

2023

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
**Budget Highlights**



Presented by:

**Honourable Jill Burridge**

Minister of Finance and  
Chair of Treasury Board





# Our Health

## Medical Homes

\$8.9M

To add 100 front line positions and establish new medical homes across PEI



## Mental Health Supports

\$3.2M

Introduction of new Flexible Assertive Community Treatment Teams and the new Emergency Department and Short Stay unit at the QEH to assist Islanders with complex mental health needs

## Pharmacy Plus Program

\$3M

To provide Islanders with the opportunity to be treated for 32 common ailments at 48 community pharmacies across the province

## Prescription Drugs

\$10M

To introduce \$5 co-pays for over 150 medications used in the treatment of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and mental health treatments, along with adding new drugs to the formulary

## UPEI Medical School

\$21.9M

To establish the Faculty of Medicine so we can train doctors right here in Prince Edward Island



Budget documents are available at:  
[PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/Budget](http://PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/Budget)



# Our Homes



## Housing Challenge Fund

\$50M

To provide private developers with two percent financing for projects that are construction ready to spur immediate development

## Pathway to Home Ownership

\$1.1M

To launch a Rent-to-Own program with financing options for first-time homeowners to rent a property with the intent to purchase and to create a Closing Cost Housing Support program to provide first-time home buyers with closing costs for purchasing their first home



## Tiny Homes

\$1M

To create opportunities for tiny home communities in rural PEI where Islanders can purchase and build equity instead of paying rent



## Infrastructure Fund

\$25M

To work with communities outside the capital area to develop construction-ready lots for Islanders

## Repair Grants

\$250,000

Funds added to the PEI Home Renovation Program to launch a low-income home repair grant to keep up with repairs and maintenance

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# Affordability



## Heat Pumps, Hot Water Heater and Insulation Programs

\$20.1M

Continue to provide free heat pumps to households to help Islanders save on home heating costs, while also making homes comfortable and environmentally friendly



## Tax System Changes

\$14M

Basic personal amount will increase to reach \$13,500 by 2024, the income threshold for the low-income tax reduction will rise by \$750 in both 2023 and 2024, and a five bracket income tax system will be implemented in 2024

## Public Transit Investment

\$950,000

A further investment in the Island-wide transit system to add more routes and continue to keep fares low for Islanders



## Property Tax Subsidy

\$6M

Continue freezing property tax for the 2023 tax year and introduce legislation to reset assessment rates to levels equivalent to 2020 to prevent a sharp rise in property taxes in 2024

## Reducing Childcare Fees

\$4M

To expedite the reduction of childcare fees to \$10 a day for all children enrolled in designated centres before the end of 2023



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# Our Future

## Crop Diversification and Exploring Controlled Environment Farming

\$350,000

To support diversification of crops to prepare for climate change and support the agriculture sector by exploring controlled-environment farming and indoor farming through state-of-the-art greenhouses, tunnels, hydroponics and enhanced storage and refrigeration



## Bioscience and Clean Tech

\$18M

To continue investing in the bioscience sector, establish the BioAccelerator and develop the clean tech sector

## Arts and Culture

\$750,000

Supports for the arts and culture community, which will include the establishment of a Portable Health Benefits program, as well as supports to grow Island talent and Charlottetown as a Music City destination



## Enhancing Tourism

\$825,000

To grow the Island into a four-season tourism destination and create new interactive tourism products in rural PEI



## Workplace Adaptation Fund

\$2M

To encourage employers to retrofit workplaces to make them more accessible for those who have physical and intellectual disabilities to participate in the workforce

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# Our People

## New Positions for Educational system

\$6M

To add 100 new positions to our education system by increasing teachers, educational assistants, youth service workers, counsellors, and mental health support workers



## George Coles Bursary Enhancement

\$1.25M

To increase the non-repayable bursary for Island students to \$3,000 for expenses like tuition, books, administrative fees and living expenses

## Primary Caregiver Grant

\$5.2M

To provide support for families who choose to keep their loved ones at home



## School Food and Breakfast Program

\$2.2M

To continue funding the pay-what-you-can Island-wide school food lunch program, increase funding to the school breakfast program and to explore the creation of a universal breakfast program with both English and French language school boards



## Supports for Seniors

\$2.2M

To expand the Seniors Independence Initiative, increase the Seniors Safe at Home and Seniors Home Repair program and double the Seniors Hearing Aid Rebate program

## Childcare Infrastructure Fund

\$4.2M

Work with Federal Government to establish a \$20 Million Infrastructure Fund to provide grants to Early Learning Centres to expand and create more spaces



# Our Communities



## Reforestation

\$640,000

To restore the trees lost from Hurricane Fiona and increasing nursery tree production by 30 per cent through the Federal 2 Billion trees program



## Supports for Victims of Family Violence

\$800,000

To expand supports to victims of family violence involved in the family justice system

## Newcomer Work Ready Project

\$1.5M

To support the participation of newcomers in our labour market, including internationally trained healthcare professionals

## Forest Fire Safety

\$550,000

Funding to ensure provincial wildland firefighters have training, equipment, and resources to respond and mitigate wildfires in Prince Edward Island



## Community Legal Clinic

\$250,000

To establish a clinic to increase access to justice supports, including legal representation

## Anti-Racism Action Plan

\$460,000

To begin implementation of the soon-to-be-released Anti-Racism Action Plan

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