



RENEW PEI



The Premier's Council for Recovery and Growth: Summary Report of Public Feedback

September, 2021



The Premier's Council for Recovery and Growth: Summary Report of Public Feedback

Introduction

The Premier's Council for Recovery and Growth invited the public to submit feedback between August 11 and September 15, 2020 to guide their work in developing a plan to move the province forward in the coming months and years.

Over 150 responses were received from a variety of formats including web submissions, emails, social media comments and submissions from MLA's raising issues of concern and new ideas from their districts.

Public submissions originated from individuals, community groups, associations and private businesses, with the majority of responses coming from individuals. Breadth and depth of submissions ranged from recommendations informed by lived experiences in areas like access to employment supports to extensive research and rationale supporting recommendations like a tourism recovery strategy.

Each submission was reviewed with recommendations extracted and coded by topic. Over 800 recommendations were made. Submissions contained between 1 and 26 recommendations each and 24 topic themes emerged.



Common Themes and Recommendations: Public Submissions

The most common themes that emerged were recommendations around:

- Business
- Education
- Environment
- COVID-19 Restrictions and Enforcement
- Renewable Energy
- Employment and Training
- Communities
- Agriculture

The top 10 most cited recommendations were:

1. Implement a form of basic income guarantee.
2. Develop a plan to safely and responsibly open up to Canadian domestic travel.
3. Create Island-wide transportation network by increasing public transportation within and between towns and villages, including taxi or ridesharing options.
4. Increase research and development in innovative agriculture and food systems in PEI.
5. Implement further programs to support small businesses, particularly tourism operators and those who did not qualify for federal COVID-19 relief funding.
6. Explore permanent changes to work hours where appropriate, including a four-day work week, flexible schedules and working from home.
7. Ensure more career awareness in schools about non-traditional paths, trades, continuing education, opportunities and labour-market needs.
8. Invest in renewable resources and leverage existing renewable sector on PEI.
9. Ensure access to high speed internet as an essential service for all Islanders.
10. Ensure affordable housing development is a priority, particularly for seniors and in rural areas.

A full summary of recommendations received from public submissions, sorted by theme, can be found in Appendix A.





Common Themes and Recommendations: MLA Submissions

Members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to submit feedback to the Council as an opportunity to highlight concerns and recommendations that are being raised by constituents and stakeholders in their districts. Eleven extensive submissions were received from all three parties.

The most common themes that emerged were recommendations around:

- Education
- Health
- Housing
- Internet
- Gender and Diversity
- Social Programs and Basic Income

The top 5 most cited recommendations were:

1. Improve rural internet connectivity for all Islanders.
2. Restore and expand mental health and addictions services.
3. Implement a form of basic income guarantee.
4. Substantially increase overall investment into early childhood education and child care to expand number of spaces available across the province at affordable rates and extended hours.
5. Ensure affordable, accessible housing development is a priority.

A full summary of recommendations received from Members of the Legislative Assembly, sorted by theme, can be found in Appendix B.



Appendix A: Public Submission Recommendations by Topic

Individual and Organization submissions received by email, online form and social media.

Business

1. Overcome risks associated with threats of future global economic shocks by becoming self-sufficient and stimulating our local economy through buy local initiatives.
2. Programs to support small businesses who did not qualify for federal funding including entrepreneurs with small budgets and few or no employees.
3. Invest in and encourage Bioscience sector growth in areas that will be resilient to or counter future pandemics.
4. Better promote PEI's resources to the world through strong branding and creative marketing campaigns.
5. Diversify our export markets and take advantage of free trade agreements, particularly with the EU.
6. Offer targeted support to business owners from underrepresented groups in the form of emergency funding, as well as skills training and mentorship.
7. Showcase Island craftspeople through online sales.
8. Expand funding for provincial food operators looking to export internationally.
9. Continue the Case Team Program throughout the school year.
10. Seek contract for Federal Government's \$60 billion new Frigate program for Georgetown Shipyard.
11. Ensure fairness in customer access and record-keeping requirements between smaller local companies and larger big-box stores.
12. Develop industrial zones in rural areas.
13. Compensate businesses for losses due to government decisions.
14. Facilitate communication with and input from businesses.
15. Subsidize food startups to make them competitive.
16. Capitalize on PEI's natural scalability for new product development.
17. Promote PEI as a "testing ground" for innovative ideas due to its small size.
18. Create an internal taskforce to analyze PEI industries to see where PEI can have a competitive and leading edge.
19. Develop partnerships between industry and research efforts at the University.
20. Explore ways to make products easier to export through innovative processing or shipping methods.
21. Invest in research and development on PEI that leads to better supply chain management and access.
22. PEI should further develop and be a global leader in bioscience and aerospace industries.
23. Help develop PEI's IT sector with digital economy support.
24. Provide tax incentives for businesses who hire single moms.
25. Work with recent immigrants to help them become entrepreneurs.
26. Increase awareness of co-operative business models and create tools to support businesses that want to convert to this model
27. Encourage corporations to be more collaborative, sustainable and equitable.
28. Establish a Sustainable Corporation Registry and Capital Exchange and model a new approach to sustainable corporate investment.
29. Apply a risk-based approach to regulation.
30. Assign a single government staff to be responsible to help new business owners and investors navigate the government regulatory environment for a period of time.
31. Create an online portal with chat/concierge support for persons looking to invest in and create jobs in PEI and to be a guide for those looking to address questions and roadblocks for entrepreneurs and investors.
32. Create conditions that favour entrepreneurs to start and build businesses with minimal ecological footprint.
33. Ensure businesses can sponsor foreign talent easily, provided they meet health, safety and security review requirements.

Environment

1. Subsidize green building practices and cut taxes for green infrastructure.
2. Explore ways to turn waste into new resources
3. Increase tree planting programs.
4. Advance a recovery plan premised on environmental sustainability.
5. Dedicate funds for research and development of clean tech initiatives, particularly in primary industries
6. PEI can be a leader in ecology, conservation and protection of coasts, using natural and renewable resources
7. Closely follow International Panel on Climate Change recommendations

8. Protect old growth forests
9. Adopt a building code with stringent requirements for energy efficiency, lowered emissions and carbon neutrality.
10. Ban single-use cups and single-use plastics.
11. Provide more incentives for businesses to adopt clean technologies.
12. Increase conservation efforts.
13. Legislate that a certain percentage of government spending is on clean or green goods to help grow the sector.
14. Release progress evaluation report on 5 year climate change plan.
15. Install biomass heating systems in all provincial and public buildings by 2025 with a goal of net-zero performance by 2030, in concert with a significant provincial tax credit.
16. Carbon footprint of new residential and commercial builds should work toward being carbon neutral.
17. Ensure minimal disruption to natural environment for new builds
18. Every new residential and commercial build should be required to contain one or more sustainable design features.
19. Give youth hands-on experiences in sustainable practices.
20. Support sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries practices.
21. Make evidence based decisions on environmental decisions
22. Work on land-use and environmental best practices by becoming a hub for demonstration and research.
23. Consider scientific-research backed technologies to aid decision-making relating to ground water on PEI.
24. Adopt a net zero requirement for new building construction.
25. Adopt a Passive House standard for new building construction.
26. Offer incentives to build low-energy homes and construction projects.
27. Support the adoption of the National Building Code and projects that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency and improvements to infrastructure to be more resilient to climate change.
28. Ensure all government new builds and renovations are net zero, where possible.
29. Increase fines for polluting and illegal dumping.
30. Increase funding for PEI Energy Efficiency grants and tax benefits.
31. Permit composting toilets in lieu of septic systems for new builds in rural areas.

32. Require municipal water and sewage treatment plants to post filtration and testing results online.
33. Require recycling information labels on packaging.

Education

1. Ensure more career awareness in schools about non-traditional paths, trades, continuing education, opportunities and labour-market needs
2. Support the development of more graduate and professional programs on PEI including a medical school.
3. Educate children and youth on Indigenous history and culture in partnership with the Mikmaq people.
4. Educate children and youth on life skills (how to budget, cook, eat healthy, change tire, do taxes, etc.)
5. Separate students into home rooms and have restricted hallway access.
6. Create better links between education and industry to ensure education reflects training/knowledge needed.
7. Allow parents inside schools if screened at main entrance.
8. Continue to invest in the Student Well-Being Teams.
9. Educate children and youth on a variety of languages, including indigenous languages.
10. Educate children and youth on healthy living.
11. Educate children and youth on World events, Canadian History (the good and the bad), other cultures and history.
12. Teach children about sustainability through science curriculum and summer programs.
13. Implement more outdoor learning through schools, community gardens and farming.
14. Promote non-traditional teaching styles and technology use like virtual reality in the classroom.
15. Provide better support to students with disabilities, particularly with assistive technologies.
16. Promote PEI as a safe education and training destination for students.
17. Address anxiety of students as they go back to school.
18. Provide financial support for parents who choose to homeschool.
19. Have tutoring resources available online for children struggling.
20. Offer voluntary Learn-At-Home schooling option.
21. Offer home school or hybrid options for public K-12 students

Basic Income and Social Programs

1. Implement a guaranteed basic livable income.
2. Establish meaningful progress trackers and metrics and a strong evaluation process if a basic income is implemented.
3. Maintain (and increase, where needed) existing supports for seniors, people living with disabilities and other groups alongside a guaranteed basic income.
4. Enable resiliency of caregivers through support for mental health and addictions supports, accessible public services and spaces and support for voluntary sector programs and services.
5. Make the distribution of benefits better for more people, particularly structurally disadvantaged groups.
6. Implement new systems to facilitate information-sharing across government to protect the health and wellbeing of people facing complex challenges in this new context are urgently needed.
7. Continue to build prevention programs (including violence and chronic disease).
8. Provide help for those who could not work in tourism sector this year.
9. Implement an employment guarantee program.
10. Continue to increase the minimum wage until it is equal to a livable income, with future increases pegged to the Consumer Price Index.
11. The PEI government should continue to study options for a Basic Income Guarantee.

Child care

1. Increase wages for Early Childhood Educators.
2. Provide universal and accessible child care.
3. Increase number of licensed daycares, and substantially increase overall investment into ECE to expand number of spaces available across the province at affordable rates and extended hours.
4. Ensure that child care is a key element of all economic recovery plans, including coordination between the reopening of schools and child care centres with that of the broader economy.
5. Invest in measures to keep early childhood educators safe and expand the number of care spaces available.
6. Consider age groupings instead of grouping by household in child care centres, similar to schools.
7. Invest in and implement publicly funded, publicly delivered child care at no more than \$10/day.
8. Develop a wage schedule for Early Childhood

- Educators with regular increases for the years ahead.
9. Ensure affordable access to childcare.

Tourism

1. Ensure survival of tourism operators this year through government programs including stimulus payments to cover utilities.
2. Promote local products and provide discounts or incentives for Islanders to visit local attractions.
3. Subsidize the development of a cicerone style guide for PEI trails.
4. Highlight dog-friendly parks, beaches, walking trails, restaurants, accommodations and stores in tourism promotional materials.
5. Create virtual tourism materials to introduce the Island to new markets.
6. Develop a Special Events Development Fund to attract business, festival, sporting events to PEI over 5-10 years.
7. Develop an advisory board to pursue adaptive reuse as it relates to tourism.
8. Establish a committee to examine policy and financial support measures that will foster an atmosphere of sustainable tourism.
9. Focus on sustainable tourism.
10. Waive provincial park and museum entrance fees for Island residents in 2021.
11. Support development of ATV tourism as a year-round tourism product on PEI.
12. Add signage and sidewalk from Charlottetown airport to the nearest trail (1km away).
13. Increase number of accommodations available near trails through incentives for local homeowners to start B&Bs.
14. Make information about nearby services and accommodations easily accessible on trails.
15. Provide a bursary for post-secondary graduates to travel to Scotland or England to hike a trail system and develop a plan and report on how to implement something similar on PEI.
16. Support hiking trail tourism on PEI.
17. Focus on lower carbon footprint visitors (kayakers, hikers, cyclists) who reach more communities and have bigger economic impact than cruise ship visitors.
18. Install a lay-by on the side of the road near St. Peter's to attract more visitors to Greenwich National Park, particularly traffic coming from Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine.
19. Stop relying on cruise ships and unsustainable industries as economic drivers.

20. Support tourism product and marketing development.
21. Offer self-tours of historical buildings.
22. Develop a tourism campaign for Historical Dirt Road Trails, including to Jeep clubs.
23. Open Eagles View Golf Course.

Agriculture

1. Develop a precision agriculture specialization at the School of Sustainable Design Engineering.
2. Increase research and development in innovative agriculture and food systems in PEI.
3. Become an Organic Food Island.
4. Encourage diversification of agricultural crops, fisheries and aquaculture.
5. Support agriculture industry in solving labour challenges including through programs for students.
6. Expand growing season through greenhouses and new technology.
7. Export agro-technology developed in PEI.
8. Shift away from large export crops toward diverse crops to feed Islanders
9. Convene a group of diverse agriculture experts to envision what agriculture on PEI looks like in 20 years and develop a plan to achieve it.
10. Support succession planning of Island farm businesses through a review of current tax burdens.
11. Allow small personal agriculture and establish market spaces for selling or trading goods.
12. Bring egg sorting back to PEI.
13. Develop a summer student program that immerses youth in an environment that puts engineering and research methods into practice in the field of agriculture.
14. Make changes to Crop Insurance program to further incentivize dehydration processing of potatoes unfit for market.
15. Explore innovative growing methods like hydroponics or aeroponics.
16. Support beekeepers and grow pollination numbers.
17. Help farmers move to organic practices, where possible.

Renewable Energy

1. Invest in renewable resources and leverage existing renewable sector on PEI
2. Become a leader by being 100% powered by renewable energy sources
3. Expand efficiency PEI incentives for solar energy and

home renovations to increase efficiency, especially for low-income Islanders

4. Become energy independent through renewable sources
5. Prepare for a province-wide rollout of smart meters in collaboration with Maritime Electric, along with an appropriate replacement schedule.
6. Provide expanded funding for the Wind Energy Institute of Canada and post-secondary programs advancing sustainable energy goals.
7. Support solar startup businesses.
8. Move away from energy systems that capture heat through burning.
9. Make Kensington the solar power capital of PEI.
10. Eliminate the HST exemption on fuel oil.
11. Create one public, not-for-profit energy utility
12. Invest in community biodigesters to better handle agriculture and fisheries waste and provide heat, compost and electricity.
13. Increase subsidy for renewables.
14. Capitalize on global shift towards sustainability and market ourselves as a renewable-energy powered province; attract consumers interested in environmentally friendly products.
15. Expedite the proposed 40 MW wind project from 2025 to 2022.
16. Offer universal access to energy through the progressive tax system.
17. Move to 100% green energy generation as soon as is practical and financially feasible.

General

1. Develop a Prince Edward Island Quality of Life Index.
2. Establish Key Performance Indicators and measurable targets unique to PEI.
3. Implement some form of proportional representation.
4. Commemorate Veterans with provincial event and interpretive centre.
5. Implement ongoing analysis of recovery responses.
6. Support and mobilize citizen action and engagement in decision making.
7. The government of PEI should permit the regulated sale of cannabis vapour products.
8. Develop an app that integrates access and information to all island businesses and services.
9. Provide digital government services.
10. Better collaborate with non-profits, chambers, local businesses and economic development officers to expand what is already working.

11. Develop strategies to better use and share data to facilitate growth and development.
12. Change PEI's slogan from "The Birthplace of Confederation"
13. Strong provincial support and leadership are needed for major national programs that will promote health and resilience, such as pharmacare, childcare, and eldercare.
14. Call an election.
15. Demonstrate meaningful consultation with Indigenous communities as it relates to long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects
16. Expand the collection of time use data to track time spent on all forms of unpaid work during the pandemic by gender, identities, racialization, Indigenous, rural vs urban, family composition, occupation, age, and education, including costs or time for child care, on an annual basis, on uniform terms for continuity over time.
17. Adopt innovative evidence and public consensus-based approaches to decision making.
18. Designate International Women's Day as a provincial, statutory holiday.
19. Designate National Indigenous Peoples Day a statutory holiday in June.
20. Incorporate mandatory review requirements for existing legislation and regulation, including opportunities for public comment.
21. Look to replicate the economic strategies of strong, successful Island nations to make PEI a green economic powerhouse.
22. Offer community service, restitution and/or reconciliation as a means to address non-violent provincial level offences.
23. Provide electronic signature options for filing government documents online.
24. Provide method to report issues up multiple levels and accountability that questions and issues are responded to in timely manner.
25. Stop housing those guilty of non-violent provincial offences in detention.
26. Support immigration of people who invest and/or create jobs and those who will take jobs that are being unfilled by Islanders.
27. Government must resist using privatization of public services as part of our economic recovery.
28. Government should lead regular public displays of appreciation for essential workers.

COVID Restrictions and Enforcement

1. Develop a plan to safely and responsibly open up to Canadian domestic travel.
2. Examine loosening 14-day quarantine restrictions for Canadian travelers visiting family on PEI.
3. Offer free, mandatory COVID-19 test kits to all visitors.
4. Ensure tight restrictions for those entering from provinces with active cases of COVID-19.
5. Reinstate strict measures and closures if we have more cases of COVID-19.
6. Establish and enforce fines for COVID-related rules and safety measures.
7. Expedite process between calling 811 with symptoms, getting an appointment to be tested and receiving results.
8. Allow those travelling to PEI for compassionate care reasons be exempt from quarantine similar to essential workers.
9. Increase staffing of public health inspectors and officers.
10. Border protection should continue and be staffed by public service workers.
11. Work with tourism operators to provide affordable quarantine locations for those required to self-isolate.
12. Open Island fully to visitors.
13. Institute mandatory masking.
14. Keep schools open even if it means limiting expansion of economic and social activities for adults (i.e. bars and restaurants)
15. Require individuals outside of Atlantic Bubble provide two negative tests before entering PEI.
16. Keep US border closed.
17. Keep borders closed; keep contact tracing and isolation requirements indefinitely.
18. Explore opportunities to train COVID-19 sniffer dogs in partnership with the Atlantic Veterinary College and act as a resource to other provinces.

Employment and Training

1. Explore permanent changes to work hours where appropriate, including a four-day work week, flexible schedules and working from home.
2. Provide more training and supports for those with complex challenges entering the workforce.
3. Legislate at least 14 paid sick days and paid family leave for all workers.
4. Better promote careers in trades.

5. Create more opportunities for jobs in the research and development sector.
 6. Establish a Canadian Forces Station in Summerside.
 7. A comprehensive review of the Employment Standards Act with inclusive, extensive, meaningful public consultation is urgently needed.
 8. Employment Standards need to respond to more workers tele-working than ever before to ensure minimum standards and job protections.
 9. Occupational Health and Safety regulations require updates to ensure the health and safety of workers who return to offices and to workers who are directed to work from home and face different health and safety challenges there.
 10. Transition seasonal workers to more high-paying jobs.
 11. Recruitment support for housing/construction sector.
 12. Legislate job protection for individuals with disabilities who are unable to fulfill job duties due to the risk of contracting COVID-19 as well as systemic barriers such as lack of access to accessible transportation.
 13. Pay for retraining and professional development across sectors for those who have experienced job loss.
 14. Provide personal protective equipment to migrant workers, conduct rigorous inspections on their working conditions, and ensure they have access to income supports.
 15. Provide publicly funded trades programs.
 16. Establish adventure and naturalist guide certification courses and bicycle technician program (nearest one is in Montreal).
 17. Consider employment opportunities for seniors.
 18. Support the development of design, building and manufacturing jobs for passive homes and related components.
 19. Move towards digital workplaces.
 20. Offer government staff the opportunity to work from home up to 100% of the time.
 21. Remove legislative or regulatory barriers, where appropriate, that discourage private sector from permitting work from home options.
- overdeveloped to the detriment of local communities.
 4. Include off-leash dog park in Victoria Park.
 5. Restart community activities like card games this fall.
 6. Commission a Provincial Trail Strategy with all stakeholders.
 7. Establish a connected trail system across PEI for ATV users.
 8. Establish a Provincial Trails Act that reflects all present-day recreational trail user groups.
 9. Use annual ATV registration revenue to create a Trail Development Investment Fund.
 10. Address community boundaries by developing townships or rural municipalities.
 11. Reframe rural municipalities as creating opportunities, not increasing taxes.
 12. Conserve cultural heritage/historical values of landscapes, viewscapes and Island traditions.
 13. Create more public recreation space.
 14. Enlarge and enhance existing public recreation spaces (trails, provincial parks)
 15. Renew planning and land use laws in PEI within 5 years to prevent over-development of rural areas.
 16. Expand free, accessible community and cultural events and festivals that are inclusive and welcoming to all.
 17. Change municipality structures and create incentives to live within community boundaries.
 18. Provide universal and accessible green spaces.
 19. Make PEI more dog friendly.
 20. Address loneliness and isolation.
 21. Continue to create space for community members to offer insights and solutions.
 22. Empower those closest to issues to share their knowledge and work together to solve them.
 23. Clear sidewalks and streets of snow in regional centres.
 24. Encourage investment and migration to regional centres outside the capital.
 25. Increase distance someone can place a residence from cliff.
 26. Increase minimum lot size to install a septic system.
 27. Protect and advertise the fact that we provide a dynamic, small, personal, safe and clean environment in which to work, play, build a business, vacation, etc.
 28. Protect the Island from pitfalls of excess growth and development.
 29. Protect what makes PEI a unique destination,

Communities

1. Clean up neglected properties.
2. Promote the safety value and clean air on PEI to others.
3. Learn lessons from coastal areas that became

including: clean, safe and beautiful beaches; peace and quiet, beautiful trails, an abundance of green space, clean air; an environment with less onerous regulation than other jurisdictions, affordable (rural) lifestyle.

30. Support a national trails framework.

Finance

1. Do not cut public programs or civil service to pay for COVID-related expenditures.
2. Introduce new fee for some services or a COVID income tax for the next five years on wealthiest Islanders.
3. Invest in policies, programs and ventures that can generate revenue in the long-run.
4. Develop provincially-administered grants or tax credits for precautionary health and sanitation spending.
5. Develop tax incentives or funding assistance for vulnerable businesses.
6. Financially support use of consultancy services in developing business specific adaptation strategies.
7. Provide a COVID-19 safety capital fund for critical infrastructure.
8. Prioritize spending in a way that advances social and climate goals.
9. Implement a local procurement policy.
10. Explore creative options for decreasing wealth inequality.
11. Increase Corporate Tax Rates.
12. Keep liquor and cannabis sales public.
13. Increase minimum wage and subsidize it to make it easier for employers to handle.
14. Establish a \$15/hour minimum wage
15. Reduce tax on retail sales at PEILCC outlets and allow direct delivery to bars and restaurants to aid PEI's breweries
16. A compassionate and fair plan for people who received overpayments of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or other emergency benefits will be required if PEI and Canada return to past income support models.
17. Implement a COVID Dime - 10 cents from every litre of gas goes towards "COVID relief"
18. Provide financial support for families/parents of young kids who miss work due to COVID testing
19. Lower Confederation Bridge toll.
20. Provide a wage top-up for essential workers
21. Create minimum set-asides in public procurement

spending (e.g., 15%) towards businesses led by women, racialized people, and other equity-seeking groups.

22. Financial support for families/parents of young kids who miss work due to COVID testing.
23. Ensure procurement best practices to achieve quality, innovation and long-term savings.
24. Explore innovative solutions for financing COVID relief through a circular economy that provides tax credits in lieu of payments.
25. Continue to keep government regulation and spending small as population grows.
26. Re-evaluate program spending in all areas other than programs for clean air, safe water, food shelter, education, health care.
27. Tie Premier and Cabinet member bonuses to achievement of economic objectives.
28. Eliminate financial corporation capital tax.
29. End corporate subsidies.

Gender and Diversity

1. Ensure diverse, intersectional representation and gender balance in conversations about recovery.
2. Gather disaggregated, intersectional data on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly relating to burdens of caregiving, gender-based and family violence.
3. Support focused inclusivity of indigenous peoples.
4. Continue to make public, clear statements about gendered issues such as gender-based violence.
5. Invest in the voluntary sector and social infrastructure to better support gender equality.
6. Rigorous, real-time comparison of what is working well to support gender-sensitive recovery in other jurisdictions is vital so we can adopt similar strategies for PEI.
7. Increase investment to support women, Indigenous peoples and immigrants
8. Develop a COVID-19 post-pandemic gender results framework dashboard and report annually on how the Government is advancing gender equity.
9. Ensure that Indigenous peoples and especially women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities, and that they gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.
10. Ensure truly intersectional gender analysis (GBA+) on all forthcoming pandemic policies not only for understanding differential impacts, but also for designing policies

11. Establish a Gender Advisory Council that provides guidance to the government on pandemic policies.
 12. Implement recommendations to remediate anti-Black racism.
 13. Implement the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Calls for Justice in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Report.
 14. Invest in organizations that advance gender equity, intersectional feminism, and women's rights in Canada through investments in core multi-year funding.
 15. Increase and improve resources for minority groups both on and off post-secondary campuses.
4. Limit short-term rental development.
 5. Reserve 20% of new developments for affordable housing.
 6. Establish infrastructure or incentives in rural communities to attract housing developers.
 7. Create public housing and ensure it is publicly-owned.
 8. Reinstate an eviction moratorium on provincially-owned housing and expand it to all tenancies for the duration of the pandemic.
 9. Make strategic investments in publicly owned projects for affordable housing and increased funding for non-profit and cooperative housing.
 10. Repurpose a cruise ship as an apartment complex to solve housing issues.
 11. Provide universal and accessible housing.
 12. Fix drafty apartments and houses.

Transportation

1. Create Island-wide transportation network by increasing public transportation within and between towns and villages including taxi or ridesharing options.
2. Expand the availability of electric vehicle incentives.
3. Invest in active transportation infrastructure in rural and urban areas; require active transportation as a component of all new transportation projects.
4. Establish a provincial transportation committee.
5. Mandate EV charger pre-wiring in new homes with minimum quotas for new parking lots and residential projects.
6. Do tactical urbanism trials through low-cost, temporary interventions into the streetscape to test initiatives like bike paths, parklets, etc.
7. Expand EV charging grid across PEI.
8. Develop evaluation and reporting mechanism for Transportation Action Plan.
9. Become the first jurisdiction in the world to have a completely autonomous, carbon neutral, communal transportation system.
10. Consider needs of cyclists and pedestrians as being on par with those of drivers for regional city centres.
11. Employ electric public transit buses in regional centers.
12. Prepare grid for electrification of transportation.

Housing

1. Ensure affordable housing development is a priority, particularly for seniors and in rural areas.
2. Expand and repair older affordable housing in rural areas.
3. Limit seasonal home ownership.

Health

1. Ensure access to post-natal support including lactation consultants and public health nurses is available to new mothers in the event of a second wave.
2. Increase teaching about health, safety and social distancing.
3. Provide accessible mental health resources for children and youth.
4. Address root causes of mental health by ensuring affordable housing, food security and meaningful activities like employment, volunteering and art.
5. Study cancer epidemiology on PEI.
6. Reopen dental and health care offices to full capacity.
7. Add mental health care as a publicly funded health care service.
8. Make long-term care accessible, publicly-funded and a universal health care service.
9. Access and continuous improvements to walk-in clinics for physical and mental health, respite programs, addiction recovery services, and other services that support people before problems reach crisis level are essential services, and they normalize asking for help and support before situations become acute or chronic.
10. Move to electronic patient records.
11. Post wait times for common procedures online.
12. Offer free mental health classes to help with mental health issues caused by lockdown
13. Create a national Children's Health Research Centre in PEI

14. Purchase rapid COVID testing equipment.
15. Study the effects lockdown had on pregnant and post-partum mothers.
16. Supports for chronically ill people who also experience mental health issues.
17. Provide adequate, stable, equitable, and ongoing funding for Indigenous-centered and community-based health and wellness services that are accessible and culturally appropriate.

Youth

1. Retain and attract educated youth.
2. Focus on youth and their development by putting programs in place that will encourage youth to stay here.
3. Introduce incentives and opportunities for physical activity and outdoor engagement.
4. Invest in affordable leisure activities that can help youth develop leadership, teamwork and soft skills year-round.
5. Invest in bursaries and competitive scholarship opportunities for youth.
6. Invest in mentorship programs.
7. Invest in summer programs to introduce students to potential career paths.
8. Invest in supports for low-income families to access recreational sports.
9. Invest in theatre and arts programs.
10. Promote and build accessible learning centres (online or in person).
11. Provide support for students who wish to start their own clubs or organizations.
12. Support intergenerational learning.
13. Support youth mentorship programs

Food

1. Develop niche food products through innovative processing.
2. Promote consumption of less meat.
3. Measure amount of local food used in the school food program.
4. Require IWMC to make food-growing grade compost and make it available to the public.
5. Stop relying on charity model to address food security.
6. Expand the Healthy Harvest Program which provides fresh, local produce to food insecure families to rural PEI.

7. Grow more of our own food locally.
8. Implement 100 mile legislation with taxes on imported foods.
9. Require grocery stores to buy from gardeners at reasonable rates.
10. Poutine/Potato dish competition
11. Work with recent immigrants to export PEI seafood to countries with food shortages overseas
12. Establish a free school lunch program for all students which serves locally sourced food whenever possible.

Long-Term Care

1. Increase staffing in Long-term Care facilities.
2. Provide better Wages for Long-term Care Workers.
3. Create new job categories in Long-term Care to facilitate increased staffing.
4. Ensure nursing homes have safe visiting rooms accessible from outside so risk-mitigated visits can happen year round.
5. Provide universal and accessible elder care.
6. Provide more access to long-term care homes before Atlantic Bubble opens.

Infrastructure

1. Build athletic/recreation/convention centre on old Department of Transportation wharf in Charlottetown.
2. Construct rain collecting water towers throughout PEI to store rainfall for use in summer.
3. Start a plan for building dykes around PEI to protect against sea level rise.
4. Make a plan that addresses the impacts of climate change on our infrastructure.
5. Further develop Slemon Park.
6. Improve roads.
7. Develop a 10-year infrastructure plan to de-politicize infrastructure planning and create stability.

Internet

1. Ensure access to high speed internet as an essential service for all Islanders.
2. Offer universal access to public internet through the progressive tax system.
3. Help develop PEI's IT sector with high speed internet
4. Ensure that high speed internet is commercially available to all Islanders.

Arts

1. Support the development of the film industry on PEI including through an attractive film tax credit.
2. Increase funding and resources for culture, arts and community programs.
3. Support and promote the arts to foster education and culture on PEI by highlighting diverse perspectives.

Community Sector

1. Reduce red tape to support sustainable social enterprises.

Appendix B: MLA Submission Recommendations By Topic

Submissions received from MLAs bringing forward concerns raised by constituents, organizations and businesses in their Districts.

Education

1. Provide free tuition and increase the capacity for essential trades training with participants signing contract of agreement to work in PEI after graduation.
2. Offer expanded programming at Holland College's West Prince Campus.
3. Ensure educational capacity is in place for Islanders to participate in clean tech economy.
4. Allow greater autonomy for district advisory councils in choosing how local families of schools are governed and classes are taught.
5. Better and earlier support for students who wish to enter the trades by developing stronger links with colleges, and through expanded co-op programming, technical education and apprenticeships.
6. Establish a curriculum advisory panel made up of key stakeholders including educators, experts, students and parents to review and address gaps in the current curriculum.
7. Identify young Island students with learning challenges early, and ensure adequate educational supports are there for them.
8. Consider opportunities for staggered schedules to better fit the emerging knowledge we have on how and when youth are best ready to learn.
9. Make greater use of outdoor classrooms and opportunities for students to learn in and about nature.
10. Redesign the education system to meet individual student's needs and promote creativity and critical thinking.
11. Allow students to explore trades options while in high school.
12. Conduct a review of curriculum.
13. Ensure youth are provided with education on sexual health and healthy relationships.
14. Provide trauma-informed support to students.
15. Remove significance of parental income on student loan applications.
16. Review career curriculum and introduce students to hands-on experiences.
17. Support literacy programs.
18. Support post-secondary students through rent supplements, tuition supports, student loan supports and food.
19. Use schools as a point of entry for students to access a variety of services.
20. Change school year to match fall tourism labour needs (especially post-secondary).

Health

1. Restore and expand mental health and addictions services.
2. Increase access to primary care physicians and reduce wait times for treatments and procedures.
3. Provide more health care and mental health care services locally in community based settings whenever possible.
4. Expedite the new Mental Health Campus to replace the Hillsborough hospital.
5. Create a collaborative setting for health care workers at Western Hospital to attract and retain workers.
6. Effective integration of health care services achieved through meaningful engagement with health care professionals, communities, individuals and stakeholders.
7. Women's health services must be fully restored and maintained.
8. Expand scope of what health care professionals (other than doctors) can offer.
9. Ensure men are provided with experiential opportunities to learn coping skills and to regulate emotions in healthy ways.
10. Ensure quality of life for health care professionals to avoid burnout.
11. Implement midwifery services immediately.
12. Develop a comprehensive mental health strategy and actions.

Housing

1. Ensure affordable, accessible housing development is a priority.
2. Develop a rental registry.
3. Implement short term rental regulations.
4. Support infrastructure needed for new housing developments where demand is high.
5. Allow more dog-friendly housing options.
6. Develop new inter-generational housing projects to ensure integration, not segregation of society.
7. Consider community living structures.
8. Support initiatives like Housing First (CMHA)
9. Involve residents in planning new housing developments to ensure access to active transportation and green space.
10. Support co-ops and co-housing over the landlord-tenant model for new developments
11. Reclaim housing currently tied up in short term rentals by closing regulatory loopholes.
12. Repurpose surplus commercial spaces (above street level) for housing.

Internet

1. Improve rural internet connectivity for all Islanders.
2. Commit to providing high-speed internet access that meets standards CRTC has set for all customers by the end of 2021.
3. Immediately renegotiate the agreement signed with Bell and Xplornet to bring high-speed internet to rural Islanders, including moving up the timeline of completion.
4. Continue to lobby the federal government to disburse more funds now from their national broadband fund and allow program stacking so Islanders with long driveways, line site issues, and costly builds can leverage more than one funding program to cover the cost.
5. Declare the internet an essential service.
6. Demand best technology from providers including wireless to the home. Introducing new technology here should be encouraged.
7. Lobby CRTC for more protections against rising costs to end users.
8. Continue to eliminate the current barriers in the \$10-million broadband fund to make it easier for local ISPs, communities and individuals to apply for funding.

Gender and Diversity

1. Ensure economic recovery considers disproportionate impacts on women.
2. Ensures policies consider systemic racism.
3. Address reconciliation, systemic racism and systemic oppression through thorough reviews of existing policies.
4. Legislate changes to ensure gender-based analysis on all policies.
5. Use a gender-based analysis plus framework lens, a diversity and inclusion lens, an accessibility lens, a child and youth lens and an environmental lens in policy development.
6. Assess the uptake of the COVID economic recovery programs for gender equality. How does the uptake of programs by men and male-led companies compare to the uptake of recovery programs by women and women-led companies? Ensure a gender lens is used in designing all future programs.
7. Build a GBA+ accountability framework for the Province.
8. Develop and deliver a suite of GBA tools and training.
9. Fully implement a gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) lens across all government departments.
10. Information should be gathered to provide a fulsome understanding of what barriers specifically are keeping more women from returning to work.
11. Pilot a GBA+ framework in Economic Development.

12. Take a “cluster” approach to engage groups of similar departments to ensure appropriate GBA+ information and tools are available to all sectors and functional communities.

Social Programs and Basic Income

1. Implement a Basic Income on PEI.
2. Urgently review and simplify social assistance and disability support programs taking into consideration the recommendations of the Special Committee on Poverty.
3. Short term income supports must be made available for those who need to take time off work due to illness or childcare, and who do not have access to paid sick days.
4. Ensure proper continuity of care between case workers in various departments so that clients are not reliving trauma when having to explain circumstances to a new service provider.
5. Implement 1000 First Days program immediately.
6. Implement livable wages and emergency financial supports as needed
7. Support survivors of domestic violence by ensuring a strong social safety net and access to supports, services and housing.
8. Begin implementation of the interim recommendations from the Special Committee on Poverty immediately.
9. Take a stepped approach towards a guaranteed basic income through increased support for individuals most in need.

Food

1. Invest in expanded cold storage facilities to create food distribution and storage hubs.
2. Invest in federal regulation-standard food manufacturing work spaces and equipment to be used by small businesses owners for research and development using a rental agreement to subsidize the investment.
3. Remove interprovincial trade barriers, with priority for food, manufactured food products, essential supplies.
4. Partner with local food producers to ensure the local market is a priority by implementing a ‘buy local’ government procurement policy.
5. Lobby the federal government to remove CFIA regulations for Island Abattoirs that only sell product in PEI.
6. Make immediate Island-wide implementation of the universal pay-as-you-can school food program a top priority.

General

1. Implement sustainable and local procurement policies.
2. Make the exemptions put in place during COVID for alcohol sales and distribution (including home delivery) permanent.
3. Implement open government practices.
4. Invest in assessing all current government programs using Results-based Management.
5. Review legislation that received Royal Assent but has yet to be enacted and openly share why the government has not yet enacted the legislation.
6. Do not pursue simple drug possession charges in court.
7. Establish economic, social and environmental measures for success, and report against them regularly.
8. Ensure recovery addresses medium and long-term effects of the pandemic.

Business

1. Immediately work with key stakeholders to plan for creative reuse of the anticipated number of empty storefronts and commercial spaces that will result from business closure.
2. Support businesses in attracting employees.
3. Provide more supports to ensure small businesses can keep the doors open and maintain staff.
4. Support innovative new local businesses that are responding to opportunities or addressing a need within our communities.
5. Diversify our markets and shift the emphasis of exports to high-value products.
6. Allow craft breweries to continue Island-wide deliveries.
7. Support local businesses.
8. Remove barriers to non-municipal commercial development (e.g. transparent and timely permitting processes; ability to develop along major roads like Rte 2; laws/regulations allowing businesses in residential areas).

Childcare

1. Substantially increase overall investment into ECE to expand number of spaces available across the province at affordable rates and extended hours.
2. Increase number of licensed daycares
3. Increase pay for Early Childhood Educators.
4. Work towards a goal of universal childcare.

Communities

1. Continue support for community assistance programs such as Community Revitalization Program, Community Capacity Building Program and the Economic Growth Program
2. Look at opportunities to utilize school facilities after hours and on weekends.
3. Create a land review investigation process that is timely and efficient.
4. Develop a province-wide land use plan with emphasis on preserving agricultural land.
5. Implement recommendations from the Thompson commission, Carver Commission, and Task Force on Land Use Policy.

Agriculture

1. Build the Island's agriculture sector for a changing climate and marketplace.
2. Create a sustainable agriculture funding program to help Island farms offset the costs of adopting technologies such as precision agriculture/satellite farming.
3. Establish a natural disaster relief fund for Island farms that incur damage due to hurricanes, storms, etc.
4. Support growers who are making the transition to new and more diverse crops that are more suited to our changing climate.
5. Diversify agricultural exports.

Environment

1. Implement a proper fee and dividend carbon price.
2. Establish a carbon levy and redistribute carbon grants to individuals earning less than an identified guaranteed basic income.
3. Stop using carbon price revenues to subsidize energy consumption and instead return direct dividends to Islanders.
4. Begin implementation of the interim recommendations from the Special Committee on Climate Change immediately.
5. Create a Green Growth Economic Strategy that integrates social, economic and environmental goals.
6. The new economy must ensure resources and products are kept in use for as long as possible, with the maximum value being extracted while they are in use and from which, at the end of their service life, other materials and products of value are recovered or regenerated.

Renewable Energy

1. Explore ways to store large amounts of energy from renewable sources through conversion to heat and transportation power.
2. Create more price signals for consumers to choose to transition to sustainable energy.
3. Evolve energy system to include a smart grid and smart metering based on demand.
4. Restructure energy rates so that lightest consumers are rewarded.
5. Offer meaningful clean energy rebates to farms that adopt renewable energy technologies.

Infrastructure

1. Dredge and improve harbours.
2. Improve road development process (e.g. private to public; dirt to paved)
3. Rural roads need to be improved, not just for current residents, but to encourage further population growth and development.

Community Sector

1. Encourage community economic development through investment (resources, financial, and regulatory) in social enterprises and cooperatives that supports the shift to business for environmental and social good.
2. Provide sustainable long-term operational funding to NGOs and social enterprises that support our health and well-being.
3. Support community organizations in the essential work they provide.
4. Establish programs to support volunteer organizations and community clubs who have lost revenue due to COVID-19.

Finance

1. Review all general revenue sources to identify disproportionately impacted groups including revenue sources through Crown Corporations (PEILCC, PEI Lotteries Commission and PEI Cannabis Management Corp, etc.).
2. Adopt a net zero strategy in all new government-financed buildings with steps for the private sector to follow-suit.

Employment and Training

1. Consider untapped potential of seniors and near-seniors for the workforce and offer programs for employers and employees to engage this demographic.
2. Continue support for Jobs for Youth, Health Care Futures, EDA, Rural Jobs Initiatives
3. Increase tuition bursaries and paid training opportunities in high-demand employment areas.

Tourism

1. Create a tourism product focused on PEI's clean, quiet, safe, beautiful but high quality features.
2. Develop an immediate province-wide strategy engaging all key stakeholders to shift from a consumer-based volume product to experiential products, expanding on Fall Flavours model.
3. Ensure survival of tourism operators this year through government programs.

COVID Restrictions and Enforcement

1. Make application process for visitors to PEI who self-isolate less cumbersome.
2. Canadian bubble needed for tourism.

Transportation

1. Access to affordable, Island-wide public transportation.
2. Develop an app for door-to-door transportation services, particularly in rural areas.

Arts

1. Ensure government innovation programs are open for creative entrepreneurs including those in the arts, culture, and tourism sectors
2. Support artists and musicians as a crucial part of our culture.

Seniors

1. Increase home care supports.



RENEW PEI



The Premier's Council for Recovery and Growth: Summary Report of Public Feedback

September 2021