



Prince Edward Island  
**PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS**

2024-25 Operating Budget

Department of Finance



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## Executive Summary

The Department of Finance held Pre-Budget Consultations from late November 2023 to mid-February 2024. This report presents the input received from Islanders through written submissions, online survey responses, emails, public & stakeholder virtual and in-person consultation sessions.

All the recommendations received have been grouped into topics of **Health Care; Business, Economy and Taxes; Social Programs, Housing and Not-for-Profits; Strong and Inclusive Communities; Education and Advanced Learning; Climate Action and Government Operations**. Themes emerged within each topic group from Islander recommendations.

The government listened to your recommendations. There are a number of items in the 2024-25 Operating Budget that reflect input received from these pre-budget consultations.

The most recommendations received were for **Health Care**. Islanders would like government to improve the health care system by using new and innovative strategies to recruit and retain health care professionals; improve access to primary and specialist care and reduce all wait times. Our residents are also wanting an investment in a five-year strategic plan to promote senior wellness; additional funding for home-based restorative care programs for seniors; add new long-term care spaces and increase supports to medical programs especially mental health and addictions.

Some 2024-25 Operating Budget Initiatives that address input from Islanders include:

- Continue funding the implementation of the Primary Care Roadmap with the goal to have up to 30 Patient Medical Homes operational by next spring.
- Additional funding to the home-based restorative care program to improve Senior's physical wellbeing and support older adults to continue to live at home.
- Finance PEI and the Department of Health & Wellness are partnering to support private nursing homes to create new spaces in response to the long-term care review recommendation.
- Additional funding for virtual tools to support and improve health care access (including Scheduling, virtual appointments, unaffiliated virtual care clinics).
- Creating an International Educated Nurses (IEN) Integration program and a Registered Nurses (RN) Bridging program, along with relocation supports to attract and streamline the expansion of our nursing workforce.
- Funding for additional physicians to work in PEI's health care system.
- Offering LPNs upskill funding to take a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to become a Registered Nurse.
- Increasing the number of Dalhousie Family Medicine Residency seats available for Islanders from five to seven.
- Increase funding for Hope Air so patients and family members have financial support for travel to out-of-province health appointments.

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- Additional funding for the women's wellness program and gender affirming health clinic.

### The **Business, Economy and Taxes**

recommendations focused on: helping grow and support business, especially in off-seasons; partnering with the private sector to fund a multi-sector workforce strategy; providing more business navigators to assist small and medium-sized businesses; update PEI tax brackets to align with other Atlantic Provinces; and provide tax incentives/rebates to attract investors and new graduates to PEI.

Some 2024-25 Operating Budget Initiatives that address input in these areas include:

- Providing grants to tourism operators to assist with product development to help make PEI a year-round tourist destination.
- The Basic Personal amount will increase to reach \$14,250 in January 2025.
- The income threshold for low-income tax reduction will rise by \$750 in January 2025.
- Lowering tax rates for four income tax brackets.
- Continue investment in the bioscience sector through the development of a second incubator space.
- Funding to implement the first phase of PEI's land purchase support program for new farmers.

### **Social Programs, Housing and Not-for-Profits**

recommendations focused on: increase funding to seniors programs and benefits; creating a long-term vision for seniors; increase thresholds for income-based

programs for individuals and families; support families struggling with high costs of living; provide more low-income, long-term housing alternatives; develop a land use plan for PEI; streamline processes for housing developments and increase not-for-profits (NFP) funding and benefits.

Some 2024-25 Operating Budget Initiatives that relate to the input we heard:

- New Community Housing Expansion program that will fund and support an increase of affordable housing units operated by non-profits and co-operatives in PEI.
- PEI Housing Corporation will receive more funding to operate newly constructed or acquired housing units.
- Seniors Independence Initiative benefit will increase to an annual maximum of \$1,800.
- A new child benefit program will be created to help families with costs associated with raising children with the first payment in January 2025.
- Continue funding for emergency shelters supports, outreach services and residential services.
- An increase to the income threshold for the Kid Sports Program so more families can be eligible to receive funding for their child to participate in sports.
- Additional support is being provided to reduce construction and permit wait times and to support the creation of PEI's Land Use Plan.

**Strong and Inclusive Communities** is another theme from Islanders and recommendations focused on: ending violence against

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women and families; bridging the support gap with immigrants who are in between residence status; matching growth of infrastructure and services with population growth; investing more in transit in rural PEI and encourage expansion of amenities in rural communities.

Some 2024-25 Operating Budget Initiatives that respond to this input include:

- Implement the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence by allocating federal funding to eligible organizations to support Islanders experiencing, or at risk of, perpetual gender-based violence.
- Additional funding for Anti-Racism grants for charitable organizations to assist with anti-racism activities that benefit and impact racialized and indigenous communities in PEI.

### **Education and Advanced Learning**

recommendations focused on: continue funding the school food program; provide pathways for internship and co-op programs for students (high school, college and university); expand the George Coles Bursary; add more teachers and education assistance to all levels of education; increase funding for learning disability programs and increase childcare spaces.

Some 2024-25 Operating Budget Initiatives that relate to this area are:

- Create an elementary school-aged vision care program.
- Provide additional funding to the school breakfast program and continue to fund the provincial school lunch program.

- Increased funding to early years program to provide additional childcare spaces, with 30% of new spaces allocated for infants.
- Created additional teaching and support positions within our public school system.
- Increased the George Coles Bursary amount and expanding the program to include students studying off-Island in health care training programs.

The public had many thoughts on **Climate Action** and their recommendations included: incentives for farmers to adopt more climate and environmentally friendly farming; increasing the income threshold for the free heat pump program; expanding transit routes across PEI and protect more natural areas including coastlines.

Some 2024-25 Operating Budget Initiatives that respond to this input are:

- Incentivize installation of heat pumps, hot water heaters and insulation.
- New clean technology program for agriculture producers in PEI looking to adopt clean technologies to decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reduce energy costs.
- Begin development of Shoreline Management Plans in response to the Canadian Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation at UPEI Interim Coastal Report policy recommendations.
- Expanding the EV charging network of both fast chargers and level 2 chargers across PEI.

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- Expand the Island-wide transit system and continue to subsidize the cost to \$2 per ride to make it affordable.
- Increase funding to Island Nature Trust specifically for land acquisition.

**Government Operations** Recommendations focused on: increasing funding to hire more RCMP Officers; creating a long-term plan and vision for PEI; continuing to lobby the federal government for a Guaranteed Basic Income; creating shared government spaces in rural areas; pushing for Confederation Bridge toll reduction; and continue to be fiscally responsible and transparent with government operations.

Some 2024-25 Operating Budget Initiatives relating to these areas include:

- Funding to further build law enforcement capacity to detect and enforce impaired driving and promote awareness of impaired driving harms and countermeasures.
- Study to review all government front-facing services to provide data for future investments into Access PEI locations and service offerings.
- A budgeted deficit for 2024-25 lower than budgeted deficit for the prior fiscal year.





## Pre-Budget Consultation Process

The Department of Finance opens the budget process to Islanders each year through pre-budget consultations. For the 2024-25 Operating Budget, Islanders were invited to provide their input (English or French) through an online survey, email ([budgetsubmissions@gov.pe.ca](mailto:budgetsubmissions@gov.pe.ca)) or written submission. The Minister and Deputy Minister held virtual Pre-Budget Consultations on December 4, 2023, and December 18, 2023, to hear the voices of Islanders.

Pre-budget consultations were advertised through a government media release, and various media sources including newspapers, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube where the Minister of Finance posted a video on the importance

of Islanders' input into the operating budget (Appendix C).

The response was positive, as the Department of Finance received 362 survey responses, 45 written submissions by organizations and over 20 emails from the public. Appendix A lists the organizations that provided written submissions. Appendix B shows the results of the online public survey.

The Minister of Finance, Honourable Jill Burridge, co-hosted three roundtable focus groups with key industry stakeholders to discuss what immediate issues the government should keep in mind when developing the operating budget.



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The first roundtable was co-hosted with Honourable Natalie Jameson, Minister of Education and Early Years, and Honourable Jenn Redmond, Minister of Workforce Advanced Learning and Population, and was held on February 1, 2024 with a small group of student leaders, aged 16-24, from various academic and trade institutions on PEI and Youth Network to discuss supports the government could offer to youth to be successful in the next stages of life on PEI.

The second roundtable was co-hosted with Honourable Gilles Arsenault, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Trade, was held on February 7, 2023, with a small group of leaders from key business and growth sectors in PEI to discuss what help might be needed to grow small and medium-sized business productivity and innovation over the next three years.

The third was co-hosted with Honourable Barb Ramsey, Minister of Social Development and Seniors, was held on February 9, 2024, with various Not-For-Profits and Non-Governmental Organizations to discuss what might be needed to address Island residents' affordability over the next one to three years.

The input received from Islanders through written submissions, online survey responses, emails, public & stakeholder virtual and in-person consultation sessions was forwarded to the appropriate department(s) for their

consideration during the budget process and their work during the upcoming year.

Responses to the online survey questions provided the following key messages:

- Islanders would like to see further government investments in primary health care and further tax reductions for individuals and families.
- Government should raise revenue through increases in taxes to alcohol, tobacco and cannabis.
- Islanders would like government to prioritize financial supports for individuals and families and climate adaptation funding for communities to prepare for future weather events.
- Now is not the time to balance the budget, instead government should make investments in program and services while planning for a return to a balanced budget over the next four years.

The input received from all participants has been anonymized and is presented in the following categories:

- Health Care
- Business, Economy and Taxes
- Social Programs, Housing and Not-for-Profits
- Strong and Inclusive Communities
- Education and Advanced Learning

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Climate Action
- Government Operations

This report does not provide any cross-reference to existing programs that may address issues raised by contributors.

## Health Care

### Medical Supports

- Provide more medical programs and services for seniors.
- Deliver programs and medical appointments through Zoom or other avenues where people can participate from home to make it cost-effective and accessible for physically challenged individuals.
- Provide medical and chronic health assistance services for people with disabilities.
- Launch the urgently needed Caregiver Grant program.
- Continue to develop a strong clinical trial environment through regional collaboration (the Atlantic Clinical Trials Network-ACTN) to ensure Islanders have early access to innovative therapies.
- Provide more health care support.
- Increase the prescription quantities for oral anti-Parkinson medications that fall under the special authorization category to the standard maximum 90-day supply.
- Improve access to health supports to enhance physical health, bodily integrity, and dignity, such as free menstrual products in schools, dental coverage and ostomy supplies.
- Prioritize programs and services for people with disabilities. Many families on PEI have children/family members with learning differences (LDs) who cannot access support.
- Support for prescription drugs.
- Provide Island seniors with the free Arexvy vaccine to protect them from getting RSV.
- Increase funding for the PEI Pharmacare Formulary to expand access to prescription medication coverage.
- Provide more walk-in clinics for Islanders.
- Include take-home cancer drugs in the province's public drug insurance plan.
- Close the gap for Oncofertility services for adolescents and young adults with cancer.
- Partner with the Canadian Cancer Society to co-design a travel program for cancer patients to remove the financial barriers to care.
- Ensure that no one with cancer worries about job security while undergoing treatment by extending unpaid job-protected leave to at least 26 weeks.
- Expand the lung cancer screening program for high-risk populations.
- Increase access to virtual care services.
- Offer glucose monitoring access to all type 2 diabetics.
- Supports for persons with disabilities need to continue at age 18 (adult) regardless of income.
- Give more flexibility in how funding is made available for eligible dental services so that the highest priority treatments can be completed.
- Increase communication of Dental Health Service details to Islanders and stakeholders.
- Increase the funding for the new Primary Caregiver Grant program to ensure the scope is large enough.

- Do not drop support for children with intellectual disabilities at age 18, rather develop a school to work transition program that keeps them supported five days a week.
- Need a long-term vision to support adults with intellectual disabilities.
- Improving access to primary care programs and services for arthritis in communities across PEI will help Islanders better manage their symptoms.
- Align PEI's Guidelines for Diabetes Management in Schools with Diabetes Canada's Guidelines for the Care of Students Living with Diabetes at School.
- Establish private eye clinics on PEI, similar to Kensington Eye Clinic in Toronto, to free up public hospital surgical rooms for other surgeries.
- Consider the use of robotic joints for replacements, which are much safer and require less surgical time.
- Expand day surgery and increase funding to reduce wait time for joint replacement surgeries.
- Provide more long-term cancer screening.
- Reduce wait times for Joint Replacement Surgery.
- Train paediatricians in PEI to offer autism diagnoses and decrease wait times.
- Continue to fund bridging health programs like the Exercise for Health Program which allows Islanders to live a healthier and more fulfilled life through healthy movement.
- Cost share to allow more diabetics to access care.
- Allocate funding to support Islanders living with long COVID.

## Health Care Staffing and Recruitment

- Hire more paediatricians, child psychologists and child psychiatrists.
- Offer incentives to doctoral students at UPEI in the faculty of psychology to stay and work on PEI.
- Actively recruit outside of PEI and Canada for health care vacancies.
- Recruit at least one new movement disorder specialist as part of the province's ongoing physician recruitment plan.
- Help credentialed immigrant professionals, living on PEI, work in their fields.
- Offer sabbatical leave to health care staff for them to acquire additional training in related fields.
- Use new and innovative recruiting strategies to attract and retain mental health care workers.
- Change policies to allow foreign medical professionals to practice on PEI.
- Establish an evolving medical career program on the Island as a proactive measure to address shortages of health care workers.
- Aggressively recruit health care workers through incentives like those offered in other provinces.
- Pay Tuition for any student in the health care field (RCW, LPN, RN, social worker, radiation technology, pharmacy technician, etc.) with a return to a service agreement that keeps these health professionals on PEI.
- Forgive debt for new medical school graduates.

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- Find ways to attract more specialists, especially movement disorder specialists, to PEI to help serve the Parkinson's community.
- Make it easier for health professionals from other countries to practice in PEI.
- Hire more doctors and nurses on PEI.
- Incentivize doctors to work in rural areas on PEI.
- Create a Workforce Stabilization Incentive for health care workers.
- Improve the Recruitment and Retention program of physicians and nurse practitioners.
- Bring more Doctors to PEI.
- Offer doctors incentives and reduce red tape.
- Support workplace health benefit plans.
- Invest more in cancer care to reduce long timelines for cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing health needs of an ageing population.
- Invest \$25,000 to commission a report that examines the impact of stroke care in PEI.
- Reduce the impact of stroke by renewing \$60,000 in annual funding for the FAST Signs of Stroke public awareness campaign over the next two years.
- Expand resources for the Heart Function Clinic based out of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital by adding a full-time nurse practitioner.
- Focus on investing in short and long-term goals to curb public health issues.
- Allocate adequate funding to set up and run a publicly funded registered midwifery program.
- Modernize medical insurance legislation to harmonize with other provinces.
- Create a Confederation Bridge Toll reimbursement program for Islanders needing out-of-province health care.
- Focus on team-based health care, optimizing health care delivery and rural health care hubs.
- Make health care a priority in this budget.
- Increase palliative care staff to provide quality, safe and responsive palliative care in all settings, including home and long-term care.
- Invest in more detox programs across PEI.

## Health Care System and Funding

- Delay the medical school as need to address the medical needs of Islanders first.
- Increase the number of nursing care beds to reduce the burden on the hospital system of inpatients waiting to be transferred to a nursing home.
- Reform Health PEI to address the needs of health care professionals and increase wages for health care workers.
- Provide a solution for people without a family doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Advocate for UPEI to offer programs in related fields (ex. Master of Social Work, Master of Education in Counselling, Pediatricists, Psychiatry, etc.)
- Set up medical hubs to be cost-effective and convenient.

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- Invest more in public health to update adult vaccination programs with the newest innovative vaccines, to adequately protect older residents from pneumococcal infectious diseases.
- Remove the current age restriction and expand the existing insulin pump program to include all people with type 1 diabetes.
- Allocate sufficient public health resources to ensure a high vaccination rate against human papilloma virus (HPV).
- Increased funding for nurse practitioners to support more primary care providers.
- Investment in health services across the Island, particularly in primary care.
- Invest in dementia care services to ensure staff are educated to provide the special care dementia patients require.
- Urgently establish a formal out-of-province service agreement for health care services, not provided on PEI, with neighbouring provinces.
- Invest in primary health care services such as family medicine, home care, mental health and addictions.
- Invest more money in health care.
- Focus this budget on health care.
- Increase primary care providers so everyone on the Island has their own doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Provide more funding to help families impacted by dementia to support their family member at home, with direct funds to families and community organizations: Alzheimer Society, Meals on Wheels, subsidized respite care and homemaking services.
- Allocate funds for youth health.
- Address the health care needs of Islanders.
- Prioritize fixing the health care system and especially long wait times in the Emergency Department.
- More public discussions on health care.
- Improve timely access to care and services in communities.
- Improve access to primary health care.
- Explore new models of care for arthritis disease to ensure timely access (right care by the right provider).
- Fund programs, activities, and organizations that promote physical activity and mental health.
- Expand focus on alternative solutions to family doctor shortage like expanding the funding model for nurse practitioners.
- Create more efficient health care delivery and increase access to vaccines for seniors.
- Stabilize the situation at the QEH as there are too many short-term appointments and many vacant supervisory positions in all departments.
- Prioritize health care - there's a need for nurses, doctors and everyone to be able to work at their scope of practice to alleviate this system, as well as have the staff, equipment and resources to do it.
- Develop a health care plan and invest in primary health care by bringing more family doctors, social workers and addiction specialists to PEI.
- Improved access to primary health care, medical homes and family doctors.
- Increase access to medical services for rural areas on the Island.

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- Make health care and access to family doctors the government's top priority.
- Introduce a fee for missed health appointments to incentivize people to attend.
- Reduce the wait times in ERs, especially in rural areas.
- Prioritize the development of an acute care hospital in King's County and the upgrades at QEH.
- Make health care a top priority as problems are compounding with no access to primary care or hospital beds resulting in strains throughout the system.
- Increase funding for cancer treatments to ensure Islanders get access to the same treatments as in other provinces.
- Invest in prevention programs for seniors like Increased Home Care to support Aging in Place, Exercise for Health Program and Support for Assistive Devices such as hearing aids, walkers, glasses and dental care.
- Refurbish hearing aids to reduce the cost for people needing hearing assistance (\$8,000/pair).
- Provide a grant for a refurbished hearing aid business.
- Provide grants to train and hire more registered nurses.
- Provide funding to ensure that off-reserve Indigenous people receive culturally safe and appropriate health care by requiring all health care providers to take cultural safety and cultural competency training.
- Provide more attractive incentives to lure more doctors to PEI.
- Provide easier and better access to health care for families who do not have family doctors.
- Expand access to the Primary Caregiver Grant to include oncology and palliative care caregivers.
- Make data-driven decisions to support health.
- Invest in priority actions from the Health Strategy for Women and Islanders who are Gender Diverse.
- Encourage the University of Prince Edward Island's forthcoming Faculty of Medicine to support the development and training of neurologists and movement disorder specialists.
- Provide more services for all children with special needs and financial support for families in line with other provinces.
- Provide easier access to receive or modify prescriptions for Islanders without family doctors.
- Draw a concrete plan to fund new doctors, nurses and medical support staff required to support our health care system.
- Fix issues associated with long-term care as there haven't been any new long-term care beds opened in the last three years so new ideas need to be circulated.

## Mental Health

- Increase the age of mental health walk-in clinics to 12 years old with parental permission.



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- Provide options for mental health practitioners to take on off-island practicum students to help fill gaps and open doors for employment and retention of these students.
- Provide funding for housing and health care services for those experiencing mental health and addiction issues.
- Expand transitional housing to ensure that people exiting treatment facilities can receive the support they need in their community.
- Support the mental health and well-being of caregivers.
- Work collaboratively across government departments to improve available mental health resources (i.e. depts of Justice, Health, Education).
- Provide more addiction and mental health services on PEI.
- Improved access to health services, particularly mental health care.
- Provide greater investments in mental health and addictions.
- Prioritize spending for mental health and addiction, focusing on hiring more health care professionals.
- Offer more mental health supports for youth.
- Create mental health early intervention program through the public education system.
- Increase mental health resources in the school system.
- Hire culturally competent mental health professionals to support youth with social isolation and international students.
- Extend mental health support to all Islanders.

- Invest support in sports and recreation as an avenue to support mental health needs.

## Wellness, Harm Prevention and Health Promotion

- Invest in public health education to help control public health issues.
- Provide more money to support physical health and exercise programs.
- Expand accessibility supports for children with complex medical needs, including occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech services.
- Implement the recommendations outlines in the PEI Seniors Health and Wellness Action Plan.
- Invest in health care with a strong focus on prevention.
- Fund wellness programs and preventative medicine.
- Partner with Heart & Stroke, Canadian Cancer Society and Lung Association to modernize tobacco and e-cigarette control measures and legislation.
- Ensure significant public health measures are included in any lawsuit settlement with tobacco companies.
- Focus on preventative health.
- Invest more money and resources into addiction services like outpatient programming in Charlottetown to complement the Mount Herbert facility and outpatient programming in Kings and Prince County.
- Implement a retail license fee for tobacco and e-cigarette retailers.

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- Require health and safety messaging at outlets where alcohol is sold to inform the public about the risks, including cancer, of alcohol consumption.
- Urgently invest more in addiction services.
- Provide housing and drug rehab treatment for those who need it on PEI.
- Invest in affordable and accessible caregiving services, including childcare, eldercare, homecare, long-term care and respite services, to increase equitable access to paid work, education and training opportunities.
- Invest more money to encourage people to make healthier food choices and participate in sports.
- Received numerous email testimonials on the positive mental and physical health benefits of Katie Beck's virtual Exercise Physiology program on the lives of people living with a wide range of medical conditions,
- Invest in business and community sports, recreation, parks etc. as Islanders need to grow healthier together to reduce the burden on the health care system.
- Implement a retail license and fee structure for vaping retailers, and a fee structure for commercial tobacco retailers.
- Invest in economic development that helps small businesses grow.
- Support businesses and help get jobs for the underemployed.
- Provide small businesses with rent subsidies.
- Support small businesses, especially in PEI's off-season.
- Review paid sick leave for employees and consider a shared risk approach between the government and small businesses.
- Invest in Island businesses besides fishing and tourism.
- Limit sponsorship for businesses and landlords.
- Invest to support full-time year-round jobs.
- Reduce government services as the private sector can do it more efficiently.
- Invest in small businesses, which will generate more revenue for the province.
- Look after farmers, fishermen and small businesses.
- Help small businesses prosper as they create 80% of new jobs in Canada.
- Provide better compensation to workers who have been injured at work, especially volunteer firefighters.
- Supporting a dynamic and innovative business climate.
- Finance PEI should find ways of complementing business bank loans rather than competing with banks by fully or partially funding projects to keep interest rates low.
- Increase assistance to small businesses to address labour shortages.

## Business, Economy and Taxes

### Growing and Supporting Business and Economy

- Prioritize programs that support economic growth in Rural PEI.

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- Partner with the private sector to fund a multi-sector workforce strategy with targets for economic growth, including business and community-led solutions.
- Invest in the private sector by outsourcing work (i.e., contract or full-time outsourcing to private sector businesses).
- Delay the implementation of paid sick leave (Bill 106) until 2025.
- Improve communication to small business on the requirements to qualify for programs or incentives to grow their businesses.
- Invest in advanced manufacturing to grow the PEI economy.
- Support private sector investment in sustainable infrastructure projects.
- Incentivize more grocery stores, bigger chain restaurants, amusement parks to come to PEI.
- Re-commit resources to reduce regulatory requirements and burdens on business.
- Commit to taking a “do no harm” approach to policies affecting small and medium-sized businesses.
- Make it attractive for people who are on Employment Insurance to build careers on PEI.
- Accelerate manufacturing and production on the Island by offering incentives for investors.
- Host an “Industry Day” in PEI, similar to Farm Day in PEI, highlighting the variety of industries and work opportunities in PEI.
- Finance PEI should not lend to the unlendable.
- Host another European Trade Mission with the business community, visiting manufacturing plants and suppliers so can bring back ideas for new products and/or processes to PEI.
- Adopt the Yukon program for paid sick leave for small and medium-sized businesses where they can apply for rebate from government on replacement worker cost to cover employees on sick leave.
- Create a single point of access, either online or in-person, to the full suite of government programs available to small and medium-sized businesses.
- Create an overall workforce recruitment slogan such as “Come Stay with Us”, a play on the tourism slogan “Come Play with Us”, to attract workers to PEI.
- Provide significant permanent annual investment to Innovation PEI and Skills PEI for the Film & Television Education and Training Fund.
- Provide funding to assist with Red Seal certificate training, as takes two to three years for a return on training investment for small businesses.
- Have BDC, Finance PEI and ACOA work together to fill financing gaps from private banks, such as support to reduce interest rates, longer amortization periods and providing security for small and medium-sized businesses.
- The government provide support to increase small and medium-sized business wages to be more competitive with other jurisdictions, businesses cannot afford to do it on their own.
- Encourage regular business community to collaborate on monthly issues/idea forums to help each other thrive.

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- Expand Skills PEI funding for training from one to three years to assist small and medium-sized businesses with high training costs.
- Help attract tradesmen by adopting a new program, like Nova Scotia that rebates the provincial income tax paid on the first \$50,000 of income earned by workers under 30 years old in eligible skilled trades and file/video occupations.
- Establish global staffing offices in other countries to help hire a pool of workers in professions with high vacancies (engineers, health care workers) for PEI and offer free training for a five-year return in service.
- Expand available capital to allow small and medium-sized businesses to expand/pursue new opportunities.
- Develop a program that lends business expertise/consultant to small and medium-sized businesses to help them plan for the future/assist with expansion.
- Regularly engage small businesses (less than 100 staff) to discuss their challenges and needs.
- Government follow-up on the Partnership for Growth Initiative and commit to implementing the plan.
- Provide low-cost interest loans for business capital, similar to rates/rebates offered in the housing sector.
- Hire more business navigators to help individual businesses navigate the system of available programs, grants, and loans and assist with the application process.
- Help businesses be more competitive by using incentives to attract needed workforce.
- Remove red tape around the development of new business initiatives to allow for faster implementation, which would attract more businesses and capital to PEI.
- Expand skills training to allow Islanders to retrain in trades/professions with vacancies on PEI.
- Skills PEI work with businesses to provide a skills-based training program to train engineers and other tradesmen.
- Improve access to capital through low-cost interest loans for entrepreneurs to grow their businesses.

## Taxes

- Add rent costs and property tax credits as a deduction from income on Personal Income Tax Forms.
- Work with the federal government to increase the Small Business Deduction (SBD) threshold on federal tax from \$500K to \$700K as last change was in 2009.
- Increase taxes on very high incomes, investment returns, and business profits.
- Reduce taxes on PEI to be in line with other provinces like British Columbia.
- Eliminate the provincial sales tax on energy and essential services and products.
- Implement a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, with the revenue dedicated to health promotion.
- Create a rebate program for investors.
- Create a tax policy that is more competitive and favors investors to help attract entrepreneurs and skilled people.
- Invest the fuel taxes collected into infrastructure, like roads in rural PEI.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Provide tax rebates for new graduates to attract them to the Island.
- Provide tax incentives for improvements/upgrading of older historical/cultural buildings.
- Study and develop strategies to expand income tax credits for healthy living as a way to improve wellness.
- Tax and regulate private businesses more and encourage companies to be more accountable through fees and taxes.
- Legislate so that increased taxes to businesses are not transferred directly to consumers.
- Include small businesses in any property tax remediation initiative targeted to residents.
- Consider a differentiated tax approach that recognizes the varying levels of harm associated with different tobacco products.
- Create a balanced strategy that considers the impact of high taxes on legitimate retailers, coupled with enhanced enforcement measures to combat illicit trade, safeguard public health and maintain the integrity of regulatory measures.
- Lower the Harmonized Sales Tax rate.
- Increase the tobacco tax by \$3.40 per carton of 200 cigarettes, resulting in the cost for a carton rising from \$59.04 to \$62.44, to match inflation and close the roll-your-own loophole.
- Tax corporations and individuals with very high incomes/wealth, use those funds to increase services and help balance the budget.
- Fund an initiative that will modernize the property tax system.
- Provide tax breaks for parents who homeschool or send their children to private schools.
- Increase income tax rates at the higher tax brackets and reduce income tax rates at lower tax brackets.
- Tax recreation/investment property the same as primary residences.
- Make personal and business tax equitable.
- Create a tax system that helps small businesses grow, particularly in exports.
- Tax real estate investors to create affordable resident-owned co-ops.
- Standardize the issuance of charitable tax receipts for the loss of development rights to private landowners who legally protect their land for conservation purposes.
- Lower first and second tier amounts of income tax brackets to make PEI the first choice for workers.
- Continue to freeze property taxes to control inflation.
- Expedite the timeline to increase the Basic Personal Amount to \$15,000.
- Build inflationary increases into this \$15,000 Basic Personal Amount threshold, commencing next year.
- Implement a personal income tax indexing system to prevent inflationary tax bracket creep.
- Increase taxes for high-income earners to subsidize guaranteed income and social support for seniors on a fixed income.
- Use an extreme and progressive approach towards estate tax.
- Lower land taxes and personal income tax.

- Tax people who dump debris on the beach and provide tax incentives for people who refrain from dumping debris onto the beach.
- Tax religious organizations on PEI.
- Better manage the taxes Islanders pay.
- Give tax breaks to single people and single parents on PEI.
- Increase taxes on higher incomes.
- Charge high taxes or penalties on owners who leave buildings vacant.
- No tax increases.
- Increase the Basic Personal Amount to be in line with other provinces.
- Have rental expenses as a deduction (like Ontario) on income tax.
- Provide a PST rebate on new home construction.
- Make programs equally accessible to all families and individuals (e.g. heat pumps).
- Provide support to those who live on minimum wage – as many using food banks and this is not a solution.
- Provide a case worker for the Domestic Violence Therapeutic Court.
- Support families making good salaries but not enough to support the high cost of rent, food and transportation.
- Create more support for the middle class.
- All Islanders need to work collectively to address the vulnerable population issues that are facing PEI.
- Pursue Employment Insurance reform, especially with government policy that provides temporary employment to workers to qualify for EI.
- Review accessibility support services for the vulnerable population, as many are unable to afford them.
- Collectively put in more effort to help solve some basic issues such as the cost of housing, groceries, etc.
- Focus on investing in diverse programs to support newcomers with loans, credit and others to help them. Provide support mechanisms to keep people from going into poverty.
- Establish preventative programs that attack the root causes of poverty.
- Expand access to government programs.
- Government needs to review thresholds of income-based programming as current amounts disincentivize people to work.

## Social Programs, Housing and Not-for-Profits

### Social Programs and Senior Supports

- Start a program to subsidize or offset the rising cost of groceries on PEI.
- Provide more support to single parents.
- Increase thresholds for families with income between \$90,000 to \$140,000, to become eligible for most programs.
- Establish a Universal Basic Income now.
- Please review all social services programs to ensure they can meet the demands of the growing population.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Increase Senior Citizens Federation annual core funding to help make operations more effective for Island seniors.
- Increase financial support for recipients of the Grandparent and Alternative Care Provider program.
- Subsidize a central office on PEI for the Senior Citizens Federation to circulate information about various activities and government programs that benefit seniors.
- Consider replicating the Nova Scotia program allowing seniors to stay in their homes longer, run by VON in PEI.
- Train hospice volunteers to work directly in the community with seniors who are aging at home, and/or who are choosing to die at home.
- Recruit more home caregivers to keep seniors in their homes.
- Provide more funding for in-home support to enable seniors to remain in their homes longer.
- Budget to build more seniors homes, as too many hospital beds are taken by seniors waiting to get into seniors' homes, thus reducing available beds for sick Islanders.
- Help all seniors, not just those with the lowest incomes, as middle-class seniors also need help.
- Implement seniors' food program and partner with community service organizations like the Lions Club, Knights of Columbus.
- Specifically providing \$1,500 a month to keep seniors in their homes.
- Increase caregiver benefits and allow for home renovations to assist families in keeping loved ones in their homes.
- Invest in programs that get seniors healthier and happier like exercise programs for seniors.
- Provide programs (friendly visitor program, meals on wheels, etc.) to help get seniors out of the house and into senior clubs for a better quality of life.
- Increase funding to senior programs as funding hasn't increased since 2016.
- Support and expand senior programs such as friendly visitor programs, which have seniors visited by volunteers for groceries, and health appointments with social components.
- Expand programs to keep seniors in their own homes.
- Create a long-term vision for seniors as the majority of the PEI population will be over the age of 65 in the next ten years.
- Provide support for grandparents or family caregivers to allow children to be placed with them instead of foster care.
- Provide online exercise programs for seniors.
- Provide help for seniors living in their own homes, specifically funding for home renovations.
- Continue home Zoom exercise program for seniors with disabilities.
- Expand the pilot project to target the Basic Income Guarantee.
- Continue to lobby the federal government for a Basic Income Guarantee.
- Identify supports needed to prevent people from living on the margins of poverty lines.
- Provide a Guaranteed Basic Income as PEI is experiencing spiralling rates of poverty.



## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Make programs realistic and proactive when it comes to poverty reduction.
- Increase the funding provided to the vulnerable so they can afford their basic needs.
- Provide some long-term workable solutions to affordability on the island.
- Fix the lower range of salaries by matching it to the living wage on the Island.
- Increase services provided for vulnerable people on the Island.
- Relocate the outreach center to another area away from schools to ensure the safety of our school children.
- Prioritize essential services and caring for the most vulnerable as the growth of this province has outpaced the structural capacity of the services offered especially when it comes to health care and housing.
- Raise the income threshold for families so they can get assistance with daycare costs, as majority of family paychecks go towards daycare (pre/after-school care).
- Start building houses for middle-income individuals and families to keep pace with the new builds for low-income and seniors.
- Purchase properties that can be renovated for housing needs.
- Provide affordable housing in rural areas on PEI, such as Montague.
- Increase support to ensure vulnerable populations can access appropriate housing.
- Encourage cross-departmental discussions to fix the housing crisis.
- Remove the constraints on housing and construction to increase the housing supply in PEI.
- Land use planning needs to be effectively managed.
- Match immigration efforts with Housing incentives.
- Grant PEI landlords the right to increase vacant units to market rates when a tenant voluntarily leaves.
- Expropriate the hotel in Summerside and turn it into housing for the homeless.
- Support cooperatives to fund growth by supporting housing projects.

## Housing and Homelessness

- Invest in housing projects.
- Support Island-wide homesteading initiatives that would enable small groups of diverse people to work together to build sustainable self-sufficient food and shelter to share in communities.
- Provide incentives for homeowners to turn homes with empty bedrooms into room rentals or turn into duplexes or triplexes.
- Establish a rent program similar to Nova Scotia that offers a one-time housing grant to newcomers.
- Regulate commercial and residential leases for non-profits and small businesses.
- Look at both the builder and renter when it comes to affordable housing.
- Government needs to prioritize building public housing.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Work closely with private-sector developers, municipalities and other relevant stakeholders to increase the overall supply of housing units in PEI.
- Control the current growth rate of homelessness by developing policy that puts the homeless into a home.
- Advocate for increased funding for the federal housing supplement program as rents for one/two/three bedrooms are too high.
- IRAC needs to ensure their decisions don't negatively impact government programs around transition housing.
- Housing problems, food security and transportation need to be resolved on the island.
- Review government housing supports to ensure they cover all basic needs, including insurance and maintenance costs.
- Increase housing supports for people on social assistance to match the high cost of rent.
- Help the homeless find housing on PEI.
- Provide more low-income long-term housing alternatives.
- Provide a long-term plan for funding our vulnerable population.
- Increase income thresholds to allow more Islanders to qualify for rent supplements and increase the supplement amount to cover the rising costs of living.
- Adopt a Rent Bank Grant program to help renters experiencing temporary and unplanned financial crises to stay housed and avoid eviction; funds are sent directly to their landlord or impacted utility (similar to New Brunswick).
- Housing for staff is one of the biggest challenges for businesses on PEI.
- Immigration is outpacing construction, so the government needs to do more to increase the supply of housing.
- Provide more housing options (single, attached, mini homes, garden suites, secondary suites) for people.
- Freezing rental rates has caused a contraction to the housing supply on PEI.
- Provide affordable subsidized housing.
- Utilize the experienced of the NFP/NGO sector to build subsidized housing units in PEI.
- Give more government building contracts to NFP/NGOs.
- Support middle-income homeowners with mortgages.
- Approve the use of computer-controlled machines that can form light gauge steel studs and tracks into precise parts required to build flawless walls, and engineered floor and roof trusses with minimal waste, as building with galvanized steel components possesses many advantages.
- Permits for residential homes are too expensive.
- Revise the housing support program criteria.
- Make building permits a flat \$250 like they were before 2019 as currently the average cost for building permits is \$2,000.
- Provide more housing for people with disabilities, as many are currently inappropriately housed with no place to go (i.e. Hillsborough Hospital).
- The cost of housing is too high on PEI.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Need to build more appropriate housing so vulnerable populations can live independently and reduce overstay at shelters (only safe housing option available).
- Increase the eligibility amount for housing assistance to more than \$35,000 gross income per year.
- Expropriate the hotel in Summerside to house the homeless in the area.
- Concentrate on housing and mental health, especially for young people.
- Build more houses in rural areas of PEI.
- Ensure that all islanders have a safe and affordable place to live.
- Spend on initiatives to assist middle-class homeowners who are facing substantial increases in mortgage payments.
- Build a variety of affordable housing including tiny homes, mini-home communities, townhouses and apartments.
- Prioritize finding places for Islanders to live.
- Create a Rental Registry, a Landlord Licensing program, and a new Housing Inspector to inspect rental properties to ensure they are being maintained by the owner.
- Ramp up affordable and social housing, particularly for seniors and those without homes.
- PEI lacks an Architect position that approves new building plans as currently requires off-island help which delays development.
- Use vacant buildings, storefronts, etc. for housing non-profit organizations and small businesses.
- Provide more financial support to the middle class, such as first-time home buyers.
- Increase the amount earned for programs with specific thresholds.

## Not-For-Profits (NFP) and Non-Government Organizations (NGO)

- Fund operating budgets for NFP/NGOs as donations are no longer enough to support programs, especially for organizations involved in health, housing, home care and seniors.
- Increase benefits to NFP/NGO programs as many haven't been increased in over 20 years.
- Strengthen the collaboration between NFP/NGO and government/private agencies to ensure all funds available are being distributed to appropriate organizations.
- Ensure efficient, timely and appropriate funding to NFP/NGOs as impacts applications for private funding.
- Government share/co-fund the costs of training NFP/NGO staff as many trained staff leave for higher-paying government jobs.
- Help NFP/NGOs with increases in their costs and demands, as they are struggling to maintain the same level of services to their increased number of clients.
- Provide capital investments in ageing buildings run by non-profits.
- Support NFO/NGO in offering emergency funding to clients to allow people more options than high-interest loans when facing a financial crisis.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Adopt a vision on how departments can work collaboratively to streamline funding renewals with the NFP/NGO sector.
- For NFP/NGOs to attract and retain skilled staff, they need to be appropriately compensated.
- Reclassify 40% of all current project-based funding to the community sector as core base funding.
- Create a "home in government" for the 1700 community sector organizations across PEI.
- Create a provincial volunteer recovery strategy in consultation with the community sector to address the declining rate of volunteerism.
- Government and NFP/NGOs should work together to create a governance structure/board for the 1700 organizations on PEI to mitigate NFP/NGO risks and allow for the sharing of human resources and board of directors.
- Require all NFP/NGO boards to properly plan for future use, human resources and succession planning.
- Assist NFP/NGOs with succession and other planning by lending government expertise to NFP/NGO boards.
- Use NFP/NGOs, who have established mechanisms and experience, as the avenue for the distribution of money to Islanders quickly and efficiently.
- Increase funding to all NFP/NGOs to support the rising demand, as more middle-class families are needing their services.
- Provide better communication on all public and private funding programs available for NFP/NGO.
- Increase administration, audit and accountability funds for non-profits and organizations to maintain professionalism in their activities.
- Provide programs/incentives for people to volunteer in NFP/NGO to mitigate the downward trend in volunteerism on PEI.
- Provide funding for non-profits to be more inclusive and hire a more diverse workforce.
- Advocate for the federal government to continue their COVID-19 funding and partnerships with NFP/NGO as directly helped with food insecurity, housing and transportation, as these needs are even stronger post-COVID-19 due to the high cost of living.

## Strong and Inclusive Communities

### Supporting and Encouraging Diversity

- Re-establish the environmental network of PEI and work towards reforming the citizen's assembly for proportional representation.
- Recognize whole-body, holistic physical and mental health, with services grounded in best practices and up-to-date, gender-sensitive research and evidence.
- Continue to invest in arts organizations which are vital for our well-being and need to be supported.
- Provide annual funding to non-profit organizations to stabilize their operations so programs are delivered effectively and sustainably.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Housing, food security and transportation are key problems for newcomers to PEI.
- Support programs that aim to prevent violence, whether it is an abuse of power and control that is physical, emotional, financial or sexual.
- The minimum wage isn't enough to support the housing, food and transportation needs of newcomers.
- Look to other countries for solutions to assist immigrants.
- Develop better programs to support newcomers.
- Establish long-term funding for executive leadership for PEI's trans and gender-diverse equity-seeking organizations.
- Provide support for public festivals and events that celebrate diversity and inclusion, and inclusion initiatives through museums and heritage and public libraries.
- Work towards ending violence against women and children, other gender-based violence, and all forms of family violence.
- Acknowledge the impacts of and respond to the social determinants of health, such as income, gender, language and culture.
- Place high priority on ensuring women and families have access to justice, particularly for family law.
- Engage communities in consultation when developing new programs to ensure Islanders have input into the services affecting them.
- Extend more data and services through technology to places like Hunter River, Rustico, Stanhope, Cornwall, Belfast, Victoria, Morrell and Miscouche.
- Investment in arts and culture, specifically for Island-based organizations that operate year-round such as the PEI Symphony Orchestra (PEISO).
- Investment in arts and culture. The return on investment on the world's stage when investing in the arts is unparalleled and Island artists are ready to meet the challenge.
- Fund arts for growing independent and original theatre in PEI.
- Increase funding for visual arts, arts and culture as they bring revenue and benefits to Island communities.
- Introduce multi-year operational funding for the PEI Symphony Orchestra, as well as for other established arts organizations.
- Increase long-term funding to Innovation PEI's Cultural Development and Growth Fund and ensure 30% is allocated toward operating assistance to arts organizations.
- Continue investment in diversity, equity and inclusion in schools and government.

## Immigration

- Use more targeted and focused approaches for immigration to fill specific business gaps.
- Make immigration policies less rigorous to attract more immigrants.
- Immigration is important for the economy; however, the current economy does not support the learning and development to become a citizen.
- Provide a path for employers to use immigration to attract workers.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Provide accessible services for immigrants that are in between permanent residence status.
- Ensure provincial supports are in place to continue with aggressive immigration targets to match the federal government's effort, including recruitment, integration and retention of immigrants that align with workforce needs.
- Provide an immigration navigator to help businesses acquire and keep immigrants, as many different job streams and jargon make it hard to know all the programs available.
- PEI work with the federal government to improve gaps in the immigration system, specifically to allow more flexibility in work permits to allow changing of work within a work permit.
- Help to bridge the gap in the immigration program with "between status" immigrants who cannot work while Canadian Border Services investigates their working visa - the government needs to recognize and support these individuals and families with health care, work, housing, food and transportation.
- Maintain funding for immigration support services, like PEI Connectors, to support newcomers with their transition into our workforce and business community.
- PEI has the potential to lead Canada in developing an immigration model of work and support to help immigrants thrive.
- Review immigration policy to ensure enough infrastructure and services are available for an increased population.

- Scale back on intentional population growth until the infrastructure (housing, health care, etc.) can keep up.

## Building Communities

- Improve rural transit across PEI.
- Remove toll on Confederation Bridge.
- Build a roundabout in Hunter River.
- Improve road infrastructure in rural areas in PEI.
- Reduce Confederation Bridge Tolls to improve the competitiveness of PEI businesses.
- Stop patching up potholes and repave full roads.
- PEI needs a working shipping port now, to provide businesses with lower distribution costs to help grow their business (suggest Georgetown or Summerside)
- Continue improvements to Trout River Rd, RTE 239 in Millvale.
- Ensure reliable high-speed internet/Wi-Fi is available in sports centers throughout the province.
- Invest in rural PEI infrastructure making it equivalent to infrastructure in urban areas.
- Strengthen government push to eliminate tolls on the bridge as small businesses struggle with the extra cost.
- Remove the Confederation Bridge toll.
- Resurface and widen paved shoulders for active transportation.
- Replace the North Rustico boardwalk.
- Continue with support for walking/biking/snowshoe trails at Glasgow Hills Golf Course.



- Continue widening Rte. 6 from North Rustico to Cavendish.
- Expand parking to access North Rustico Beach.
- Allocate funds in the budget for a new ferry.
- Invest in ports that help people move produce easily within and outside of PEI.
- Support private sector investment in sustainable infrastructure projects.
- Build an indoor tennis venue on PEI.
- Building additional sports facilities.
- Invest in parks and rinks for families.
- Spend more money in rural communities to support local programs like childcare, libraries and educational programs.
- Create co-op programs for high school students to easily integrate into the trades sector.
- Provide every school in PEI with one full-time counsellor.
- Create more affordable childcare spaces.
- Support should be given to kids with ADHD and other disabilities.
- Provide a comprehensive school health approach in our elementary and secondary schools, including improved community access to schools.
- Place a public bus stop at all high schools in rural areas so students can conveniently travel to their job, volunteer or internship programs.
- Expand the food security programs for kids through schools, providing weekend meals for full families who need them.
- Increase funding to all after school programs.
- Continue investing in education.
- Make the educational system, including public schools, benefit directly from international students' fees.
- Invest in children's play fields.
- Fund youth sports as well as food security.
- Invest in youth sports.
- Subsidized daycare for home daycares in addition to licensed centers.
- Provide more funding for afterschool programs as the demand has grown.
- Increase investment in affordable school-aged childcare.
- Increase investment for people with learning disabilities.

## Education and Advanced Learning

### Early Years and Education

- Provide more funding to all after-school programs to expand capacity, especially for children 5-12 years old.
- Recruit more teachers and educational assistants to make teaching and learning easier.
- Integrate climate action activities into school curriculum from primary school into higher education.
- Continue to cover education school supply fees for students as helps reduce financial pressures on parents.
- Heavily invest in education as it has ripple effects in other areas of the economy.



## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Recognize the province's school community centers by including community concierge hours in the operating budget to create an affordable gathering place for the Island communities.
- Invest in accessible programs and childcare for kids aged 5-12, as demand has grown more than investment, making it hard to find childcare for Island children.
- Increase access to school-aged childcare programs and manage the affordability of such programs.
- Provide funding for children and youth in school, as once a child leaves early child programming, it's difficult to find appropriate support for ages 5-12 until funding for this age matches early years funding.
- Continue funding the PEI School Food Program, as is a very important program for Island students.
- Increase funding and timely access to assessments, supports and learning accommodations for students with learning disabilities and ADHD to ensure these children don't fall behind their peers academically.
- Increase support for school libraries to allow for a dedicated teacher-librarian and a diverse collection of books.
- Provide high school students with career pathways for an easy transition into post-secondary, trades, graduate research, etc.
- Develop career maps for high school students entering post-secondary showing five-year labour market vacancy rate projections for an exhaustive list of jobs available in/outside of PEI.
- Provide and sponsor study abroad opportunities to high school students.
- Provide incentives for businesses to offer childcare services on-site.
- Implement new childcare spaces that are publicly owned and operated.
- Increase support for students with disabilities in PEI schools.
- Increased childcare access to early learning and childcare for infants and preschoolers, and especially affordable and accessible early childhood care spaces for infants.

## Post-Secondary, Internships and Workforce

- Provide financial support for students during their internships.
- Expand the George Coles Bursary program to include Island students studying off-Island in courses not offered on PEI.
- Provide investment to reduce the cost of post-secondary education.
- Forgive student loans for Islanders.
- Work with post-secondary institutions to support students during work terms and internships.
- Introduce a grant program that pays students above the minimum wage during internships.
- Develop a dual credit program between high schools and trades to expose students to a variety of trades for their careers.
- Subsidize rent for students attending post-secondary and trade schools.
- Expand George Coles scholarship to include trades training.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Fund a program path that actively engages young adults (aged 20-25), who had to leave post-secondary, to re-enter and acquire their degree/diploma.
- Expand Skills PEI training program eligibility to those who are in the workforce but want to change jobs or acquire new skills.
- Fund post-degree intern programs in government and private sector to allow graduating students a year of experience in their field.
- Provide an annual fund to support free tuition for post-secondary programs or trades in areas with large workforce vacancies.
- Work with industries to improve wages to acquire and retain people, as wages in some industries are below market rates.
- Work with Skills PEI/industry to fund a pathway for international students particularly, in post-secondary, trades and high school to work while attending school on PEI.
- Assist Collège de l'Île with a pathway for French students to employ their skills to help areas expand French language services in PEI.
- Expand and assist students in the Charlottetown area with more travel options to their internship programs in rural PEI.
- Address the gaps in the educational curriculum as it pertains to Artificial Intelligence (AI), transitioning to post-secondary education or work following high school.
- Partner with local organizations to offer students a variety of volunteering opportunities.
- Develop pathways from UPEI/Holland College/Trade programs into intern programs within the government and private sector to allow new graduates to gain the experience they need to work in their chosen careers.
- Provide a pathway for peer-to-peer mentorship and professional development within the government and private sector.
- Develop flexible high school internship programs for high school students with options to work weekends/after school.
- Provide interest-free loans or start-up funding for new trade graduates so they can earn income while they are building their business.
- Provide pathways for students to do internship programs while waiting to get into medical, dental or pharmacy schools so they can gain exposure to different fields.

## Climate Action

- Raise the eligible income threshold for free heat pump offers to \$100,000.
- Prioritize climate change.
- Provide more business support for damages from natural disasters related to climate change.
- Double the current contribution for land protection to Island Nature Trust from \$750,000 in 2023 to \$1,500,000 in 2024.
- Prioritize the procurement of low-emission propane school buses to eliminate exposure to harmful toxins.
- Take proactive steps to address climate change.
- Expand public transit on the Island.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Put additional focus on climate change and provide incentives to farmers to adopt more climate and environmentally friendly farming practices (regenerative, organic, carbon retention etc.).
- Invest in green energy by building passive solar homes, paying a premium for solar generation for residential households, and subsidizing solar and renewable energy.
- Invest in clean air mitigations in community settings such as schools, hospitals, etc.
- Establish a fund to protect more natural areas including coastlines in the context of climate change and other related weather events.
- Expand on the good work done recently on climate change.
- Prioritize preparation for climate change and increase training to create a workforce that can respond to climate change.
- Build up PEI as a net zero province to attract new businesses with fresh ideas to power the province.
- Change building codes on PEI to enforce green community spaces.
- PEI needs a land use plan now.
- Ensure that silt traps are adequate, and cleaned out, before heavy rainfall events.
- Focus on increasing rural transit for emissions reduction.
- Increase the number of EV chargers on PEI.
- Make public transit more effective and efficient, which will decrease car usage and reduce carbon footprint.
- Invest in educating the public on coexistence with wildlife and reduce spending on regulating the trapping industry.
- Continue funding for Fiona clean up for homeowners, as still thousands of Island properties that need clean up assistance.
- Create a preventative maintenance program for homeowners that helps trim trees and secure infrastructure to limit damage for future weather events.
- Protect the land by making the province-wide land use plan a reality.

## Government Operations

- Expand Access PEI Services to include the disabled parking stickers, which can be included when renewing a motor vehicle permit.
- Balance the budget, lower taxes and reduce the number of government employees.
- Extend digital integration to the patient registry, Access PEI services, job opportunities, government RFPs, cultural projects and events.
- Manage provincial revenues appropriately.
- Reduce government expenses.
- Be transparent in program development and implementation.
- It is time to employ Islanders who are capable of working.
- Bring all government employees back to their offices to be more accountable.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

- Provide \$8 million additional funding to hire 40 new RCMP officers, this represents a 20% increase in officers to match provincial population growth and keep pace with current and future demand.
- The rippling effects of having so many in our workforce “working from home” has reduced demand on downtown businesses.
- Work with federal government and other Atlantic provinces to develop and implement an Emergency Air Services strategy, to ensure that air support is available to all police services in Atlantic Canada.
- Provide assistance with criminal record suspension applications.
- Limit access to illicit drug use on PEI.
- Make new investments in public services.
- Create a long-term plan and vision for PEI that encompasses all areas of expenditure for all departments. Long-term planning results in improvements in quality of life, affordable housing, healthy living, preventative health care, and education system and helps implement measures recommended by numerous commissions and standing committee reports.
- Cut services to help manage government finances.
- Increase the real wages of workers who provide public services.
- Make policy decisions based on government priorities.
- Provide better management throughout government.
- Evaluate all programs to determine which are working and which are not and focus on making improvements to those which are not working.
- Draw a plan to match basic services such as hospitals, policing and roadways to population growth on the Island.
- Make contracts and programs more transparent to the public.
- Drop bottle/can deposits as people are recycling more so no need to incentivize.
- Do not consider Universal Basic Income (UBI) as it will result in the middle class being taxed more and reduce the incentive for people to work.
- Create discussions around how the government will reduce provincial debt.
- Help lower grocery prices as staple items have seen significant increases above inflation in the last two years.
- Reduce the number of municipalities.
- Balance the budget, no excessive spending.
- Support caseworkers in Rural PEI.
- Review the potential effectiveness of costly government projects such as medical schools and clean technology.
- Reduce duplication of government services such as Land Use Permits, as residents pay both municipal and provincial taxes for the same service.
- Match population growth with increases in infrastructure and services.
- Honour the commitments made to programs/projects in the election and budget, particularly funds to Maritime Electric for Hurricane Dorian recovery.
- Invest in cyber security to protect Islanders.
- Modernize insurance legislation to harmonize with other provinces.

## Pre-Budget Consultations

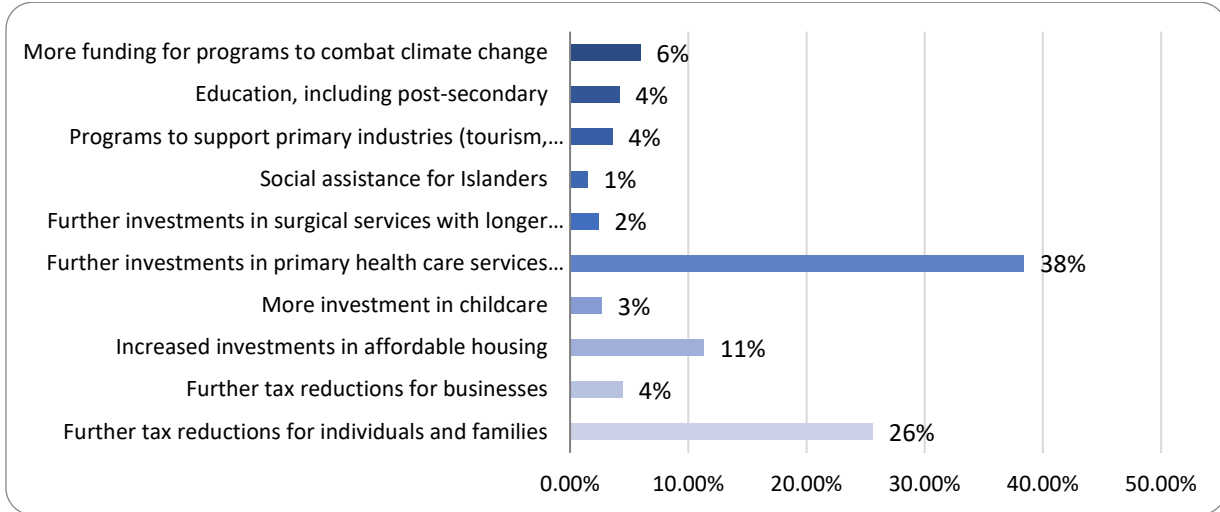
- Improve Island-wide internet/cell phone service.
- Make legislative changes to the Employment Standard Act regarding paid sick leave and domestic violence leave to benefit all Islanders.
- Develop regulations for commercial leases and landlords.
- Create a new "customer service" division that acts as a single entry into government, tracking requests, and providing statistics to drive change.
- Create shared government offices in rural areas.
- Reduce the bridge tolls or government fund the tolls.
- Review all income-based programming to help fix the issues of unemployment.
- Provide a Procurement Navigator, as the current system is not transparent.
- Increase support to tourism in PEI, as tourism brings additional revenue and economic spinoff.
- Lower Confederation Bridge toll.
- Reverse or halt the expansion of privatization by ensuring that public services and properties remain in the public sector.
- Make government spending more transparent.
- Increase interprovincial cooperation for curbing the trade of contraband tobacco and vaping products.
- Stop yearly car registration.
- Create a publicly owned utility and publicly owned insurance company, with profits used for social services and debt reduction.
- Reduce the wages of MLAs.
- Lower the cost of vehicle registration and driver's license renewals.
- Eliminate the requirement for car inspections every two years.

## Appendix A: Submissions from Organizations

1. Multiple Sclerosis Canada
2. Merck Canada Inc
3. GSK Canada
4. Parkinson Canada
5. Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB)
6. Hospice PEI
7. GACPEI & PEITN
8. Diabetes Canada
9. Heart and Stroke Canada
10. Arthritis Society Canada
11. PEI Symphony Society
12. John Howard Society
13. CUPE PEI
14. Community Legal Information
15. Canadian Taxpayers Federation
16. Island Nature Trust
17. Immigration & Refugee Services Association
18. Imperial Tobacco Canada
19. PEI Transgender Network
20. Société acadienne et francophone de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard (SAFÎle)
21. Beer Canada
22. Conseil scolaire-communautaire Évangéline (CSCÉ)
23. Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce
24. GlaxoSmithKlines Inc.
25. Convenience Industry Council of Canada (CICC)
26. Film PEI
27. PEI Nurses Union
28. Atlantic Chamber of Commerce
29. Citizens' Alliance of PEI
30. Sports PEI
31. Canadian Cancer Society
32. PEI Senior Citizen's Federation
33. River Clyde Arts Inc.
34. Creative PEI
35. LUNGNSPEI
36. PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
37. National Police Federation
38. Community Sector Network of PEI
39. Rothmans, Benson and Hedges Inc.
40. Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CLHIA)
41. Nuvona Limited
42. Canadian Propane Association
43. Equality Project PEI
44. Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities
45. PEI UPSE

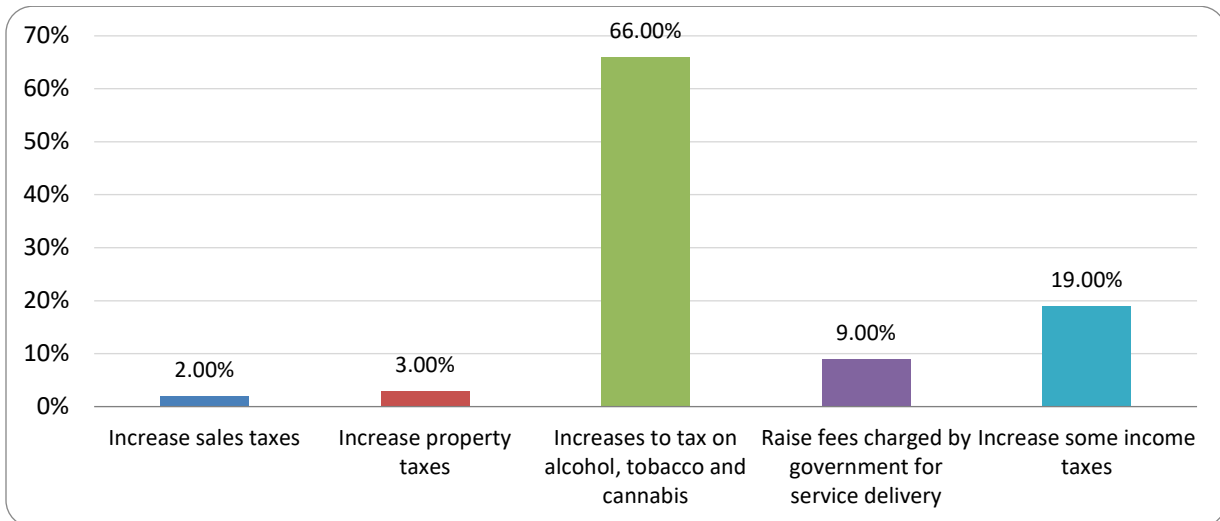
## Appendix B: Online Survey Results

### 1. Please rank the areas where you would like to see government spending, from 1 (top priority) to 10 (lower priority).



Further investments in primary health care services were selected as the top priority, closely followed by further tax reductions for individuals and families and increased investments in affordable housing.

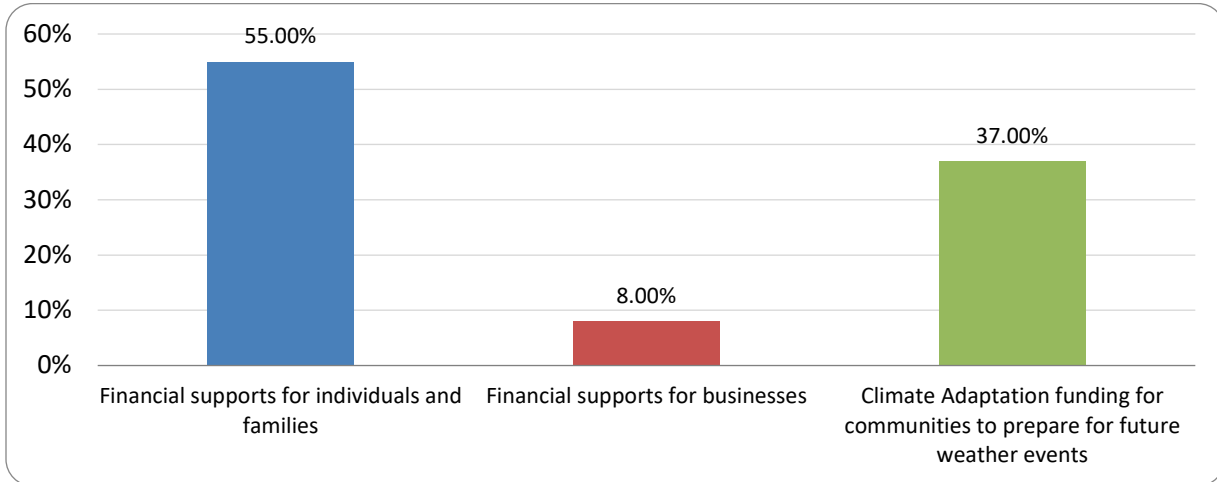
### 2. Where do you think Government could raise revenue?



Increases to taxes on alcohol, tobacco and cannabis were the most popular areas to raise tax revenue at 66%, with increases to some taxes following at 19%. Only 9% of respondents were for raising fees charged by government for services delivery, while 3% want to see increases in property taxes and 2% would like to see increases in sales taxes.

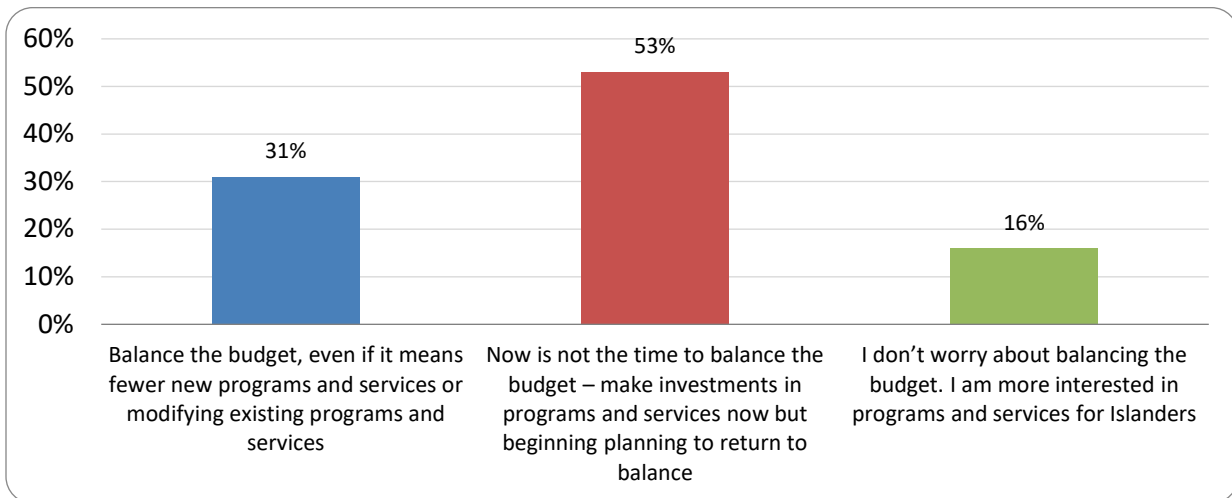


**3. Government has said it will continue to help with recovery from Hurricane Fiona and assist the people of PEI during this period of high inflation. Recognizing that these events have been more challenging for some groups and areas than others, where would you like to see further support in 2023?**



The table shows 55% of respondents chose financial support for individuals and families as where they would like further support to go for 2023, followed by climate adaptation funding for communities to prepare for future weather events.

**4. If a budget includes more money from programs and services than it expects to take in, it is known as a deficit. When Government has a deficit, it has to borrow more money to operate. It also does not have money to pay down its longer-term debt. What would you like to see Government do in Budget 2023?**



The table shows 53% of respondents feel now is not the time to balance the budget but instead make investments in programs and services and begin planning to return to a balanced budget. While 31% want to balance the budget even if means fewer programs and services.

**5. When should Government plan to have a balanced budget?**

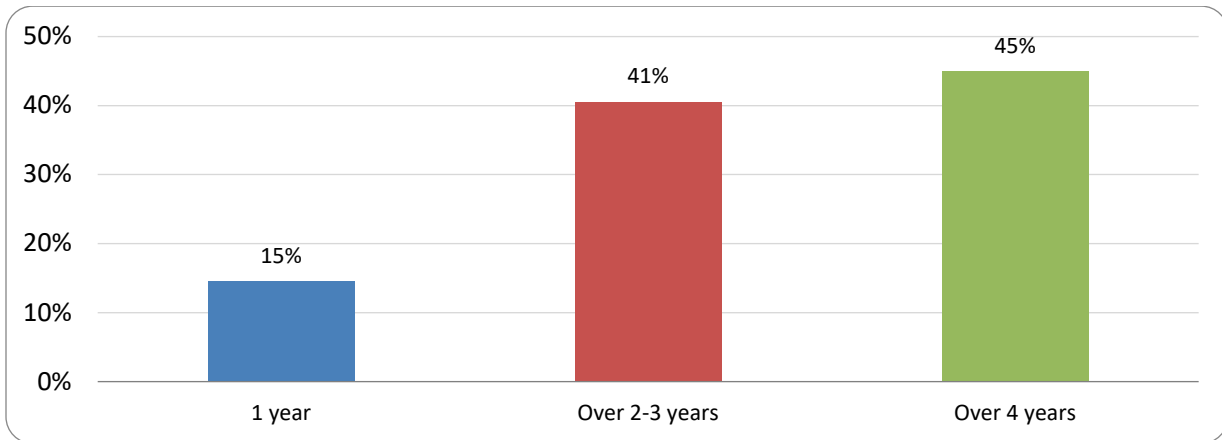




Table shows that 45% of respondents feel the government should plan to have a balanced budget in four years.

## Appendix C: Promotion Samples



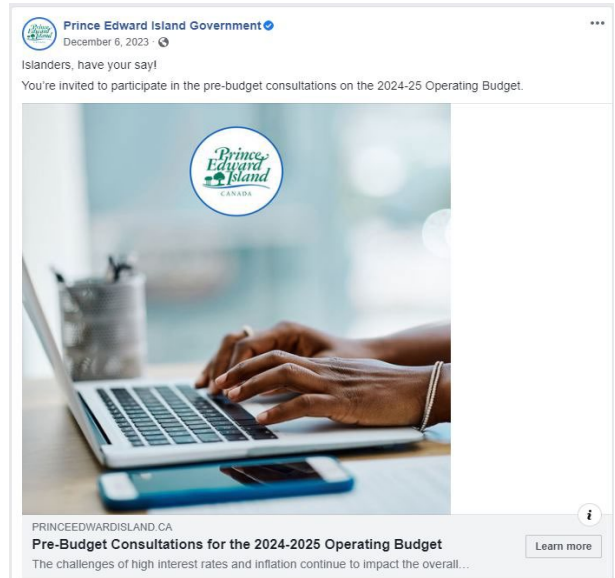
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Pre-Budget Consultations for the 2024-2025 Operating Budget




Signing up for virtual consultations

Pre-Budget Consultations for the 2024-2025 Operating Budget



Prince Edward Island Government  
December 6, 2023

Islanders, have your say!  
You're invited to participate in the pre-budget consultations on the 2024-25 Operating Budget.



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The challenges of high interest rates and inflation continue to impact the overall... [Learn more](#)

**Insulaires, prononcez-vous!**  
Vous êtes invités aux consultations prébudgétaires sur le budget de fonctionnement 2024-2025.

Vous pouvez participer en :

- participant aux consultations virtuelles sur Zoom
- répondant au sondage
- soumettant vos commentaires par courriel

Pour en savoir plus sur les possibilités de participation, visitez **PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/fr/ConsultationsPrebudgetaires**

La date limite pour soumettre des commentaires est le 22 décembre 2023.



La présente annonce est payée par le gouvernement de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard.

**Islanders, have your say!**  
You're invited to participate in the pre-budget consultations on the 2024-25 Operating Budget.



You can participate in the following ways:

- Virtual Zoom consultations
- Completing the survey
- Emailing your submissions

To learn more details about how and when you can participate, visit: **PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/PreBudget**

The deadline for submissions is December 22, 2023.



This advertisement is paid for by the Government of Prince Edward Island.

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