



AWARENESS TO ACTION



**A Health Strategy for Women and Islanders
Who Are Gender Diverse 2022-2027**

Department of
Health and Wellness

**YEAR ONE
PROGRESS REPORT
June 2022-May 2023**

THE STRATEGY

[Awareness to Action: A Health Strategy for Women and Islanders who are Gender Diverse, 2022-2027](#) was released on [June 8, 2022](#). It is built on four pillars with the goal of optimal health and wellbeing for women and Islanders who are gender diverse, at every stage of their lives. The Strategy will be implemented by staff of the Department of Health and Wellness and Health PEI.

PILLARS

The four pillars under the Strategy include:

- 1) Create welcoming spaces
- 2) Expand available, accessible services and care
- 3) Integrate and coordinate services
- 4) Build and share knowledge

OVERSIGHT

[The Women and Gender Diverse People's Health Council](#) was established to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy. The Council is made up of government, health care providers and administrators, community partners, and the public. The Council held its first meeting in October 2022 and continued to meet regularly throughout the rest of year one.

YEAR ONE UPDATES

Growing the Team

Doing this valuable work requires a team with a broad range of skillsets and experiences. During year one we hired:

- A Manager to oversee implementation of the Strategy and other related files;
- A Coordinator to support the application of a health equity, gender and diversity lens to policies and programs;
- A Specialist in equity, diversity and inclusion to develop a plan to introduce a welcoming environments initiative across healthcare settings.

Making Plans

In year one, development and planning work in progress included:

- Building awareness: A social marketing campaign is being developed to build awareness of the unique needs and experiences that impact the health and wellbeing of women and gender diverse people.
- Access to contraception: The work to develop a Contraception Program was started. One of the first steps is the gathering of information related to best/promising practices, approaches used in other jurisdictions, and understanding the trends.
- Expand access to [Gender Affirming Care](#): Health PEI's Gender Affirming Care Steering Committee undertook a review of the Gender Affirming Surgical Policy and prepared recommendations for enhancements to the policy to increase access and support.
- Expand Gender Sensitive Mental Health Supports: Mental Health and Addictions (Health PEI) developed a Gender, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

Supporting the Sector

We also actively engage in work related to women and gender diverse people's health outside the direct scope of the Strategy. In year one that included:

- Ongoing implementation of the Fertility Treatment Program.
- Working with the Interministerial Women's Secretariat and the Department of Justice and Public Safety to release PEI's first [Provincial Strategy for the Prevention and Response to Adult Sexual Violence](#).
- Supporting the development of PEI's first [Anti-Racism Action Plan](#).

Upcoming Work

In year two, some of the initiatives we will work on include:

- Pillar One: Create Welcoming Spaces
 - Initiative One: Apply a health equity, gender and diversity lens to policies and programs. Development, planning and initial roll-out of this initiative is scheduled for year two.
 - Initiative Two: Enhance efforts to ensure health spaces are safe and welcoming. Development, planning and initial roll-out of this initiative is scheduled for year two.
- Review of the Fertility Treatment Program. This program is scheduled for a review to find areas for improvement.
- Contraception Program. Move from information gathering phase to consultation, planning, and development.