

Province of Prince Edward Island

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2021 - 2022

Department of Health and Wellness

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Message from the Minister

The Honourable Antoinette Perry
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8



May it Please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Wellness for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022.

During the reporting period, the Honourable Ernie Hudson served as the Minister of Health and Wellness.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honorable Mark McLane
Minister of Health and Wellness

Message from the Deputy Minister

The Honourable Mark McLane
Minister of Health and Wellness

Minister:

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Department of Health and Wellness for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022. The report outlines the department's activities from April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. During the reporting period, Mr. Mark Spidel served as Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Thibeau
Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness



Department of Health and Wellness Overview

The Prince Edward Island Department of Health and Wellness (the Department) serves and supports all Islanders. In accordance with the Health Services Act, the Department supports the Minister of Health and Wellness in providing oversight of health services in the province and establishing accountability mechanisms, standards for health services, performance targets, and policies and guidelines for the management and delivery of services. The Department provides leadership in matters related to public health, health promotion and establishes policy direction to improve the health and well-being of residents of PEI. The Department works collaboratively with Health PEI to deliver health programs and services through measured progress and the achievement of critical goals designed to enhance the health and well-being of Islanders.

Mandate

The mandate of the Department of Health and Wellness is to provide leadership, policy direction and programs that contribute to:

- Health protection and promotion for islanders; and
- Quality and sustainable health services that are accessible to Islanders.

The Department fulfills this mandate in partnership with Islanders and communities, Health PEI, health professions and allied health professionals, non-government and community organizations, the private sector, and other government departments.

Highlights and Accomplishments

Expenditures

- In 2021-2022, the Department of Health and Wellness **operating budget was \$69.4 million**, up from \$44.2 million in 2020-2021 due to the addition of a new Mental Health and Addictions office, and an increase to the Sport, Recreation, and Physical Activity budget for the 2023 Canada Winter Games.

Planning and Policy Development

- The Department of Health and Wellness introduced the **Healthcare Priorities training program** for Islanders who want to gain the knowledge, skills, and credentials to work in health care settings across PEI. The program offers financial assistance of up to 70% of course fees for Islanders seeking post-secondary training as Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) and Resident Care Workers (RCW). The program added 60 more spaces for LPNs and RCWs to access post-secondary education on PEI for the 2021-2022 school year. These actions will result in approximately 250 new health care professionals working in the system over the next five years.
- The Department introduced a **program to encourage Island community health care providers to adopt the provincial Electronic Medical Records system**. The provincewide rollout of the EMR system will benefit the health care system, through enhanced monitoring of trends that can be used to inform policy decisions and investments. The EMR system will benefit healthcare providers and patients through ease of booking, compatibility with virtual appointments and improved record keeping.
- The Department launched the **Mental Health and Addictions Access Phone Line** that will act as a single point of access for mental health and addictions and will make it easier for Islanders to access timely care. The phone line is staffed seven days a week, 24 hours a day, by mental health professionals who provide Islanders with access to mental health and addictions services.
- In conjunction with the Mental Health and Addiction Access Line, the Department launched a **Mobile Mental Health Response Service** that operates 365 days a year from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The service is designed to provide rapid patient assessment and support to people in the community from an integrated team of trained specialists. Moreover, it will provide timely access

to mental health assessment, treatment, and connection to appropriate ongoing care.

- The introduction of the **Physician Recruiting Physician Program**, which is a partnership between the Department of Health and Wellness, Health PEI, and the Medical Society of PEI, contributed to the recruitment of 40 physicians to PEI in 2021. The new physicians include family physicians, emergency medicine physicians, general surgeons, anesthetists, obstetricians / gynecologists, and psychiatrists, among others.
- The **Physician Recruitment Virtual Reality** project, which is an initiative from the Physician Recruiting Physician Program, gives doctors three-dimensional exposure to what it is like to live and work on PEI without having to travel to the province. Doctors considering a career in PEI can now walk the simulated halls of island healthcare facilities and experience community landmarks from across the Island, as part of a new virtual reality project to help recruit doctors to the province.
- The Department of Health and Wellness issued a tender for site work on the new **West Prince Community Health Centre**, which will become a space that combines primary care and a range of community-based health services. Once operational, this new facility will bring a range of new and needed primary care, mental health, addiction services, and other needed health services to the Alberton and West Prince area.

Population Health

- The Department of Health and Wellness introduced a new program that makes **Shingrix®**, the shingles vaccines, free for Islanders over the age of 65, at community pharmacies across the Island. There are 32,000 Islanders aged 65 or older, that are at risk for developing shingles and the associated risks of experiencing serious health outcomes.

Encouraging Healthy and Active Lives

- The Department of Health and Wellness extended for another year the **CHANGE and Exercise for Health** programs that have been helping hundreds of Islanders living with, or at risk of, chronic disease through personalized exercise and nutrition plans. Both programs are important in helping individuals with chronic disease access the tools to help them to better manage chronic health conditions and to improve their overall health.

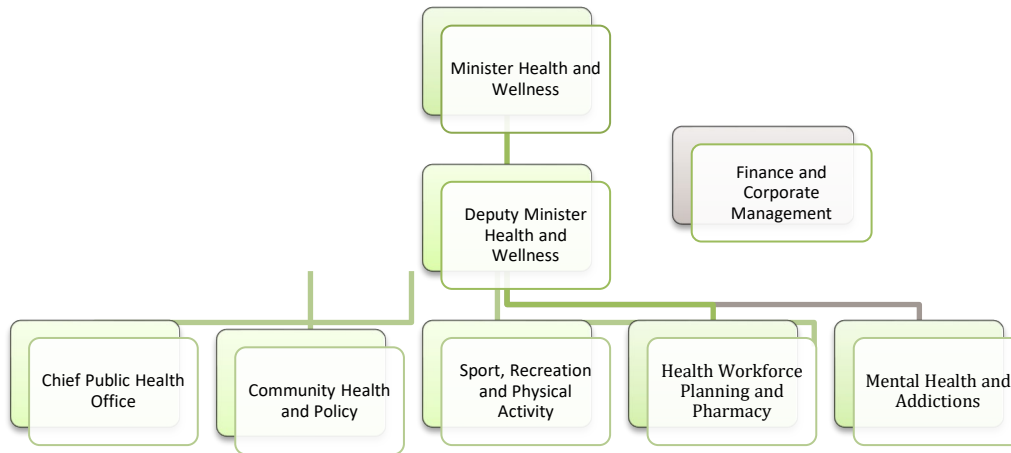
- PEI introduced the **VIP vouching program** that recognizes the contributions of qualified coaches across the province by creating a coaching community, providing professional development opportunities, and offering discounts for sporting equipment. The program encourages sport coaches to become trained and certified to help improve sport safety and enhance the experience for Island athletes.

COVID-19

- The COVID-19 pandemic caused continuing challenges and changes during fiscal year 2021-22. The Government of PEI and the Department of Health and Wellness needed to adapt policy and public health directives in real time as risks to Islanders evolved and the COVID-19 situation changed. Health care, front line, and essential workers across the Island responded to every challenge presented by COVID-19 and helped to keep Islanders safe. Some of the measures implemented include:
 - Unveiled the province's **Moving Forward** plan outlining the government's balanced and measured approach to relaxing COVID-19 public health measures, with adjustable timelines between each step as needed to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation and protect Islanders;
 - **Expanded COVID-19 vaccination to pharmacies** across the Island, making it easier for Islanders living in rural communities and in cities to get vaccinated;
 - **Expanded testing locations** for teachers, students, post-secondary students, and families to help ease the transition into a new school year to keep Island students safe;
 - **Launched a pilot project to increase access to COVID-19 testing** for students in rural PEI by providing students under 12, who were at that time not yet eligible to be immunized, with at-home COVID-19 screening kits;
 - Developed and introduced the **PEI Vax Pass program**, online portal to access vaccination records, and PEI Vax Pass verifier app for smartphones, to support a time-limited measure that allows Islanders to prove their vaccination status at certain businesses, events, and other areas;
 - Restricted **capacity at businesses, public spaces, public events and gatherings, social distancing measures, were implemented and relaxed** at various intervals throughout the year in response to infection rates and conditions across PEI;

- Charities, non-profit organizations, and community organizations benefited from the **Red Cross’ “Stop the Spread and Stay Safe!” program**, which provided groups with rapid antigen test kits and training on effectively administering tests to help support frontline workers in organizations that operate in high-risk settings; and
 - **Improved the province’s “My Test Results” online portal** by allowing Islanders to access their positive test results through the portal.
- A key element in the Island’s plan to move forward was the **vaccine rollout**. Islanders were quick to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccines, resulting in PEI being the second most vaccinated province in Canada.
- As of the end of March 2022:
 - 97.4% (141,619) of people 12+ received at least one dose;
 - 94.3% (137,162) of people 12+ were fully vaccinated;
 - 79,554 people received a third dose;
 - 69.6% (8,206) of people aged 5-11 received at least one dose;
 - 50.0% (5,899) people aged 5-11 were fully vaccinated; and
 - a total of 372,378 doses of COVID-19 vaccines were administered.

Organizational Structure



Finance and Corporate Management

This Division supports and assists the Department of Health and Wellness in the areas of human resource management and financial management.

Chief Public Health Office

Public health is defined as the organized efforts of society to keep people healthy and prevent injury, illness, and premature death. It is the combination of programs, services, and policies that protect and promote health.

The mandate of the Chief Public Health Office (CPHO) is to protect and promote the health of Islanders through leadership, partnership, and excellence in public health. The division is responsible for delivery of health protection programs including food safety as legislated under the *Public Health Act*. This is accomplished through regulation, inspection, and enforcement. The CPHO is responsible for preventive measures to reduce the spread of diseases including immunization and communicable disease infection control. The CPHO also monitors provincial health trends to help inform program development and public health policy.

Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Division

This division is responsible for encouraging Islanders to be active through sport, recreation, and other physical activity. This mandate is achieved through a wide variety of partnerships with sport, recreation, and active living organizations throughout the province. The division provides grants and consultation services to several provincial, regional, and community groups. Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity works with a variety of provincial and federal government departments, national non-profit organizations, and interprovincial non-governmental agencies.

Programs supported by this division include the Amateur Sport Program, Community Recreation Support Program, and go!PEI.

Community Health and Policy

This division provides policy and planning direction in various aspects of health care delivery. In turn, these supports assist the Minister in providing leadership, strategic direction, and oversight of the health care system.

Health Workforce Planning and Pharmacy

The Health Workforce Planning division carries out initiatives to improve the supply of hard to recruit professions and workers throughout the health workforce, not just clinical roles, with a focus on workforce for both public and private components of the health system.

The Pharmaceutical Services division is responsible for informing the Ministry on the policy direction and leadership over the drug formulary and drug programs.

Financial Statements

EXPENDITURES AND REVENUE

	2021-2022	2021-2022
	Budget	Budget
	Forecast	Estimate
	\$	\$
EXPENDITURE		
MINISTER'S/DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE	430,100	420,900
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND POLICY	33,487,700	27,919,300
HEALTH WORKFORCE PLANNING.....	4,879,600	4,503,200
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE	7,382,600	8,606,000
MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS OFFICE	8,500,900	8,462,500
SPORT, RECREATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	14,760,700	12,910,700
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	69,441,600	62,822,600
REVENUE		
HEALTH AND WELLNESS	22,776,300	16,197,300
TOTAL REVENUE	22,776,300	16,197,300

EXPENDITURES

	2021-2022	2021-2022
	Budget	Budget
	Forecast	Estimate
	\$	\$
MINISTER'S/DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE		
Minister's/Deputy Minister's Office		
Appropriations provided for the administration of the Minister's and the Deputy Minister's offices.		
Administration	17,700	22,700
Equipment	1,500	1,500
Materials, Supplies and Services	4,300	7,500
Salaries	391,900	376,500
Travel and Training	14,700	12,700
Total Minister's/Deputy Minister's Office	430,100	420,900
TOTAL MINISTER'S/DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE	430,100	420,900

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND POLICY

Health Policy and Strategic Initiatives

Appropriations provided to support the Department in carrying out its responsibilities in the areas of planning and evaluation, health policy development and analysis, and legislation.

Administration	30,400	30,800
Equipment	10,200	3,700
Materials, Supplies and Services	87,500	29,500
Professional Services	3,269,500	3,785,100
Salaries	1,641,000	1,515,500
Travel and Training	18,400	34,200
Grants	6,744,400	1,432,400
Total Health Policy and Programs	11,801,400	6,831,200

EXPENDITURES

	2021-2022	2021-2022
	Budget	Budget
	Forecast	Estimate
Community Care Facility and Private Nursing Home Inspection		
Appropriations provided for the inspection and licensing of Community Care Facilities and Private Nursing Homes in Prince Edward Island pursuant to the <i>Community Care Facilities and Nursing Homes Act</i> .		
Administration	11,400	8,200
Equipment.....	3,000	1,200
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	2,200	2,900
Professional Services	5,800	9,800
Salaries	671,400	680,000
Travel and Training	18,400	20,900
Total Community Care Facility and Private Nursing Home Inspection.....	712,200	723,000
Emergency Health Services		
Appropriations provided to support Provincial emergency health related policy and programs including ambulance services, air ambulance, Tele-Health (8-1-1), blood services, and organ and tissue donation and transplantation.		
Administration	16,500	15,300
Equipment.....	9,000	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	5,200	1,100
Professional Services	14,083,800	13,912,200
Salaries	382,000	387,200
Travel and Training	5,900	5,900
Grants	5,512,000	5,346,100
Total Emergency Health Services.....	20,014,400	19,667,800

EXPENDITURES

	2021-2022	2021-2022
	Budget	Budget
	Forecast	Estimate
	\$	\$
Community Health Programs		
Appropriations provided to support community health policies and Programs, including, but not limited to primary care, chronic disease Management, women and gender-diverse health, and fertility supports		
Administration	3,500	--
Equipment.....	5,00	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	1,500	--
Professional Services	50,000	75,000
Salaries	268,500	42,300
Travel and Training	2,000	--
Grants	629,200	580,000
Total Community Health Programs	959,700	697,300
TOTAL COMMUNITY HEALTH AND POLICY	33,487,700	27,919,300

HEALTH WORKFORCE PLANNING

Health Recruitment and Retention

Appropriations provided for recruitment and retention strategies for physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals.

Administration	11,000	22,200
Equipment.....	50,600	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	128,500	52,500
Professional Services	291,000	274,500
Salaries	515,700	449,600
Travel and Training	8,800	8,800
Grants	2,237,400	2,781,500
Total Health Recruitment and Retention	3,243,000	3,589,100

EXPENDITURES

	2021-2022	2021-2022
	Budget	Budget
	Forecast	Estimate
	\$	\$
Health Workforce Planning and Pharmacy		
Appropriations provided for workforce planning and innovation in the healthcare field		
Administration	13,600	10,400
Equipment	55,300	1,300
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	10,200	10,200
Professional Services	296,700	12,200
Salaries	755,600	375,800
Travel and Training\.....	5,200	4,200
Grants	500,000	500,000
Total Health Workforce Planning and Pharmacy	1,636,600	914,100
TOTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE PLANNING.....	4,879,600	4,503,200

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE

Chief Public Health Office

Appropriations provided for administration of the *Public Health Act*, supervision of provincial public health programs, immunization programs, disease surveillance and communicable disease control.

Administration	32,600	27,200
Equipment.....	5,000	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	3,259,900	4,007,100
Professional Services	256,100	163,300
Salaries	1,183,500	1,296,500
Travel and Training	19,000	19,000
Grants	--	1,600
Total Chief Public Health Office	4,756,100	5,514,700

EXPENDITURES

	2021-2022	2021-2022
	Budget Forecast	Budget Estimate
	\$	\$
Population Health Assessment and Surveillance		
Appropriations provided to monitor and report to the public on health status and trends in the Province. This unit support evidence-based decision making and promotes continuous improvement by generating, analyzing and interpreting information.		
Administration	2,500	4,300
Equipment.....	1,800	2,800
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	3,600	600
Professional Services	46,500	16,000
Salaries	263,600	371,200
Travel and Training	300	300
Total Population Health Assessment and Surveillance	318,300	395,200
Health Promotion		
Appropriations provided to support the health and wellness of Islanders and to promote a proactive process to enable Islanders to increase control over and to improve their health. The unit is responsible for implementing the provincial Wellness Strategy within the Department, across Government and in partnership with non-Government organizations and communities.		
Administration	4,700	5,700
Equipment.....	4,300	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	8,300	104,300
Professional Services	49,100	99,100
Salaries	408,500	426,900
Travel and Training	2,100	4,200
Grants	272,000	441,500
Total Health Promotion	749,000	1,081,700

EXPENDITURES

	2021-2022 Budget Forecast \$	2021-2022 Budget Estimate \$
Tobacco Prevention & Cessation		
<p>Appropriations provided to support the design and implementation of tobacco prevention and harm reduction initiatives and the development, coordination and evaluation of a comprehensive and integrated Provincial Tobacco Cessation Program.</p>		
Administration	500	1,500
Materials, Supplies and Professional	317,600	391,500
Salaries	--	48,100
Travel and Training	170,900	83,700
	300	2,500
Total Tobacco Prevention & Cessation	489,300	527,300
Environmental Health Services		
<p>Appropriations provided for the services to educate, consult and inspect under the <i>Public Health Act</i> in areas such as food protection, occupational health, accommodations and slaughterhouses. Inspection services also includes enforcement under the <i>Tobacco Sales & Access Act</i> and <i>Smoke-free Places Act</i>.</p>		
Administration	22,300	18,100
Equipment.....	800	800
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	24,200	29,800
Professional Services	52,500	87,500
Salaries	913,100	883,200
Travel and Training	57,000	57,700
Grants	--	10,000
Total Environmental Health Services	1,069,900	1,087,100
TOTAL CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE	7,382,600	8,606,000

EXPENDITURES

2021-2022	2021-2022
Budget	Budget
Forecast	Estimate
\$	\$

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS

Mental Health and Addictions Office

Appropriations provided for the Mental Health and Addictions Office

To help coordinate initiatives for all Islanders, including the Mental Health Strategic Plan, creation of an Addictions Strategic Plan, Supporting the Mental Health and Addictions Master Plan Transformation, support the Mobile Mental Health Response Service, And funding for the PEI Alliance for Mental Wellbeing.

Administration.....	7,900	--
Equipment.....	12,000	--
Materials, Supplies and Services.....	2,000	--
Professional Services.....	2,653,600	2,433,600
Salaries.....	155,100	--
Travel and Training.....	7,000	--
Grants	5,663,300	6,028,900
Total Mental Health and Addictions Office .	8,500,900	8,462,500
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TOTAL MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS.....	8,500,900	8,462,500

SPORT, RECREATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity

Appropriations provided for development, implementation, delivery and monitoring of programs and services in the areas of sport, recreation and physical activity.

Administration	8,800	8,800
Equipment	2,100	2,100
Materials, Supplies and Services.	5,000	5,000
Professional Services	44,500	68,600
Salaries	423,400	399,300
Travel and Training.....	6,500	6,500
Grants	14,270,400	12,420,400
Total Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity	14,760,700	12,910,700
TOTAL SPORT, RECREATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	14,760,700	12,910,700

TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS.....	69,441,600	62,822,600
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