



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

2021



# Pre-Budget Consultations





## Pre-Budget Consultations 2021

### Summary of pre-budget consultation process

The Department of Finance opens the budget process to Islanders each year during pre-budget consultations.

People, and organizations, submit feedback through Government's online submission page, which is made available in English and French. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was determined a Virtual Town Hall and a Facebook Live would replace traditional, in-person, public sessions this year.

### Applying a gender and diversity lens to the process

In early 2020, Finance Minister Darlene Compton directed the Department to examine ways of ensuring pre-budget consultations could be more inclusive. As an immediate gender and diversity consideration for that year, the Department held a consultation on Facebook Live in the evening to provide further opportunities for Islanders to share their ideas.

Over the subsequent months, Government sought the perspectives of a variety of Island groups representing women and other diverse voices. Some participated in web conferences, others were contacted directly or submitted written feedback. Relevant comments from participants of the 2020-21 pre-budget consultations were considered.

As a result of the discussions, Government launched the online submission tool weeks earlier than usual, reached out directly to underrepresented groups to let them know it was open, and committed to releasing a "feedback the feedback" document with a summary of the ideas received. To that end, this document will be posted on the Department's website and tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The Department will further incorporate other suggestions when in-person consultations return. It will reach out to the groups who shared their ideas on the process. Additional measures and suggestions may be considered.

## Virtual Town Hall Tuesday, January 12, 2021

The Department of Finance typically travels to different parts of the Island to hold pre-budget consultations. This year, more than thirty people registered for a virtual town hall to share their ideas with the Minister of Finance, Darlene Compton, and other representatives from the Department.

The Department opened the discussion with a presentation on Prince Edward Island's fiscal situation and an explanation of Government's traditional revenues and expenditures. There was, unfortunately, a technical issue impacting the quality of simultaneous translation in French.

## Facebook Live Consultation January 14, 2021

The Department's second Facebook Live pre-budget consultation was held during the evening of January 14, 2021. Minister Compton requested the introduction of the format last year to ensure there were more opportunities for Islanders to provide their feedback, recognizing that more diverse perspectives can be included by considering those who work non-traditional office hours, people with family care commitments, or those with transportation or mobility issues that might normally preclude them from attending one of the in-person daytime sessions. This session included American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation.

Compared to the first pre-budget Facebook Live, engagement was up considerably with a reach of 11,451 (5,895 last year).

There were 157 comments, though a number of these comments were unrelated to the discussion.

## Submissions

There were more than 30 submissions from organizations and more than 90 through the online portal or email.

The following pages include a summary of the suggestions received, by topic. Some of the ideas might additionally fit under other categories.

### Suggestions related to Agriculture and Fisheries

- Review the farm goods imported by PEI to see what could be grown here
- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis on geothermal heating for greenhouses
- Increase core funding for the Agricultural Sector Council
- Complete a climate change crop study
- Renew the Oyster Enhancement Fund
- Increase funding to the Agriculture Stewardship Program
- Improve supports for renewables in agriculture
- Fund a soil health and carbon sequestration pilot
- Increase support for the Aquaculture Division of the Department of Fisheries and Communities
- Increase staffing levels for aquaculture programs and other development work
- Invest more in the ongoing funding programs that support the aquaculture industry
- Continue funding for public education and awareness campaigns of the aquaculture industry
- Continue support for programs assisting Island companies with recruitment and retention of the workforce for aquaculture
- Provide more support and encouragement for small farms that care about the environment
- Move away from monocultural agriculture
- Look into crops that are more suitable for a changing climate
- Invest in, and encourage, sustainable fisheries practices
- Invest in funding for sustainable agricultural production

### Suggestions related to the Business Community

- Make major investments in tourism, including a full plan for the sector
- Invest in programs for small business that include support for entrepreneurs with small budgets
- Work with the other Atlantic Provinces to reduce red tape
- Commit to taking a “do no harm” approach to small business policies
- Grants should have an easy application process with a reasonable burden of proof
- Maintain funding for immigration support services for entrepreneurial and professionally trained newcomers through programs like PEI Connectors
- Continue with aggressive immigration targets locally to match the Federal Government’s effort while ensuring provincial supports are in place to support growth
- Invest in supports for customized retraining and reskilling as work evolves across sectors
- Consider implementing a mandated review of auto insurance in the province
- Work with industry in advance of making decisions regarding product stewardship
- Continue and increase funds for tourism product development
- Offer a travel incentive for Islanders
- Increase support for tourism-specific labour and HR training initiatives
- More support for small business owners could include a “help desk”
- Adopt a stable, balanced approach to investment with concrete goals that focus on fostering small and medium sized business
- Market the Island tourism product more to Canada and the New England States
- Involve business in providing rental equipment at beach areas

## Suggestions related to Communities and Inclusion

- Invest in necessary infrastructure to encourage immigration
- Recognize the skills of newcomers
- Increase investments in French language services on Prince Edward Island
- There should be a Francophone lens applied at the development phase of programs and services
- Prioritize increasing the number of bilingual services available to Francophone Islanders
- Ensure there is dependable high-speed internet in rural communities
- The Island should have an ombudsperson
- Government should fund anti-racism initiatives
- Government should allocate more funding to Indigenous communities
- Explore opportunities to repurpose office and retail spaces for community activities and supports
- Provide repayable government financing for people with family land to build housing
- Continue core funding for Pat and the Elephant
- Support the production of an annual Vital Signs report
- Increase legal aid funding
- Increase the level of support provided through Assured Income for Islanders with Disabilities
- Use gender budgeting when developing the budget
- Gender budgeting must consider the “diversity” in gender and diversity analysis and the “plus” in GBA
- Invest in programs to prevent violence, especially gender-based violence and family violence
- Continue and increase multi-year commitments to the grants provided for gender-equality organizations through the Interministerial Women’s Secretariat
- Fund a program for reporting racial violence staffed by the BIPOC community to intake incidents of racism
- Expand and accelerate long-term infrastructure projects
- Offer universal access to energy and public high-speed Internet through a progressive tax system
- Create one public, not-for-profit energy utility
- Fund a provincial museum that includes both cultural and natural history
- Increase and maintain core funding to essential non-profit organizations
- Maintain grant opportunities for community-led projects and initiatives and increase them wherever possible
- Invest resources in seeking diverse voices and members of Government agencies, boards, and commissions
- Provide a caregiver benefit to MLAs with child or elder caregiving responsibilities
- Increase funding for programs and events in support of the Island’s the 2SLGBTQIA+ community
- Government should fund studies on municipal boundary restructuring
- Expand rural public transportation services
- Expand development outside the major population centres
- Immigration and migration bring ideas and approaches to business and revenues that complement the Island way of life
- Increase support for walking, hiking and biking trails
- Do not expect communities to pay for library buildings
- Encourage the conversation on proportional representation
- Make more grants available to the Island Volunteer Fire Departments
- Improve the roads we have
- Increase the number of new places for children to play
- More funding for snow removal of sidewalks

- Put lights on the Montague trail from the waterfront to Robertson Road so all could enjoy it
- Invest in making the province more accessible to all Persons with Disabilities in every way possible
- Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities also means accessibility for seniors and young parents
- Support voluntary sector programs, especially those supporting gender equality goals
- To assist operators with cash flow during COVID-19, waive food and liquor license fees for 2021
- Businesses need utility and tax relief
- Freeze the PEILCC beer mark-ups at current levels through 2021/22
- Provide savings to businesses on PEILCC products
- Provide a personal protective equipment tax credit
- Consider providing additional grants, scaled to the businesses size

### Suggestions related to the COVID-19 Response

- Recovery from COVID-19 should put people's health and well-being first
- Prioritize people 60+ for COVID-19 vaccinations
- Establish a frontline healthcare worker bonus
- Increase childcare for essential workers during the pandemic
- Provide low or no-interest loans to businesses
- Establish a special situations fund for lower-income essential workers during the pandemic
- Allocate a significant investment toward a comprehensive education/training strategy to support unemployed and underemployed Islanders as a result of the pandemic
- COVID-19 response should build solidarity and equity across communities and generations
- Government should allocate more funding to Indigenous communities to respond to COVID-19
- For COVID-19 recovery responses and budgets to have equitable outcomes for all, they must be gender responsive, based on gender and diversity analysis
- Delegate COVID-19 response funding to the tourism and hospitality sector
- Consider payment forgiveness for deferred taxes and extend deferral periods for businesses impacted by COVID-19
- Take proactive measures to support agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture in recovering from COVID-19
- Limit third-party delivery fees
- Expand student debt forgiveness
- Renew the Oyster Enhancement Fund to respond to the market during COVID-19
- Consider the impact COVID-19 had on community centres
- Implement a refundable tax credit during COVID-19 to help offset increased costs for deliveries, transportation, and support services for Seniors
- Provide liability protection for businesses during COVID-19
- Government should wait to take steps to return to balance until the end of COVID-19
- Prioritize cutting red tape and regulatory costs as a recovery measure
- Enhance the dining incentive program
- Offer a combination of low interest, cost-shared, or forgivable loans for capital improvements
- Provide funding to businesses to invest in new business adaptations
- Support the Charlottetown Airport to ensure it is financially viable post-pandemic
- COVID is creating a challenging commercial insurance market
- Provide financial aid to businesses impacted by the pandemic but not covered by existing federal programming
- Some communities need additional resources during the pandemic to address linguistic barriers, particularly when it comes to medical services

- Fund programs to help Non-Government Organizations adapt to growing demands and challenges during the pandemic
- Focus on keeping schools open for safe in person learning, supporting teachers and staff
- Provide more assistance for recent graduates
- Strengthen the social safety net and provide relief directly to people
- Prioritize the needs of workers and communities
- Build resilience to prevent future crises

### Suggestions related to Education and Lifelong Learning

- Invest in a multi-year fund for Open Education Resources
- Expand the moratorium on the provincial portion of student loans from April 2021 till September 2021
- Review the salary levels of Early Childhood Educators and Best Start workers
- Reduce class sizes
- Continue investments in an Island-wide school food program
- Expand student debt forgiveness
- Invest in an experiential learning fund to help students gain job experience relevant to studies
- Address any delay in the start-up of a pre-kindergarten program
- Make enhancements to the George Coles Bursary
- Increase assistance to post-secondary students
- Fund an provincial anti-racism strategy that would include programs in Island schools
- Deliver publicly funded, publicly delivered, not-for-profit quality affordable childcare
- Government should fund a literacy strategy for PEI

- Fund more education initiatives for junior high, high school, university, and driver education students about the consequences and dangers of impaired driving
- Core funding for the PEI Literacy Alliance should be ongoing
- Invest in early childhood care and education and supports for caregivers

### Suggestions related to Environment and Climate

- Address any instances of contaminated ground water, protect the water
- Establish a fund to remove nitrates from drinking water
- Modify energy efficiency rebates to improve access, increase fairness, and ensure faster turnaround time for refunds
- Continue Government's adoption of climate change lenses
- Fund tree-planting initiatives
- Offer an incentive program for electric vehicle chargers
- Invest in public transit, green spaces and active transportation routes
- Reduce greenhouse gases in residential, commercial, agriculture, fishery and industrial applications by switching to low-emission propane
- Replace smaller vehicles in the provincial fleet with more energy efficient vehicles
- Fund tax credits for companies replacing vehicles with low-emission ones (electric, propane)
- Invest in coastal erosion 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
- Create new rural and urban flood defenses

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- Invest in renewable energy storage
- Boost Efficiency PEI home retrofit programs
- Consider a rebate on plug-in hybrid and all electric cars
- Audit government buildings to reduce emissions and energy consumption and assess air quality
- Offer tiered prices for vehicle registration based on efficiency
- Install solar PV directly where energy is needed
- Continue grants for sustainable projects
- Immediately accelerate the transition to electric vehicles by using incentives
- Continue to work towards energy efficiency with grants for solar, wind, farm bioenergy generation
- Ensure the Climate Change Secretariat is well funded to continue developing policy through a climate lens
- Reduce siltation in waterways
- Government should consider increased fee/levy/tax on fossil fuels as an efficient tool for reducing GHG emissions
- Electrifying transportation is of critical importance for meeting 2030 GHG reduction goals and Net Zero 2040
- Fund expanded renovation and energy programs in public building structures and community based projects to reduce oil heat
- Launch a public 'energy education' campaign
- Continue climate change and decarbonization programs and activities
- Invest in addressing the nursing shortage.
- Improve access to children's physical medicine services for Island children up to age 18
- A hemodialysis clinic is needed at the Kings County Memorial Hospital
- The budget should include allowances for a basic dental plan for Islanders
- Make more investments in mental health
- Provide additional help for people with Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia
- Invest in housing and services for those with special needs
- Strengthen addictions services for Islanders
- Expand efforts to recruit and retain health professionals
- Continue making investments in the Addictions Navigator position
- Fund safe consumption sites
- Work to address the patient registry
- Social programs should be thoroughly examined – improve access to health benefits programs
- Begin work on a replacement for the Hillsborough Hospital
- Invest in training and supports for caregivers
- Increase investments in community mental health
- Signal provincial support for national programs such as pharmacare, childcare, and eldercare
- Advocate for the federal government to revisit its pharmaceutical pricing reform
- Invest in the prevention of chronic disease
- Support proactive programs for mental well-being and addiction prevention.
- Improve walk-in clinics for physical and mental health, respite programs, addiction recovery services, and other services to support people earlier
- Fund a program that focuses on mental health services for the BIPOC community on PEI

### Suggestions related to Health and Wellness

- Government should remove the Insulin Pump Program's current age restriction and introduce full funding for continuous glucose monitors
- PEI needs a 6% escalator in federal health transfers to keep our system healthy
- There must be strings on federal healthcare

- Government should help support workplace and individual drug plans
- Add mental healthcare as a publicly funded healthcare service
- Commit annual funding for signs of stroke public awareness
- A health innovation strategy should enable innovative industries to work more collaboratively with the medical community, the research sector, and other partners
- Increase the budget for PEI Pharmacare
- Improve target levels of vaccination against cancers caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Make new treatments available in a timely fashion from PEI Pharmacare
- Continue to encourage the federal government to increase the Canada Health Transfer and reinvest part of this funding into cancer care
- PEI should develop a BiPAP therapy program to help Islanders needing machine therapy access
- Improve the Home Oxygen Program by providing 75% coverage for low-income Islanders and reviewing the limit that is provided
- Enable services provided by pharmacists to be included within a publicly funded model
- Expand pharmacists' scope of practice
- Use pharmacists to ensure continuity of care for patients impacted by prolonged drug shortages
- Increase the resources for the Public Health Office
- Allow Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to work to their full-scope of practice
- Ensure new mental health facilities have appropriate staffing for the services offered
- Implement a lifestyle intervention for people with, or at risk of, Metabolic Syndrome
- Allocate adequate funding to set up and run a publicly funded registered midwifery program
- A registered midwifery program should allow midwives their full scope of practice
- Invest in meaningful physical therapy in long term care
- Invest in more doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, psychiatrists
- Establish a school on the Island for physician training
- Hire fewer family doctors and hire more nurse practitioners
- Fund fertility treatments for those under a certain income level
- Invest in rural health centres
- Investment in resources to support collaboration between provincial government agencies
- More funding for programs and beds for those suffering from addictions not related to alcohol or narcotics
- Develop a clear plan for attracting new and experienced doctors and conscripting willing doctors to accept a position on PEI
- Increase funding for drug formulary
- Eliminate/subsidizing user fees for pools and gyms to encourage a healthy lifestyle

### Suggestions related to Labour and Employment

- Higher minimum wages will not catch-up with the cost of living
- There should be a livable wage
- Invest in programs to help people get back into the work force
- Invest in upskilling support for health care workers
- Provide and pay for online English testing for RNs and LPNs
- Reinvest international student fees in new Islanders, including a pathway to immigration
- Provide publicly funded short-term trades programs geared toward the recruitment of public sector workers
- Provide retailers with training tax credits

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- Ensure golf courses remain publically owned
- Address violence in the workplace
- Invest in careers that are year-round and not seasonal

### Suggestions related to Legislation, Regulation, Law Enforcement and Other

- Legislate that minimum wage decisions be based on changes to the Consumer Price Index
- Direct the Worker's Compensation Board of PEI to look at best practices in compensation
- Stop mandating the hours during which retailers can conduct business
- Government should consider developing legislation that mirrors the federal Canadian Gender Budgeting Act
- More funding for groups that work in crime prevention by addressing the roots of crime
- Government should fund a dedicated highway patrol across PEI
- Government should fund MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) road signs with preventative messaging at the harbours, along the Confederation Trail, and entering and exiting all communities
- Increase RCMP and municipal police funding to support initiatives that target impaired driving
- Government should continue to participate on the Task Force on Flood Insurance and relocation to ensure that Island residents have a voice in developing an insurance solution and relocation plan for those homes at highest risk.
- Government should eliminate the premium tax rate on life and health insurance premiums
- PEI should permit the regulated sale of cannabis vape products in the province
- Establish a robust illegal tobacco enforcement regime
- Demand Federal action to address illegal tobacco

- Government should require all employers above a certain size to offer some form of workplace retirement plan
- Government should remove lotteries from corner stores, gas stations, pharmacies
- Conduct a cross-jurisdictional scan of progressive property tax structures, focusing on progressive tax policies that have been tried in other jurisdictions

### Suggestions related to Support for Economically Vulnerable Islanders

- Act on recommendations of the PEI Child Poverty Report Card toward the eradication of poverty
- Create a Universal Basic Income
- The budget should reflect the recommendations of the Special Committee on Poverty in PEI
- Low income families should get a basic living allowance
- Make basic income a priority
- Update income cut-off and eligibility for income-tested programs
- Make strategic investments in publicly owned projects for affordable housing
- Increase funding for non-profit and cooperative housing
- Provide rental supports for Islanders
- Create a Basic Income Guarantee pilot and thoroughly examine the results
- Advocate for federal changes to mortgage rules to make it easier for lower income families to get approval
- Develop emergency housing shelters
- Increase spending in social development and housing
- Concentrate on the needs of the less fortunate with an focus on eliminating homelessness
- Government should release some pressure on people by investing in food banks, food programs

### Suggestions related to Seniors

- Government should fund a mobile meal program for seniors that is similar to the pay-what-you-can meal program in schools
- Invest more in long-term care
- Provide funding to augment home care
- Reduce income tax paid by low-income seniors
- Modernize the Shingles vaccine program so it is fully-funded for all seniors
- Increase funding for the Office of Seniors, the Adult Protection Program and the Island Helpline
- Support coordinated community responses to elder abuse and neglect
- Support uptake of fraud protection strategies for seniors
- Increase funding in the dental public health services for seniors and low-income Islanders
- Increase funding for seniors' mental health and addiction services
- Increase funding and patient choice for eye-related healthcare needs
- Fully-fund all seniors and immunocompromised people for the best-in-class pneumonia vaccine
- Cover all vaccines recommended by National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI) for all seniors in Prince Edward Island
- Ensure there is a provincial disaster plan for seniors with sub-plans for people in long-term care
- Work with the Federal government to implement national long-term care standards
- Create a provincial integrated health and human resources aged-care staffing strategy
- Increase funding in Prince Edward Island's Seniors Home Repair Program
- Invest in research, innovation, health and technological developments in aging
- Work to enhance pension security
- Invest in intergenerational programming that engages youth and older adults
- More allocation for home care, day programs and allied health services for seniors in rural areas
- Increase the per diem allotment through the Department of Social Development and Housing for seniors unable to afford the cost of Community Care.
- More allocation for building new seniors' affordable apartments in rural areas.
- Not-for-profit and cooperative community care homes need access to provincial capital funding streams for renovations/new builds
- Make LTC accessible, publicly funded and a universal healthcare service
- Buy local chicken, vegetables and add other money to the budget for manors
- Increase financial assistance for services for people in nursing homes
- Provide more resources for seniors who live in their homes, especially in rural areas
- Fund a new pair of glasses for seniors every few years – coverage could be tied to income
- Invest in more rent controlled housing for seniors needs with elevators, balconies and on a bus route
- Use pharmacists to support older Islanders in continuing to live independent, supported lives in their own surroundings
- Invest in digital and technology lending programs for seniors

### Suggestions related to Taxation

- Government should tax luxury items at a higher rate
- Consider implementing a vacancy tax in certain circumstances
- Reduce small business taxes
- Carbon pricing should be mitigated with a rebate system for individuals and families
- Increase the provincial basic personal amount to \$12,000 in 2021 and tie subsequent increases to the Consumer Price Index
- Implement a tax on e-cigarette products

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- Increase tax on cigarettes and roll your own tobacco
- Reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the premium tax rate on life and health insurance premiums
- Cut all income tax bills to boost household disposable incomes
- Replace business subsidies with business tax cuts
- Stop inflation-based tax hikes
- The basic minimum amount and tax brackets should be indexed to the consumer price index
- Lower PEI's small business tax rate to 1% by the end of 2021
- Implement a 20% sales tax on all vape products
- Avoid any new tobacco tax increases for 2021
- Consider lowering the commercial tax rate to 14% rate
- Lower the provincial portion of the HST so the rate is at thirteen percent
- Increase the tax credit for some non-commercial realty or create a new tax credit
- Decrease the cost of the Confederation Bridge by a significant amount
- Increase taxes paid by major retail chains and big corporations
- Review the property tax system to ensure fairness
- Consider and evaluate a provincial property tax credit to property owners who are property owners within an incorporated Municipality
- Carbon taxes are a detriment to economic growth
- Do not increase carbon taxes, other tax increases need to be kept to the rate of inflation
- Make revenue from carbon tax available for municipal initiatives consistent with the objectives of carbon pricing
- Remove the provincial portion of the HST on new and used plug-in hybrid and electric cars
- Increase taxes on corporations that benefit from publicly funded infrastructure investments
- Implement a tax on coffee and soft drink cups at fast food restaurants and garages
- Increase taxes on alcohol and cannabis
- Eliminate the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission
- Do not penalize off-Island owners through property tax increases
- Increase land transfer tax for corporations

**Suggestions related to Increasing Revenue**

- Ask wealthy Islanders to pay more tax
- Implement a retail license fee for tobacco and e-cigarette vendors. Dedicate funding to enhance cancer support services
- Parallel forthcoming federal measures to introduce Advanced Life Deferred Annuities (ALDAs) and Variable Payment Life Annuities (VPLAs) as new income options
- Implement a gainsharing program to incentivize government employees to propose cost-saving measures
- Commit provincial capital funds to infrastructure projects to trigger federal contributions
- Top up maternity pay for all to encourage population growth
- Increase revenue through a tax on unhealthy food and beverages and allocate the collected funds toward programs to help islanders eat and live healthier
- Government could increase revenue through vaccination in order to open the Atlantic Bubble
- Ensure a sustainable increase in debt payments to reduce interest payments over time
- Add more income tax brackets and increase the tax rate in higher brackets
- Invest in pro-active healthcare through increased pharmacare spending to produce a net healthcare saving
- Increase revenue by reversing the fuel tax cut and going with the federal carbon tax

- Government could increase revenue by setting up a crown corporation of a local central order/shipping service to help Island businesses with online sales, deliveries and curbside pickup
- Government could require all corporations holding land in PEI to have a head office in PEI
- Monitor contracts with companies to ensure value for dollar
- Work to bring unincorporated communities into regional municipalities to unlock their populations' potential in gas tax infrastructure
- Partnerships in climate change remediation between Island universities around the world and the new climate research campus in Saint Peters Bay would generate revenue
- Government could increase its revenue by working with the federal government to stop offshore tax shelters used by the wealthy and corporations
- Increase the tax levy on big businesses especially large corporations
- Reduce tax loopholes for corporations
- Freeze public sector employee wages
- Reduce MLA expense accounts and funding for private vehicles/office staff
- Reduce the number of MLAs for PEI
- Invest in aerospace, pharmaceutical, entrepreneurial industries
- Introduce a small increase in sales tax
- Charge an extra dollar on a monthly cell phone bill which could be used toward increasing the number of doctors on the Island
- Divest from provincial golf course assets
- Reduce spending on drug enforcement – shift to education, mental health
- Give fewer grants to large corporations
- Do not include as much for road resurfacing
- Reduce construction of roundabouts
- Government should reduce spending by re-negotiating leases
- Reduce spending on program management and consulting fees
- Government could reduce spending on recreational centres
- Government should implement a hiring freeze when positions become vacant
- Adjust the MLAs pension plan so pension is only earned for years in the legislature
- Government could reduce spending by carefully planning proposed priorities
- Partner more with the community sector to complete projects cost-effectively
- Reduce spending by allowing more employees to work from home, reducing office space
- Education could save revenue if an energy engineer did a thorough assessment of schools
- Government could reduce its spending by reviewing duplicative programs and services
- Coordinate some of the services within departments so that they don't overlap
- Government could reduce its spending by auditing office stationary and other product suppliers to find cheaper options

### Suggestions related to Decreasing Spending

- Government should perform a cost-benefit analysis on allowing more carryforward of departmental budgets (or specific budget lines) into the next fiscal year
- Reduce government employee compensation by 15 per cent
- Cut elected officials' pay by 15 per cent
- Reduce spending by decreasing the number of MLAs
- Require local companies to competitively bid against off Island companies
- Reduce travel for government employees and MLAs through greater use of tele-conferencing
- Allow government employees to work from home to reduce the need for office space

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- Implement results-based management and performance reporting across departments and agencies
- Increase investments in housing and supports to combat drug addiction
- Convert smaller hospitals to urgent care/nursing stations
- Freeze or only minimally increase pay for all public sector groups except healthcare
- Create an internal audit division to constantly monitor government funds being disbursed
- Use plows efficiently by ensuring they spread salt at times when not plowing or on the way to other destinations
- Keep the budget as small as possible, focusing only on key areas
- Reduce government programs
- Reduce spending on environmental initiatives
- Reduce spending on the healthy food program in schools
- Coordinate with other provinces and the federal government on intellectual projects, technological projects and purchasing power
- Would not like to see an increase in salaries of elected government officials
- Would not like to see further money for organized sports
- Would not like to see further supports for oil or wood burning
- Would not like to see high levels of funding for government travel and training budgets
- No more spending on roads or large buildings in highly populated communities
- Do not fund or support the sale of alcohol in convenience stores
- Do not fund levels of service for hospitals that regularly close due to staffing issues
- Would not like to see more money going to housing or social programs
- Would not like to see a climate change budget
- Would not want money allocated for various health services
- Halt the privatization of liquor sales
- Mental health and addictions facilities should not be constructed using a public-private partnership (P3) model

### Suggested Investments Government should not make

- Government should not move to austerity measure
- Do not cut public services or make cuts to the public service.
- Do not cut funding to non-governmental organizations
- Do not include further investments in large corporations
- Does not want to see a tax increase for people making less than \$80,000
- Would not like to see emphasis on and support for fossil fuel generated transportation at the expense of public and active transportation
- Stop any further privatization home care in the province
- Government should start to move toward reducing spending on health
- Would not want to see the private sector tasked with any disaster relief
- Do not invest in large federal/provincial programs without a clear plan
- Do not cut non-governmental organizations that supplement or fill in gaps in public services
- Do not show end 2021/2022 fiscal year with a surprisingly large surplus





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