



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

2022



Pre-Budget Consultations



Executive Summary

The Department of Finance held pre-budget consultations from December 15, 2021 to January 24, 2022. This report summarizes the input received from the more than 59 written submissions, more than 220 survey responses, a Facebook Live and three virtual sessions with various stakeholders and the public.

It is an important responsibility of Government to consider the unique needs of all Islanders in the budget process. By taking cultural, social, economic, and other differences into account, we better ensure many voices inform – and guide – our outcomes. To that end, the Department of Finance continues work to make the consultations more accessible. Using a more interactive survey tool with increased promotion and outreach resulted in a significantly higher response rate than previous years.

The themes of the input covered the full spectrum, ranging from health to the economy, youth to seniors, vulnerable populations to communities, COVID-19 to climate action.

Health:

Recommendations were received to grow various clinical services and programs; enhance staffing and recruitment throughout the Island; add funding and resources to the healthcare system; increase supports for mental health and wellness; expand access to prescription drugs; take proactive measures in wellness, harm prevention, health promotion; and act to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

Business, Economy & Taxes:

Suggestions focused on growing and supporting business/economy; growing Islanders' income, employment and workforce opportunities; ensuring fairness in taxes and reducing red tape; and making plans for the COVID-19 recovery.

Strong and Inclusive Communities:

Input centered around supporting and encouraging diversity; and building communities of strength and resilience across the Island.

Supports for Youth and Education:

Included ideas to help secure the future success of Island children and young people.

Social Outcomes/Housing:

Suggestions focused on enhancing programs and services and exploring initiatives to increase housing security

Climate Action:

Input included ideas to protect the environment and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Primary Industry and Tourism:

Ideas were shared to support and grow the Island's potato and other agricultural sectors, as well as the fishing and aquaculture and tourism industry.

Justice, Legislation and Government Operations:

Suggestions were made to change legislation, as well as to reform or enhance the justice system and general government operations.

More details on the input for each of these themes can be found in Section 1 of this report.

The on-line survey contained four questions:

1. Please rank the areas where you would like to see government spending from 1 (top priority) to 10 (lower priority). – **Further investments in primary healthcare services was the category selected as the top priority by a large margin.**
2. Where do you think Government could raise revenue? – **The most popular responses were increases to taxes on alcohol, tobacco and cannabis, followed by increases to the amount of the carbon levy.**
3. Government has said it will continue to help Islanders weather the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing that the pandemic has been more challenging for some groups and areas than others where would you like to see support to cope with COVID-19 in 2022? – **The most popular answer was public health – including vaccination and other related health programs followed by financial supports for individuals and families.**
4. If a budget includes more money for programs and services than it expects to take in it is known as deficit. When government has a deficit, it does not have money to pay down its longer-term debt. What would you like to see Government do in Budget 2022? – **A clear majority of survey respondents selected now is not the time to balance the budget.**

More details on the survey results can be found in Section 2 of this report.

Section 1:

Summary of Recommendations from Written Submissions

The following summarizes recommendations, by theme, from all the written submissions received via email, letters, virtual consultations, and the open-ended question in the pre-budget survey.

Health

Clinical Services and Programs

- Focus on ensuring all Islanders can access a family doctor
- Provide access to glucose monitoring technologies for all patients living with type 1 diabetes and expand the insulin pump program to people older than 25 years of age
- Provide full coverage of home oxygen program to low-income Islanders and review current limit
- Start a BiPAP therapy program or work with the non-profit sector to run a program where they can supply machines to Islanders in need
- Dedicate funding to address disruptions in cancer care from COVID-19
- Fund a midwifery program
- Improve access to prenatal and women's health services
- Provide additional access to elective procedures
- Increase funding for fertility services and supports and ensure they are not income based
- Offer satellite clinics for fertility services including monitoring clinics
- Significantly expand surgical rooms to reduce wait times
- Expand access to healthcare services such as vascular surgery
- Support dental coverage for seniors and low-income Islanders
- Improve wait times for joint replacement surgeries
- Invest in arthritis-specific primary and community care with a range of treatment options
- Allocate funding to offer hemodialysis service at the Kings County Memorial Hospital
- Add physiotherapy and related physical therapies to the list of publicly funded services

- Increase funding and patient choice for cataract, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, and other eye-related healthcare needs

Staffing and Recruitment

- Develop a plan to improve front line healthcare services and recruit professionals
- Allocate resources in emergency departments to see non urgent cases after walk-in clinic hours
- Use nurse practitioners to handle non urgent cases
- Add funding for the nurse practitioner position in Morell to increase hours in a new location
- Secure primary care practitioners for the Wellington area
- Add registered nurses to support the ambulatory care area at the Community Hospital O'Leary
- Look at linking training with existing credentials from immigrant healthcare providers – and refer internationally educated health professionals to health care job opportunities
- Amend regulations to allow Island nursing students trained in French to practice
- Enhance working conditions for healthcare workers to help avoid burnout and exhaustion
- Continue plans to develop the UPEI medical school to help with recruitment
- Add more seats in UPEI nursing program and forgive student loans for newly graduated nurses
- Work with College of Physicians and Surgeons on physician oversight of physician assistants
- Hire more doctors at the walk-in clinics in the summer to care for tourists to reduce wait time
- Increase wages and retention bonuses for healthcare professionals
- Create a provincial integrated health and human resources aged-care staffing strategy

Healthcare system and funding

- Prioritize funding to improve the health, dignity, and wellbeing of poor and economically vulnerable Islanders
- Make further investments in primary health care services – focus on rebuilding, not cuts
- Invest in continuous improvements to clinics and timely access to primary care
- Invest in rural health hubs to improve equality of health services throughout the province
- Continue ongoing work to address violence in the workplace, particularly in the health system
- Provide core funding to non-profit groups to help run current programs
- Increase funding in Prince Edward Island long-term care to address challenges with outbreaks, infection control management, and adequate resident care
- Increase funding for long-term care staffing so residents can have access to regular activities
- Continue to restructure Health PEI with a focus on reducing bureaucracy
- Audit public health services for their productivity
- Implement performance management for health care to provide effective metrics on services
- Provide sustainable funding for not-for-profits in the health sector
- Invest in technological upgrades
- Consider multidisciplinary teams to provide coordinated health care and lower costs
- Support the annual Vital Signs report
- Provide funding in the operating budget for the Tignish Health Cooperative
- Support investments related to the long-term renewal of the Kings County Memorial Hospital
- Expand access and remove the provincial sales tax on medical cannabis
- Allow pharmacists to issue blood requisitions and forms for other routine tests to reduce the number of people accessing walk-in clinics and to prescribe antibiotics
- Pay clinic doctors by health issue so people are seen for one concern at a time to reduce lineups in the waiting room
- Continue to lobby the federal government to increase health transfers to 35% of healthcare cost and ensure that there are strings attached
- Work with the Federal government to implement national long-term care standards
- Ensure long-term care facilities are government-run, not operated by the private sector
- Cover private services for anyone referred by a mental health care provider or a medical doctor
- Cover transportation costs for anyone attending Serene View Ranch
- Do not construct new mental health and addictions facilities using a public-private partnership (P3) model

Mental health and wellness

- Fund creation of more addictions care and recovery facilities that implement best practices in addictions care/recovery. Ensure facilities are appropriate for racialized communities
- Provide appropriate staffing for new mental health facilities
- Provide immigrants with one-on-one mental health support and culturally informed workshops
- Mental health services should recognize the unique needs of those who speak English as a second language
- Hire at least one racialized psychologist to provide therapy to BIPOC Islanders. Until able to secure this, provide access to virtual therapy sessions
- Provide more mental health counselors and therapists, including practitioners who specialize in working with individuals who have intellectual disabilities and their partners in care
- Invest more money and resources into training for direct support professionals who work with people with intellectual disabilities
- Invest in professionals to work in day and vocational training programs, in-residential support

- Fund more respite options for caregivers of Islanders with intellectual disabilities and make day programs more affordable
- Help parents of adolescents with special needs to pay for counselling and medication
- Add funding for non-profit organizations to support individuals living with Autism
- Provide more financial support and options for Associate Families
- Bring back an in-patient addiction facility to Summerside or further west
- Establish an Addictions Navigator position
- Provide safe consumption sites
- Develop and distribute a mental health self-assessment tool, with service access points
- Provide vicarious trauma training
- Consider first-language support. Develop a list of interpreters, trained for mental health support
- Consider expanding languages offered through the Island Helpline
- Increase the pay of professionals providing counselling and mental health services
- Fund vaccines recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunizations for seniors
- Work with insurance industry to enhance access to high-cost and rare disease medicines
- Increase funding of PEI Pharmacare toward the national average, reduce timelines of listings and decrease out-of-pocket costs in line with other provincial jurisdictions in Canada
- Improve target levels of vaccination against cancers caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Encourage the federal government to halt pharmaceutical pricing reforms to avoid creating barriers to medicine and vaccine access

Wellness, harm prevention, health promotion

Prescription Drugs

- Lobby the federal government for a National Pharmacare program
- Continue funding for free shingles vaccines
- Enable funding for treatments available on the formulary for rare diseases
- Increase funding for the drug formulary
- Provide provincial health plan coverage for and access to contraception at no cost to youth
- Develop a policy to expand the use of biosimilar biologic medicines
- Increase support for psychogeriatrics, seniors' opioid addictions, screening and grief support
- Fully fund pneumococcal conjugate 13-valent vaccine for seniors/immunocompromised people
- Implement a provincial sales tax on sugary drinks
- Increase tax on cigarettes and "roll your own tobacco" to lower rates of smoking and tobacco use
- Implement a tax on e-cigarette/vaping products to encourage cessation and prevent use
- Offer a tax break for those who have been fully vaccinated and boosted
- Make HPV vaccinations more accessible for international students without PEI health cards
- Provide funding for free menstrual hygiene products in schools and other institutions
- Focus on health promotion efforts to reduce reliance on primary and acute care services
- Fund education on pelvic floor health and for pelvic floor exams and treatment for seniors
- Post weekly social media reminders to point newcomers to healthcare access points
- Promote Wellness: Preserving Health Action Plan for Seniors, Near Seniors, and Caregivers
- Invest in priority actions that emerge from the Women's and Gender Diverse Islanders' Health Strategy that is in the final stages of development
- Renew funding for the FAST signs of stroke public awareness campaign
- Provide funds to public health for upstream initiatives to addresses root causes of illness

COVID-19

- Enhance working conditions for healthcare workers to help avoid burnout, and establish reward pay increases for professional and other essential workers until the pandemic is over
- Provide a tax break for the purchase of masks and hand sanitizer
- End COVID restrictions
- Begin the post-mortem on COVID, even though the pandemic is not over
- Review any shortcomings revealed as a result of the pandemic, including overall emergency preparedness, school overcrowding, hospital/ICU capacity
- Ensure COVID spending is thoughtful
- Implement appropriate care pathways in the province to facilitate Prince Edward Island's access to new COVID-19 antiviral therapies once authorized by Health Canada

Business, economy and taxes

Growing and supporting business/economy

- Allow more convenience stores to join the agency store network to be able to sell beverage alcohol, especially made-in-PEI products
- Halt the privatization of liquor sales – keep sales public to maintain higher standards
- Reduce the liquor board beer markup by three percentage points
- Continue to support the tourism industry through low interest, cost-shared, or forgivable loans
- Increase funds for tourism marketing and increase/maintain funding for product development
- Maintain and increase support for tourism-specific labour and HR training initiatives
- Support and expand the Food Island Gift Card Program
- Develop a gift card program for Islanders to attend artistic, cultural, and social activities
- Begin a process to grow operational funding to arts and culture organizations

- Identify and promote bilingual companies through discounts, taxes and province-wide visibility
- Maintain the current film industry support programs and consider investing in key infrastructure
- Enhance the business infrastructure to allow businesses to succeed
- Expand business development outside Summerside and Charlottetown
- Invest in diversifying the economy in manufacturing, processing and the biosciences
- Expand public transportation to create a larger work force and more economic activity
- Stop loaning money to businesses and then writing it off
- Invest in the infrastructure project in Borden
- Maintain supports for the rural internet initiative which attracts businesses and remote employees
- Continue to operate the Theatre Mentorship Program and Workforce Integration
- Keep and strengthen the Startup Zone and ensure it is cemented as a pillar
- Focus on keeping companies in PEI while drawing new ones
- Maintain access to cashflow through Finance PEI, which has been key to retaining staff
- Increase the Tourism Activation grant to provide more than \$50,000 for larger operators
- Support moves to increase capacity for ongoing ecommerce

Income, employment and workforce

- Increase wages to a living wage and increase hours of work to full time
- Declare amnesty for low income Islanders required to repay CERB benefits
- Establish a Basic Income Guarantee to strengthen the economy
- Work with the federal government to establish a Job Guarantee for PEI

- Acknowledge the special contribution of low-income front-line workers during the pandemic by increasing their wages and hours of work
- Look at ideas to support business like covering a health plan for staff, micro credentials training, or government paid sick leave
- Fund a Guaranteed Annual Income for all Islanders to alleviate many other issues
- Reduce the tax on low wage earners so money saved returns to the local economy
- Work with the federal government to establish a job guarantee
- Ensure provincial supports are in place to continue with aggressive immigration targets
- Support new immigrants to PEI to encourage growth in the long term
- Speed up process of permanent resident nomination program
- Reduce the time and cost associated with permanent residence/citizenship
- Maintain funding for entrepreneurial and career-focused immigration support services
- Invest in new ideas/ activities to promote inter-business activities across cultures communities
- Work to develop affordable childcare so more people can participate in the workforce
- Continue funding through Innovation PEI, Finance PEI, SkillsPEI, CBDC, Rural Action Centres and PEIBWA to assist entrepreneurship, business growth and retention of employment
- Increase supports to meet interest/demand for customized retraining and reskilling programs, including RCW to LPN and LPN to RN
- Consider investments in work experience top up programs to help workers attain new skills
- Help businesses to source, retain and hire employees
- To address labour shortages, continue to support initiatives to transfer skills

Taxes and red tape

- Continue to increase the Basic Personal Amount to \$12,000 by 2023 and tie subsequent increases to the Consumer Price Index
- Replace business subsidies with business tax relief to stimulate growth
- Index personal income tax brackets to end inflation-based tax hikes
- Commit to taking a “do no harm” approach to policies affecting small businesses
- Raise consumption taxes, carbon taxes and sin taxes, make those pay who use the services
- Tax sugar/junk food and subsidize fruits/vegetables
- Enforce marked fuel permits so they are accessed only by eligible business/sectors
- Review the high corporate tax rate that causes businesses to move off-Island
- Raise corporate taxes and stop funding multinational organizations
- Ensure there is less government interaction and reduce red tape when building
- Allow artists to make up to a certain amount before it is income taxable
- Re-evaluate the provincial income tax bracket model to better align with the Atlantic provinces
- Lower the interest rate charged on overdue property taxes
- Increase income tax on highest earners, including businesses
- Increase the budget for government departments dealing with construction, land subdivision and planning to allow greater activity in these areas
- Increase provincial personal tax credits/deductions
- Consider succession tax credits to keep equity on PEI
- Keep profits on the Island by incentivizing local exchange of equity
- Help the business sector and non-profit groups collaborate with municipalities to give private contractors an incentive to develop
- Get out information on programs as soon as possible – make them easy to understand and access

COVID-19 Recovery

- Ensure sufficient and timely planning, policy, communications, and resources to effectively manage COVID-19 to keep Islanders safe and businesses open
- Implement a budgeted COVID-19 recovery contingency fund allowing for the deployment of programs reaching all businesses directly/indirectly affected by public health restrictions
- Apply payment forgiveness for deferred taxes and pandemic-related loans
- Give money to employers who have been hardest hit to invest in employees, training
- Support the arts community, which has been impacted by COVID
- Do not increase costs for small businesses until all health restrictions are eliminated
- Government should continue to support businesses during lockdowns
- Fund the creation of a BIPOC arts and culture curator to work to record Island BIPOC lived experiences through art and storytelling
- Advance commitments toward a provincial treaty rights education program
- Introduce additional Mi'kmaq materials into the Island educational system
- Plan for a permanent location to mark Truth and Reconciliation Day
- Continue and expand the signing initiatives that took place in some Island communities
- Reform the approach to funding for Indigenous programs and services to be more representative of the diverse Indigenous population on PEI through the decision-making institutions of their choice
- Increase budget allowances for public transportation for Islanders in rural locations, transportation services for Elders, and carbon-neutral/environmentally friendly transportation
- Increase funding for the MMIWG Indigenous Working Group

Strong and Inclusive Communities

Supporting and encouraging diversity

- Ensure budgeting transparency for vulnerable communities to allow measurement of investment from one year to the next
- Provide targeted, multi-year capacity funding for 2SLGBTQIA+ and BIPOC community organizations, such as; Pride PEI, PEERS Alliance, BIPOC USHR, PEI Transgender Network, and Black Cultural Society
- Establish an Office of Diversity and Inclusion in Government
- Establish BIPOC grants and provide firm dates for implementation
- Pursue a strategy to reduce systemic racism in our society
- Continue operational funding for groups in support of the BIPOC community
- Create a permanent independent Commissioner on Systemic Racism with support staff
- Create a tenant's advocate position and office with staff reflecting PEI's ethnic diversity
- Consider developing legislation for the Province of PEI that mirrors the *Canadian Gender Budgeting Act*
- Continue to focus on the collective recovery from COVID-19, recognizing the effects have been different on different genders and groups
- Determine COVID recovery responses and budgets based on a meaningful gender and diversity analysis
- Consider equity between on-reserve and off-reserve Mi'kmaw and Indigenous residents in the budgeting processes
- Fund a permanent position for the PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation to increase its French language educational programming
- Collaborate with UPEI to implement the recommendations made in the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* and *Calls for Justice: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*
- Apply a Francophone lens in the budgetary approach and in the development of services, programs and resources

- Offer adequate compensation for those who provide priority services in French to grow capacity
- Provide a guarantee of seamless bilingual service at all Access PEI sites
- Build a bilingual staff base to guarantee continuity of services and raise wages in the community sector
- Organize a campaign to promote bilingualism at the provincial level by informing the population of the services that are available to learn or develop knowledge and practice of French
- Closely collaborate with the Acadian and Francophone community sector on the upcoming Canada Games
- Continue to invest in the implementation of the *French Language Services Act* and put more emphasis on allocating funds directly to organizations serving the community versus in-kind contributions
- Increase support for arts and culture on PEI, specifically supports for artists and non-profit arts organizations through the Innovation PEI culture stream
- Invest in digital/technology lending or low-cost tech purchase programs for seniors. Prioritize this investment in rural and isolated communities
- Invest in intergenerational programming so youth and older adults canFinte interact regularly for varied activities including technology training/practice
- Enhance public transportation by making public and increasing efficiency of rural lines pilot
- Increase the allocation by \$2 million to the arts and culture budget at InnovationPEI and to the Museums and Heritage Foundation to focus on addressing post-COVID community wellness
- Allocate money and resources for community building events after the pandemic

Building communities

- Increase the budget for arts and culture on Prince Edward Island, particularly operating and project funding to arts organizations
- Provide arts grants and other support programs for artists, and social support for those living in poverty and in precarious conditions
- Continue to build a strong relationship between municipalities and the province
- Invest in expanding French services and guarantee more service offerings
- Fund a third-party facilitator to allow for an impartial and independent process around a Citizen's Assembly to consider proportional representation
- Develop more rural public transportation schemes
- Ensure inadequate access to reliable, quality, affordable internet service
- Provide more support for not-for-profit organizations
- Build a workout place for adults in the province's parks
- Improve resources, funding, and infrastructures for Island artists as well as new and existing arts organizations
- Provide funding to amend the firefighter tax credit to include search and rescue volunteers and increase funding to these groups
- Make further investments in Island-wide public transit, especially to continue rural transit access
- Invest in the voluntary organization sector, with a priority on supporting groups that help fill gaps in public services to people in low income, people with disabilities, racialized people, people at risk of violence, and other under-represented groups
- Continue capacity building and funding for the voluntary groups that provide residential, employment and community support for persons with disabilities
- Consider funding submissions supporting maintenance and sand removal for accessible boardwalk access to Lakeside Beach
- Substantially reduce provincial non-commercial property taxes within municipalities to provide tax room for municipal governments
- Increase the Real Property Transfer Tax from one percent to one and a half percent, and remit revenue from the half cent increase to the municipality in which the property transfer occurred
- Increase the annual operating grant for the Capital Area municipal public transit system

- Substantially reduce provincial non-commercial property taxes within municipalities to create tax room for municipal governments - remove tax incentive for sprawl outside municipalities
- Provide technical and financial resources to municipal governments to support and guide municipal planning and build municipal capacity

Supports for Youth and Education

- Continue investment in the school system and early years sector to adapt to the challenges posed by COVID-19
- Provide supports for virtual learning
- Increase access to early learning and childcare for infants and preschoolers
- Provide additional resources for children with special needs
- Facilitate student access to Open Educational Resources through a multi-year recurring grant to UPEI
- Maintain and increase funding for the expansion of French Language schools
- Establish a child benefit
- Work with federal government to expedite the childcare program – add a sliding rate for need
- Ensure early childhood educators' salaries are competitive
- Continue investment in public education, focus on keeping schools open for in-person learning
- Ensure proper ventilation and personal protective equipment (PPE) in schools and care facilities
- Continue investments in an Island-wide school food program
- Support student social, emotional, and mental health through Student Wellbeing Teams
- Continue teacher and staff mandatory training on diversity/inclusion like Cultural Competence, Unconscious Bias, EGALE Safer Schools Webinar, GBA+ training, Four Seasons of Reconciliation
- Renew intermediate school sexual health curriculum inclusive of identities and lived experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ and other emerging identities
- Increase allocation to the John J. Sark Memorial scholarships or develop a new scholarship focused on first- and second-year Indigenous students at UPEI
- Allocate funding for Child and Family Services to operate an off-reserve Indigenous Services Team consisting of at least three full-time staff members
- Allow students who go away for university/college to receive the George Coles Bursary
- Provide funding to partner with other levels of government to build a new gymnastics facility
- Review the K-12 educational outcomes and make adjustments to improve assessment scores
- Create a pilot program to embed a law enforcement officer in a rural school family
- Make temporary positions or contract positions in the education sector full-time
- Ensure new childcare spaces are publicly owned or not-for profit and increase workers' wages
- Run pre-k and childcare from/in schools as a cost saving measure
- Create technology lending and training programs through community organizations
- Hire a racialized school psychologist to provide therapy to BIPOC students experiencing racism
- Resolve the current contract negotiations with education professionals as quickly as possible
- Allocate funding to modernize the physical education curriculum in the school system
- Fund a Literacy Strategy for PEI
- Reduce student-teacher ratios in grades 1-3
- Adopt a child rights impact assessment on all policy and legislative developments
- Adopt Elections Canada's civic education program for all secondary students
- Create supports for teachers to implement play-based learning

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

- Maintain core funding for the PEI Literacy Alliance
- Include in-home daycare providers in affordable daycare plans, as many receive care this way
- Invest in more early childhood education centers and before/after school care
- Encourage postsecondary business students to collaborate with government by offering a special studies course
- Free parenting programs should be available to all new parents and parents in need
- Build more capacity and promote currently existing programs like Triple P Parenting
- Lower tuition for domestic and international students
- Reduce elementary class sizes
- Provide UPEI's Mawi'omi Centre with a recurring Restricted Operating Grant to contribute towards decolonization and Indigenization of UPEI
- Allocate funds to train civil servants and frontline educators, healthcare providers and social service workers in "The Brain Story" to understand how experiences shape our brains
- Focus on IT as soon as possible in Education system. Micro-credentialing is important
- Decentralize post-secondary programs. Move more programs to rural areas
- Consider French language funding an investment for the enrichment of the community
- Allocate more funds to post-secondary institutions
- Allow the dental care program for children to stay in place
- Review social assistance vision care policy, increase coverage for basic frames/lenses or contacts
- Raise caps and make AccessAbility funding flexible to help cover the cost of housekeeping
- Provide funding for a concept design competition for mixed-occupancy complexes
- Allocate funding to hire social workers to work one-on-one with homeless Islanders
- Make Market Basket Measure the income criteria for social programs with eligibility criterion
- Increase funding for Office of Seniors, Adult Protection Program and Island Helpline
- Support coordinated community responses to elder abuse and neglect
- Increase funding in Home Care Program and COACH Program to support seniors aging in place
- Establish a program to provide financial support for the development of residential building lots in centrally serviced municipalities in rural areas
- Review/update the Housing Action Plan for PEI to reflect the current housing supply shortage
- Pilot a housing innovation fund
- Housing subsidies should go directly to the tenant
- Top up social assistance and accessibility rates
- Raise travel and disability allowance, travel and food ceilings
- Allocate multi-year funding for programs that Strengthen Aboriginal families Effectively (SAFE)
- Provide multi-year support for initiatives from Indigenous organizations to address Indigenous homelessness on PEI

Social Outcomes/Housing

- Invest in strategically funded affordable public and non-profit housing as well as co-operatives
- Offer more support for single-income homes and single parents
- Address housing by providing and increasing rental supports
- Explore initiatives to address the issue of affordable housing, including a Vacant Home Tax
- Provide support to increase the number of rent-geared- to-income units operated under Nanegkam Housing Corporation
- Subsidize land purchase subsidies for charitable organizations for affordable housing projects
- Continue to enhance affordable home ownership programs for seniors through the PEI Home Renovation Program, Seniors Safe@Home Program, and Seniors Home Repair Program
- Offer more support to seniors with disabilities with expenses during the pandemic

- Continue to invest in family violence prevention and support programs – using public health and health-equity approaches based on social determinants of health
- Invest in housing and services for those with special needs and those in poverty
- Ensure there is equality of consideration for urban and rural areas for transportation, housing, and immigration
- Continue increased funding for Victim Services
- Ensure rents/rent increases are fixed in a manner to allow housing to remain affordable
- Own and operate all affordable rent facilities. Affordability conditions on leases and government affordable housing projects should never expire
- Allocate funding to women's shelters including Blooming House, Anderson House, and Chief Mary Bernard Women's Shelter
- Affordable housing funding should be given to people for their down payment – not to developers. It should be free and forgivable
- Move toward legislating more paid sick days
- Western PEI cannot move forward with housing development without help in advancing planning
- Rent to Own programs based on income are good starters for young families
- Try to create housing programs that create owners rather than renters
- Build housing for youth with substance addiction issues to provide them with housing security, counseling and support to finish school or acquire skills to find employment
- The housing market needs intervention, including not only social housing but mechanisms for low-income workers and the elderly
- Invest in developing a separate needs-based student dedicated housing assistance program that would offer rental supplements to students in PEI year-round
- Increase financial support for families/agencies supporting loved ones with disabilities
- Fund street navigator workers for the homeless and those with barriers to essential services
- Coordinate with faith-based organizations, residents, businesses to help fill the gaps in services
- Invest in provincial maintenance standards regulation for rental units with provincial inspectors
- Help seniors stay in their homes by eliminating property taxes after a certain age/ income level
- Increase the child supplement
- Provide more access to nutritional food
- Implement a rent cap
- Take some of the budget for police spending and put it towards social programs and supports
- Offer more support for charities helping the needy
- Stop catering to airbnb owners
- Allocate money for transportation for seniors so they can get to medical appointments
- Increase rates paid to community care facilities to offset food and wage inflation
- Increase the amount of low-income housing in the Cardigan area
- Amend legislation to allow residents to put structures on their own property to help with housing
- Create a rental registry
- Increase Assured Income allowance for Islanders with disabilities

Climate Action

- Explore taxation measures to assist Islanders, businesses, community organizations and institutions making transitions to reduce use and dependence upon fossil fuels (such as tax credits for purchasing public transit passes or bicycles to help reduce GHG emissions)
- Prioritize protecting environment from further degradation and effects of climate change
- Introduce an incentive for people to buy ebikes similar to the program Nova Scotia introduced
- Establish secure funding of at least \$50,000 to revive the PEI Environmental Network (PEIEN) with staff and an office, to provide resources for groups that work to improve our environment
- Take more immediate and extensive actions to build an energy-efficient economy that is based on 100% clean and renewable energy
- To meet Net Zero 2040, give funding priority to appropriate carbon pricing, electrifying transportation, expanded energy, efficiency building programs, and public engagement
- Consider budget resources needed to advance development of an Active Transportation Route for the Redhead Road
- Continue to enhance energy efficiency through grants for solar and other green heat programs
- Develop green jobs to replace those now based on fossil fuels and other harmful emissions
- EfficiencyPEI should continue programs and support for low-income Islanders wanting to save money and make their homes more energy efficient
- Weigh the environmental impacts and costs of bringing in cruise ships to the Island
- Continue to participate on the national Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation to ensure Island voice in developing an insurance solution/relocation plan that includes coastal flooding
- Continue to invest in risk mitigation efforts in high-risk areas
- Amend land-use planning rules to prevent development in flood-prone areas
- Enforce strict land-use planning and development controls to reduce damage from coastal flooding and other natural disasters
- Prioritize repairs and upgrades to urban sewer and storm water systems, with input from municipalities, and create new rural and urban flood defenses
- Continue funding of supportive good environmental practices, sustainable agriculture, and increased support of environmental initiatives and forestry
- Allocate Active Transportation funding in such a way that supports smaller communities with the human capacity to actually build the projects
- Ensure that AT funding and rural transit funding is planned to work together and support vibrant, liveable communities
- Fund 3- phase power in rural communities
- Increase core funding for watershed groups
- Increase funding to Agriculture Stewardship Program
- Improve supports for renewables in agriculture
- Create a soil health and carbon sequestration pilot
- Create and implement a plan for the transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions
- Complete a Climate Change Crop Study
- Provide funding/incentives for electric vehicle chargers and hybrid and electric vehicles
- Be mindful of the impact of carbon pricing on rural Islanders without public transportation
- Strongly protect current green spaces and wild spaces, even if this means considerably fewer new residences
- End subsidies to animal agriculture and replace it with transition funding to plant-base agriculture
- Provide funding for animal welfare to support education
- Direct more resources into creating new legislation to protect land and water
- Stop supporting businesses that pollute and encourage capacity-building in organic agriculture
- Tax major polluters in the energy sector and increase subsidies for renewable-based companies

- Reduce and reverse the deforestation of the Island
- Save the Island's trees and beaches
- Support Islanders to get solar systems, providing grants as well as 0% financing
- Reevaluate the new home build energy efficiency program
- Move to a net zero energy rating requirement for all new public construction and extensive net-zero renovation of public buildings
- Raise carbon levy to effective levels (with rebates for people on low income)
- Stop supporting any agricultural practices/industries that harm the environment
- Government must communicate a sense of urgency about the severity of the climate crisis and take the measures necessary to prevent disasters
- Increase funding to preserve more forestland and wetlands, through purchase and designation as protected natural areas
- Add extensive programs for preservation agreements/covenants with high financial incentives similar to the ALUS program, as well as forestry cutting permit programs to eliminate clearcutting and institute ecological selective cutting
- Invest in extensive tree planting programs
- Do more to communicate the value of our fisheries and agriculture to Islanders (how much revenue they generate, impact on jobs and economy)
- Increase core funding for the Agricultural Sector Council
- Ensure there is a land management plan to reduce the risk of future finds
- Fund an Oyster Marketing Plan for public harvested oysters
- Invest in tourism and agriculture
- Fund programs to support participation of women in primary industries (tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture)
- Continue the Harvester counselling program, New Entrants program and the Atlantic Fisheries fund in support of the inshore fishery.
- Support financial changes and increase lending limits to Finance PEI's Low Interest Loan program
- Invest in a new technological initiative for the fishing industry on PEI
- Redirect money from large "biotech" companies into helping farmers transition to regenerative agriculture
- The Soils First Farming initiative is a good start, but more funding should be provided to this initiative
- PEI should return to an integrated pest management (IPM) approach for pesticide use

Primary Industry and Tourism

- Provide resources for research into options to neutralize and kill the potato wart fungus
- Consider additional measures that may be required to support the potato industry, its producers and its workforce as a result of restrictions on the movement of Prince Edward Island potatoes
- Provide incentives and support for farmers to move away from industrial agriculture toward sustainable, organic practices
- Reward farmers for reducing nitrates/pesticides, improving soil health, and sequestering carbon
- Invest in parks and golf courses to give people a reason to visit PEI

Justice, Legislation and Government Operations

- Allocate funding to the Indigenous Courtworker program for the next three years
- Consider underlying factors/contributions when reviewing or discussing financial arrangements with the City of Charlottetown
- Ensure government services and properties remain in the public sector
- Divest provincial golf courses to avoid further losses
- Increase public sector employment rather than reduce it through privatization

- Support clients in the Corrections facility with undiagnosed mental health issues
- Open further meaningful dialogue with all Island municipalities to establish a new revenue sharing model
- Recognize the unique needs of the Town of Stratford as it transitions into a full-service community, recognizing that these needs will be greater over the next few years
- Prioritize increasing officer resource levels to address resourcing gaps across the province
- Ensure the Provincial Police Service Agreement is being utilized to its full extent to better address the province's public safety and policing objectives
- Ensure that the federal government prioritizes and increases cadet training levels at Depot with increased funding to escalate training capacity to decrease the training backlog
- Raise revenues through alcohol, cigarettes and cannabis taxes
- Ensure vaping products maintain a significant affordability and tax advantage over tobacco products with the tax level proportionate to their relative risk on the nicotine risk continuum
- Invest in a multi-year effort to modernize government management practices, including a review/update of legislation, policies, computer systems, procedures and practices
- Initiate the publication of an annual performance report that provides information about its strategic outcomes
- Implement a regular review of auto insurance in the province
- Continue working with the insurance industry to maintain sustainability of auto insurance
- Work with the insurance industry on flexible options and solutions for mental healthcare benefits for accident victims
- Amend the *Emergency Measures Act* to implement liability immunity legislation to protect business from frivolous litigation
- Amend the *Occupiers Liability Act*, using suggestions provided to the Minister of Justice, which could impact the premiums businesses pay
- Pursue a harmonized vaping product tax and stamping regime with the Federal Government and reassess ban on flavoured vaping products
- Revisit the ban on convenience stores selling vaping products
- Implement an annual tobacco tax increase on a model tied to inflation
- Establish a robust illegal tobacco enforcement regime and demand Federal action to address illegal tobacco at the source
- Hold the line on tobacco tax increases until illegal tobacco levels have dropped
- Explore publicly-owned options for insurance, cell phone and internet and financial services
- Build professional land use planning capacity within the division responsible for land policy
- Bring government employee compensation in line with Prince Edward Island's labour market.
- Conduct a thorough program review to reduce spending
- Implement a sunshine list
- Amend the *Employment Standards Act* to enable payroll deduction for pension plan contributions where the pension plan provides for automatic plan enrollment and annual contribution escalation.
- Monitor/parallel federal measures to introduce Variable Payment Life Annuities and Advanced Life Deferred Annuities as retirement income options
- Develop a plan to reduce, and eventually eliminate, tax on life and health insurance premiums
- Create provincial disaster plan for seniors with specific sub-plans for people in long-term care

- Implement a refundable tax credit during COVID-19 to help offset increased costs for deliveries, transportation, and support services for people over age of 60 for up to three years
- Invest in high quality supports to mitigate challenges associated with oil and gas revenue losses
- Work to enhance pension security, including creating a PEI Pension Benefit Guarantee fund
- PEI should adopt a pension guarantee fund model similar to that of other provinces
- Increase funding for Legal Aid and the Crown Prosecution office to hire additional lawyer(s), paralegal(s) and support staff, ensuring a diverse representation of service
- Budget funding for the Women's Correctional Unit
- Further increase Legal Aid funding
- Focus less on the tourism sector
- Do not provide more financial aid for the farming industry or tourism industry
- Freeze raises for the politicians for two to five years
- Defund the police and decrease police spending exponentially
- Avoid austerity measures at all costs - cuts to programs, initiatives and the civil service do not work in the long run
- Decrease foreign investment in property, pass legislation to limit purchase by large corporations
- Government should provide more information on deficit spending
- The Vogue Optical corner roundabout should be approved and built this summer
- Stop giving MLAs raises
- Spend less on roundabouts and more on road repairs and public transportation
- Consider if social programs contribute to people exiting the workforce
- Spend more money on enforcing the various fines associated with the pandemic
- Stop charging tax on vehicles after they are five years old
- PEI needs its own passport office
- Require government departments to take a long hard look at all spending
- Reallocate money spent on roads and active participation to health and housing
- The Province should take over Maritime Electric
- Express concerns to the federal government about amendments to the Canada Labour Code that will provide ten paid sick days – too much for business to afford
- Create a voluntary drug treatment court pilot in Summerside
- Implement a retail license fee for tobacco and e-cigarette vendors
- Include public health measures in tobacco settlement negotiations
- Update and index income cut-off eligibilities for all programs

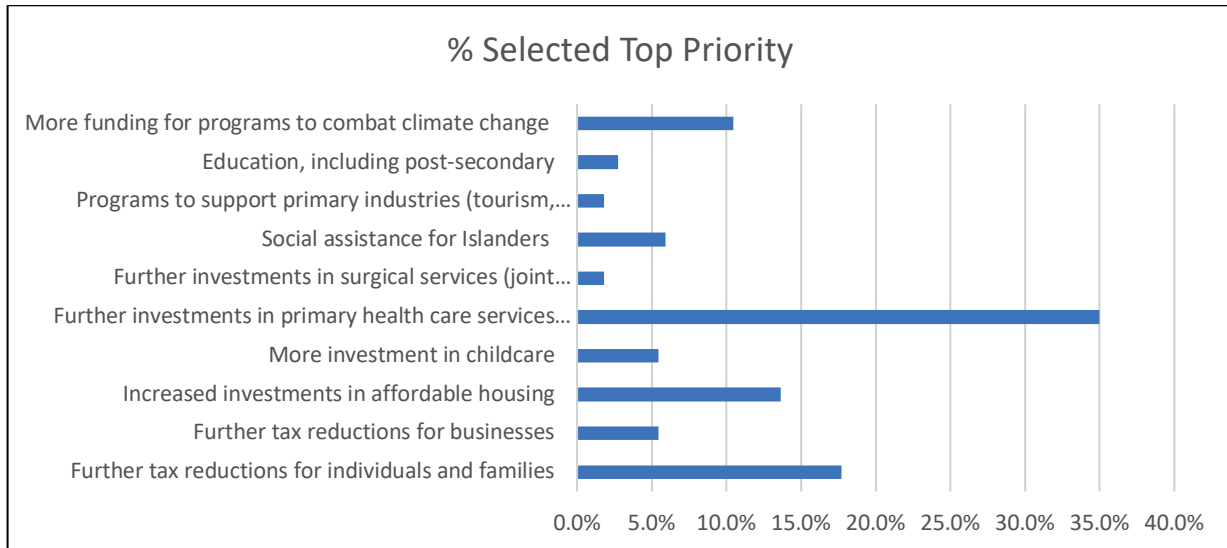
Section 2: Summary of Pre-budget Survey Results

The following is a summary of the responses to the four questions on the on-line survey

Question 1: Please rank the areas where you would like to see government spending from 1 (top priority) to 10 (lower priority).

Further investments in primary healthcare services was the category selected as the top priority by a large margin, followed by further tax reductions for individuals and families and increased investments on affordable housing.

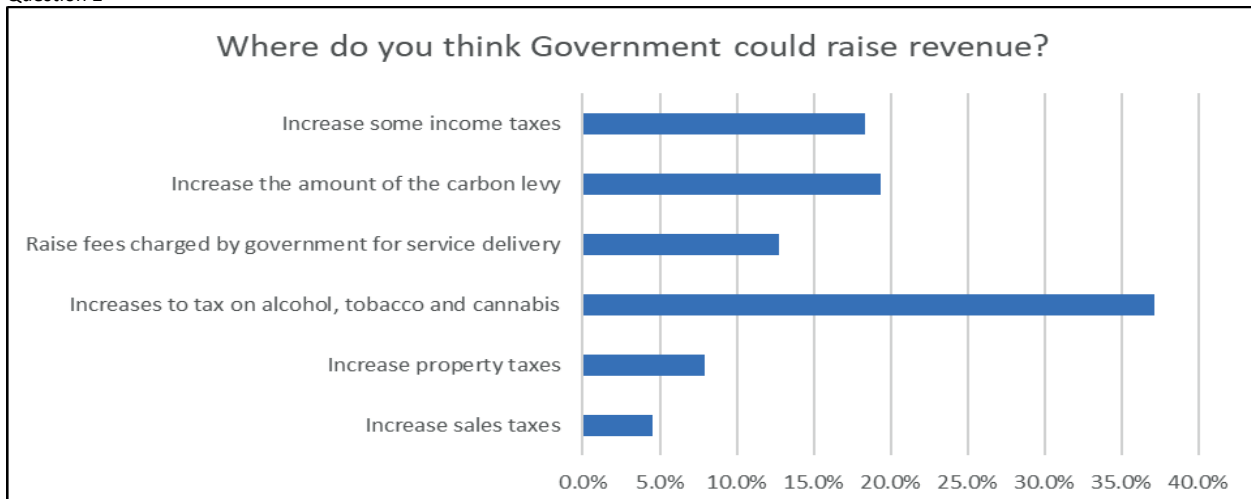
Question 1



Question 2: Where do you think Government could raise revenue?

Individuals could select more than one response to this question. Approximately 49 per cent of respondents selected more than one response, while 51 per cent selected only one response. The most popular responses were increases to taxes on alcohol, tobacco and cannabis, followed to increases to the amount of the carbon levy.

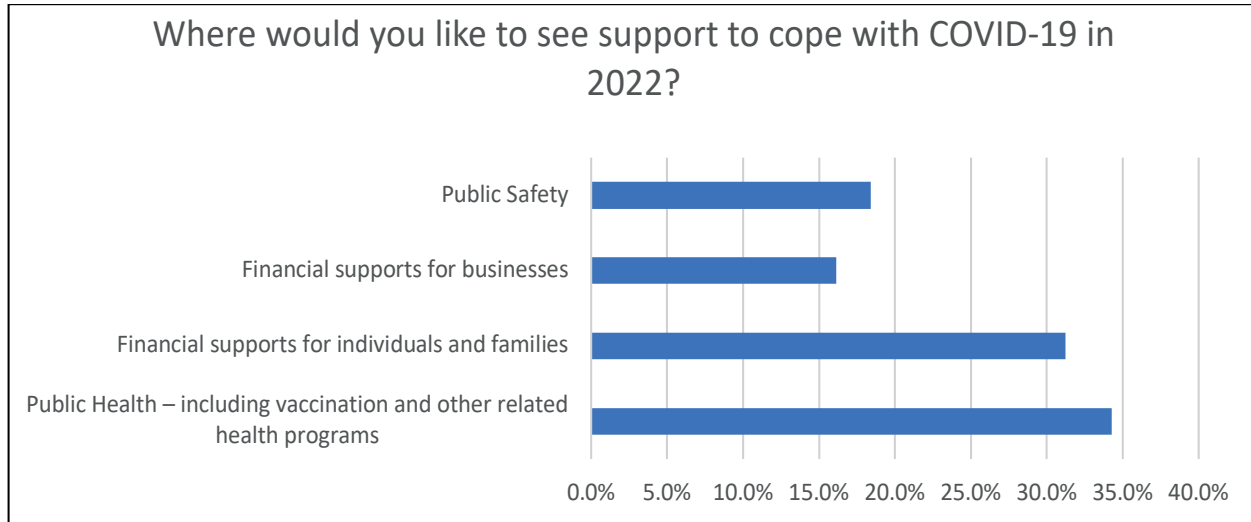
Question 2



Question 3: Government has said it will continue to help Islanders weather the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing that the pandemic has been more challenging for some groups and areas than others where would you like to see support to cope with COVID-19 in 2022?

Respondents could select multiple answers. Fifty-three per cent of respondent selected more than one answer, while 47 per cent selected only one. The most popular answer was public health – including vaccination and other related health programs followed by financial supports for individuals and families.

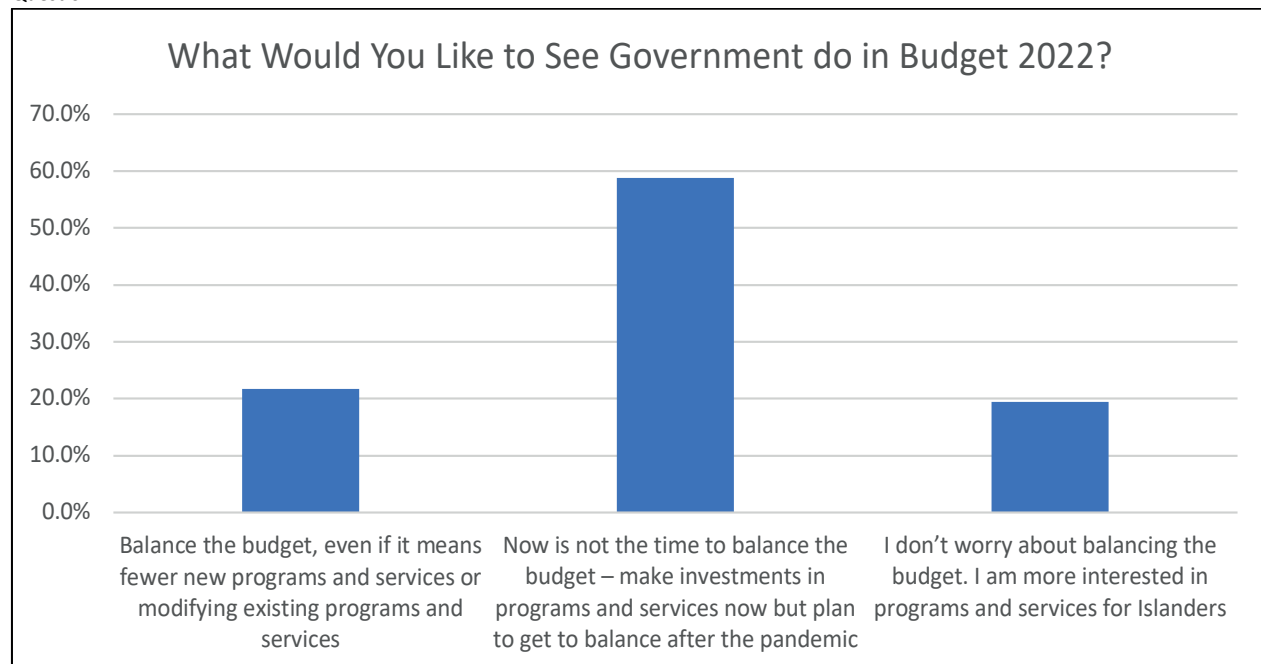
Question 3



Question 3: If a budget includes more money for programs and services than it expects to take in it is known as deficit. When government has a deficit, it does not have money to pay down its longer-term debt. What would you like to see Government do in Budget 2022?

A clear majority of survey respondents (58.8 per cent) selected now is not the time to balance the budget.

Question 4





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