



Supporting our vulnerable populations

We understand the impacts that our vulnerable populations have faced, and we will continue to be flexible and forward-thinking in our response to ensure no Islander is left behind.

\$1.25 million to provide dental coverage for seniors and low-income Islanders



This program expands dental health care benefits to seniors and low-income Islanders to better meet the dental needs of our vulnerable populations.

Improving supports for Islanders with disabilities



A further \$8 million in annual investments as we continue to extend supports offered through the AccessAbility Support Program to better assist Islanders living with various disabilities.

Providing shelter for those in need



We are also investing \$1 million to support emergency shelters, supportive housing, and community outreach, to better meet the needs of Islanders who require them.

To view the full Budget Address, Estimates of Revenues and Expenditures, and supporting schedules of the 2020-21 Operating Budget, please visit: www.PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/Budget

\$6.4 million to support the Housing Action Plan

This will provide funding for new mobile rental vouchers, new rent supplements, construction projects, and operating costs for new builds through the Housing Action Plan, as we work toward 1,200 affordable housing units for Islanders over the next five years.

Supporting ageing in place

An investment of \$400,000 will provide additional allied health, nursing, and other support resources to help seniors who want to remain in their home, safely.

\$740,000 increase for the Childcare Subsidy

Our government is there for Island children and families and we are increasing funding for the Childcare Subsidy by \$740,000 in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Employment supports for Islanders

An additional \$232,000 to increase the hourly wage rate across all Employment Development Agency programs. This will ensure that employment supports are there for vulnerable Islanders when they need them.

\$400,000 to increase early years special needs and Autism grants

This \$400,000 annual increase will improve support for young Islanders with special needs and autism.

Supporting families in need

An investment to renovate Smith Lodge to provide transitional housing for women and families.



Clean Energy and Sustaining our Environment

We place a high priority on working with Islanders to ensure sustainable use of our natural resources, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, and develop new technologies that provide innovative solutions as we respond collectively to the challenges and opportunities of climate change.

\$2 million towards the Solar Electric Incentive Program



The solar rebate provides a financial incentive for Island homeowners, farms and businesses to install solar PV panels. Solar incentives will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 500 tonnes annually and create approximately 20 jobs in PEI's renewable energy sector.

\$250,000 increase to the Watershed Management Fund



This budget provides a funding increase of \$250,000, for a total of \$1.36 million, directly to the Watershed Management Fund to directly support watershed groups in delivering valuable services to Islanders and the environment. These groups provide habitat rehabilitation and enhancement, outreach and education, as well as monitoring and research.

\$1 million for a Climate Challenge Fund



The Climate Challenge Fund will be created to generate the best ideas from students, experts, communities, First Nations, academic partners, sectors and businesses that address ways to mitigate and adapt to climate pressures.

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Active Transportation Fund

A \$5 million Active Transportation Fund will be used to improve and grow the PEI's active transportation network. We will build new walking and biking paths, widen paved shoulders, and better connect existing walking and biking trails across the province.

Growing the local bee population

There is \$300,000 in this budget to enhance the Pollination Expansion Project, which will grow our local bee population and benefit our agriculture industry and our environment.

Support for Telework

There is \$500,000 in this budget for the Telework Adaption Fund that will provide supports to businesses and not-for-profits to incentivize employees to work remotely.



Strengthening our businesses and primary industries

As a government, we are here to make the necessary investments and adjust the appropriate levers to help stimulate, grow and sustain our economy.

1% reduction in the small business tax rate



A further decrease to the tax rate on small businesses from 3% to 2%, effective January 1, 2021, making it lowest rate in the Atlantic provinces.

Renewing land ownership and land use



We will be allocating \$250,000 for a wide-ranging review of land ownership, land planning and land use that will include an extensive and exhaustive public consultation and legislation review process that will engage Islanders in conversations about land issues and policies to assist in developing a *Lands Protection Act 2.0*, including a land bank.

Marked fuel program for farmers



Investing \$1.2 million to extend this program to include farm-plated vehicles to support farmers.

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Seafood industry promotion

An additional \$100,000 in seafood promotion this fiscal year to better promote PEI seafood, with a strong emphasis on the oyster industry.

\$100,000 to support an alternative crop study

This study will explore alternative crops for Prince Edward Island in partnership with various levels of government, researchers and industry focusing on opportunities, challenges and adaptation strategies in response to a changing climate.

Modernizing the Agriculture Insurance Corporation (AIC)

There will be an investment of \$140,000, in partnership with the Federal government, to allow the AIC to improve its technology to better serve farmers.



Improving the health and well-being of Islanders

As Islanders adjust to life with COVID-19, our health care system will be prepared, and we will take the necessary steps needed, that will ensure the continued health and safety of our population.

Addressing mental health



We are investing \$1.23 million in new psychiatry positions to support acute adult in-patient care and community-based mental health services. There will be an additional \$340,000 in funding that will support the establishment of a mental health and addictions mobile crisis program with in-person response teams and a telephone support line.

\$416,000 to increase home care supports during the evening hours



There will be an increase in registered nursing to support home care programs in the eastern and western parts of the province that will provide quality care to our rural areas equitable to services provided in Charlottetown and Summerside.

Retaining and recruiting more health care professionals



There is \$315,000 allocated to increase incentives for graduate registered nurses, and graduate nurse practitioners. There is an additional \$250,000 to advance our partnership with the Medical Society of PEI for the Doctors Recruiting Doctors initiative. Over \$3.8 million for new specialists, nurse practitioners, nursing and allied health professionals.

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Virtual health care

In partnership with the federal government, we are investing \$813,000 to support the development, expansion, and implementation of virtual care tools to support caring for Islanders with video-conferencing technology and remote patient monitoring.

\$500 wellness tax credit

A new tax credit for all families with children under the age of 18 to receive a \$500 wellness tax credit for activities related to their children's well-being.

Improving care for those in Long Term and Community Care Homes

There will be a total of \$6.6 million to support private long term care and community facilities to assist them as they operate under the new guidelines brought on by COVID-19, to ensure the continued safety of patients and residents.

\$167,000 to improve access to Long Term Care spaces

Working with the private sector, Health PEI will establish 12 new long term care beds in West Prince by January 1, 2021, to improve access to long term care for Islanders.



Building stronger communities

We will continue to work closely with communities and agencies to ensure appropriate services are available across our province, with a focus on community safety and well-being.

\$253,000 increased funding to municipalities



Grants to municipalities have increased by 2.3% since 2019. This funding will allow Island communities to continue to deliver services to their residents at comparable costs.

\$850,000 to increase rural primary care access



Health PEI will increase access to nurse practitioners, nursing and allied health professionals for residents in rural PEI with investments in each geographic area of the province, including Eastern Kings, Western Queens, and East Prince.

Establishing an Indigenous Courtwork System



Working in partnership with the federal government, there will be \$100,000 to develop an Indigenous Courtwork Program within Prince Edward Island.

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Bringing representation into legislation

We are committed to review legislation, regulations and policies and will work with representatives of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) community, as well as the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, to ensure their representation and voices are included as we chart our path forward.

More drug enforcement resources for communities

There will be \$916,000 in funding that will help ensure appropriate policing services are available that focus on a community policing approach, centered on the safety and well-being of community residents.

\$142,000 for a restorative justice pilot program

A two-year pilot program will be launched to increase the use of restorative justice processes in youth and adult cases, which will aim to redefine crime by shifting the focus to the harms caused as a result of impacts on individuals and communities.

Shining a spotlight on our heritage and culture

In 2020-21, our government is also increasing funding for the provincial Art Bank, which will include a commitment for Indigenous art.



Investing in our students, shaping our future

Our government is prepared to step up and invest in our students, educators and resource supports as we strengthen our education system and create a bright future for all Islanders.

\$2 million for 24 teachers and 15 educational assistants



There will be \$2 million in investment in the 2020-21 fiscal year, to create 39 new positions within the Public Schools Branch, and La Commission scolaire de langue française, to better meet the needs of students in our schools across the Island.

\$1.8 million for the School Food Initiative



This will keep the province-wide program going that was established during the early days of the global pandemic, and continue the program for the next school calendar year to provide meals to students that need them.

\$700,000 to increase bursaries to Island post-secondary students



There will be an increase to the Island Advantage bursary to continue to reduce the financial burden on our post-secondary students.

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\$1.3 million for early childhood

Funding is being allocated to increase wages for early years centre educators, autism and special needs assistant, as well as increase Early Years Special Needs and Autism Grants. The designation of 6 Early Years Centres will further ensure the delivery of quality child care services that are accessible and responsive to the needs of Island children and families.

Providing job opportunities for youth

Changes will be made to modernize the Jobs for Youth Program, such as lowering the minimum age, changing the application deadline and collaborating with WorkPEI to improve online options for employers and job seekers to better provide job opportunities for young Islanders.

\$478,000 for school well-being programs

Student well-being teams were introduced at Three Oaks, Kinkora and Charlottetown Rural families of schools in the previous school year. They will continue to advise, consult, and provide direct service to children and youth who are struggling with mental, social and physical health issues.