



Health and Wellness

BUSINESS PLAN

2024 - 2025



2024-25 Business Plan

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Deputy Minister's Message

Dear Minister McLane,

It is my pleasure to submit the 2024-2025 Business Plan for the Department of Health and Wellness (the Department).

This past year has presented significant challenges for Prince Edward Island's healthcare system as we work to deliver quality healthcare while addressing substantial gaps across our system. I would like to recognize the dedicated and committed staff, who are actively working to implement effective strategies to ensure the health and well-being of our Island's residents in an ever-changing and expanding healthcare landscape.

Our commitment to collaboration, responsiveness, and flexibility remains unwavering.

The 2024-25 annual business plan outlines the Department's business operations for year two of the five-year Provincial Health Plan. This business plan contains numerous improvements that will support and strengthen our healthcare system, including person-centered care, cultural safety, access to care and personal health information, service models close to home, expanded collaborative care models, and digital health innovations. Combined, these investments will provide improvements in care and better health outcomes for Islanders.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Thibeau

Deputy Minister



Introduction

In this, the second year of the five-year 2023-28 Provincial Health Plan, the Department of Health and Wellness continues to advance initiatives that will transform the healthcare system by stabilizing our workforce, supporting health and wellness for all residents, improve access through innovation and addressing equity and unique needs of targeted groups.

The annual business plan is part of the Department's Provincial Health Plan planning and reporting cycle. The five-year provincial health plan was launched in 2023. Every year, a business plan is developed to identify key initiatives to advance the vision of the provincial health plan and an annual report is completed to report on the activities and progress of the previous fiscal year. The 2024-25 Department of Health and Wellness Business Plan is the second annual business plan in this cycle.

The Department continues to advance key initiatives that extend over several years including the Mental Health Campus, Patient Medical Homes and Neighbourhoods and the Electronic Medical Record, among others. We continue some initiatives from the previous year such as creating welcoming environments and the introduction of Registered Psychiatric Nurses, as well we will launch new initiatives including the development of diagnostic pathways for cancer. While some of these initiatives are led by the Department, many result from the valued and effective partnerships and collaborations across government and the healthcare system in PEI and across Canada. On a final note, the initiatives in this document are presented to align with the Provincial Health Plan goals, but many of these initiatives will advance multiple priority areas.

Priority: Keeping our Island Healthy

Over this fiscal year, we will continue to invest in the health and wellness of Island residents by adding to the new Mental Health Campus and supporting the expansion of mental health services. We will engage with Islanders to better understand how we can help Islanders live well and, with government and community partners, we will launch and expand programs to support residents in their wellness efforts. We will continue to advance and enhance initiatives to prevent chronic disease development and reduce the burden for those currently living with chronic diseases. Finally, we will engage in the development of a Live Well Action Plan, Chronic Disease Framework and Provincial Pain Strategy as we continue to respond to the health and wellness needs of Island residents.

Health & Wellness for All Residents

- Launch a survey on substance-related behaviours, knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs that will inform future harm reduction and chronic disease prevention initiatives, this survey will also capture important socio-demographic factors.
- Build on successful public awareness campaigns such as Take a Breath (tobacco use) and Less is Best (alcohol use) to develop new campaigns highlighting the benefits of healthy eating and physical activity and reducing sedentary behaviour.
- Propose amendments to the *Tobacco and Electronic Smoking Device Sales and Access Act* to that would strengthen regulatory enforcement at PEI retail locations, with an aim to reduce prevalence of tobacco and vaping in PEI.
- Improve access to smoking cessation aids for Island residents in communities across PEI by expanding the Provincial Smoking Cessation Program and building on the Pharmacy Plus PEI program.
- Launch the Provincial Smoking Cessation Program database to streamline data management, monitoring, and reporting to improve program efficiencies across the service delivery system (primary care, acute care settings, pharmacies, etc.)
- Develop an RFP (Request for Proposal) to initiate phase 2 of the Live Well PEI website to improve the functionality and accessibility and to develop interactive features.
- Launch the Consultation Paper on Wellness in Prince Edward Island to engage Island residents in developing a 5-year provincial wellness action plan under the Live Well PEI brand.
- Initiate implementation of the Wellness in PEI Action Plan.

Chronic Disease Prevention & Management

- Add new medications to the PEI Pharmacare Formulary that will reduce financial barriers.
- Review the school-based HPV Immunization data to understand the uptake and gaps.
- Develop and implement an expansion to the current insulin pump program and identify options to provide funding for select diabetic supplies.
- Collaborate with partners involved in the Provincial Pain Strategy Steering Committee to develop a provincial pain strategy.
- Develop a Chronic Disease Framework to provide guidance to address chronic disease prevention, early detection, and management to improve health outcomes for Island residents and support health services in the province.

Mental Health & Mental Wellness

- Initiate construction of the Mental Health and Addictions Acute Care Facility/Life Skills Center
- Initiate construction of the Mental Health and Addictions Wellness and Transition Centre
- Complete the design phase for the Mental Health and Addictions Child and Youth Inpatient Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital
- In partnership with Health PEI, and the operator, support the operationalization of a 3rd Mobile Mental Health Response Team.

Priority: A Healthy & Sustainable Workforce

We remain committed to strengthening our workforce and, to ensure that we can retain and recruit a stable and healthy workforce. To that end, this fiscal year we will launch financial support programs that will enhance efforts to recruit healthcare professionals, ensure that we are able to optimize staffing where gaps exist, and effectively negotiate agreements with unions that support workforce retention and healthcare innovation. We will continue to work with partners to strengthen international streams and our ability to effectively integrate internationally educated healthcare professionals into the healthcare system.

Capacity, Recruitment & Retention

- Launch the Allied Health Incentive Program, a return-in-service program, to increase the number of allied health professionals working in PEI.
- Launch an Internationally Educated Nurses Bursary Program, to support internationally educated nurses as they integrate into the PEI health workforce.
- Expand the scope of practice for registered nurses in certain clinical areas and with specialized education to have the authorization to prescribe medication.
- Advance initiatives to increase internationally educated health professionals in practice in PEI through expanding new and existing partnerships and improving the efficiency of processes from recruitment to entry-to-practice.
- Introduce a new designation of nursing to PEI's healthcare system with Registered Psychiatric Nurses.

Supporting PEI's Health Workforce

- Improve stability of ambulance services by launching a paramedic travel per diem program to increase coverage in hard-to-fill shifts.
- Negotiate a new Paramedic Services Agreement with Island EMS and Medacom Atlantic, to support the paramedic workforce and ensure patient-centered care.
- Partner with Health PEI and the Medical Society of PEI to finalize and apply a new Physician Master Services Agreement to support the healthcare system, physicians and promote health innovation.
- Support expansion and optimization of scope of practice for physiotherapists and chiropractors to facilitate ordering of X-rays.
- Facilitate implementation and integration of physician assistants and associate physicians in PEI's healthcare workforce

Partnerships & Collaboration

- In partnership with Saskatchewan Polytechnic, launch the Transition to Registered Nursing in Canada Program and the RN Bridging Program in PEI to provide internationally educated nurses with the support and education to practice in the role of a Canadian Registered Nurse.
- Provide funding to address wage and benefit differences between private and public long-term care homes and to support increased wages for staff in community care facilities.

Priority: Seamless Access to Care

Over this fiscal year, the Department of Health and Wellness will enhance access to care across the Island and healthcare system. We will work with partners to expand programs and pathways, including cancer diagnostic programs and pathways and eligibility criteria for virtual care programs. We will improve access to emergency health services in and out of the province. We will continue to advance the EMR and other digital solutions that enhance the ability of citizens to be involved in their care and enhance communication between all those involved in care. Finally, we will continue to advance the Patient Medical Neighbourhoods model by establishing foundational processes and pathways for communication and collaboration.

Seamless Access to Care

- Support the development of Health PEI's expanded cancer diagnostic navigation program and pathways by cancer type, with a focus on colorectal cancer diagnostic navigation and a coordinated pathway from suspicion to treatment of lung cancer.
- Launch a public and provider education campaign to highlight the primary care access points from the Primary Care Renewal initiative for unaffiliated Island residents.
- Develop a plan to expand the Unaffiliated Virtual Care Program to a Virtual Care for All program so that all Islanders can access government funded virtual care.
- In partnership with Health PEI, develop and implement a plan to apply regulatory changes that expand and optimize the scope of practice for PEI physiotherapists and chiropractors that enable them to order select diagnostic imaging tests.
- Negotiate a new agreement for Telehealth (8-1-1) services, to enable Islanders to access health advice when and where they need it.
- In partnership with Health PEI, draft long-term agreements with off-Island providers of specialized health services in NS and NB that are not available in PEI, to ensure ongoing access to core off-Island programs and services.
- Person-Centred Care
- Initial implementation of a solution that will enable citizens to access, contribute to and share their health information.
- Finalize and launch a digital health strategy and roadmap that will serve to provide strategic direction in the planning and advancement of digital health technologies over the coming years.
- Support Health PEI in the development and implementation of a mobile x-ray service for seniors in public and privately operated long-term care across the Island.

Coordinated Care

- Collaborate with Health PEI to examine opportunities to create pathways to ensure access to cancer services for patients without a primary care provider.
- Assist in addressing off-load delays by implementing "Clinical Indicators for Transport" to provide decision support to paramedics when determining transportation vs care in-place with follow-up.
- Partner with healthcare practitioner organizations to develop Patient Medical Neighbourhood pathways that will enable a continuum of patient care in the community, establishing the patient's medical neighbourhood.

- Develop a Primary Care Renewal Patient Medical Neighbourhood and Primary Care Access Project evaluations plan, and secure resources to implement the plan.
- Develop a Primary Care Renewal Community Engagement Report highlighting key themes and actions that emerged from engagement sessions.
- Support initial implementation of patient and clinician portal(s) to support access to health information.
- Roll-out Phase 2 of the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) to Community Mental Health and Addictions programs and plan for additional programs to join the EMR, in alignment with HPEI's Clinical Documentation Roadmap.
- Develop a multi-year plan to add station, human resource, and ambulance capacity, modernize paramedic deployment to address response times, improve patient safety and access to care, and efficiently utilize paramedic human resources.

Priority: Equitable Access

This coming year we will continue to make advances to address inequity and equitable access in healthcare. We will take steps to better understand the population from an equity perspective and use this information to inform meaningful solutions. We will implement initiatives to address barriers to access, including creating more welcoming spaces across healthcare settings. We will use innovative approaches to bring services to people across PEI and support communities to play a more active role in recruitment and retention of the healthcare workforce. Finally, we will continue to advance initiatives that promote health and wellness for our children, youth and seniors including targeted health promotion programs for youth and expanding the number of long-term care beds and supporting staff as they continue to provide safe and quality care for Island seniors.

Addressing Inequity

- Within the Cancer Action Plan, we will gather information and shared learnings from other jurisdictions in the collection and use of race and equity data, governance, and opportunities to support improved population health outcomes.
- Implement improvements to the Provincial Fertility Treatment Program to better support access to out-of-province services.
- Develop a plan to introduce a welcoming environments initiative in healthcare settings.

- In partnership with other government departments and Health PEI, initiate the development of a sustainability plan for the Enhanced Emergency Sexual Assault Services Program.

Geographies of Interest

- Initiate a community grant to fund initiatives, led by communities, recognized organizations and municipalities, to welcome and retain healthcare professionals in PEI.
- Provide funding for equipment and renovations to add 50 new long-term care beds to communities across PEI.

Target Age Groups

- Work with education partners to implement the Quit Your Way program in select Island schools to reduce the risks and harms associated with tobacco and vaping products.
- Publish an RFP to explore the impacts of youth gaming in addition to creating a new position, youth gambling specialist, to support development of programs and resources available to youth and families in PEI.
- Initiate the work on legislative changes to ensure that public and private community care facilities and long-term care facilities move toward common standards, including uniform inspections to support safe care and support for their residents and staff.
- Support the continued delivery of safe, quality care in private long-term care homes across PEI with the addition of new infection prevention and control staff.
- Engage partners-in-care, staff, visitors, and volunteers in long-term care homes across PEI in infection prevention and control training.
- Foster collaboration across the long-term care sector by initiating the Long-Term Care Sector Council.
- Initiate work on innovative solutions to add more allied health professionals to private long-term care facilities
- Work with Health PEI and government partners to launch the Primary Caregiver Grant Program to support caregivers who choose to keep their loved ones at home longer.
- Develop and issue an RFP for 175 new long-term care beds, adding access to safe and quality long-term care to seniors across the Island.

Financial Statement

Operating Expenditures	Budget FY 2024-2025
Minister's / Deputy Minister's Office	649,100
Community Health & Policy	53,971,300
Pharmacy Services	64,695,100
Health Workforce Planning and Recruitment	9,386,600
Chief Public Health Office	11,980,100
Mental Health and Addictions Office	13,024,400
Health Innovation	8,380,400
Health and Wellness Operating Expenses	162,087,000
Revenue	
Health and Wellness	66,330,300
Total Revenue	66,330,300

Capital Expenditures	Budget FY 2024-2025
Capital Improvements – Buildings	50,176,300
Equipment and Other Capital Assets	2,839,700
Health and Wellness Capital Expenses	53,016,000



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