



Department of
Health and Wellness

2024-25



ANNUAL REPORT

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Minister's Message

The Honourable Dr. Wassim Salamoun
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8



May it Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the Department of Health and Wellness for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. This report highlights progress made under the Provincial Health Plan 2023–2028, including improved access to primary care, strengthened health promotion efforts, and a more stable and supported health workforce. The Department advanced virtual and coordinated care models, modernized digital health systems, and continued work on major initiatives such as Patient Medical Neighbourhoods, the Electronic Medical Record, and the Mental Health and Addictions Campus. These accomplishments reflect strong collaboration across governments, Health PEI, community partners, and Island residents.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark McLane". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Hon. Mark McLane

Deputy Minister's Message

The Honourable Mark McLane
Minister of Health and Wellness



Minister:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Department of Health and Wellness for the fiscal year April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. During this period, the Department focused on advancing person-centred and culturally safe care, supporting health workforce capacity, and improving access through innovative models such as virtual care and integrated service delivery. We continued to build on multi-year initiatives while launching innovative approaches to chronic disease prevention, equity in health care, and digital transformation. These efforts reflect our commitment to a sustainable, adaptive, and robust health care system for all Islanders.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Thibeau". The script is fluid and cursive.

Lisa Thibeau
Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness

Department of Health and Wellness Overview

The Department of Health and Wellness (the Department) is committed to improving the health care system and engaging partners, stakeholders, and citizens in shaping a responsive, inclusive, and sustainable health care system. Operating under the Health Services Act, the Department guides the provincial health system through the Provincial Health Plan, the creation of legislation and regulations and programs and ensures accountability through policies, standards, and oversight. The Department provides leadership, policy direction, and programs that support health protection, health promotion, and the delivery of quality, accessible, and sustainable health services for Islanders.

The Department works in partnership with the federal government, Health PEI, health regulators, communities, non-government organizations, private health care sector, and other government departments to improve the health care system. It leads initiatives in population health, disease prevention, mental wellness, health equity, seniors' health, emergency health, community health programs, and digital health transformation. The Department also supports workforce planning and development and scope of practice expansion to support and strengthen the health care system. Through collaboration and innovation, the Department is committed to ensuring a health care system that meets the needs of all Islanders.

Mandate

The mandate of the Department of Health and Wellness is to provide leadership, policy direction and programs that contribute to:

- Health protection and promotion for Islanders; and
- Quality and sustainable health services that are accessible to Islanders.

The Department fulfills this mandate in partnership with Islanders and communities, Health PEI, health professions and allied health professionals, non-government and community organizations, the private sector, and other government departments.

Department of Health and Wellness – Overview

Minister's / Deputy Minister's Office

The Minister's and Deputy Minister's Office provides overall leadership, direction, and accountability for the Department of Health and Wellness. The Minister is responsible for setting the vision and priorities for the health system and representing the province in legislative and intergovernmental matters. The Deputy Minister leads the Department's

operations and ensures that programs and policies are implemented effectively and align with the Provincial Health Plan.

This office oversees strategic planning, system governance, and performance monitoring. It ensures that departmental initiatives are coordinated across divisions and responsive to the needs of Islanders. The office also leads collaboration with other government departments, Indigenous communities, and national health partners. Through leadership, policy oversight, and public accountability, the Minister's and Deputy Minister's Office play a vital role in shaping a responsive, equitable, and sustainable health system for Prince Edward Island.

Chief Public Health Office (CPHO)

The Chief Public Health Office (CPHO), under the leadership of the Chief Public Health Officer and the authority of the *Public Health Act* and regulations, is responsible for promoting and protecting the health of all Islanders through leadership in disease prevention, health promotion, and emergency preparedness. The CPHO promotes health by monitoring the health status of communities or special populations, developing, and supporting public policy that promotes a healthy population, and working with community partners to encourage healthy living. The CPHO prevents disease and injury by monitoring and reporting to the public on diseases and events that affect the lives of Islanders, preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases, and directing childhood and adult immunization. The CPHO protects the health of Islanders by inspecting and licensing facilities such as eating establishments, swimming pools, tanning bed facilities and provincial meat and dairy plants, and taking action to ensure food and water are safe and protecting against environmental threats or hazards through regulation and enforcement.

Population Health, Planning and Policy

This team focuses on improving the health of the population through data-driven planning and policy development. It monitors health trends, identifies gaps in care, and supports strategies to reduce health disparities. This division contributes to chronic disease prevention, wellness promotion, and community engagement. It includes epidemiologists, health promoters, and data analysts who work together to support evidence-based decision-making and improve health outcomes for all Islanders.

Environmental Health

Environmental Health protects Islanders from health risks related to the environment. This includes ensuring the safety of food, drinking water, housing, and public spaces. The

division enforces public health laws and conducts inspections of restaurants, water systems, and other facilities. It also plays a key role in emergency preparedness and responds to environmental hazards such as outbreaks, contamination, or extreme weather events. The team includes environmental health officers, tobacco enforcement officers, and inspectors who work across the province.

Community Health

Community Health and Policy lead the development of health system policies and long-term planning for services such as primary care, chronic disease, women and gender diverse peoples' health, and community wellness. The division also supports rural health strategies. The division also manages federal-provincial-territorial health policy coordination and supports initiatives that promote equity and inclusion. Key areas of focus include primary care renewal, chronic disease prevention, and the development of community-based health programs.

Seniors Health

The Seniors Health division focuses on improving health care and services for older adults in Prince Edward Island. The division supports home-based care policy, oversees the At Home Caregiver benefit, and supports other policy initiatives aiming to help seniors live safely and independently at home for as long as possible. The Seniors Health division leads the implementation of recommendations from the COVID 19 Long-term Care Review Report, working to modernize long-term care and align care in all long-term care homes so that residents receive the same care regardless of where they live. The division works with Health PEI and community partners to improve the quality of care for seniors, including dementia care, and to expand access to allied health care professionals. It provides infection prevention and control support to all private long-term care homes and community care facilities on PEI. It also oversees the inspections of all private long-term care homes and community care facilities on PEI to ensure they meet regulatory and care service standards. Finally, the Seniors Health division also explores new policy options for seniors' health that may be more responsive to the needs of aging Islanders.

Emergency Health Services

The Emergency Health Services division is responsible for the governance, regulation, oversight, coordination, and strategic planning for the provincial emergency health services system, which includes contract management of ground and air ambulance services. The division leads system improvements in collaboration with health system partners, such as community paramedicine which enables paramedics to provide care in patient's homes to connect them with the most appropriate care they need to minimize unnecessary transport

to the emergency department, and the expansion of the inter-facility transfer service to transport patients safely between hospitals to improve patient flow across the health system. It also manages the provincial Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Registry, the provincial Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation program, and blood services. The division works closely with partners to ensure the delivery of prehospital health care is timely, safe, and accessible.

Pharmacy Services

Pharmacy Services oversees the administration of the Prince Edward Island Pharmacare programs, which help Islanders afford prescription medications. The division manages the provincial drug formulary and leads initiatives like National Pharmacare, Drugs for Rare Diseases, Improving Affordable Access to Prescription Drugs (IAAPD) and Pharmacy Plus PEI, which expands the role of pharmacists in primary care. It supports regulatory changes that allow pharmacists to assess and treat minor conditions, order lab tests, and adjust medications. Pharmacy Services also manages agreements with the federal government and national pharmacy organizations. Teams within the division focus on medication safety, therapeutic services, and data analysis to improve access and outcomes.

Health Workforce Planning

Health Workforce Planning supports Prince Edward Island in planning for education, training, and recruitment pathways for the right number and mix of health professionals to meet the needs of Islanders. The division leads workforce planning strategies for physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, and other regulated and unregulated health care roles. The division works with private and public health service providers, educators including secondary institutions, colleges universities, and regulatory bodies to support education, training, and licensing. It also manages some recruitment incentive programs, workforce data analysis, and educational programs to support a stable and sustainable health workforce across the province.

Mental Health and Addictions

The Mental Health and Addictions division provides leadership in planning and policy for mental health and substance use services. It works with Health PEI and community partners to improve access to care, reduce stigma, and support recovery. The division leads harm reduction initiatives, crisis response planning, and the development of community-based services. It also oversees capital projects like the Mental Health and Addictions Campus. The Gambling and Gaming Support Unit is part of this division and focuses on preventing and reducing gaming and gambling-related harm through education,

outreach, and support services. Teams within the division also manage data, evaluation, and stakeholder engagement to guide system improvements.

Health Innovation

The Health Innovation unit is a strategic hub that drives health system modernization through integrated project management. The team specializes in delivering sustainable and scalable solutions that enhance health care delivery and operational efficiency. With deep project management expertise, the unit leads initiatives in digital transformation, innovative care delivery models, optimizing provider scopes of practice, and creating provider system integration pathways. By aligning diverse stakeholders, including government partners, regulators, and health care providers, the unit plays a critical role in advancing practices, enhancing digital tools, and accelerating innovation across the system. Its work ensures that complex initiatives are compliant, impactful, and successfully integrated for long-term sustainability.

Digital Health

The Digital Health group leads the transformation of health care on Prince Edward Island through innovative technology and strategic leadership. It provides expert guidance, system-level planning, and policy direction to ensure digital health initiatives align with provincial priorities and national standards. The group fosters innovation, promotes best practices, and collaborates across sectors to enhance health care delivery, system performance, and health outcomes. As a central coordinating body, the division supports integrated planning and the development of capital and management strategies. It also serves as a key liaison with federal partners such as Canada Health Infoway and Health Canada. Working closely with Health PEI and IT Shared Services, the group ensures alignment and progress in implementing the province's digital health strategy

Policy and Planning / Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Relations

This area leads the development of health policy and supports program planning for the Department. It coordinates relationships with the federal government and other provinces and territories to ensure that Prince Edward Island's health priorities are represented nationally. The team supports policy research, legislative development, agencies, boards and commission appointments and the creation of briefing materials for senior leaders. It also contributes to intergovernmental submissions and helps align provincial initiatives with national health strategies and funding agreements.

Professional Practice and System Integration

Led by the Provincial Chief of Nursing, this area supports the development of professional standards and clinical leadership across the health system. It promotes collaboration between different health professions and supports quality improvement in care delivery. The division also helps integrate new roles into the system, supports mentorship and education, and ensures that health professionals are working to their full scope of practice. It plays a key role in aligning clinical practice with system goals and improving patient outcomes.

Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Initiatives provides corporate support for planning, monitoring, and reporting on departmental actions and outcomes. The team strengthens planning and reporting processes by developing tools, frameworks, and performance indicators that help track progress and improve transparency. Strategic Initiatives enhances the Department's capacity for accountability by coordinating cross-divisional efforts and supporting evidence-informed decision-making.

Collaboration and Partnerships Across the Health System

The Department of Health and Wellness works with a range of contracted partners to deliver essential services, expand access to care, and support innovation across the province. These partnerships, distinct from Health PEI's operational mandate, include organizations supporting early childhood development, private long-term care facilities, emergency health services, mental health, harm reduction, and workforce training. Partners such as CHANCES, Medavie Health Services, Island EMS, CMHA-PEI, PEERS Alliance, and many others play a vital role in advancing community-based care. Additional collaborators, including educational institutions, pharmacies, and non-profits, contribute meaningfully to the system's reach and responsiveness, even if not all are individually highlighted here.

Provincial Health Plan Overview 2023-2028

The Provincial Health Plan sets a vision and path for the PEI health care system for 2023–2028. The plan puts people at the forefront, stabilizes the workforce, addresses inequities, advances innovation, and promotes the health of the Island. This Annual Report presents progress made in the fiscal year 2024–25 against the four priority pillars.

Vision: Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Our vision represents our highest aspiration for people living in Prince Edward Island. We envision a vibrant Island where healthy people contribute to thriving communities and have access to appropriate health care services when necessary.

Mission: To provide leadership, policy direction, services, and programs that promote and protect health, and contribute to quality, sustainability, and accessible health care to people in Prince Edward Island.

Our mission describes what we do, how we do it, and whom we serve. We achieve our mission in partnership with people living in Prince Edward Island, communities, Health PEI, health care workers, non-government organizations, the private sector, and other government departments.

Guiding Principles:



Provincial Health Plan Priorities Highlights and Accomplishments

PEI Provincial Health Plan – 2023 to 2028

At-a-Glance

PRIORITY 1
Keeping Our
Island Healthy



1. Health and Wellness for All Residents
2. Chronic Disease Prevention and Management
3. Mental Health and Mental Wellness

PRIORITY 2
Seamless
Experience:
Right Time,
Right Place,
Right Care



1. Seamless Access to Care
2. Person-Centred Care
3. Coordinated Care

PRIORITY 3
Equitable
Access



1. Addressing Inequity
2. Geographies of Interest
3. Target Age Groups

PRIORITY 4
A Healthy and
Sustainable
Workforce



1. Capacity, Recruitment and Retention
2. Supporting our Workforce
3. Partnerships and Collaboration

Keeping Our Island Healthy

1. Over the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Department advanced health and wellness through community grants, expanded chronic disease programs and new initiatives targeting smoking, alcohol use, and mental health. Public engagement shaped the LIVE WELL PEI Wellness Action Plan (Wellness Action Plan), while new regulations and surveillance systems helped better protect the health of Islanders through improved food safety, disease tracking, and substance use monitoring. Mental health services were strengthened with a third Mobile Response Team and expanded access to naloxone in communities across the province. Youth-focused campaigns and surveys supported prevention efforts in schools, and updated legislation enhanced protections around tobacco and vaping. Finally, with ongoing infrastructure and digital improvements, including a new licensing system and Mental Health Campus construction, the Department continues to promote and protect the health and wellness of Islanders.

1.1 Health and Wellness for All Residents

- The provincial government provided \$136,000 in LIVE WELL PEI Wellness Grants to support 30 innovative projects that promote healthier communities and help prevent chronic diseases through community and school-based initiatives. Recipients of these grants include: UPEI Health and Wellness Centre, Lennox Island First Nation's Tajiwei Women's Wellness Group, Charlottetown Learning Centre Foundation, Belfast Consolidated School, Central Queens Elementary School, and Queen Elizabeth Elementary.
- Public consultations were conducted for the Wellness Action Plan, which contains 25 actions to improve health in PEI and meet wellness targets. The *What We Heard* report was released, and a multi-sectoral Wellness Action Committee was established to prioritize and action the Wellness Action Plan. Five Community Action Networks were also established, one for each LIVE WELL PEI pillar, with network chairs sitting on the Wellness Action Committee. The five networks are Breathe Well (quitting tobacco use), Choose Well (reducing alcohol use), Eat Well (healthy eating), Move Well (physical activity), and Feel Well (mental wellness). In collaboration with industry stakeholders, the Department developed and implemented Canada's first guidance document for unpasteurized juice and cider products. This pioneering resource improves access to clear regulatory information, supports food safety compliance, and enhances public health protection by addressing microbial risks associated with unpasteurized beverages.

- Online resources related to animal bite investigations were updated to enhance public awareness of the health risks associated with animal bites, including the potential for rabies transmission. The revised content provides clear guidance on appropriate actions to take following exposure, supporting timely reporting, risk assessment, and access to post-exposure prophylaxis where necessary.
- With funding from the federal government, The LIVE WELL PEI Design Phase Project was completed. This initiative mobilized community groups and organizations in PEI to lead actions on wellness through an enhanced website and granting program, tools and resources, and data portals.
- The Department joined the Enhanced Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistant Gonorrhea (led by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the National Microbiology Lab) with the goal to better understand the current trends and to support the development of treatment guidelines and interventions to minimize the spread of antimicrobial resistant gonorrhea.
- A new radon webpage was developed to enhance public awareness of radon exposure and its associated health risks, contributing to improved environmental health outcomes across the province.
- To protect the health of Islanders, the Department created new regulations for podiatry that set out educational, training and competency requirements for podiatrists practicing in PEI.
- Two new diseases (Latent Tuberculosis and Powassan virus) were added to the Notifiable and Communicable Diseases Regulations, allowing for enhanced disease surveillance and public health response.
- An online food premises licensing application platform was launched that integrates with the inspection program to streamline workflows, significantly reducing application turnaround times, lowering demand on staffing resources, and eliminating unnecessary paper waste. This digital transformation enhances service efficiency while supporting sustainable and responsive public health operations.

1.2 Chronic Disease Prevention and Management

- A project to support Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral (SBIR) for alcohol use in service settings across PEI was initiated to help Islanders identify potentially harmful alcohol use. As a result, those screened will be provided with information, support, and referral options as needed.
- A Chronic Disease Framework and related documents were prepared in the 2024-25 fiscal year and efforts to formalize the framework will be made over the coming year.
- A Provincial Pain Strategy Steering Committee was formed in April 2024, and they are tasked with developing a provincial strategy for PEI.

- A formal review of the Home Oxygen Program has been completed.
- The eligibility of the Insulin Pump Program was expanded so that all medically eligible residents living with type 1 diabetes, regardless of age, can get help with the costs for this treatment.
- Established Community Grant Funding agreements to support community-based wellness initiatives for the fiscal year (approx. \$380,000 within Chronic Disease).
- The PEI Smoking Cessation Program was expanded and is now available in community pharmacies across PEI and includes a database that can be used for cessation consultations, data analysis, and evaluation.
- The school-based HPV Immunization was evaluated to identify gaps in uptake and for the development of strategies to increase HPV vaccine uptake in youth 17 and under.
- The Less is Best public awareness campaign was launched. Based on the Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health, this campaign supports other health promotion efforts and the Wellness Action Plan.
- Working with partners in the education system, the *Quit Your Way*, a youth smoking cessation program, was made available to schools across PEI to enable them to facilitate their own cessation program.
- The "Take a Breath" public awareness campaign was launched. This campaign targets tobacco and vaping prevention and cessation. This campaign supports other health promotion initiatives and the Wellness Action Plan.
- The 2024 Multi-Substance Survey was implemented, which collected information about experiences, knowledge, and attitudes regarding substances, including tobacco, cannabis, alcohol, illegal drugs, and vaping. The information will help shape public health actions that benefit the entire community, particularly people who use these substances.
- A multi-substance surveillance system for alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, cannabis, opioids, and stimulants was designed in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This system added indicators from the 2024 Multi-Substance Survey which will enable better monitoring and response to substance use in PEI.
- The 2024-25 COMPASS Survey on student health and health behaviours was conducted with over 7,800 Grade 7-12 students across 34 schools. The 2023-24 results were disseminated on the LIVE WELL PEI webpage.
- The Recreational Camp Regulations were amended to update cleaning and sanitization requirements, helping to protect the health of Islanders.

- The *Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Devices and Sales Act Regulations* were amended to help protect the health of Islanders through improved signage, prohibiting flavours, setting maximum nicotine levels allowed in electronic smoking devices and setting minimum for tickets amounts.

1.3 Mental Health and Mental Wellness

- In partnership with Health PEI and Medavie Health Services, a third Mobile Mental Health Response Team became operational to expand support to Islanders across the province.
- Access to the Take Home Naloxone Program was expanded to now offer free naloxone kits in 42 pharmacies and 17 communities across PEI.
- Responsible gambling and gaming outreach included sharing information at public events, delivering targeted presentations at Health PEI Mental Health and Addictions sites, and hosting networking sessions with community partners. A school-based education campaign for grades 5 and 6 was also launched to increase awareness about gaming and gambling across PEI.
- The Department collaborated with Red Shores ALC's PlayWise team to engage patrons with the Take a Break initiative, which encourages patrons to break play and engage with support staff through a coffee break style engagement.
- A province-wide awareness campaign was launched across social media and radio platforms to promote gambling support services.
- The contract was awarded for the Acute Care and Life Skills Center and MH&A Wellness and Transition Center of the Mental Health Campus.
- A Youth Health and Social Services Forum was hosted to engage and collaborate with community partners, service providers, government agencies, PEI youth and their families, and other stakeholders to discuss various youth services in PEI.

Seamless Access to Care

1. As the Department works toward improving access to care for those in need with an emphasis on person-centred and coordinated care, the value of innovative solutions and strategic partnerships is key. Through amending regulations and development of new policy tools such as protocols and pathways, the Department works with its partners to find innovative solutions to improve access to care. The continued progress of the EMR design and implementation remains a foundation for system change. Digital health initiatives, including the launch of the Citizen Health Portal and enhancements

to MyHealthPEI, empower Islanders to manage their health more effectively. Regulatory changes improve access to care for Islanders through new agreements and pilot programs strengthened care delivery in rural and specialized areas. These efforts reflect a continued commitment to building a more adaptive, integrated, and person-centred health care system.

2.1 Seamless Access to Care

- With support from the Department, Island EMS introduced new clinical practice guidelines to support paramedics in transport decision-making to determine whether people should receive care in the community (such as for prescription refill or treating them onsite) or who require transport to the emergency department (ED), wherever is more appropriate. These policies reduce ED visits and support people receiving care close to home.
- The Department negotiated a contract extension for the Telehealth (8-1-1) services, to enable Islanders to access health advice when and where they need it.
- With amendments to the Physiotherapist Regulations and system process change, the scope of practice for physiotherapists chiropractors has been optimized, enabling them to of X-rays and expanding access to this diagnostic tool for Islanders.
- The scope of practice for Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) was expanded through regulation changes to enable more collaboration with pharmacists, enabling RPNs and NPs to draw blood on pharmacist orders.
- The Department worked with Island EMS and Health PEI in the implementation of the Supportive Discharge program, where Community Paramedicine Response Units (CPRUs) are assigned to support timely hospital discharges.
- The provincial Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Registry was updated with new software to improve access to life-saving defibrillators across PEI. The registry has partnered with GoodSam which operates an online and app-based tool that simplifies the process of adding an AED to the PEI Registry and improves the ability for emergency medical dispatchers to locate the nearest accessible AED during a cardiac arrest in the community.
- The age restriction for pharmacist assessment of uncomplicated UTIs was removed, improving access to timely care.
- In partnership with Health PEI, the Department drafted new long-term agreements with off-Island providers of specialized health services in NS and NB that are not otherwise available in PEI. This ensures ongoing access to core programs and services.

- In collaboration with Island EMS, improvements were made to the provincial System Status Plan (resource deployment plan) to improve availability of ambulances in rural communities and to decrease paramedic response times.
- Amendments were made to the Pharmacist and Pharmacy Regulations to update registration requirements and allow pharmacists to order tests and diagnose and treat strep throat. This will not only improve timely access to care but also reduce demand in primary care and emergency departments.
- The Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) Regulations were amended to allow LPNs with advanced training and authorization to cast and set bone fractures.
- An evaluation plan for Patient Medical Neighbourhoods and Primary Care Roadmap Initiatives was developed and highlights the importance of implementing foundational elements before completing an evaluation.

2.2 Person-Centred Care

- As part of the EMR development, chronic disease self-management tools and resources were developed for the MyHealthPEI citizen portal. This will support Islanders to play a more active role in the management of their chronic disease and promote better health outcomes.
- In July 2024, the Digital Health Strategy 2024-2029 was published. This provincial strategy provides strategic direction in the planning and advancement of digital health technologies for the province over the coming years.
- A pilot for the Citizen Health Portal was launched, which will enable citizens to access, contribute to, and share their health information.
- Pharmacy reimbursements for therapeutic substitution and adaptation were expanded in 2024-25. This will allow pharmacists to change prescriptions to drugs in the same class during a drug shortage or in a physician's absence.
- The scope of practice for optometrists was expanded to support diagnosing and prescribing for glaucoma, improve access to timely care for Islanders living with this eye disease.
- The Stretcher Transportation Act was passed, which enabled the first stretcher transportation service to begin operation in July 2024. This service provides safe transportation for individuals who need stretcher services but do not need an ambulance.

- The Immunization Regulations were amended to enable immunization records to be reported in an electronic medical record. This will help Islanders better monitor and manage their immunizations.
- The Department was the primary lead to the planning and implementation of the 2024 Atlantic Learning Exchange Conference, The Power of Patients: Safety, Equity, and Engagement. The Atlantic Learning Exchange Conference is presented by The Atlantic Health Quality and Patient Safety Collaborative in partnership with Healthcare Excellence Canada.
- A Primary Care Renewal Community Engagement Report was developed highlighting key priority areas for optimizing access to primary care and enhancing collaborative practices.
- Over the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Department planned and delivered the Patient Medical Neighbourhood and Community Partners Conference.
- In partnership with Health PEI and Access PEI, the Unaffiliated Virtual Care Policy was amended to support Island residents with temporary provincial health numbers to access the virtual care program for their health card. This addresses a gap and improves access to care for Islanders who may otherwise have trouble accessing care.

2.3 Coordinated Care

- A Clinical Data Repository was expanded to include data such as immunization and lab data. This initiative was a collaboration with ITSS, Health PEI and the Department, to support residents' digital access to their health information (via the MyHealthPEI). When citizens have access to their own health data, they are better able to manage and make decisions about their own care.
- A pilot project providing access for community pharmacists to the new Clinician Portal was launched that will allow community partners to have digital access to health information to support their scope of practice.
- The Provincial Electronic Medical Record (EMR) implementation with Community Mental Health and Addictions programs was completed this fiscal year.
- The paramedic scope of practice was expanded to allow for improvements to the inter-facility transfer service and support the implementation of a high-acuity inter-facility transfer team.
- A two-year funding agreement with the Autism Society of PEI was created to support the development of programs to provide mental health support to Autism Society of PEI members and their families.

Equitable Access

3. The Department is working with partners to improve equity in health care with the launch of targeted programs and collaborations to support underserved populations. Initiatives included race and ethnicity data collection in cancer care, expanded access to pelvic floor physiotherapy, and enhanced services for low-income Islanders through the Sleep Apnea Program and Canadian Dental Care Plan. Efforts also focused on improving care for specific geographies and age groups, such as with the mobile optometry pilot in western PEI and the creation of a new youth gaming specialist role. Finally, training, infrastructure investments, and inclusive policy development further strengthened the system's ability to meet diverse needs across the province.

3.1 Addressing Inequity

- Initiated the Race and Ethnicity Data Collection Project which is a 2.5-year project funded by Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and led by the Department.
- A Guide to Applying Gender and Diversity Analysis in Health was drafted to complement the Gender Diversity Analysis policy lens and support staff in making equity considerations.
- A plan was developed to introduce a welcoming environments initiative in health care settings
- The Department hosted two learning events, on inclusive practices in Indigenous health and the other was a health equity in action panel discussion featuring members of the Women and Gender Diverse People's Health Council. Both events were well attended, with over 75 participants from government, health staff, and community partners.
- Options to improve the Provincial Fertility Treatment Program to better support access to out-of-province services were explored.
- The Department funded a one-year pilot program through the PEI Physiotherapy Association to provide pelvic floor physiotherapy for Islanders that are under insured or have no insurance coverage.
- In partnership with Health PEI, the Health Engagement Committees were re-established to promote citizen and public engagement in the health care system.
- Through a Health Innovation Grant, the Sleep Apnea Program was expanded to benefit low-income Islanders.
- The Department facilitated the implementation of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) in coordination with Health PEI's provincial dental care program to expand access to dental care for low- and moderate-income Canadians.

- A new bilateral agreement with the federal government for the National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases was signed, which provides approximately \$3.4 million annually to the province for 3 years. This will support patients access to drugs for rare diseases, making significant improvements in access to treatment for Islanders living with rare diseases.
- The National Pharmacare bilateral agreement with the federal government was formalized to improve access to contraceptive and diabetic medications for Islanders.

3.2 Geographies of Interest

- Through the Health Innovation Grant, support the delivery of a new mobile optometry service that offers on-site eye exams for long-term and community care residents in western PEI, improving access to eye care.
- Funding was provided for the addition of 53 new long-term care beds to communities across PEI.
- An RFP was issued for adding up to 50 new long-term care beds through the conversion of existing community care beds.
- A Capital Infrastructure Program was launched to support private long-term care homes with the addition of long-term care beds.
- In partnership with Health PEI and the Department of Social Development and Seniors, the At Home Caregiver Benefit program was launched to support caregivers and Islanders who choose to live at home longer.

3.3 Target Age Groups

- In 2024, the design phase for the Mental Health and Addictions Child and Youth Inpatient Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital was completed.
- The province's first Youth Gaming Specialist position was created in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This new role focuses on prevention and education by engaging directly with Island youth, schools, and families.
- Under the 4-year Aging with Dignity agreement with the federal government, PEI received an investment of \$2.71M in 2024–25 for Home and Community Care, including Mobile Integrated Health and InterRAI implementation in Home Care, and an additional \$3.8M in 2024–25 for long-term care.

- The Department supported the launch of the Merge™ Program at QEH to involve parents more in their newborn baby's care.
- A youth-focused gambling presentation was developed and delivered in schools across the Island. Presentations were delivered to 27 Grade 5 and 6 classrooms, engaging 495 students with age-appropriate discussions on gaming, gambling, and healthy screen use.
- A pilot program to bring mobile x-rays services to long-term care homes was launched.
- Training materials were developed to engage partners-in-care, staff, visitors, and volunteers in long-term care homes across PEI in infection prevention and control training.
- A review of the long-term care inspection process was undertaken in 2024-25 and a report was drafted. This will support improved inspections for long-term care homes across PEI.
- In partnership with the Department of Finance, we completed the long-term care projections for 2024-2043, to improve planning and informed decision making over the coming years.
- A pilot project was initiated to support private long-term care to add allied health services and initiated a pilot with Holland College to allow occupational therapy assistants and physiotherapy assistants to complete clinical placements in long-term care homes.
- A pilot program was initiated to enable nurse practitioners to provide care to residents in private long-term care. This will support access to care and improve the quality and timeliness of care for residents of long-term care homes.

A Healthy and Sustainable Workforce

4. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Department strengthened workforce capacity through streamlined hiring, targeted incentives, and expanded training programs for internationally educated professionals. With new agreements and regulatory changes that support broader scopes of practice and improved working environments across, the Department has made important efforts to promote stability in the workforce and long-term retention. In the coming year, as with the past, the Department will continue to work with strategic partners, such as the federal government, health authority and

employers, regulatory bodies and learning institutions to work toward a more resilient and sustainable workforce for our health care system.

4.1 Capacity, Recruitment and Retention

- A new structure for recruitment and retention for Health was developed in collaboration with Health PEI, designed to streamline hiring efforts across Human Resources, Finance, and program operations. This included unifying the Department's recruitment team with Health PEI's talent management team to form the Health PEI Workforce Recruitment Team, enhancing efficiency, and accelerating recruitment for Health PEI.
- A 2024-25 Community Grant for the Retention of Health Care Professional was launched to help communities, residents, and organizations across the province to welcome and immerse health care providers and their families into their communities.
- A Long-Term Care Workforce Planning working group was established with representatives from the Department, Health PEI, and community partners to increase the supply of qualified health care professionals and support staff to meet current and future workforce requirements.
- The Allied Health Incentive was launched to attract new graduates and professionals to hard-to-recruit positions.
- To help eliminate financial barriers, the Department launched the Internationally Educated Nurses (IEN) Bursary.
- The Paramedic Travel Per Diem funding grant was launched to increase coverage in hard-to-fill shifts and help improve staffing vacancies.
- To promote a stable supply of paramedics and support future emergency health services recruitment efforts, the Department continued financial support to cover Paramedic full tuition funding at Holland College.

4.2 Supporting PEI's Health Workforce

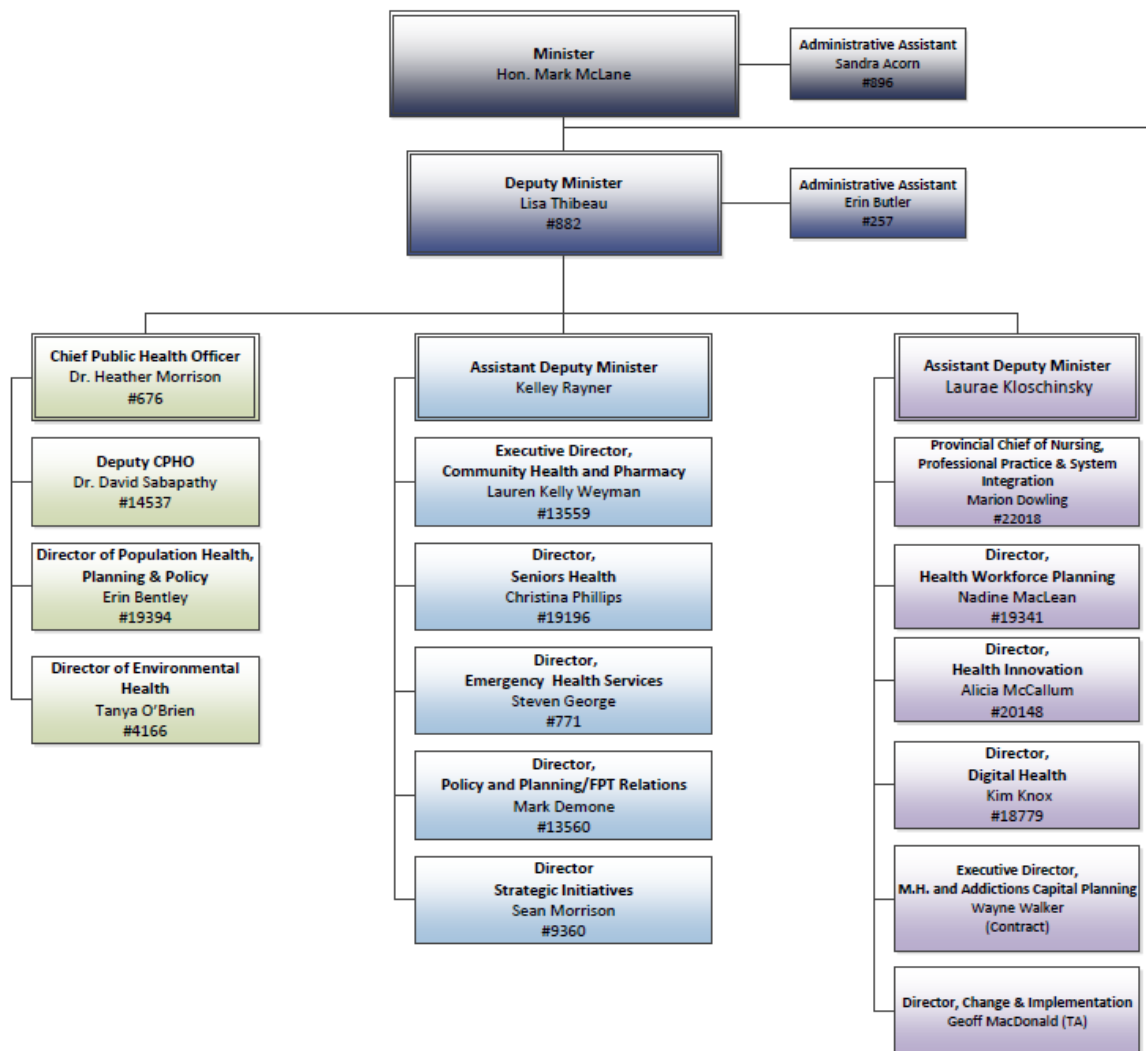
- In partnership with Health PEI and the Medical Society of PEI, a new Physician Services Agreement was finalized to support the health care system, physicians and promote health innovation.
- In efforts to support the stable ongoing delivery of quality care, the Department provided funding to address wage comparability for non-management staff of private long-term care homes.
- The Department streamlined regulatory processes by eliminating the annual licensing requirement for non-profit food premises. This policy change reduced administrative burden, conserved staffing resources, and minimized paper waste, while maintaining public health oversight and supporting community-based food initiatives.

- The regulation of paramedics was transitioned from the Emergency Medical Service Board to the College of Paramedicine of PEI, enabling self-regulation for paramedics within the province.
- The transition of team members to the Department from Health PEI was completed for Pharmacare programs, which is part of a longer-term plan to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Pharmacare programs in PEI.
- In 2024, the Department implemented regulatory changes to enable Physician Assistants (PA), Associate Physicians (AP), Clinical Assistants (CA), and Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs) to practice in PEI. Adding new classes of regulated health professions to the health care system in PEI can help improve workforce stability and access to care.
- The scope of practice for Physician Assistants was expanded to better match practices in other regions.
- Regulatory changes were introduced to allow RNs and Registered Psychiatric Nurses with advanced certification to prescribe, dispense, and administer certain drugs.
- A new RN Bridging Program was launched to support IENs to address educational and practical gaps required to obtain their RN registration.

4.3 Partnerships and Collaboration

- In partnership with the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, work is ongoing to support the implementation of the Enhanced Emergency Sexual Assault Program, including training of more than 50 staff from emergency departments across the province and a multisectoral working group that meets on a regular basis to ensure progress on the program implementation.
- A new Health Careers Guide was created in collaboration with the Department of Education and Early Years and Health PEI to highlight careers in public and private health care across the Island.
- The Department, in partnership with Saskatchewan Polytechnic, launched the Transition to Registered Nursing in Canada (TRNC) Program, which is a 14-week program assisting IENs to transition into the Canadian nursing environment.

Department of Health and Wellness Organizational Structure



Financial Statements 2024-2025

Department of Health and Wellness

	Expenses \$	Revenue \$	Net Expenses (Revenue) \$
Minister and Deputy Minister's Office	608,627	-	608,627
Community Health and Policy	45,881,350	1,551,545	44,329,805
Pharmacy Services	61,183,501	12,750,821	48,432,680
Health Workforce, and Recruitment	8,764,873		8,764,873
Chief Public Health Office	9,741,516	791,639	8,452,161
Mental Health and Addictions Office	12,332,301	6,851,344	8,198,795
Health Innovation	6,456,193	29,364,432	(22,908,239)
	146,412,074	51,309,781	95,102,293

Minister and Deputy Minister's Office

	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Administration	8,241	22,700
Equipment	3,259	1,500
Materials, Supplies and Services	7,722	7,500
Professional Services	-	25,000
Salaries	566,422	569,700
Travel and Training	22,983	22,700
	608,627	649,100
Total Minister and Deputy Minister's Office	608,627	649.10

Community Health and Policy

	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Health Policy and Planning		-
Administration	5,902	11,100
Equipment	5,181	4,700
Materials, Supplies and Services	1,874	1,800
Professional Services	51,027	100,000
Salaries	1,129,459	1,217,100
Travel and Training	10,785	16,600

Grants		
Federal, Provincial and Territorial Organization Grant	2,656	10,300
Miscellaneous	75,000	75,000
		1,436,600
Seniors' Health	12,722	
Administration	6,470	18,000
Equipment	3,287	7,200
Materials, Supplies and Services	330,553	10,400
Professional Services	1,745,176	287,500
Salaries	51,170	1,869,900
Travel and Training		83,900
Grants	6,126,055	
Miscellaneous	8,275,433	13,322,600
		15,599,500
Emergency Health Services		
Administration	3,839	13,800
Equipment	3,575	1,500
Materials, Supplies and Services	1,598	1,100
Professional Services	21,945,856	22,305,200
Salaries	577,092	611,800
Travel and Training	4,281	10,500
Grants		
Non-Governmental Organization Operating Grants	714,910	954,800
Ground Ambulance Program	1,051,400	888,200
Air Ambulance Program	1,588,692	1,360,100
Education Bursaries	5,000	24,000
Canadian Blood Agency	3,053,656	2,907,100
Miscellaneous	758,245	263,100
	29,708,144	29,341,200
	Expenses	Estimates
	\$	\$
Community Health Programs		
Administration	33,401	58,200
Equipment	7,436	20,000
Materials, Supplies and Services	77,320	108,800
Professional Services	39,759	416,000
Salaries	1,042,835	1,200,300
Travel and Training	12,159	25,500
Grants		
Non-Governmental Organization Operating Grants	2,909,980	2,765,400
Fertility Funding Program	313,290	452,000

Federal, Provincial and Territorial Organization Grant	-	115,000
Miscellaneous	2,179,709	2,432,800
	6,615,889	7,594,000
Total Community Health and Policy	45,881,350	53,971,300

	Revenue \$
Seniors' Health	
Federal	
Miscellaneous	1,527,381
Licenses and Permits	
Community Care Facility / Nursing Home Licenses	1,300
Other	
Gain on Disposal of Assets	22,864
	1,551,545
Emergency Health Services	
Licenses and Permits	
Miscellaneous	-
	-
Total Community Health and Policy	1,551,545

Health Workforce, Recruitment, and Pharmaceutical Services

	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Health Workforce and Recruitment		
Administration	48,156	38,200
Debt	26,000	-
Equipment	26,056	14,900
Materials, Supplies and Services	638,695	352,000
Professional Services	476,320	236,200
Salaries	1,747,976	2,363,800
Travel and Training	368,085	103,100
Grants		
Miscellaneous	5,433,585	6,278,400
	8,764,873	9,386,600

Pharmacy Services	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Administration	97,534	52,800
Equipment	6,006	9,900
Materials, Supplies and Services	1,008,717	704,100
Professional Services	2,811,865	3,208,800
Salaries	1,583,814	1,401,600
Travel and Training	5,219	10,100
Grants		
Pharmacare	55,670,346	59,307,800
	61,183,501	64,695,100
Total Services	69,948,374	74,081,700

	Revenue \$
Pharmacy Services	
Federal	
Miscellaneous	12,750,821
	12,750,821
Total Pharmacy Services	12,750,821

Chief Public Health Office

	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Chief Public Health Office		-
Administration	37,546	30,200
Equipment	989	5,000
Materials, Supplies and Services	6,811,843	5,500,900
Professional Services	553,756	1,017,800
Salaries	1,656,164	1,627,800
Travel and Training	31,386	19,000
	9,091,684	8,200,700
Population Health Assessment and Surveillance		
Administration	2,767	4,300
Equipment	528	2,800
Materials, Supplies and Services	12,933	15,600
Professional Services	24,171	132,100
Salaries	431,807	482,600

Travel and Training	3,525	300
	475,731	637,700
Health Promotion		
Administration	4,434	7,200
Equipment	10,018	-
Materials, Supplies and Services	845,186	495,800
Professional Services	278,335	422,200
Salaries	569,554	631,900
Travel and Training	22,475	6,700
Grants		
Miscellaneous	170,009	191,500
	1,900,011	1,755,300
Environmental Health Services		
Administration	23,690	18,100
Equipment	188	800
Materials, Supplies and Services	17,953	29,800
Professional Services	44,232	87,500
Salaries	951,395	1,189,000
Travel and Training	48,812	61,200
Total Chief Public Health Office	12,553,696	11,980,100

	Revenue \$
Population Health Assessment and Surveillance	
Federal	
Miscellaneous	278,853
	278,853
Health Promotion	
Federal	
Miscellaneous	188,752
Sales	
Miscellaneous	142,079
	330,831
Environmental Health Services	
Licenses and Fees	
Food Premises License	132,870
Miscellaneous	300
Fees and Services	
Meat Inspection Program	26,512

Workshop Fees	21,873
Miscellaneous	400
	181,955
Total Chief Public Health Office	791,639

Mental Health and Addictions Office

	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Administration	4,908	7,500
Equipment	5,390	4,500
Materials, Supplies and Services	114,484	76,700
Professional Services	3,245,182	3,917,200
Salaries	517,568	638,200
Travel and Training	5,491	14,000
Grants		
Canadian Mental Health Association	3,602,500	3,602,500
Non-Governmental Organization Operating Grants	4,808,560	4,463,800
Miscellaneous	300,000	300,000
	12,604,083	13,024,400
Total Mental Health and Addictions Office	12,604,083	13,024,400

	Revenue \$
Mental Health and Addictions Office	
Federal	
Infrastructure Program	5,787,096
Miscellaneous	614,663
Other	
Miscellaneous	449,585
	6,851,344
Total Mental Health and Addictions Office	6,851,344

Health Innovation

	Expenses \$	Estimates \$
Administration	21,226	13,600
Equipment	16,889	4,500
Materials, Supplies and Services	49,044	14,000
Professional Services	270,761	490,100
Salaries	1,022,672	1,020,600
Travel and Training	29,021	32,000
Grants		
Non-Governmental Organization Operating Grants	110,000	212,000
Miscellaneous	1,832,338	-
	3,351,951	1,786,800
Digital Health		
Administration	43,942	53,500
Equipment	2,080	-
Materials, Supplies and Services	738	5,000
Professional Services	941,346	604,000
Salaries	464,092	466,100
Travel and Training	11,795	10,000
Grants		
Miscellaneous	-	5,455,000
	1,463,993	6,593,600
Total Health Innovation	4,815,944	8,380,400

Total Health and Wellness	146,412,074	162,087,000
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	Revenue \$
Health Innovation	
Federal	
Miscellaneous	20,666,313
Sales	
Miscellaneous	26,153
	20,692,466
Digital Health	
Federal	
Miscellaneous	8,671,966
	8,671,966
Total Health Innovation	29,364,432

Total Health and Wellness	51,309,781
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