

## Green Plan for Valuing Healthcare Workers

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.<sup>1</sup>
- Support existing healthcare workers to increase their skills and certifications:
  - Create a LPN to RN bridging program.
  - Cover expenses for English language tests.

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<sup>1</sup> See "[Improving maternal, infant, and child care](#)" under *Supporting the Next Generation*.

# Green Plan for Promoting the Health and Wellness of Islanders

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.<sup>2</sup>
- Expand active transportation and trail infrastructure, especially within municipalities.<sup>3</sup>
- Modernize planning rules to promote more walkable communities.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See "[Strengthening municipalities](#)" under *Diverse and Inclusive Island*.

<sup>3</sup> See "[Planning for climate change](#)" under *Addressing Climate Change*.

<sup>4</sup> See "[Implementing sustainable land-use planning Island-wide](#)" under *Protecting the Land and Our Environment*.