



March 23, 2023

RE: Implementing the Prince Edward Island Economic Action Plan

The Liberal Party views the Partnership for Growth (PFG) as a partner in leading the economy forward. Government has a responsibility to create the conditions upon which industry can thrive. The Economic Action Plan recognizes the role of both parties, and this is important.

As outlined in the Economic Action Plan, Prince Edward Island has experienced economic challenge we navigated through a global pandemic. We have recovered in recent months in many areas. However, as small businesses grow forward, the economy continues to face storm clouds. Since March 2021, PEI has continued to have the highest rate of inflation in the country. It now sits at 7%. PEI is facing interest rates that are at a 30-year high. The current conditions have placed price pressures on inputs, wages, and the cost of doing business. The ongoing labour shortage continues to be a pressure on many as both low and high skilled jobs remain vacant stifling potential growth. Some economists fear a potential contraction or even recession later this year and the next Government needs to be prepared.

The Liberal Party of PEI has gone through the Economic Action Plan and formulated a policy platform that will help many of these issues. Consider this submission the combined answer to both questions posed in your supporting documents. It is centered around the immediate priority areas as identified by industry.

WORKFORCE

Like every jurisdiction, PEI is challenged by the aging demographic of our workforce. While there are more Islanders working today than ever before, the percentage of those nearing retirement has also never been higher. This has been noted in the Economic Action Plan. If PEI is to continue to have a vibrant economy, we need to do a better job of attracting and retaining workers into available positions.

A concerning statistic is the fact that almost 35 percent of Islanders leaving high school do not go on to post-secondary studies. This is especially challenging when you look at how much our school age population has declined over the last two decades. Simply put, our Island needs to maximize the skills and talents of every Islander who can enter the labour market. The Liberal Party has a strong record of working with our education system to ensure access to skilled labour. But challenging times require new approaches. For example, we hear that traditional approaches to apprenticeships are too time-consuming and expensive, both for the employee and the employer. Immigration, while very important, is a challenging, lengthy process that can't easily be relied upon as a source of labour for Island businesses. While PEI is home to three post-secondary institutions that offer a range of academic and vocational programs that are essential to our labour market, underfunding has left them too financially strained to innovate and grow. At the same time, students are not getting adequate exposure to career opportunities at a younger age to better prepare them for the kind of academic studies that support their potential career ambitions.

The Liberal Party is committed to enhancing our overall labour market, trades, and training by:

1. Enhancing exposure to trades and career-related training in our high schools in order to let students better understand the career opportunities that trades provide
2. Modernizing the apprenticeship system on PEI to make it more affordable and convenient for both students and employers
3. Developing Innovative immigration recruitment approaches that focus on sectoral recruitment activities in partnership with industry associations
4. Ensuring our post secondary institutions have access to adequate and stable funding to support the role they play in producing the skills and talents our students need to enter the labour market
5. Developing a seasonal worker benefits program to serve as a recruitment incentive for Islander working in seasonal sector to expand their time in the labour market
6. \Better access to professional, trades and career-related training through Holland College with an emphasis access to training in rural communities



While a multi-sector approach is necessary, sector specific strategies are able to target particular needs.

The Liberal Party is committed to growing our economic driving industries fill their labour needs

- Agriculture and Agri-Food
 - Expanding high school programming, including the Agriculture in the Classroom initiative, to expose students to the range of career opportunities that agriculture offers
 - Expanding immigration recruitment for workers to support the labour market needs of the agriculture sector
 - Developing a Seasonal Worker Benefits Program for agriculture, to attract workers by offering publicly funded benefits
- Tourism
 - Supporting tourism career promotion with funding support to assist the Tourism Industry Association of PEI in promoting job opportunities in the sector
 - Advocating to the federal government for EI policies which allow students to continue to work into the shoulder season without financial penalties
 - Developing a Tourism Management Internship Program to provide financial support to operators to access potential management staff
 - Developing a Season Worker Benefits Program to allow employers in seasonal industries, like tourism, to attract workers by offering publicly funded benefits
- Seafood and Lobster
 - Working with the Federal Government to establish a Seasonal Seafood Workers Program mirroring what is found in the agriculture sector to ensure long-term reliable labour for the industry
 - Increasing investment in programs that support young fishers such as the Future Fishers Program
- Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing
 - Develop a labour market strategy for the PEI aerospace and defense sector
 - Support sectoral and company immigrant recruitment efforts in order to better utilize immigration as talent pool to support labour market needs

- Work with Holland College and UPEI to explore enhancements to existing training as well new training programs that respond to the sector's needs
 - Provide the Association with career promotion and marketing funding support to expand its activities aimed at getting more Islanders into the sector
- Bio-Science
 - Engage with the BioAlliance and its members to develop a sectoral approach to immigration that helps attract greater number of skilled professionals to PEI
 - Enhance the role of UPEI and Holland College in supporting bioscience R&D and advanced education through Graduate Fellowships and other measures to attract leading students and faculty to PEI
- ITC and Clean Tech Sector
 - Develop a labour market strategy for the ITC and Clean Tech sectors to ensure industry growth and viability
 - Support sectoral and company immigrant recruitment efforts in order to better utilize immigration to support labour market needs
 - Work with Holland College and UPEI to explore enhancements to existing training as well new training programs that respond to the ITC and Clean Tech sectors' needs
 - Provide the sectors with career promotion and marketing funding support to expand its activities aimed at getting more Islanders into the ITC and Clean Tech sectors

WELCOMING COMMUNITIES

The face of PEI has changed dramatically in the last decade, and as a province, we are strengthened and enriched by our diversity. But for those that have come to call PEI home, as well as members of diverse communities and populations, it is essential that we recognize that inclusion is something we must address on both a personal and societal basis every day, day in and day out.

The reality is that some newcomers, Indigenous, Black, people of colour, LGBTQ2SIA, Persons with Disabilities and other marginalized groups struggle to gain acceptance. In some cases, they are victims of racism, harassment, and discrimination.

Recognizing that systemic racism, harassment and discrimination exist in PEI is the first step in having a collective, honest conversation about how we can come together to combat

it. It is essential that we recognize that inclusion is something we strive for with constant diligence. It sets the building blocks for healthy, prosperous communities. We do this through actioning equity programming and services, bringing the margins of our society to the centre

The Liberal Party believes that PEI must strive for inclusion for all Islanders and take concrete measures towards equity in all that we do. We will support the goal of inclusion by:

1. Appointing a Diversity and Inclusion Commissioner, with supporting infrastructure to operate independently from the government with a mandate to promote equity and inclusion
2. Gathering data on inclusion, diversity, racism, and other related issues on PEI through multiple forums and using the information to formulate public policy recommendations, strategies, and action plans
3. Receiving and responding to public complaints surrounding instances of racism, harassment, and discrimination and recommending corrective action
4. Monitoring issues related to inclusion and equity in the provision of government services to Islanders regardless of ethnicity, colour, race, disability and/or sexual orientation on topics such as barriers to opportunity; equitable access to programs and services; systemic racism and discrimination in healthcare, education, social development and services, housing, employment, justice and sport
5. Undertaking education on anti-racism, harassment, and discrimination to promote acceptance of our diversity and inclusion
6. Conducting investigations, in areas determined by the commissioner, in order to address concerns of racism, discrimination, and harassment relating to the government of Prince Edward Island and funded agencies and organizations

Further, it is important that we provide people – all Islanders – with the services that attract and retain them as citizens of our great province. Healthcare and education being primary drivers of this.



The Liberal Party is running on a Healthcare First campaign. Ensuring that every Islander has timely access to healthcare is the most important duty the government has to the people of this province. Under this initiative, the Liberal Party is committed to the following:

- Appointing Premier as Minister of Healthcare for a two-year period
- A New Patients' Rights Act that gives Islanders legal rights when it comes to timely access to healthcare services
- A separate minister and department for mental health and addictions:
- New recruitment/retention initiatives for nurses, doctors, and other health care workers
- Access to new healthcare services and providers
- Expediting professional credential recognition, both foreign and domestic

Our education system is equally important. Our Island's public school system serves approximately 19,000 young Islanders. The PEI Liberal Party knows that parents and teachers are committed to seeing our Island students get the best possible education to prepare them for the future.

The Liberal Party of PEI is committed to enhancing our public education system's performance in educating our children by:

- Increasing focus on student assessments (PCAP, PISA, and provincial assessments) as a key measure of student/teacher/education system performance
- Increasing investments in professional development supports for teachers to allow them better teach our island students to the required curriculum in order to enhance learning
- Increasing investments in in-class support for teachers including educational assistants, as well as further investment in school psychologists, audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and other resource personnel

- Increasing emphasis on supporting students with academic and career counselling earlier in the student journey to expand their options
- Setting targets to increase the number of Island students who go on to study at a post-secondary education level
- Revising apprenticeship training to better accommodate the needs of students and employers.

INNOVATION

The Liberal Party of PEI views innovation as an imperative to continued growth economically as a province. In 2022, small businesses managed to export \$1.9 billion worth of products and grew our economy at a modest rate of 2.9 percent. We know these export numbers were down from pre-pandemic years.

We need to take a sector-by-sector approach once again to surgically identify programs or initiatives that provide the business community the boost they need.

The Liberal Party is committed to.

- Agriculture and Agri-Food
 - Implementing a farm renewable energy program that provides incentives to help farmers develop renewable power generation capacity with the opportunity to sell excess power back to Maritime Electric
 - Investing in water infrastructure in clusters where potato production is prevalent to help boost yields in years when rain is not adequate
 - Accelerating on-farm climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives that leverage federal/ provincial funding and increase adoption of proven practices
 - Supporting farmers in accessing 3 Phase power by ensuring access to funding is included in any future Infrastructure Agreement between the Province and the federal government

- Encouraging the strategic expansion of PEI's livestock herd through price reassurances, low-interest government financing and grants; to support new entrants to strengthen the long-term viability of PEI's livestock industry
 - Assisting livestock farmers to invest in adequate fencing and enhanced manure management through low-interest government financing.
- Tourism
 - Offering low-interest loans and start-up grants to assist tourism operators in developing new products/services and/or refreshing existing offerings
 - Investing in our unique creative and cultural industries on the Island to support their collective capacity to help celebrate PEI.
- Seafood and Lobster
 - Increasing investment in climate mitigation infrastructure at PEI's small craft wharves and harbours to protect against extreme weather and the resulting storm surges
 - Supporting our aquaculture sector by working with federal partners to provide business risk management programs, including crop insurance, to provide assistance when a producer experiences a significant loss of product
 - Developing a provincial framework that would enhance lobster marketing initiatives that would also engage our federal partners to advance the industry;
- Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing
 - Implement a new and enhanced aerospace and defence tax rebate program to make PEI a more attractive location for manufacturing and retrofitting
 - Increase funding to the PEI Chapter of the Aerospace and Defense Association of Atlantic Canada by 50% to bolster programming for PEI companies
 - Assess opportunities for the extension of the tax rebate program more broadly in the advanced manufacturing sector

- Bioscience
 - Work with the BioAlliance to develop a comprehensive Innovation Strategy that sets out key public policy and funding programs to support the growth and viability of knowledge-based industries on PEI
 - Work with the bioscience cluster to fund infrastructure that supports start-ups and pre-commercial investments to grow early-stage manufacturing
 - Undertake a review of excise tax on cannabis to determine how the level of taxation impacts the growth and development of manufacturing on PEI

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Prince Edward Island is home to the entrepreneurial spirit with small businesses found across PEI. They are made up of a host of different industries and employ countless hard-working Islanders that drive the economy forward. They are the backbone of our rural communities, the engine of our major cities and the heartbeat of our financial well-being as a province. Their success is our collective success.

A Liberal Government would support the Island's entrepreneurs by

1. Partnering with the private sector to build sector specific workforce strategies that ensure the Island has an available workforce for Island businesses to grow
2. Revisiting PEI's population growth strategy with a focus on recruiting, integrating, and retaining immigrants to the Island that match our workforce strategies
3. Re-evaluating the provincial income tax model to better align with our Atlantic counterparts to ensure we are competitive in attracting labour to the Island
4. Committing to reviewing the annual minimum wage process and developing a long-term strategy to create a transparent, fair, and predictable process that takes private wage trends into account
5. Utilizing Finance PEI to ensure the business community has continued access to affordable capital and explore low interest loans programs for certain sectors as we navigate our way forward in a challenging interest rate environment.



CONCLUSION

The Liberal Party commits to sitting down with the PFG Steering Committee and its Members within a month of being elected to further explore how to achieve the metrics set forward in your Action Plan through the implementation of the commitments above.

The Liberal Party is dedicated to the economic growth and prosperity of this province and we look forward to getting down to work.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to comment.

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

Sharon Cameron
Leader, Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

Partnership for Growth survey

1. How will you enable and accelerate the implementation of the Economic Action Plan, focusing initially on the four priority areas noted above? (Workforce, welcoming communities, innovation and entrepreneurship)

Workforce

Addressing skill shortages in our workforce is perhaps the greatest economic challenge that our province faces. Over the last four years, our PC government has worked to recruit and retain workers in areas of the workforce experiencing pressure and have worked with our post-secondary institutions on flexible solutions to meet this challenge.

A re-elected PC government will:

- Grow the workforce to 90,000 jobs by 2026;
- Continue to support Partnership for Growth with *Workforce 2030*, an industry-led project to quantify and forecast PEI's future labour market requirements;
- Establish a \$10 Million Dollar Upskilling and Re-Skilling Fund to work with employers to create unique opportunities to get more people into the workforce through mentorship and training opportunities by working with sector champions;
- Fund sector and industry groups to develop online training platforms for professional development, upskilling and to allow for quicker onboarding of new graduates and employees into critical roles;
- Work with the federal government to find expedited routes for international skilled workers to join our province's workforce either on a temporary basis or permanently;
- Provide internship opportunities for post-secondary students to work with sector and industry groups to get practical work experience with multiple companies or organizations in the same field;
- Work with groups like the Construction Association of PEI, unions, and local contractors, to launch and expand existing programming to expose more Islanders to career opportunities in the construction industry, recruit more skilled workers for the construction industry internationally, and expand vocational training opportunities and mentorships to forge more pathways to careers in the skilled trades;
- Support PFG with its Workforce 2030 initiative

Welcoming communities

Over the last four years our PC government has worked to enhance the quality of life and attractiveness of our communities, re-establishing the Charlottetown Area Development Corporation (CADC) and partnering on major projects such as the development of the Charlottetown Library Learning Centre, downtown streetscape enhancements; and active transportation lanes connecting Stratford and Cornwall to Charlottetown.

Our PC government has worked to nurture and support the work of groups like the Immigration and Refugee Settlement Services Association (IRSA), BIPOC USHR, the Black Cultural Society, L'nuey, the Community Legal Information Association and others to help ensure that our province is an attractive and welcoming place to live, learn, work, invest and raise a family.

A re-elected PC government will further work to support welcoming communities by:

- Supporting immigration and assisting newcomers to become active members of our community;
- Continue to invest resources into English as an Added Language (EAL) working with our school system and post-secondary institutions;
- Fund the Black Cultural Society of PEI to renew their strategic plan and provide a four year core funding agreement, ensuring the Society is adequately funded to continue to address structural and systemic racism in Prince Edward Island.
- Work with L'nuey, in creating online learning courses to preserve the Mi'kmaq language
- Continue to support better citizen and labour mobility through Toonie Transit;
- Establish a Community Legal Aid Service to increase access to justice including legal representation which is not currently provided by existing legal aid programs;
- Support the Community Legal Information Association in their work to address intimate partner violence, workplace sexual harassment, and cyberbullying;
- Increase the Housing Challenge Fund by \$50 Million Dollars providing developers with 2% financing for quick-start housing projects;
- Establishing a \$25 Million dollar Community Infrastructure Program to assist communities in retrofitting and upgrading key community facilities such as arenas, and community centres;
- Launch a Rent-To-Own program with financing options through government so that Islanders have the opportunity to purchase a home after renting for 24 months;
- Provide support, mentorship, and financing to establish new co-operative housing complexes across the province by working with communities, non-profits, and regional development corporations so tenants have authority and input into the operation of their buildings;
- Create opportunities for Tiny Home Communities in rural PEI where Islanders can purchase and build equity instead of paying rent;
- Launch a Closing Cost Housing Support Program to provide first-time home buyers with up to \$2,500 towards closing costs of purchasing their first home;
- Introduce Instant Building Permits where permits can be instantly issued during an appointment with a multi-disciplinary team for straight-forward, routine building permits;
- Build a stronger, more equitable funding formula for all communities - large and small, rural and urban;
- Expand our high speed internet to reach our last 4% of civic addresses by June of 2024.

Innovation

Our PC government knows that innovation drives prosperity in our economy. That's why our government has supported innovative projects such as the UPEI School for Climate Adaptation, the new Clean Tech Academy, and positioning Prince Edward Island as a national leader in rolling out climate adaptation programming.

A re-elected PC government will continue to work with our post-secondary, private sector and community partners to foster greater innovation in research, technology and economic development on Prince Edward Island by:

- Work with the UPEI School for Climate Adaptation, the School of Sustainable Design Engineering, the Atlantic Veterinary College, and the National Research Council to further leverage innovation in research and commercialization;
- Continue the successful partnership with the Island Bio Sector by providing the necessary funding to establish the Bio Accelerator which will leverage new investment, growth and innovation in the Island's bioscience sector;
- Support development of the Clean Tech Academy in Georgetown to build a foundation for growth in the clean tech sector;
- Launch a \$50 Million Clean Tech Energy Program to commercialize job and growth opportunities in Prince Edward Island's emerging cleantech sector.

Entrepreneurship

Prince Edward Island was built upon the hard work of our entrepreneurs, taking risks to create jobs, growth and wealth. Our PC government has worked to support Island entrepreneurship through initiatives like the Startup Zone, achieving the lowest small business tax rate in Atlantic Canada at 1%, and being there with support and resources to weather the pandemic and emerge viable on the other side.

A re-elected PC government will continue to nurture Island entrepreneurship by:

- Maintaining the lowest small business tax rate in Atlantic Canada at 1%;
- Partnering with the private to meet the province's housing market challenges;
- Creating a culture of opportunity from the province's transition to a Net Zero future;
- Positioning Island entrepreneurs to more fully benefit from our emerging cleantech sector;
- Continue to provide assistance, support and programming through Innovation PEI for our new business startups and emerging entrepreneurs.

2. What other specific actions within the Economic Action Plan would your party prioritize?

A re-elected PC government will continue to engage the private sector as a valued and respected partner in the growth and prosperity of Prince Edward Island. We understand that in

order for the Economic Action Plan to be successful, the government must continue to prioritize innovation and improvements to healthcare, housing and education.

1. How will you enable and accelerate the implementation of the Economic Action Plan, focusing initially on the four priority areas noted above? (Workforce, welcoming communities, innovation and entrepreneurship)

With respect to **workforce**, a Green government would:

- Create a refundable tax credit for lower- and middle-income workers to complement the Canada Workers Benefit. This will help 32,000 Islanders.
- Review and implement recommendations from the comprehensive review of the Employment Standards Act to improve working conditions of all Island workers.
- Develop a workforce strategy, in consultation with industry and workers, to address shortages in key industries like construction and implement long-term solutions.
- Create an experiential learning fund to support work placements for postsecondary students.
- Work with the Workers Compensation Board to develop a strategy to recognize and prevent the most prevalent workplace injuries.
- Review post-secondary financial assistance programs to ensure there is adequate support for Island workers looking to reskill or upskill.
- Work with industry to identify labour shortages and help recruit and retain internationally-trained professionals to fill those gaps.
- Streamline accreditation for internationally-trained workers.
- Proclaim the Temporary Foreign Worker Protection Act.
- Establish a \$2,000 bursary program to encourage students to work in the construction sector.
- Convene a panel of employer and employee representatives from the construction industry to explore the creation of a wage grid for construction.
- Reduce childcare costs to \$10/day, increase the number of childcare spaces, and negotiate with the federal government to further reduce the cost of childcare on Prince Edward Island with a long-term goal of free childcare.

With respect to **welcoming communities**, a Green government will:

- Support opportunities to provide equity, diversity, and inclusivity training in Island workplaces.
- Update our student debt forgiveness program to encourage more graduates to work on PEI after graduation.
- Invest at least \$485 million to increase our supply of public housing.
- Create a rental registry to protect Islanders from illegal rent increases.
- Amend the *Planning Act* and work with municipalities to improve development processes, promote density, encourage development in transit corridors, and reduce the loss of farmland to development.

- Improve low-carbon public transportation options, including by increasing the operating grant to the Capital Area public transit system, renew transit subsidies to keep bus fares affordable, and increase the number of transit routes and frequency of runs in rural and urban locations.
- Provide funding for equity-seeking groups to provide appropriate housing to meet the specific needs of their communities.
- Establish a co-op registry to bring together Islanders and encourage the creation of additional co-op housing, including student-led housing cooperatives.
- Make sure that our schools are safe and inclusive spaces that promote diversity and the acceptance of all people.
- Better plan school infrastructure for expected population growth, while keeping rural schools open.
- Work with community organizations and employers to retain skilled graduates.
- Review progress and accelerate the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' calls for justice.
- Increase funding to municipalities for recreation infrastructure like playgrounds, sports fields, and community gardens so that Islanders of all ages can stay active in their communities.
- Develop an anti-racism strategy in partnership with community members and equity-seeking groups.
- Make public all recommendations of the Anti-Racism Table to promote greater public discussion and improved government accountability on matters of racism and discrimination.
- Support better collection of disaggregated demographic data as required to better understand disparities in our society, with a particular focus on health, education, housing, and employment outcomes.
- Introduce stronger legislation on accessibility standards to make sure persons living with a disability can fully participate in all aspects of Island life.

With respect to **innovation**, a Green government will:

- Along with federal partners, advocate for a national right-to-repair strategy to make repairs easier and more affordable.
- Complete the expansion of high-speed internet in rural PEI, and make sure our broadband infrastructure keeps up with future demand and technological changes.
- Promote clean technology and information technology sectors.
- Support the implementation of UPEI's new strategic research plan.
- Review funding agreements with Island postsecondary institutions to make sure they have adequate and predictable funding.
- Work with farmers and food processors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the changing climate, and increase farmers' bottom lines, including through innovative practices like agri-voltaics and other new farming techniques.

- Work with fishers to reduce emissions and transition to clean technologies, alternate fuels, and explore new techniques such as regenerative ocean farming.
- Work to establish a Mi'kmaq-specific business equity fund for long-term projects that promote the prosperity and long-term well-being of First Nations communities in PEI.
- In addition to our international exports, focus on increasing local and regional market opportunities.

With respect to **entrepreneurship**, a Green government will:

- Review and update commercial tenancy laws to protect Island businesses.
- Support businesses to adopt the technology they need to compete online.
- Eliminate incorporation and name search fees for new business start-ups.
- Launch a basic income pilot. This will, in part, help provide a safety net and allow entrepreneurs to take greater risk.
- Set the zero-payment threshold for PEI Student Loans to \$40,000 gross income, indexed to inflation and with upward adjustments for family size. This would make sure Island graduates do not have to repay loans if their annual income is below \$40,000.
- Emphasize initiatives to attract new businesses and bring well-paying jobs to PEI.
- Work with Island industry associations to implement their industry growth strategies.
- Create a new Culture Strategy for PEI and increase investment in culture.
- In recognition of their positive contribution to the economy and overall well-being, provide free or low-cost access to artistic, cultural, and social activities for Islanders.
- Support new tourism initiatives in the off-season, including at our provincial parks.
- Create a capital fund to build new childcare centres, expand existing ones, and keep centres from closing.
- Encourage more individuals to open in-home childcare centres by making the process easier and financially viable.

2. What other specific actions within the Economic Action Plan would your party prioritize?

There are a number of actions within the Economic Action Plan that align with the Green platform. Specific actions within the Economic Action Plan that a Green government would prioritize include:

- Accelerate investment in reliable, affordable and consistent access to high-speed internet across the province.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of PEI's tax system.
- Expand the network of community-based arts and culture facilities and programming as a core element of community economic and social development.
- Promote and support integrated community planning that incorporates economic, social, and environmental criteria and identifies linkages and shared services with surrounding urban and rural areas.

- Support innovative business and community-led solutions to address affordable housing, transportation, and childcare needs in rural and urban communities.
- Establish sector-specific approaches to workforce development to address skills and labour gaps, identifying opportunities to ensure a diverse and inclusive workplace for equity-seeking organizations including women, newcomers, indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, black and other racialized communities, and LGBTQ2 communities from across the province.
- Promote private sector involvement in experiential learning through partnerships with K-12 and post-secondary education.
- Revisit PEI's population growth strategy, including recruitment, integration, and retention.
- Develop innovative ways to retain and streamline access to permanent residency for skilled workers who have been employed through the Temporary Foreign Worker program.
- Create a culture of inclusive and welcoming communities across PEI, share best practices and define collaborative approaches to embrace diversity and inclusion;
- Provide professional development opportunities for employers, and explore the potential for employer certification or recognition for training (e.g., mental health, inclusivity and diversity).
- Pursue the next level of growth for value-added food, leveraging PEI's quality agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture and reputation as Canada's Food Island.
- Establish an industry-led cluster and leadership model for Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), mapping strategic areas of growth for urban and rural PEI.
- Transform to a digital economy. Develop a strategy, including supports (expertise and investment) for businesses and organizations to redefine business models and internal processes and communication.
- Build an industry-led cleantech cluster, accelerating R&D, innovation, exports, and cross-sector collaborative initiatives.
- Ensure every industry/sector has a multi-year strategic plan that identifies targets for economic growth, critical issues to be addressed, and plans to achieve desired results
- Bring together academic and research agencies, industry sectors, and government agencies to develop and implement an Innovation Strategy for PEI.
- Raise the bar to strengthen and grow PEI's entrepreneurial network, accelerating the impact of entrepreneurial supports and building collaborative communities with entrepreneurial individuals at the centre.