Strategy in Action

Year two of the strategy achieved progress in all priority areas of the strategic plan with the support of clinicians, administrative leaders, program and services staff, community partners and patient advisors. Guided by the strategic mission to work together to lead improvements and changes that value people, quality and evidence we have advanced a number of the strategic recommendations.
CANCER CONTROL CONTINUUM

• The PEI Cancer Treatment Centre implemented a supportive program to help people quit smoking which evidence shows improves response to radiation and chemotherapies and to overall quality of life.

• The Wellness Grant Program continued to provide funding to community groups to promote healthy living and advance the pillars of the PEI Wellness Strategy. Over forty-four projects were funded since 2015.

• The Hepatitis C Drug Program received additional funding and resources to enhance access to curative medications, prevention and follow-up care to continue towards the goal to eliminate the virus by 2025.

• Education initiatives took place across the Island to train staff and clinicians about advance care planning, healthcare directives and goals of care. These resources improve communication and quality of care that respects an individual’s values and wishes. Information and tools can be found at https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/advance-care-planning

• The PEI Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines were reviewed and revised based on the latest evidence. Women are encouraged to discuss the benefits and limitations of screening with their healthcare provider, be aware of their family history and participate in routine mammogram screening. Screening recommendations and information on the program can be found at www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/pei-breast-screening-program or by calling 1-888-592-9888.

• An educational forum was held for primary care physicians and nurse practitioners with a special focus on cancer screening and early detection. Healthcare providers play an influential role in cancer screening participation. More Islanders are participating in screening for breast, colorectal and cervical cancer which is making an impact on the early detection and survival rates.

• More patients of the PEI Cancer Treatment Centre reported awareness and utilization of patient navigation services.

• An orientation program for new patients and their families of the PEI Cancer Treatment Centre is now offered weekly to help inform what to expect during the cancer treatment journey. These sessions are held in Charlottetown and Summerside and are available online https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-PAE6nZ1MFY&feature=youtu.be

• Government of PEI continues to promote the Canadian low-risk drinking guidelines through education and awareness initiatives. This includes ongoing support for the “Should I Have Another?” campaign, with messages about standard drink sizes, the daily and weekly drink limits for men and women, and the “zero-limit situations” when alcohol consumption should be avoided.
RESEARCH AND SURVEILLANCE

• Special statistical reports have been prepared for lung and breast cancer so that Islanders, government and health care providers understand the burden of these diseases in PEI. (https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/cancer-research-and-surveillance)

• Synoptic templates have been updated for the reporting surgical pathology outcomes of all cancers in PEI. Synoptic templates facilitate communication of the pathologic findings to the patient and clinicians, and enable data collection.

• Provincial Cancer Surveillance Epidemiologist contributed to a number of research initiatives including participation in:
  • Analyzing information about life after cancer diagnoses and treatment reported by PEI cancer patients.
  • An international study on survival and prevalence of different cancers.

COORDINATION OF CANCER CONTROL

• A Colorectal Cancer Action Group has been established which includes physicians, patient advisors and staff. Goals have been set and work is underway to collaborate on efforts in improvement of the time from suspicion to diagnosis and treatment, and to increase awareness of the colorectal cancer screening program.

• A Provincial Lung Cancer Prevention and Screening Coordinator role was established to support province-wide tobacco cessation efforts, to monitor best-practices and evidence in screening and share information with stakeholders.

• Health PEI achieved the standards in cancer care set by Accreditation Canada receiving a positive report supporting the accreditation of the organization.

• New oncologists were recruited to provide care at the PEI Cancer Treatment Centre.
Going Forward

The Provincial Cancer Coordination Steering Committee continues to guide the implementation and monitoring of the strategy. In doing so, the following recommendations are proposed to continue to progress in year three:

• Continue to support efforts to standardize clinical care plans and develop care plan tools that better inform cancer patients, their families and other care providers of the treatment plan, supportive services and long term outcomes.

• Prepare and share cancer reports, including: statistical reports on prostate and colorectal cancers, a new PEI Cancer Trends Report and a PEI Cancer Control System Performance report.

• Continue to work with government in the effort to provide comprehensive tobacco cessation services and support for all Islanders.

• Seek opportunities to support investment and planning for an integrated electronic medical record for PEI.

• Work with leadership and stakeholders to identify and establish a sustainable and organized approach to cancer control and care in PEI.

• Enhance awareness initiatives and create education opportunities about cancer screening to increase participation in breast, cervical and colorectal screening in PEI.

• Continue planning and evidence-monitoring for lung cancer screening in PEI.

• Establish a Prostate Cancer Action Group.

• Collaborate with primary care, acute care, cancer care and palliative care to further advance the understanding and integration of the palliative care approach early in care planning.

For more information on cancer care in PEI and the PEI Cancer Strategy go to www.healthpei.ca/cancercare or call 902-368-6717.