



# More responsive health care

*Islanders will benefit from more direct supports as we work closely with our professionals and continue investing in our health care system to ensure it is proactive, responsive and efficient.*

## Primary family medicine



*5.4% increase in expenditures over last year.*

A significant first step is the addition of two new family physicians in Queen's County and \$1.6 million to support nurse practitioners added in the past years.

Together, these investments will provide primary family medicine to 3,000 Islanders who are currently on the wait list.

## 100 new long-term care beds



*\$3.2 million in new dollars identified in the budget.*

Island seniors will continue to receive supports in their homes and home communities, as well as in specialized care, as the budget follows through on the commitment to deliver 100 new long-term care beds across the province.

## Supports for mental health



*Major transformation over the next 3-4 years.*

Islanders in need of mental health supports will see a big boost in needed services. Particular support has been identified for the mobile mental health crisis program, for mental health services at Prince County Hospital and for the forensic unit at Hillsborough Hospital. Supports will continue for schools, youth and families.

The full Budget Address, Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and supporting schedules for 2019-2020 and previous years are available at: [www.PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/Budget](http://www.PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/Budget)

### New orthopedic specialist

The growing wait times for Islanders needing hip and knee replacements will be shortened with \$1.3 million in new orthopedic specialist services. Additional support for an anesthesiologist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will ensure that operating rooms are fully utilized to meet the surgical needs of Islanders.

### Expanded drug coverage

Coverage is being expanded for several medications to help Islanders dealing with illness including medications for the treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and for the treatment of diabetes mellitus in patients with high cardiovascular risk. New medications will be added for the treatment of patients with heart failure and for the treatment of patients with lung cancer.

### Mental health supports in schools

Children and their families will benefit as all schools in Prince Edward Island will have mental health therapists, school health nurses, school outreach workers and occupational therapists working alongside teachers and school staff by this coming fall.