

Province of Prince Edward Island

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2020-2021

Department of Health and Wellness

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Message from the Minister

The Honourable Antoinette Perry
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 herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Wellness for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

During the reporting period, the Honourable James Aylward and the Honourable Ernie Hudson served as the Minister of Health and Wellness.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honorable Mark McLane
Minister of Health and Wellness



Message from the Deputy Minister

The Honourable Mark McLane
Minister of Health and Wellness

Minister:

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Wellness for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021. The report outlines the department's activities from April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021. During the reporting period, Mark Spidel served as Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Thibeau
Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness



Department of Health and Wellness Overview

The Prince Edward Island Department of Health and Wellness serves and supports all Islanders. In accordance with the *Health Services Act*, the Department supports the Minister of Health and Wellness in providing oversight of health services in the province and establishing accountability mechanisms, standards for health services, performance targets, and policies and guidelines for the management and delivery of services. It also provides leadership in matters related to public health and health promotion and establishes policy direction to improve the health and well-being of citizens of PEI. It works to ensure alignment of priorities between the Department of Health and Wellness and Health PEI, which is critical for ensuring that both organizations work together effectively to create measurable progress on enhancing the health and well-being of 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.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Expenditures

- In 2020-2021, the Department of Health and Wellness **operating budget was \$44.2 million**, up from \$35.8 million in 2019-2020. In addition, the department spent **\$7,281,190 for direct COVID expenditures**. Of this total \$6M was charged to general government and the balance was absorbed within the departmental operating budget.

Planning and Policy Development

- The Department of Health and Wellness **recruited 18 new physicians – 12 specialists and six family medicine physicians – to practice on Prince Edward Island**. The specialties of the physicians included: hospitalist, radiology, pediatrics, rheumatology, general surgery, internal medicine, cardiology, hematology, neurology, neonatal pediatrics, and OBGYN.
- The Department announced that Telus has been selected as the provider for the provincial **electronic medical record (EMR)** and that work has begun to train clinicians and implement the EMR across the health system.
- The Government of PEI announced that it made **a commitment to contribute \$1.25 million to the construction of a new Ronald McDonald House in Halifax** that will double the number of families it can serve annually. The Ronald McDonald House provides accommodation and food, saving an estimated \$272 per day, for families with sick, or seriously injured, children being treated at the IWK hospital in Halifax. In the past ten years, Ronald McDonald House has provided Island families with 6,368 nights of accommodation and in 2019 the organization supported 2,076 Maritime families.
- The Department **launched a new Fertility Support Program** that provides Islanders accessing in-vitro fertilization, intrauterine insemination, and associated medicine at out-of-province clinics with a minimum of \$5,000 and up to \$10,000 annually, based on family income. The program will help make financially accessible fertility programs for Islanders who want to build families.
- The Department **expanded the Insulin Pump Program** to include additional financial assistance and include Islanders up to 25 years old. This program is an important initiative to assist with the costs of insulin pumps and supplies for Islanders living with diabetes.

- The Department announced an increase to the coverage per income threshold for the Ostomy Supplies Program. Now **Islanders who require permanent Ostomy will receive more financial assistance** for costly Ostomy supplies and face fewer barriers receiving the care they need.

Encouraging Healthy and Active Lives

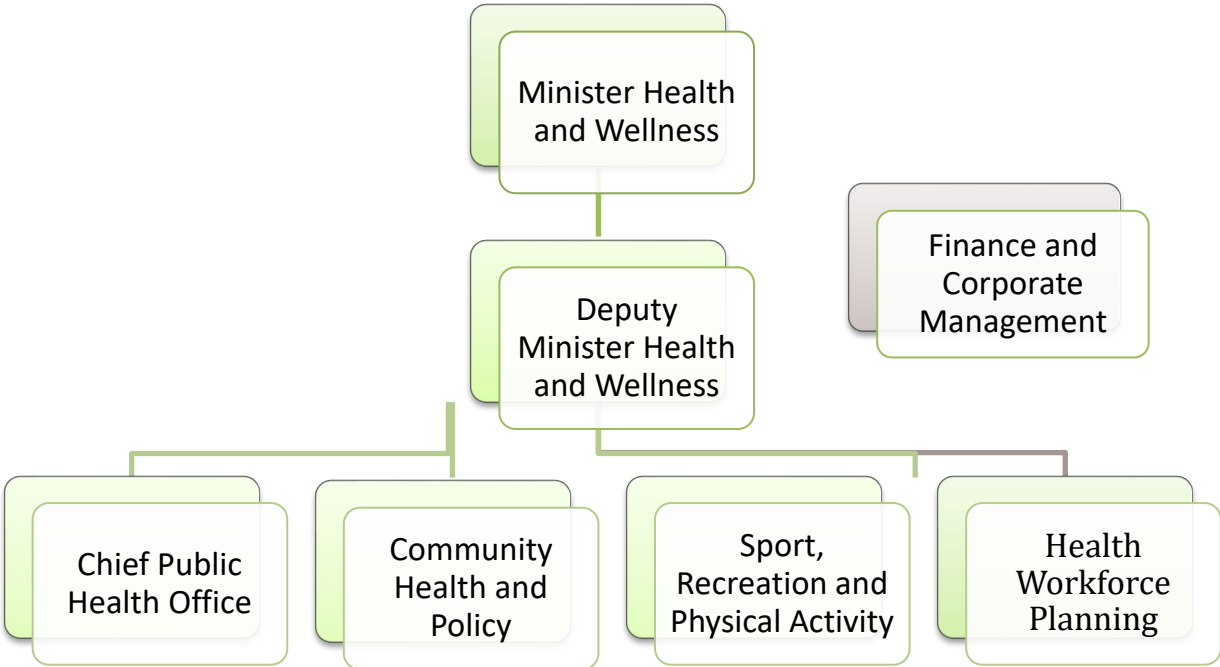
- Island sports leagues, gyms, and other venues for activity were heavily impacted by COVID-19. In response, the Department of Health and Wellness **secured \$2.3 million through an Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Support Organizations**. The funds provide temporary financial relief and support business continuity for Island sport organizations impacted by COVID-19.
- The Department **created a new online wellness program that encouraged Islanders with chronic diseases, to get, or remain active during the pandemic, safely**. The free online programs allowed Islanders to participate from the comfort of their own homes. Each group had its own webinar-style offering and participants took part in safe exercise activities tailored to specific diseases.

COVID-19 and Public Health

- Fiscal year 2020-21 was marked by the rapid and ever-changing challenges presented by the COVID-19 global pandemic. It resulted in whole-of-government responses at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels. As the science and understanding of the virus evolved, on a daily and weekly basis, so too did the government response. Fiscal year 2020-21 saw both the early emergence of the COVID-19 virus, Island-wide closure of non-essential services, the establishment of an Atlantic Bubble, new variants and the Island-wide rollout of safe and effective vaccines. The Government of PEI and **our health system had to be nimble to respond to rapid changes on the ground to protect Islanders**. Most important in this response was the dedication, perseverance, and **bravery of every health care worker and essential worker across PEI**.
- The Department undertook numerous, pragmatic **tactics to reduce the health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic to Islanders**. The Department of Health and Wellness acknowledges the successful implementation of these measures were achieved through the collaborative participation of other Government of PEI departments and agencies, and the participation and support of outside agencies, businesses, and members of the public. Some of these include:

- Creating and staffing **safe mass testing facilities** and contact tracing systems across the island and at ports of entry;
- Establishing an Atlantic Bubble and the public health and **screening measures at ports of entry**, which allowed Atlantic Canadians to safely travel between provinces to see family and friends;
- **Expanding the provincial stockpile of Personal Protective Equipment** and establish systems and processes to deliver supplies to public and private health facilities, long-term care and community care facilities, pharmacies, physician offices, groups homes, and more;
- **Developing the “Renew PEI, Together”** plan, a phased-in approach to reopen Island businesses and services in a safe and effective manner, that would allow for quick response to changes to the COVID-19 situation;
- Launching a three-phased, colour-coded **COVID-19 Alert Level System** to support planning and help guide decision-making during the pandemic and through the different phases of the “Renew PEI, Together” plan;
- Establishing a **policy and testing program** to allow Island workers who travel outside the Atlantic Bubble to work-isolate when they return;
- **Supporting Island physicians and clinics that moved to telehealth and virtual care models** in order to continue serving Islanders as safely as possible;
- Quickly **opening and staffing of temporary drop-in COVID-19 testing sites**, in response to increased demand;
- “Operation Isolation”, including check-ins for individuals in isolation and **isolation accommodations and supports**;
- **Contract tracing** for all positive COVID-19 cases;
- **Surveillance and reporting**;
- Announcing “Circuit Breaker” measures to aggressively **curb and contain the spread of COVID-19 on PEI**;
- Extensive **guidance and communications for and to members of the public, workplaces, and businesses**; and
- **COVID-19 vaccination rollout**, which required concerted government-wide activity to secure vaccines, vaccines supplies, establish vaccination clinic sites, logistics, human resource staffing and the crafting of vaccine protocols and processes for timely and orderly vaccine administration to all Islanders and ensure adequate staffing and processes were in place to allow mass vaccinations to run smoothly.

Organizational Structure



Finance and Corporate Management

This Division supports and assists the Department of Health and Wellness in the areas of human resource management and financial management.

Chief Public Health Office

Public health is defined as the organized efforts of society to keep people healthy and prevent injury, illness, and premature death. It is the combination of programs, services, and policies that protect and promote health.

The mandate of the Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) is to protect and promote the health of Islanders through leadership, partnership, and excellence in public health. The division is responsible for delivery of health protection programs including food safety as legislated under the *Public Health Act*. This is accomplished through regulation, inspection, and enforcement. The CPHO is responsible for preventive measures to reduce the spread of diseases including immunization and communicable disease infection control. The CPHO also monitors provincial health trends to help inform program development and public health policy.

Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Division

This division is responsible for encouraging Islanders to be active through sport, recreation, and other physical activity. This mandate is achieved through a wide variety of partnerships with sport, recreation, and active living organizations throughout the province. The division provides grants and consultation services to a number of provincial, regional, and community groups and works with a variety of

provincial and federal government departments and organizations, as well as national and interprovincial non-governmental organizations.

Programs supported by this division include the Amateur Sport Program, Community Recreation Support Program, and go!PEI.

Community Health and Policy

The Community Health and Policy branch provides policy and planning direction in various aspects of health care delivery that, in turn, assist the Minister of Health and Wellness in providing leadership, strategic direction, and oversight of the health system. Divisions and sections in the Community Health and Policy branch include the Community Care Facility and Private Nursing Home Inspections unit, Community Health Programs, Emergency Health Services, Policy, Planning and FTP Relations, and Seniors Health.

Health Workforce Planning

The Health Workforce Planning branch provides health human resource planning and undertakes recruitment and retention efforts to meet the current and future needs for physicians, nurses, and allied health professions. The Secretariat's work is mainly with hard-to-recruit health professions.

The branch recruits to Health PEI, the organization responsible for the operation and delivery of publicly funded health services in Prince Edward Island.

Financial Statements

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUE

	2020-2021	2020-2021
	Budget Forecast	Budget Estimate
	\$	\$
EXPENDITURE		
MINISTER'S/DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE.....	592,800	578,000
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND POLICY.....	27,306,900	27,766,100
HEALTH WORKFORCE PLANNING.....	3,132,700	2,997,800
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE.....	6,710,000	6,853,800
SPORT, RECREATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.....	6,454,000	3,897,700
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....	44,196,400	42,093,400
REVENUE		
HEALTH AND WELLNESS.....	7,471,500	13,238,700
TOTAL REVENUE.....	7,471,500	13,238,700

EXPENDITURES

	2020-2021	2020-2021
	Budget	Budget
	Forecast	Estimate
	\$	\$
MINISTER'S/DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE		
Minister's/Deputy Minister's Office		
Appropriations provided for the administration of the Minister's and the Deputy Minister's offices.		
Administration.....	18,700	22,700
Equipment.....	1,500	1,500
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	2,900	8,000
Salaries.....	556,500	519,500
Travel and Training.....	13,200	26,300
Total Minister's/Deputy Minister's Office.....	592,800	578,000
TOTAL MINISTER'S/DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE.....	592,800	578,000

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND POLICY

Health Policy and Programs

Appropriations provided to support the Department in carrying out its responsibilities in the areas of planning and evaluation, health policy development and analysis, and legislation.

Administration.....	32,400	30,800
Equipment.....	12,400	3,700
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	20,100	30,200
Professional Services.....	1,108,300	1,145,100
Salaries.....	1,288,400	1,193,600
Travel and Training.....	14,900	52,600
Grants.....	3,399,900	3,398,000
Total Health Policy and Programs.....	5,876,400	5,854,000

Community Care Facility and Private Nursing Home Inspection

Appropriations provided for the inspection and licensing of Community Care Facilities and Private Nursing Homes in Prince Edward Island pursuant to the *Community Care Facilities and Nursing Homes Act*.

Administration.....	9,100	8,200
Equipment.....	9,700	1,200
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	1,700	2,900
Professional Services.....	8,800	10,000
Salaries.....	679,500	702,200
Travel and Training.....	16,200	23,200
Total Community Care Facility and Private Nursing Home Inspection.....	725,000	747,700

EXPENDITURES

	2020-2021	2020-2021
	Budget	Budget
	Forecast	Estimate
Emergency Health Services		
Appropriations provided to support Provincial emergency health related policy and programs including ambulance services, air ambulance, Tele-Health (8-1-1), blood services, and organ and tissue donation and transplantation.		
Administration.....	21,300	15,300
Equipment.....	2,100	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	2,300	1,300
Professional Services.....	14,968,000	15,044,700
Salaries.....	345,600	442,700
Travel and Training.....	17,900	18,700
Grants.....	4,998,800	5,226,800
Total Emergency Health Services.....	20,356,000	20,749,500
National Blood Portfolio Secretariat		
Appropriations provided to support the National Blood Portfolio Secretariat. Prince Edward Island will assume responsibility as lead jurisdiction for a two-year period. Appropriations are fully-offset by the Collaborative Initiatives Fund.		
Administration.....	11,100	6,800
Equipment.....	2,200	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	6,300	25,000
Professional Services.....	11,500	7,000
Salaries.....	318,400	318,400
Travel and Training.....	--	57,700
Total National Blood Portfolio Secretariat.....	349,500	414,900
TOTAL COMMUNITY HEALTH AND POLICY.....	27,306,900	27,766,100

HEALTH WORKFORCE PLANNING

Health Recruitment and Retention

Appropriations provided for recruitment and retention strategies for physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals.

Administration.....	19,000	22,200
Equipment.....	2,500	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	135,900	53,600

Professional Services.....	270,500	275,000
Salaries.....	577,000	438,200
Travel and Training.....	6,600	18,700
Grants.....	1,716,500	1,781,500
Total Health Recruitment and Retention.....	2,728,000	2,589,200

EXPENDITURES

	2020-2021	2020-2021
	Budget Forecast	Budget Estimate
	\$	\$
Health Workforce Planning and Pharmacy		
Appropriations provided for workforce planning and innovation in the healthcare field		
Administration.....	10,800	10,400
Equipment.....	4,200	1,300
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	6,900	10,000
Professional Services.....	11,100	12,500
Salaries.....	369,600	370,000
Travel and Training.....	2,100	4,200
Grants.....	--	--
Total Health Workforce Planning and Pharmacy.....	404,700	408,600
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TOTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE PLANNING.....	3,132,700	2,997,800

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE

Chief Public Health Office

Appropriations provided for administration of the *Public Health Act*, supervision of provincial public health programs, immunization programs, disease surveillance and communicable disease control.

Administration.....	30,800	27,200
Equipment.....	4,800	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	2,463,400	2,458,400
Professional Services.....	5,000	5,300
Salaries.....	1,484,300	1,370,400
Travel and Training.....	18,600	25,000
Grants.....	1,600	1,600
Total Chief Public Health Office.....	4,008,500	3,887,900

Population Health Assessment and Surveillance

Appropriations provided to monitor and report to the public on health status and trends in the Province. This unit support evidence-based decision making and promotes continuous improvement by generating, analyzing and interpreting information.

Administration.....	3,200	4,300
Equipment.....	2,400	2,400
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	600	600
Professional Services.....	16,300	16,300
Salaries.....	360,200	362,700
Travel and Training.....	600	2,100
Total Population Health Assessment and Surveillance.....	383,300	388,400

EXPENDITURES

	2020-2021	2020-2021
	Budget	Budget
	Forecast	Estimate
	\$	\$
Health Promotion		
<p>Appropriations provided to support the health and wellness of Islanders and to promote a proactive process to enable Islanders to increase control over and to improve their health. The unit is responsible for implementing the provincial Wellness Strategy within the Department, across Government and in partnership with non-Government organizations and communities.</p>		
Administration.....	5,300	5,700
Equipment.....	9,000	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	19,500	106,600
Professional Services.....	43,200	101,100
Salaries.....	401,400	417,300
Travel and Training.....	5,800	5,800
Grants.....	394,200	441,500
Total Health Promotion.....	878,400	1,078,000
Tobacco Prevention & Cessation		
<p>Appropriations provided to support the design and implementation of tobacco prevention and harm reduction initiatives and the development, coordination and evaluation of a comprehensive and integrated Provincial Tobacco Cessation Program.</p>		
Administration.....	--	1,500
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	385,400	260,100
Professional Services.....	--	49,100
Salaries.....	121,600	81,900
Travel and Training.....	300	4,000
Total Tobacco Prevention & Cessation.....	507,300	396,600

EXPENDITURES

	2020-2021	2020-2021
	Budget	Budget
	Forecast	Estimate
	\$	\$
Environmental Health Services		
Appropriations provided for the services to educate, consult and inspect under the <i>Public Health Act</i> in areas such as food protection, occupational health, accommodations and slaughter houses. Inspection services also includes enforcement under the <i>Tobacco Sales & Access Act</i> and <i>Smoke-free Places Act</i> .		
Administration.....	23,800	18,100
Equipment.....	4,000	800
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	5,700	30,500
Professional Services.....	37,300	81,800
Salaries.....	858,500	901,100
Travel and Training.....	3,200	60,600
Grants.....	--	10,000
Total Environmental Health Services.....	932,500	1,102,900
TOTAL CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE.....	6,710,000	6,853,800
 SPORT, RECREATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY		
Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity		
Appropriations provided for development, implementation, delivery and monitoring of programs and services in the areas of sport, recreation and physical activity.		
Administration.....	9,300	8,800
Equipment.....	2,100	2,100
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	5,500	5,500
Professional Services.....	70,000	70,000
Salaries.....	387,000	387,000
Travel and Training.....	16,400	16,900
Grants.....	5,963,700	3,407,400
Total Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity.....	6,454,000	3,897,700
TOTAL SPORT, RECREATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.....	6,454,000	3,897,700
 TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS.....	 44,196,400	 42,093,400