



Department of Agriculture and Land

**Plain Language Summary
for Proposed Amendments to the
*Planning Act***

Department of Agriculture and Land
Strategic Policy and Evaluation Division
Government of Prince Edward Island

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *PLANNING ACT*

The purpose of this Summary is to provide an overview of proposed amendments to the *Planning Act*. The Department of Agriculture and Land will accept comments, which will be considered when finalizing or confirming these amendments to the Act.

You can provide comments by mail or email to:

Department of Agriculture and Land

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P.O. Box 2000

Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8

Email: DeptAgLand@gov.pe.ca

The Department of Agriculture and Land assumes that comments received on this Summary are not confidential unless specifically indicated. The Department may quote from or refer to your comments in whole or in part and may attribute comments provided by organizations. If you would like your comments to be treated confidentially, please request confidentiality in your response or submit your comments anonymously.

Any personal information received by the Department through this engagement process is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Department of Agriculture and Land via the contact information indicated above.

Proposed Amendments to *Planning Act*

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Introduction

In July 2020, the Department of Agriculture and Land (“DAL”) launched the Land Matters survey, the first step in DAL’s Land Matters Project. The survey collected feedback on land ownership and use issues from approximately 300 respondents. This feedback was then analyzed and presented to the Land Matters Advisory Committee (appointed in October 2020) as one line of evidence to inform decisions.

The Land Matters Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) met with a diverse range of stakeholder groups over several months and heard presentations related to land legislation and policies, including the *Planning Act* (the “Act”).

In July 2021, the Committee released its Final Report, *Now is the Time*, outlining recommendations for Government to modernize the Act.

What’s Changed?

Purposes of the Act and Provincial Interests

One of the recommendations from the Committee was to make amendments to the *Planning Act* to clarify the Purpose and add Statements of Provincial Interests.¹

DAL is proposing amendments to the Act that will replace the Objects at section 2 with clearly defined purposes. The intention is that these will outline the scope of the Act.

DAL is also proposing adding Statements of Provincial Interests to the Act. These Statements will assist in guiding land planning and focus on land-related priorities. The introduction of clearly defined Purposes and Statements will further enhance planning related legislation and policies. The draft Purposes and Statements were developed by Government planners with input from Legal Services.

¹ Land Matters Advisory Committee. (2021). *Now is the Time: Final Report of the Land Matters Advisory Committee*, p. 23.

We hope that this report is useful in providing a summary of the proposed amendments to the *Planning Act*.

- A copy of the current *Planning Act* can be found on the Government of Prince Edward Island website at:
https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/p-08-planning_act.pdf
- A copy of the Land Matters Advisory Committee Final Report is available at:
<https://www.landmatterspei.ca/>

We encourage you to provide comments on the Bill so that Government has an opportunity to consider all feedback prior to finalizing the Bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. Comments may be provided as directed on page 2 of this Report.