



*Department of Social Development and Housing*

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



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## Minister's Message

Honourable Antoinette Perry  
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island  
PO Box 846  
Charlottetown PE C1A 7L9



May It Please Your Honour:

I am pleased to submit the annual report for the Department of Social Development and Housing for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

This report summarizes the achievements of the department for that year. Some highlights include:

- Supporting the creation and planning of new housing options in the province, including opening a new low-barrier, 50 bed shelter at Park Street in Charlottetown;
- Providing key funding supports to facilitate additional housing efforts;
- Providing timely supports in response to Hurricane Fiona;
- Investing significantly in Social Programs, including an historic eight per cent increase to the basic unit rate;
- Increasing benefits under the Senior's Independence Initiative from \$1,500 to \$1,700; and
- Opening two new community-based group home facilities for children in care.

As well as reporting on the activities of our Department during that period, this report satisfies the requirements of Section 5 of the *Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act*, Section 10 of the *Social Assistance Act* and Section 20.1 of the *Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act*.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barb Ramsay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barb Ramsay  
Minister of Social Development and Seniors  
June 3, 2024

## Message de la ministre

L'honorable Antoinette Perry  
Lieutenante-gouverneure de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard  
C. P. 846  
Charlottetown (Î.-P.-É.) C1A 7L9  
Qu'il plaise à Votre Honneur,



J'ai le privilège de vous soumettre le rapport annuel du ministère du Développement social et du Logement pour l'exercice financier terminé le 31 mars 2023.

Le présent rapport résume les réalisations du ministère au cours de l'exercice. En voici quelques points saillants :

- Soutien à la création et à la planification de nouvelles options de logement dans la province, y compris l'ouverture d'un nouveau refuge de 50 lits ayant peu de restrictions sur la rue Park à Charlottetown;
- Fourniture d'aides financières essentielles pour faciliter les efforts supplémentaires en matière de logement;
- Offre d'un soutien opportun en réponse à l'ouragan Fiona;
- Investissements importants réalisés dans les programmes sociaux, notamment une augmentation historique de 8 % du taux unitaire de base;
- Augmentation des prestations au titre du programme pour l'autonomie des aînés, qui sont passées de 1 500 à 1 700 dollars; et
- Ouverture de deux nouveaux foyers communautaires pour les enfants pris en charge.

En plus de rendre compte des activités de notre ministère pour cette période, le présent rapport satisfait aux exigences de l'article 5 de la *Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act* (loi sur la réadaptation des personnes handicapées), de l'article 10 de la *Social Assistance Act* (loi sur l'aide sociale) et de l'article 20.1 de la *Supports for Persons With Disabilities Act* (loi sur le soutien aux personnes ayant une incapacité).

Le tout respectueusement soumis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barb Ramsay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barb Ramsay  
Ministre du Développement social et des Aînés  
Le 3 juin 2024

## Deputy's Message

Honourable Barb Ramsay  
Minister of Social Development and Seniors  
PO Box 2000  
Charlottetown PE C1A 7N8



Dear Minister Ramsay:

It is my pleasure to provide you with the 2022-2023 annual report for the Department of Social Development and Housing along with the year-end financial summary.

This report serves to inform the public of the Department's achievements and performance metrics for that year. It provides insight into the Department's use of fiscal and human resources to carry out the mandate of supporting Island families and individuals.

The considerable accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect the hard work of Social Development and Housing employees, and I wish to thank them for their contributions. Looking ahead to 2023-2024, we will continue to demonstrate our commitment and dedication to the residents of Prince Edward Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa Hennebery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Teresa Hennebery  
Deputy Minister of Social Development and Seniors  
June 3, 2024

## Message de la sous-ministre

Madame Barb Ramsay  
Ministre du Développement social et des Aînés  
C. P. 2000  
Charlottetown (Î.-P.-É.) C1A 7N8



Madame la Ministre,

C'est avec plaisir que je vous présente le rapport annuel de 2022-2023 du ministère du Développement social et du Logement, ainsi que son sommaire financier de fin d'exercice.

Ce rapport sert à informer le public des réalisations et des indicateurs de performance du ministère pour l'exercice en question. Il donne un aperçu de l'utilisation des ressources fiscales et humaines du ministère dans la concrétisation de son mandat de soutien aux familles et aux résidentes et résidents de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard.

Les réalisations considérables mises en évidence dans le présent rapport reflètent le travail acharné des employés du ministère du Développement social et du Logement, et je tiens à les remercier pour leur contribution. Dans la perspective de 2023-2024, nous continuerons à démontrer notre engagement et notre dévouement envers les résidents et résidentes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard.

Le tout respectueusement soumis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa Hennebery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Teresa Hennebery  
Sous-ministre du Développement social et des Aînés  
Le 3 juin 2024

## Department Overview

With approximately 400 employees and expenditures of more than \$160 million, the Department of Social Development and Housing is a significant provider of services to the citizens of Prince Edward Island. In fiscal year 2022-23, the Department delivered programs and services from its four divisions: Child and Family Services, Social Programs, Housing Services, and Planning, Policy and Innovation. The Department is supported with finance, communications, human resources, and information technology through other departments and agencies of the Government of Prince Edward Island.

### **Vision, Mission and Values**

The needs of Prince Edward Island's citizens are changing, and we must continually improve our services and the way we provide them. The strategic plan "*Our People, Our Families, Our Communities 2018-2023*" guides us as we focus on both the Department and the people we serve.

#### **Vision:**

Empowering individuals and families to be safe, healthy, secure and connected with communities.

#### **Mission:**

We contribute to the well-being of individuals, families and communities by working collaboratively, in an innovative manner, to promote the development of healthy, self-reliant individuals.

#### **Values:**

1. Respect – The attitude of acceptance and inclusion.
2. Integrity – The quality of being non-partisan, honest, open, and fair.
3. Accountability – The practice of being responsible, transparent, and willing to accept responsibility for one's actions.
4. Excellence – The desire to provide high levels of accuracy, proficiency, and knowledge in performing our work and in delivering services to the public.

## Services Provided

### **Child and Family Services**

The Child and Family Services Division provides a wide range of programs, services, and resources to children and families across the province, including child protection services, group homes, foster care, adoption, and parental and family supports.

### **Social Programs**

The Social Programs Division provides services in such areas as Social Assistance, AccessAbility Supports, Child Care Subsidy, and the Seniors Independence Initiative. The Social Programs Division also provides funding grants to community organizations to provide residential and day programming services for adults with disabilities.

### **Housing Services**

The Housing Services Division provides services in the areas of affordable housing for seniors and families and supports emergency and transitional housing supports for Island residents in need. Housing Services also provides home renovation programs for seniors and low-income families to complete repairs that make their homes safer.

### **Planning, Policy & Innovation**

The Planning, Policy and Innovation Division provides program analysis and evaluation, Departmental reporting, federal/provincial/territorial relations, legislative coordination, and emergency social services.

### **Office of Seniors**

The Department of Social Development and Housing supports Island seniors through a variety of programs and services in addition to engagements with the Seniors' Secretariat - a body created to provide policy and program advice to Government and other organizations to improve the quality of life for seniors living in Prince Edward Island.



## Highlights and Accomplishments

The following improvements were made to programs and services during 2022-2023 to assist people most in need of support in Prince Edward Island.

- **Directly supported the creation and planning of new housing options in the province:**
  - Opened a new low-barrier, 50 bed shelter at Park Street in Charlottetown. All services at Park Street Emergency Shelter are gender inclusive, with options for couples and individuals in need of shelter, including those who have pets.
  - Purchased an additional 59 units for the social and supportive housing inventory and acquired 14 acres for future development in Kensington.
  - Added an additional 10 transitional housing beds at the Weymouth Street facility for a total of 18 beds.
  - Committed to the creation of a 13-unit supportive housing facility on Weymouth Street.
  - Commissioned a needs assessment for Kings County to support and inform future housing needs.
  - Prince Edward Island Housing Corporation (PEIHC) announced the construction of 26 social housing units for people in the communities of Kensington, Alberton and Mount Stewart.
  - Initiated planning for a 39-unit seniors complex in Summerside.
  - Began planning for Hillsborough Park, where PEIHC is proposing up to 1,200 units on an 85-acre property, and a built community designed with active transportation, public transit, green space, and retail and commercial space.
  - Completed major repairs to several social housing buildings. In total, 325 units had renovations costing just under \$1.3M.
  
- **Provided key funding supports to facilitate additional housing efforts:**
  - Through the Affordable Housing Development Program, supported the creation of 158 social housing units while also supporting another 153 market rental units, for a combined total of 311.
  - Funded 6 projects through the Community Housing Fund, totaling approximately \$1.04 million, to support construction and planning for 22 new units. This Fund provides non-profits, community-based service organizations, municipalities, and developers with an opportunity to apply for support to help create more affordable housing options for Islanders in need, including those in assisted living or individuals that require increased support.
  - Approved 1,477 grants through the PEI Home Renovation Program.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

- Provided funding to The Boys and Girls Club Summerside Inc. (BGC Prince County) to support Life House Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing.
- Provided funding to Habitat for Humanity to support the construction of seven new housing units.
- In partnership with the Federation of the Municipalities of PEI, the PEIHC developed the Municipal Infrastructure Fund (to be launched in 2024) which will provide financial support to municipalities for the cost of infrastructure for projects with construction-ready lots.
- Amended the Home Heating Program administered by the Salvation Army to better support Islanders with challenges in affording heat for their homes:
  - Increased the total amount of available funding from \$3M to \$12.6M,
  - Increased income thresholds so more households would be eligible,
  - Increased the amount available to qualified clients from \$1,000 to \$1,200.
- **Formed key partnerships with other agencies and institutions:**
  - Worked with Finance PEI to launch the Housing Development Challenge Pilot Program to support private developers, non-profits, and community-based service organizations in creating new rental housing by financing the construction of new housing facilities and/or infrastructure development of subdivisions in rural areas. This Program approved 13 projects in 2022-2023, which supported 221 units and 45 lots throughout the province.
  - Engaged Holland College for students to build two single family dwellings to be added to the social housing registry.
  - Collaborated with the Construction Association of Prince Edward Island to build 30 tiny homes to support Islanders on the social housing registry over a three-year period.
  - Worked with the Native Council of PEI to provide a six-bed emergency shelter for Indigenous and non-Indigenous male-identifying adults in Summerside and Prince County.
  - As part of the Federal Government's Rapid Housing Initiative, the PEIHC partnered with the City of Charlottetown to commit to the development of 82 additional units.
  - Worked with the Department of Finance to launch a Rental Unit Property Tax Subsidy to provide relief of provincial property taxes payable in 2023.
- **Provided timely supports in response to Hurricane Fiona:**
  - During Hurricane Fiona, established temporary emergency shelters at Jack Blanchard Hall, providing food, water and cot-style beds.
  - In the week following the Hurricane, Islanders in social housing, including mobile rental voucher and rental supplement recipients, automatically received financial support from the Province.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

- Provided funding and support to community organizations assisting Islanders.
- **Announced significant investments in Social Programs:**
  - Implemented an eight per cent increase to the Basic Unit Rate (BUR), increases to all shelter ceilings for social programs and social housing clients, and increases to communication, optical and transportation benefits for clients of Social Assistance and AccessAbility Supports;
  - Reduced cost of childcare from \$25/day to \$20/day and launched an online calculator so clients could quickly determine eligibility for Child-Care Subsidy; and
  - Increased the total benefits and income thresholds under the Seniors Independence Initiative. The maximum benefit increased from \$1,500 to \$1,700. The income thresholds increased to a maximum of \$32,753 for singles and \$41,970 for couples.
- **Continued pursuit of the goals of the *Poverty Elimination Strategy Act* as part of Government's commitment to tackle poverty rates across the Island.**
  - Carried out a campaign in collaboration with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to raise awareness that Islanders may be eligible for federal and provincial benefits they are not receiving;
  - Increased the benefit of the PEI Home Heating Program from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per year. Also increased the eligible income thresholds for a single individual from \$30,000 to \$45,000, and for a family from \$40,000 to \$60,000;
  - Increased support for the PEI School Food Program to provide improved access to healthy lunches for Island children; and
  - Delivered the Seniors Grocery Voucher Programs to seniors who identified a need during summer of 2022 and post Hurricane Fiona. In total, \$957,600 was delivered to 9,576 households during the summer and an additional \$1,469,400 was delivered to 14,694 households post Fiona.
- **Supported and advanced programs for Seniors:**
  - Engaged a consultant to undertake a market research project on how to prevent/address ageism against older people through targeted strategies and consistent messaging of healthy, positive images of aging;
  - Funded 48 community-based projects for seniors across PEI through the Seniors' Secretariat Grant for a total of \$132,206;
  - Hired a Seniors Navigator to better support and advocate for seniors; and
  - Committed to launch a Seniors Meal Delivery Pilot Program.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

- **Increased funding for community partners to support Persons with Disabilities:**
  - Supported Inclusions East to create 11 new beds for adults with disabilities; and
  - Contributed an additional \$250,000 to the Tremploy capital campaign to help support the construction of a new facility.
- **Improved supports for children and families:**
  - Opened two new community-based group homes for children in care, creating 9 additional beds;
  - Implemented the Youth Extended Services (YES) Program, a new life-skills program for the successful transition from adolescence through emerging adulthood to support autonomy for youth in care and those aging out of care; and
  - Implemented the PRIDE Program, a model of practice for the development and support of adoptive and foster families.
- **Supported the expansion of the provincial 211 service.** Through Government's ongoing partnership, the United Way of PEI:
  - Responded to over 15,000 calls, and supported 115,000 web sessions involving 98,000 different web users; and
  - Played a critical role in the response to Hurricane Fiona, answering over 5,800 calls relating to post-Fiona programs, supports, and services.
- ***The Child Protection Act Review:***
  - Completed the *Child Protection Act* Review that was initiated in 2021;
  - Drafted the new *Child, Youth and Family Services Act* based on the recommendations of the review board and feedback from extensive consultation that occurred during 2021 and 2022; and
  - Committed to ongoing engagement with stakeholders to ensure the Department continues to consider the safety, views, and priorities of children, youth, families, and communities.
- **Continued implementation of the 2019 Foster Care Review :**
  - As of March 31, 2023, 29 of the Review's 32 recommendations were completed with another recommendation nearing completion.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

## Key Indicators

### Child and Family Services\*

Indicator	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23
Number of Child Protection Reports Received	3,861	4,602	3,666
Number of Child Protection Investigations Opened	2,143	3,466	1,860
Number of Children who Received Child Protection Services in the Legal Custody and Guardianship of the Director of Child Protection	176	168	174
Focused Intervention Services	636	496	489
Average Number of Children in Care per Month	104	111	115
Average Number of Foster Homes	77	81	86
Number of Adoptions	12	14	4
Number of Applications for Post Adoption Services	120**	72	42
Post Adoption Services Provided	26	55	41

\*Some figures have been revised from previous annual reports

\*\* In Fall 2019, Government amended the *Adoption Act* to allow for open records. PEI's adoption records were opened on January 31, 2021.

### Social Programs

Indicator	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-23
Monthly Average Social Assistance Cases	3,178	2,809	3,037
Total People in Household receiving Social Assistance	4,798	4,689	5,083
Children Under 18 receiving Social Assistance	1,630	1,512	1,662
Single Parents receiving Social Assistance	554	532	596
Single Persons receiving Social Assistance	2,041	1,996	2,152
Monthly Average Clients Accessing AccessAbility Supports	1,888	2,095	2,277
Monthly Average Children Accessing Child Care Subsidy	1,572	1,441	1,382
Yearly Average Seniors Accessing the Seniors Independence Initiative	801	992	1,651
School Age Autism Program	155	208	215
Targeted Basic Income Guarantee (T-BIG)	100	313	620

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

## Housing Services\*

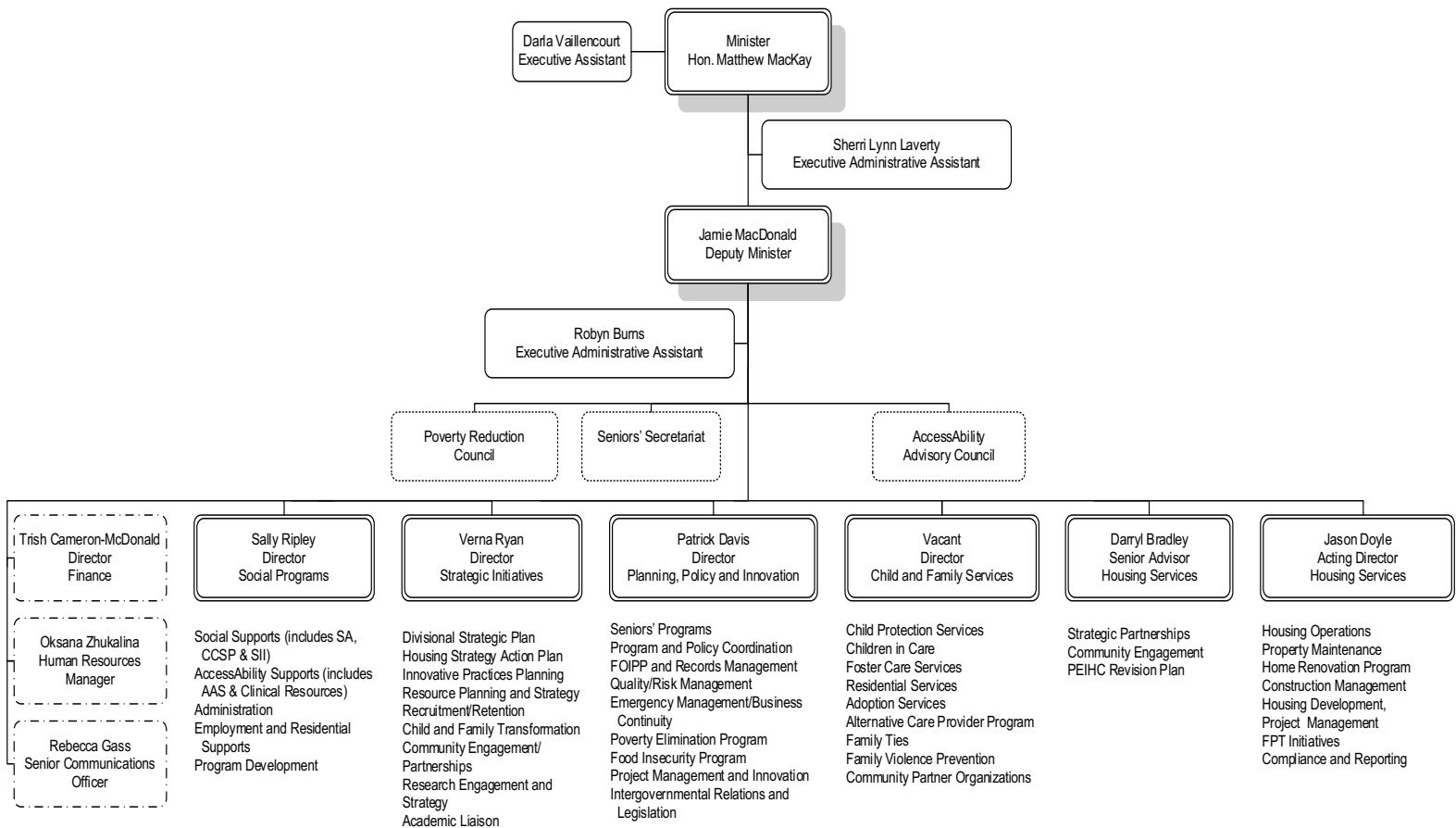
Indicator	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>Seniors Housing Program</b>			
Number of Units	1,154	1186	1180
Placements	201	219	180
New Applications	635	645	725
Registry	141	134	140
Number of Rent Supplements*	252	254	249
Mobile Rental Vouchers	628	686	556
Canada Housing Benefit			387
<b>Family Housing Program</b>			
Number of Units	487	499	554
Placements	42	55	111
New Applications	819	1066	1053
Registry	319	329	286
Number of Rent Supplements*	146	176	176
Mobile Rental Vouchers	424	461	330
Canada Housing Benefit			322

\*Some figures have been revised from previous annual reports

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

## Organizational Structure

### Department of Social Development and Housing Functional Organizational Chart



**Note:** While the position of Director of Child and Family Services was vacant, the position of Director of Child Protection Services was continuously staffed to ensure the Department met legislative obligations.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

## Employee Profile

### Social Development and Housing – Full Time Equivalent Positions by Division

Division	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Child and Family Services	181.9	181.9	180.9
Social Programs	107.5	107.5	107.5
Housing Services	32.7	32.7	37.9
Planning, Policy and Innovation	12.5	11.5	12.5
Seniors		1.0	1.0
<b>Total Full Time Equivalent Positions</b>	<b>334.60</b>	<b>334.60</b>	<b>339.80</b>



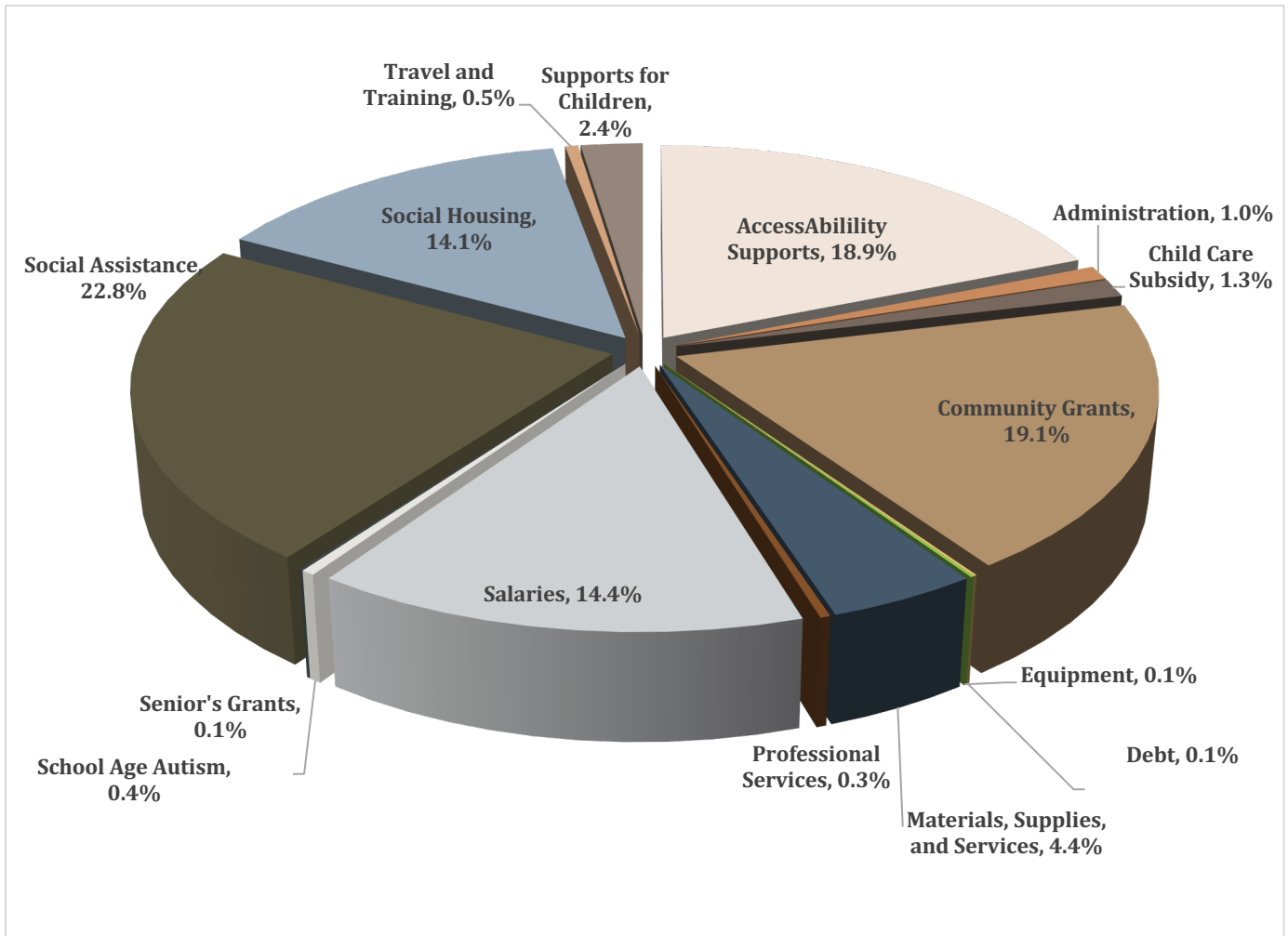
# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

## Financial Statements – Public Accounts

<b>Program</b>	<b>Budget 2022 - 2023</b>	<b>Actuals 2022 - 2023</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Housing Services	\$35,525,500	\$49,895,600
Seniors Programs	590,800	387,600
Planning, Policy and Innovation	3,053,500	29,834,500
Child and Family Services	25,885,200	27,670,200
Social Programs	116,587,200	128,556,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$181,642,200</b>	<b>\$236,344,600</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Housing Services	15,165,700	72,501,000
Planning, Policy and Innovation	-	41,300
Child and Family Services	1,585,500	1,019,500
Social Programs	1,459,600	1,478,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,210,800</b>	<b>\$75,040,000</b>
<b>TOTAL NET</b>	<b>\$163,431,400</b>	<b>\$161,304,600</b>

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

## 2022-2023 Expenditures by Expense Type



## Contact Information

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<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/social-development-and-seniors>

