new spending*

The Green Party of PEI believes in living within our financial means. Our province has seen rapid economic growth over the last several years, which means that our fiscal capacity has increased substantially. On top of that, our population is expected to continue growing rapidly for years, if not decades. We expect that the provincial economy will continue to do well in the coming years.

With a growing economy, a stable debt, and a shrinking debt-to-GDP ratio, we believe that the government can afford to invest more in Islanders. Indeed, the lack of investment over the last couple of decades is one of the main reasons for the current crises in healthcare, housing, and climate. The lack of investment in the past means that we now face higher costs to fix these issues.

The best time to invest in Islanders was 20 years ago. The next best time is now.

We firmly believe that smart investments now will lead to significant cost savings down the road. It is far less expensive to deal with challenges up front than it is to let them linger and grow worse. Giving people a little help now to stay healthy, keep a roof over their head, earn a decent income, and make good environmental decisions is not only the morally right thing to do—it is also the financially responsible thing to do.

We owe it to Islanders to invest wisely now, so our children and grandchildren have a chance at a better future.

The table below shows a summary of new spending anticipated in the first year of a Green Government. A detailed line-by-line breakdown of costs is provided in the following appendix.

	NEW OPERATIONAL SPENDING (PROGRAMS)	NEW CAPITAL SPENDING (INFRASTRUCTURE)
Strong Public Healthcare	\$78,515,000	\$6,000,000
Making Life More Affordable	\$35,265,000	\$4,000,000
Workers and A Fair Economy	\$6,550,000	\$400,000
Addressing the Housing Crisis	\$855,000	\$26,300,000
Supporting the Next Generation	\$9,800,000	
Protecting The Land and Environment	\$800,000	\$500,000
Addressing Climate Change	\$12,922,000	\$8,000,000
A Diverse and Inclusive Island	\$6,589,000	\$1,000,000
Total new spending	\$151,296,000	\$46,200,000
New revenues	\$48,000,000	
NET NEW SPENDING	\$103,296,000	\$45,810,000

⁶⁷ Increased federal health transfer.

DETAILED ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1

PLAN FOR STRONG PUBLIC HEALTHCARE	OPERATIONAL	CAPITAL
\$37 million wage increase for frontline healthcare workers	\$37,000,000	
Pharmacist Scope of Practice	\$100,000	
Free access to virtual care	\$6,500,000	
Additional NP's in Primary Care	\$600,000	
Additional support staff for every family physician	\$5,625,000	
Rural Physician program	\$100,000	
Rural On-Call program	\$100,000	
Increase security at hospitals	\$600,000	
Increased diabetes supports	\$690,000	
Add counselling positions at clinics and ERs	\$300,000	
Open more walk-in clinics	\$100,000	
Add dedicated health professionals to our ER waiting rooms	\$500,000	
Increase skills and certifications (Bridging LPN to RN and cover expenses for language tests)	\$500,000	
Regional bursaries for RNs to train as NPs	\$200,000	
Comprehensive and timely mental health and addiction services	\$500,000	\$500,000
Expand residency opportunities on PEI	\$150,000	
Medical homes and neighbourhoods	\$1,000,000	
Withdrawal management facility in Summerside		\$500,000
Boost funding to provincial pharmacare	\$18,000,000	
Expand homecare services and the Seniors Navigator	\$500,000	
Create restorative care unit at QEH		\$5,000,000
Increase funding to adult ADHD clinic	\$500,000	
Increase supports for hearing aids	\$950,000	
Promoting the health and wellness of Islanders	\$3,000,000	
Free artistic, cultural, and social activities	\$1,000,000	
TOTAL: PLAN FOR STRONG PUBLIC HEALTHCARE	\$78,515,000	\$6,000,000

PLAN FOR MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE	OPERATIONAL	CAPITAL
Tax credit for low/middle-income workers	\$8,000,000	
Raise Low-Income Tax Reduction threshold	\$700,000	
Reduce fees for Pat and the Elephant and Transportation West	\$350,000	
Basic income pilot	\$17,735,000	
Increase and index social assistance rates	\$2,000,000	
Increase Assured Income Allowance	\$2,000,000	
More money for food banks	\$500,000	
Expand Seniors Food Program	\$2,100,000	
Establish a Seniors Advocate	\$1,000,000	
Make repairs to government seniors housing		\$4,000,000
Increase funding to Seniors Navigator	\$200,000	
Prepaid funeral fund	\$180,000	
Increase funding for the Seniors Independence Initiative	\$500,000	
TOTAL: PLAN FOR MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE	\$35,265,000	\$4,000,000

PLAN FOR WORKERS AND A FAIR ECONOMY	OPERATIONAL	CAPITAL
Paid sick leave fund	\$2,500,000	
Experiential learning fund	\$200,000	
Forgive student debt 2023-24	\$2,350,000	
Establish a \$2,000 bursary program to encourage students to work in the construction sector	\$200,000	
Support for the agriculture sector (ASP and ALUS)	\$1,000,000	
Agri-voltaics demonstration project	\$100,000	\$400,000
Fisheries clean tech programs	\$200,000	
TOTAL: PLAN FOR WORKERS AND A FAIR ECONOMY	\$6,550,000	\$400,000

PLAN FOR ADDRESSING THE HOUSING CRISIS	OPERATIONAL	CAPITAL
Establishing a rental registry	\$100,000	
Establish a Tenant Advocate	\$105,000	
Appoint a commissioner on Lands-Protection-Act-styled regulation of housing	\$300,000	
Convert existing residential and commercial accommodations into public housing		\$25,000,000
Expand emergency and transitional shelter facilities	\$250,000	\$1,300,000
Co-op housing registry	\$100,000	
TOTAL: PLAN FOR ADDRESSING THE HOUSING CRISIS	\$855,000	\$26,300,000

PLAN FOR SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION	OPERATIONAL	CAPITAL
Improve supports for new parents	\$100,000	
Raise ECE wages (+ EA wages)	\$2,700,000	
Increased number of teachers and EAs	\$5,000,000	
Increased school counsellors	\$500,000	
Air quality monitoring and clean air upgrades in schools	\$500,000	
Provide free water safety lessons to all primary age students	\$500,000	
Assistance for graduate student research	\$500,000	
TOTAL: PLAN FOR SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION	\$9,800,000	\$0

PLAN FOR PROTECTING THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENT	OPERATIONAL	CAPITAL
Training for sustainable forestry practices	\$100,000	
Expand on-Island tree nursery capacity	\$500,000	\$500,000
Land-use planning Island-wide	\$200,000	
TOTAL: PLAN FOR PROTECTING THE LAND AND ENVIRONMENT	\$800,000	\$500,000

PLAN FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE	OPERATIONAL	CAPITAL
Maintaining funding for efficiency programs	\$5,077,000	
Net zero building code	\$100,000	
Retrofitting homes to net-zero	\$1,100,000	\$3,000,000
Retrofit public housing to net-zero		\$1,000,000
Expand programs to transition from fossil fuel heating sources	\$1,000,000	
Installing solar arrays on public buildings		\$500,000
Home battery storage	\$500,000	
Public inquiry into Fiona response	\$1,000,000	
Increase operating grant for Capital Area transit system	\$295,000	
Renew transit subsidy and increase transit routes and frequency	\$1,650,000	
Active transportation and trail infrastructure		\$3,500,000
Net zero training for construction workers and contractors	\$100,000	
Demonstration projects for net zero retrofits	\$2,100,000	
TOTAL: PLAN FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE	\$12,922,000	\$8,000,000

PLAN FOR A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE ISLAND	OPERATIONAL	CAPITAL
Accelerate the implementation of the TRC calls to action and the NIMMIWG calls for justice	\$500,000	
Indigenization of UPEI	\$100,000	
Citizens' assemblies	\$100,000	
Recreation infrastructure upgrades		\$1,000,000
Raise income thresholds for accessing programs	\$5,000,000	
Increase Legal Aid budget	\$250,000	
Increase funding to Human Rights Commission	\$100,000	
Animal welfare office	\$539,000	
TOTAL: PLAN FOR A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE ISLAND	\$6,589,000	\$1,000,000





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