

- 2019 PLATFORM -

IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

**IT'S ABOUT
PEOPLE**



Dear Islanders,

When I first set out on this political journey, I promised myself that I was going to do things differently.

Oh sure, lots of people enter politics with the same intention.

But I don't want to make change just for the sake of change. I want to lead change that makes things better, that is inclusive, that is respectful, that honours our past and looks hopefully to our future.

I've been watching government and politics for a long time, and I've witnessed how regard and respect for our democratic institutions has eroded. People have lost faith—they are no longer convinced that the decisions being made on their behalf are for the greater public good; they feel they're not being heard. I want to change that.

The policy platform we are presenting to the people of Prince Edward Island shows how we plan to effect change in a way that is true to Island values. On Day One of this campaign, I vowed to lead with civility, respect, courtesy, and kindness. And I am fully committed to carrying forward that same philosophy to every aspect of the government I will lead.

As I have said time and time again: "It's about people."

It's about families, and it's about communities. People are the lifeblood of our Island way of life, and our policies will support and enhance those things that are most important to Islanders.

We are not naive. We are mindful of the challenges that lie ahead: increasing demand on our health care system, an aging population, climate change, and rapidly-evolving changes in our primary industries, to name a few. But we are also forward-thinking and excited about the opportunities yet to come. We are ready to get to work!

The policies that we have developed are not mine, they are ours.

I have traveled from one end of our Island to the other. And whether it's been at the kitchen table, over the tailgate of your truck, or at one of our Townhall Solutions sessions, you have voiced your issues and concerns and have shared potential solutions.

And, you know what? I trust you. These policies represent the wisdom and guidance that Islanders have entrusted to me and my team.

Today is a proud day for me and all the members of the PC team. Because today, and every day from now-on, **it's about people.**

Thank you for helping us build this plan.

Sincerely,

Dennis King

CARING FOR OUR HEALTH: WELLNESS FOR ALL

OUR VALUES

Living well means having timely access to the information and resources Islanders need to take care of themselves and their loved ones. Healthy living comprises not only physical health, but also mental and social health. We understand that the health of the people we care about also affects our health. As Islanders, looking out for one another is just part of who we are.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Health care currently represents the biggest expenditure of public dollars. Many Islanders express their frustration about access to treatments and the availability of professionals, particularly in the field of mental health—there is a significant increase in the need for mental health treatment for our young adults and seniors. With a growing and aging population, demand for all services continues to increase. Short-term solutions do little to address Islanders' growing concerns.

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Replace the Hillsborough Hospital immediately
- Ensure the new facility is equipped to handle mental health emergencies
- Develop a mental health app, as outlined in James Aylward's Bill 119, and consult with community stakeholder groups and persons with lived experience with mental health issues to connect Islanders with guidance and supports for mental health
- Expand mental health walk-in clinics
- Fast-track the funding and deployment of mobile mental health crisis teams
- Devote more health resources to child psychiatry
- Broaden the current physician recruitment process to include doctors recruiting doctors, with the intent to increase the current family practitioner complement from 92 to 100 and with a focus on rural recruitment
- Broaden the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, RNs, RCWs, LPNs and pharmacists
- Increase home care services for seniors—such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, speech language pathology, social work, clinical diabetes, pharmacy and nursing care—so Islanders are home sooner, home longer, and home better

CARING FOR OUR HEALTH: WELLNESS FOR ALL

- Recruit more nurse practitioners to achieve a complement of at least 40
- Expand cancer care by offering intravenous (IV) treatment at hospitals in each county and recruit more oncologists
- Increase staff and the availability of long-term care beds across the Island, including West Prince, to reduce wait times and to free up hospital resources
- Reform the Health PEI Board to ensure it is accessible and accountable to the Minister while it maintains regional involvement in health care decisions
- Address current gaps in emergency care across the Island, including at the Kings County Memorial Hospital
- Invest \$5 million into a women's health fund
- Develop a women's health strategy that addresses the specific needs of Island women
- Reinstatement of a fertility specialist to implement fertility training and IVF treatment
- Establish a \$500 wellness and activity tax credit to help all Islanders improve their overall health and well-being
- Pay for palliative care supplies for Islanders who choose to live their final days at home
- Fund new initiatives to encourage and promote careers in our nursing sector
- Provide anonymous HIV testing
- Implement a third option program, modeled on programs in other jurisdictions, to improve support for sexual assault survivors

LISTENING

Two-way communication is crucial to addressing the issues surrounding the way our system currently functions.

CARING

*"To put it simply, we need more people working beside people. At their bedside. In their homes."
-Dennis King*

RESPECTING

Islanders deserve to have access to reasonable and reliable treatment and resources in their communities.

STRENGTHENING

Empathy and compassion are employable skills. We need to encourage careers in the field of care.

RESPECTING OUR PUBLIC SERVICE

OUR VALUES

Providing our frontline public employees—including teachers and healthcare workers—with the confidence and resources they need to do their jobs will help ensure they can continue to deliver high-quality service in a timely and fair manner.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

There is growing frustration within the public service. Our public servants feel stifled and powerless. They feel they don't have a voice or a seat at the decision-making table, even though they are on the frontlines serving Islanders every day.

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Ensure that the voices of our public servants are heard, that their knowledge and expertise are employed in government decision making, and that their morale is renewed
- Empower frontline government workers to make decisions they are capable and authorized to make
- Honour all collective agreements and negotiate future agreements in good faith and in a timely manner
- Prioritize workplace safety
- Restore respect for our public service

LISTENING

Our public servants feel undervalued and unheard. It's time to give them back their voices and respect their input and opinions.

CARING

Government must appreciate the experience and knowledge our public servants bring to their jobs every day and foster a fulfilling workplace.

RESPECTING

A PC government would never use our public servants' collective agreements as a negotiation tactic for leverage or influence.

STRENGTHENING

*"We have a dedicated public service. We must trust and allow them to do their jobs. They keep our province running."
-Dennis King*

CARING ABOUT CULTURE AND HERITAGE

OUR VALUES

There is no shortage of talent on PEI. Our artists, storytellers, musicians, writers, and craftspeople are a tapestry of tradition, community, and culture. They are as vibrant and varied as the colours of this beautiful province from which they often draw their inspiration. Their creativity is an important component of our tourism appeal and generates a meaningful contribution to our economy. It's imperative we support these talents to ensure our culture is preserved and appreciated for generations to come.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Public art enriches our communities and our lives. It offers an outlet for our Island artisans. Their creativity deserves to be encouraged and promoted and to be accessible to Islanders.

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Establish the 'Percent for PEI Public Art' program and work in partnership with private developers, municipal planning committees, and communities to select or commission permanent, public art pieces. This initiative has been successfully implemented across North America and dictates that 1% of all capital costs related to the construction of federal, provincial, and municipal buildings be set aside and spent on local art. The art must be produced on PEI by Island-based artisans. These pieces would become landmarks throughout Island communities and enhance public spaces through opportunity for visual engagement, appreciation, and reflection.
- Integrate more Island culture and heritage into our mandatory primary and secondary education curriculum
- Expand and support our provincial archives and work towards more digitization of our provincial collection to make it easier for Islanders to access, share, and learn our history
- Launch an Island Digital Voices program to encourage Islanders to record and share oral and written histories
- Support the growth of rural entrepreneurial businesses that focus on the export of arts and crafts
- Seek a UNESCO designation for Province House

LISTENING

Music, art, and literature have helped establish PEI's local culture and our reputation on the world stage. It's important to maintain visibility at home and beyond.

CARING

We are committed to ensuring the artisans of tomorrow have the opportunities and supports they need to carry Island traditions into the future.

RESPECTING

*"The consideration, care, and time that go into our artisans' work must be admired and appreciated. Their creations tell a story and are part of our history."
-Dennis King*

STRENGTHENING

Establishing art in public spaces across the Island makes art accessible to everyone, everywhere. Art opens up conversations and encourages deeper connections.

RESPECTING OUR COMMUNITIES: STAYING CONNECTED

OUR VALUES

The beauty of Prince Edward Island can be seen tip to tip and in all parts between. It's what draws tourists to visit and newcomers to stay. Our population and economic growth are often centred around our cities, but our rural communities have potential for growth too—for reasons as varied and unique as Islanders themselves. We're proud of our individuality and it's our responsibility, as Islanders, to ensure our communities are sustained for many generations to come.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Diminished opportunities and elimination of services often translate to a declining population in rural areas. Closures of schools, scarcity of jobs, shortages of affordable housing, and a lack of access to high-speed internet threaten the sustainability of our smaller communities. Island business owners in all sectors require access to high-speed internet to establish or expand their businesses. Families and children need access to the same online educational tools as students in urban areas. And our seniors deserve to watch their communities thrive—not just survive—and to know their family legacies are secure.

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Introduce an annual \$1,000,000 fund, to be equally divided between Prince, Queens, and Kings counties, to support community-based training and programming by individuals and non-profit groups, e.g., in schools, libraries, community centres, etc.
- Bring together internet providers, large and small, to design and implement a 'made in PEI' plan to deliver high-speed access to all communities across the Island (adhering to CRTC's service objective of 50 mbps download/10 mbps upload for fixed broadband services by 2021)
- Allow local retailers to sell beer and wine in their stores, stocking a minimum of 25% local product to help support Island suppliers
- Develop a public transit plan for the entire Island
- Develop a community hub strategy, similar to the model in St. Peters Bay, to support and enhance rural communities
- End government tax on community fundraisers like Chase the Ace
- Provide double-sided civic address signs (that don't run parallel to the road) to increase visibility and reduce response times for first responders
- Reinstate a provincial tax exemption on firefighting equipment, increase the firefighter tax credit from \$500 to \$1000, and provide free second vehicle registration for firefighters

LISTENING

Islanders want to live and work at home. Keeping rural areas competitive is the pathway to shared success.

CARING

"Our sense of community defines us as a province. It's important we maintain that identity."

-Dennis King

RESPECTING

Embracing new business concepts and technologies, while continuing to value tradition, will always be a cooperative effort.

STRENGTHENING

Focusing on what we can do with what we have is how Islanders built this province. Our resourcefulness is our strength.

COMMITTING TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

OUR VALUES

A Dennis King PC government acknowledges that although much work has been done, institutional bias continues to influence decision making in Canadian society. Eliminating bias and establishing equity is our priority.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Groups that have been traditionally disenfranchised—including women, members of the LGBTQ2+ community, Indigenous people, ethnic and religious minorities, newcomers, and persons with disabilities—continue to feel the effects of institutional bias. There continues to be unbalanced representation in our political institutions, which can sometimes have a negative impact on policy decisions.

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Conduct a government-wide implicit bias analysis and implement diversity and inclusion training
- Engage PEI Mi'kmaq, with honour and respect, on a nation-to-nation basis
- Address inadequacies of early childhood education in the Francophone community
- Work with members of the LGBTQ2+ community to educate Islanders, and the medical profession in particular, about issues impacting the community
- Provide more funding and resources to the PEI Human Rights Commission to ensure that complaints are dealt with in a timely manner
- Expand the Department of Education's Art Bank program to include more acquisitions from Mi'kmaq and Acadian artists
- Encourage diversity on all government boards and committees through the Engage PEI program
- Revise all provincial legislation and regulations to ensure the language is inclusive and reflects the diversity of Island society
- Address the barriers, as identified by groups such as PEI Coalition for Women in Government, that prevent women from seeking elected office and implement solutions
- Work to achieve gender parity in senior management roles within the public service
- Give more assistance to groups that support female entrepreneurs
- Increase funding to gender-based initiatives to address issues such as women living in poverty and at-risk girls
- Increase funding to encourage diversity in traditional occupations and to address pay gaps
- Address gender-based violence, including sexual violence, by working closely with PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre and Family Violence Prevention Services
- Amend the Employment Standards Act to include provisions to prevent sexual violence

LISTENING

The world is progressively changing—socially and culturally. It's imperative our province, our perspectives, and our policies evolve with the needs and rights of our diverse population.

CARING

"They say there's strength in numbers, and I truly believe that. Islanders care about each other, we come together. And it's together that we can do great things for this province."

-Dennis King

RESPECTING

It's not enough to simply acknowledge our diversity; we must embrace it. The views and voices of all Islanders must be considered and factored into any decision that affects all Islanders.

STRENGTHENING

Our province has a reputation for being kind and welcoming to visitors. We have to extend that same acceptance to our own friends and neighbours.

REDUCING TAXES AND STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY

OUR VALUES

Meaningful jobs are the backbone of our economy. Businesses create jobs and provide economic opportunities. Government's role is to create an environment to help businesses succeed.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Too much of Islanders' income is being spent on taxes. There are growing concerns over skilled worker shortages. Property taxes and government user fees are tied to inflation, while basic tax exemptions and other benefits are not.

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Reduce the small business tax rate from 3.5% to 1%, making it the lowest rate in Atlantic Canada
- Establish a working group, which includes Senator Percy Downe, to work with the federal government to decrease the cost of bridge tolls and ferry service for Islanders
- Make life more affordable for families by reducing income taxes by increasing the basic personal income tax exemption to \$12,000 over the next three years
- Increase the low income tax base amount from \$17,000 to \$20,000, reducing taxes for approximately 12,000 Islanders
- Establish an interest-free loan program, up to a maximum of \$200,000, for young Island entrepreneurs, farmers, and fishers under the age of 30 to assist them with business start-up
- Endorse and support the economic action plan of the PEI Partnership for Growth initiative, an alliance of more than 20 Island business organizations and industry associations
- Increase the rebate to Island charities for the provincial portion of HST to 50% to align with other jurisdictions
- Establish a \$500 wellness and activity tax credit to help all Islanders improve their overall health and well-being

LISTENING

Islanders are being told the PEI economy is flourishing, yet we know many families continue to struggle financially.

CARING

*"Stats and charts and graphs don't show us the full picture of PEI's economic realities. My party understands that Islanders are real people, not just numbers on a graph."
-Dennis King*

RESPECTING

We're committed to putting money back in the homes of those who work hard for it. We want Islanders to have more so they're able to do more.

STRENGTHENING

Addressing the issues that affect a big portion of our population—such as lowering taxes—means Islanders won't have to worry about life's most basic needs.

STRENGTHENING EDUCATION: LEARNING FOR LIFE

OUR VALUES

The heart of every Island community lies within the walls of its local school. It's where our children gather to develop the skills and confidence they need to thrive. That's why we want to ensure it's a safe and nurturing place that will consider the needs and skills of every child. We respect the voices of parents, teachers and educational professionals.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

There is a growing disconnect between the needs of teachers, students, and their families and the current education system—the very institution meant to serve them. Teachers and parents often feel excluded from the conversations taking place among decision makers, who often have no direct contact with those people who are most affected by their decisions.

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Over the course of our mandate, support teachers and students by hiring 110 front-line education staff including teachers, educational assistants, guidance counselors, psychologists, occupational therapists, and speech language pathologists
- Collaborate with parents, communities, and other stakeholders to initiate a community-based preschool program for all four-year-olds, which would be offered at Early Years Centres
- Honour the motion passed by the PEI Home and School Federation to reinstate elected school boards
- Mandate that the Minister of Education meet twice yearly with both the PEI Teachers' Federation and the PEI Home & School Association to listen to their needs and recommendations on matters such as class composition, class sizes, and curriculum
- Establish a provincial school lunch program for all Island children (in accordance with the recommendation of the PEI Home and School Federation) that complies with the school nutrition policy and offers locally produced and sourced food. The program will engage community volunteers and organizations
- Reduce the frequency of provincial standardized testing
- Encourage and support lifelong learning opportunities, including a renewed emphasis on literacy and essential skills programming
- Expand vocational programming at the high school level
- Fund an open textbook project for Island post-secondary institutions to help ease the cost of accessing educational resources
- Increase the George Coles Bursary to \$3,000
- Address inadequacies of early childhood education in the Francophone community
- Introduce a learn-to-swim program for grade 3 students

LISTENING

"We need to listen to what our teachers are asking for. Just like parents, they know what our kids need to make learning fun and effective."

-Dennis King

CARING

Every child on PEI is special and deserves to be treated that way.

RESPECTING

Teachers and staff will be recognized for the important role they place in the lives of Island children.

STRENGTHENING

Encouraging a positive learning experience in early life will shape the post-secondary students and lifelong learners of tomorrow.

CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT: OUR LAND, OUR WATER, OUR AIR

OUR VALUES

The connection between Islanders and our water and land has always been deeply personal. Water is all around us, runs through us, and is the essence of our well-being, including our economic well-being. Our beaches are world-famous, as is the seafood our waters and fishers provide. Our land, too, is sacred and finite. For generations before us and for many to come, our farmers provide our food, working day and night, the year round. As stewards of these precious resources, we must understand their value and respect their fragility.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Too often, people take for granted the importance of our water supply. Just because it's always been there does not mean we have an unlimited supply. Some current practices—both behavioural and industrial—are jeopardizing our water, land, and air. Climate change threatens our coastlines, our crops, and the lives of future generations of Islanders.

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Continue the moratorium on deep-water wells and obtain independent studies to provide conclusive, science-based research to develop a permanent policy on their use
- Commission similar research on the impact of shallow-water wells and develop updated policies
- Implement, with local environmental groups, a reforestation plan that would plant one million trees each year in environmentally-sensitive areas for the next four years
- Establish a working group in partnership with UPEI's School of Sustainable Design Engineering and local watershed groups to undertake evaluations and make recommendations on matters affecting our bays, streams, and rivers
- Develop a solar energy rebate and electric vehicle incentive program
- Add more electric vehicles to the government fleet as replacements are required
- Work with Islanders to make a commitment to achieve a carbon-neutral society. That commitment will include targets for consuming a fixed percentage of our energy from renewable sources
- Establish a farmland bank for the purpose of buying farmland and leasing it to Island farmers
- Respect and restore the spirit and intent of the Lands Protection Act
- Work with Island producers to ensure compliance with three-year crop rotation under the Agriculture Crop Rotation Act

LISTENING

The state of Mother Earth speaks for itself—on a local and global scale. It is our duty to do whatever we can to offset the impact humans have had on the world.

CARING

*"This generation of youth is so well-informed about the effects of climate change. We have to commit to doing better—for them."
-Dennis King*

RESPECTING

A commitment to monitor the health of our environment is essential to ensuring necessary measures are being taken to address its evolving state.

STRENGTHENING

In order to mitigate any further detrimental impacts, government must put the needs of the environment first.

CARING FOR FAMILIES: OUR YOUNG, OUR YOUTH, OUR SENIORS

OUR VALUES

Each generation of Islanders is important. Each generation has specific needs. And we all deserve respect, care, and attention. Islanders over the age of 60 represent almost 25% of our total population, which presents unique challenges and opportunities. Our youth need support and encouragement. Our young children require nurturing and the freedom to explore. It's our duty to foster healthy environments for all.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Our seniors contributed to the Island we know today, yet often feel left out of the investments being made in its future. Our youth express concerns about having to move away for work. And our children, due to various factors such as social or economic status, often find themselves excluded from activities or play. This has to change.

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Implement the 'First 1,000 Days' initiative to ensure Island children get the best start in life
- Hire an independent child advocate
- Make life more affordable for families by reducing income taxes by increasing the basic personal exemption to \$12,000 over the next three years
- Increase the low income tax base amount from \$17,000 to \$20,000, reducing taxes for approximately 12,000 Islanders
- Create a Crisis Prevention Navigator position to help Islanders identify and access government services and resources
- Increase the number of available childcare spaces
- Allocate resources to address the growing need for seniors' mental health treatments
- Establish a \$500 wellness and activity tax credit to help all Islanders improve their overall health and well-being
- Increase home care services for seniors, including occupational therapy, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, speech language pathology social work, clinical diabetes, pharmacy and nursing care
- Make shingles vaccinations free for seniors
- Offer a tax credit to employers who hire high school and post-secondary students
- Work collaboratively with schools, community groups, and families to deliver youth programming—with a focus on at-risk youth—to address mental health, teen suicide, bullying, and substance abuse
- Reduce the red tape involved with adoptions

LISTENING

Islanders aren't numbers on a chart, they're people. It's important they feel they're being heard and seen.

CARING

Quality of life—from childhood to our twilight years—is the responsibility of the caretakers of our most vulnerable Islanders.

RESPECTING

Dignity, opportunity, and support. These are the very foundations to ensuring our families' happiness.

STRENGTHENING

"Investing in Islanders—from every generation and every community—is an investment in Prince Edward Island."

-Dennis King

PROVIDING SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

OUR VALUES

We recognize there is a crisis, ‘a roof over your head’ is a basic need for every Islander. Having an affordable place to live is important to a person’s health, safety, and confidence, and providing affordable housing is an essential element of a caring and progressive society.

WHAT WE’VE HEARD

Many Islanders are struggling to cover the cost of housing. Some struggle to even secure a place to live. Costs are high and occupancy rates are low. As a result, many Islanders have been forced into a position where the cost of accommodation comes at the expense of meeting other basic needs.

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Launch a PEI mobile rental voucher program as an immediate action to help low income Islanders, especially the 1,300 families and seniors currently on the provincial waiting list. This program will also be available to Island students. It will be adaptable and responsive to our changing rental market conditions.
- Assist seniors aged 60 and over with a means-tested property tax credit of 50% of their property tax bill (up to a limit of \$1,000) to lessen the costs associated with staying in their own homes
- Double the maximum funding thresholds in
 - the PEI Home Renovation Program, from \$6,000 up to \$12,000;
 - the PEI Home Renovation Program for Persons with Disabilities, from \$8,000 to \$16,000;
 - the Seniors Home Repair Program, from \$2,000 to \$4,000; and
 - the Seniors Safe @ Home Program, from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- Partner with the private sector, co-operatives, and non-profit groups to deliver 1,200 additional affordable rental units in the next five years
- Use vacant government land for affordable housing projects

LISTENING

Young or old, owner or renter, affordable housing is a growing concern for each and every Islander.

CARING

Offering assistance to those who are struggling to keep a roof overhead is not only our goal, it’s our responsibility.

RESPECTING

Addressing the realities of today’s housing market is the only way to assure Islanders they are being heard.

STRENGTHENING

“Coming together to improve PEI’s housing situation is the best way to ensure the work that needs to get done, gets done.”

-Dennis King

WE'RE LISTENING TO ISLANDERS AND
HEARING WHAT MATTERS

LISTENING

We've heard how important healthy communities are to you. That is why we will create a health and fitness tax credit to empower Islanders.

CARING

We care about the future of Island children and we will collaborate with parents, communities and experts on a community-based preschool program for four-year olds.

RESPECTING

We respect the money you earn. That is why we will raise the basic personal tax exemption to \$12,000 and lower the small business tax from 3.5% to 1%.

STRENGTHENING

We need to strengthen mental health services for Islanders. This starts with replacing the aging Hillsborough Hospital.

SUPPORTING FARMERS, FISHERS, AND TOURISM OPERATORS

OUR VALUES

Farming, fishing, and tourism contribute millions of dollars to the Island economy every year. In today's world, farmers and fishers require a high and diverse degree of knowledge—business and finance, national and international trade, environmental science and technology, human resource management, and more.

Our tourism industry is competing regionally, nationally, and globally and is working with all levels of government to position the Island as a compelling and unique tourism destination.

Government assistance to our primary industries needs to be increased, not decreased. We need to collaborate with agriculture, fisheries, and tourism to build these sectors and to foster their job-creating capacities. Primary industries create a significant number of jobs, including employment for students, youth, and seniors.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

The farming industry is at a crossroads. As many farms have become larger and more specialized, challenges such as intensified farming practices, climate change impacts, and international competitions need to be addressed.

The fishery consists of lobster and groundfish operations and an expanding aquaculture industry that has obtained worldwide recognition for quality and diversity of products. Our fishery is international in scope and requires sophisticated understanding of environmental science and technology and international trade law and conventions.

Tourism needs effective government partnership to encourage growth. Tourism operators believe the current government is failing to collaborate with all regions and all operators.

SUPPORTING FARMERS, FISHERS, AND TOURISM OPERATORS

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Separate the departments for agriculture and fisheries to provide each industry with better representation
- Create a formal partnership between UPEI’s School of Sustainable Design Engineering and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to give Island farmers and fishers access to leading international technology. This ‘made on PEI’ competitive advantage is currently an untapped resource for our primary industries and is a key component in enhancing our farming and fishing industries in a profitable and environmentally-respectful manner.
- Develop and implement a ‘PEI Food First’ strategy to increase the use of locally-grown food in public institutions like schools, hospitals, and manors
- Cross-promote Island tourism and Island produce
- Establish a tourism product development fund
- Establish a formal process for tourism industry consultation
- Work with the Charlottetown Airport Authority to increase and improve affordable air service on PEI, including more carriers, flights, and destination options
- Expand the marked diesel program to allow farmers to access marked diesel for more farm-plated vehicles and equipment
- Assist wild oyster harvesters by helping to create a long-term strategic marketing plan for hand dug, organic, wild PEI oysters
- Establish a wage subsidy program to assist tourism operators with hiring seniors in the fall shoulder season (after Labour Day)
- Encourage collaboration between Tourism PEI and local port authorities to grow PEI’s cruise ship industry

LISTENING

Farmers, fishers, and tourism operators are the longstanding pillars of our Island economy. Tending to their needs is critical to their sustainability.

CARING

“The work our fishers and farmers do is everything PEI stands for—hard work, tradition. We have to preserve these industries. They’re what built PEI.”

-Dennis King

RESPECTING

The employment opportunities and economic growth our seasonal industries offer must never be taken for granted.

STRENGTHENING

We will work to ensure farmers, fishers, and tourism operators have the skills and resources they need to evolve with changing industry demands.

STRENGTHENING TRUST AND INTEGRITY IN OUR GOVERNMENT

OUR VALUES

In 1843, the cornerstone was laid for Province House. Designed by a self-trained architect and hand-built by Island craftsmen, Province House is the home of our Government on Prince Edward Island. It is a provincial treasure—the centrepiece of our freedom and democracy.

As years passed, Province House fell into disrepair. Through ignorance, apathy, and neglect, the home place of our values was allowed to slowly crumble before our very eyes. Battered by the elements, worn by water and wind, slowly and imperceptibly, Province House began to rot from the inside out.

At the same time and in the same manner as those forces that ate away at the stones of Province House, our democratic institutions have suffered an almost identical blight.

As we re-build Province House and repair the rot and neglect, a Dennis King PC government will repair our democratic institutions.

Dennis King will lead a government that is collaborative. He will lead with kindness, compassion, courtesy, and respect. Dennis King and the PC team will loosen the partisan grip on our democratic institutions. We want all members of the Legislature, regardless of party affiliation, to work together for the common good, and we will introduce the necessary reforms to make this happen. We will ensure that MLAs have the freedom to speak their minds and to advocate for their constituents. No longer will our government be tightly controlled by the Premier's Office. We will drive diversity and inclusion in our political institutions. We will respect our public service and engage our public servants in our decision making.

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Islanders are frustrated that their elected representatives spend too much time and energy on 'gotcha politics' instead of working together to represent the collective interests of Islanders. Bickering, partisan rhetoric, pre-packaged talking points, political spin, and communications tightly controlled by the Premier's Office all have to stop.

STRENGTHENING TRUST AND INTEGRITY IN OUR GOVERNMENT

OUR SOLUTIONS

A Dennis King PC government will:

- Foster a spirit of collaboration, inclusiveness, and respect within the political process and specifically within the Legislative Assembly
- Adopt a fixed annual schedule for sittings of the Legislative Assembly, significantly increase the number of sitting days and **reduce evening sittings**
- Change the rules of the Legislative Assembly to allow opposition parties to have a majority on standing committees
- Set a strict time limit for ministerial responses to written questions
- Require ministers to answer questions promptly, directly, and succinctly during oral question period—and if they can't answer, they must provide answers within a reasonable time
- Embrace true Open Government
- Create a full-time, arms-length Ethics Commissioner who reports directly to the Legislature and has the authority to address conflicts of interest, ethics, and lobbying issues
- Increase the resources available to the Auditor General
- Increase funding to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and eliminate the up-front fee for all freedom of information requests
- Introduce legislation to ban partisan government advertising
- Separate the roles of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice to ensure the Attorney General remains independent
- Establish an independent Provincial Ombudsperson

LISTENING

Islanders want their elected officials to reflect the values, principles, and collaboration represented in their communities.

CARING

“Our MLAs’ accomplishments have always been influenced by the Islanders they represent. In a PC government, positive change will continue to be a cooperative effort.”

-Dennis King

RESPECTING

The institution of government must reflect the integrity, fairness, and democratic process it was designed to provide. Our party is committed to leading with respect, civility, and objectivity.

STRENGTHENING

A Dennis King PC government welcomes the opinions, ideas, and solutions of other parties’ MLAs. Open, collaborative discussion can only serve to advance our mutual best interests for PEI.

COSTING SUMMARY

COST SUMMARY

INVESTMENT

Caring For Our Health

Address gaps in Emergency Care, including KCMH	1,100,000
Expand mental health walk-in clinics	750,000
Devote more health resources to child psychiatry	600,000
Doctors Recruiting Doctors	1,600,000
Increasing Home Care	1,500,000
Recruit more Nurse Practitioners	500,000
Expand Cancer Care	150,000
Increase staff and availability of Long-Term Care beds	3,300,000
Fertility Specialist and IVF Funding	500,000
\$500 Wellness and Activity Tax Credit	925,000
Promoting Nursing Sector	75,000
Establish a PEI Women's Health Strategy and \$5 million Women's Health Fund (Year 1)	1,325,000
Third Option program to better support sexual assault survivors in PEI	75,000
Covering the cost of palliative care supplies for families	500,000

Respecting Our Communities

\$1 million fund for community-based programming for non-profit groups and individuals	1,000,000
Public Transit Plan for PEI	75,000
Develop a Community Hub Strategy to support and enhance our rural communities	75,000
End government tax on community fundraisers like 'Chase the Ace'	175,000
Support for Volunteer Firefighters	280,000

Strengthening Affordable Living

Launch a Mobile PEI Rental Voucher program	4,875,000
Seniors means-tested property tax credit of 50% to a limit of \$1000	1,800,000
Double maximum thresholds for home renovation and repair programs	1, 800,000

COSTING SUMMARY

COST SUMMARY

INVESTMENT

Reducing Taxes and Strengthening Our Economy

Reduce the Small Business Tax rate from 3.5 percent to 1 percent	6,000,000
Increase the basic personal exemption to \$12,000 (Year 1)	7,700,000
Improve the Low Income Tax Reduction Program by increasing the base amount from \$17,000 to \$20,000	870,000
Interest free loan program for young Island entrepreneurs, farmers and fishers	120,000
Increase the rebate on the provincial portion of HST to Island charities to 50%	114,000

Strengthening Education

Additional front-line staff	2,000,000
Universal, half-day community-based preschool for four year olds	5,000,000
Provincial Farm to Table School Food Program	350,000
Expand vocational programming at the high school level	300,000
Open-textbook project	75,000
Increase the George Coles bursary to \$3,000	1,440,000
Introduce a Learn-to-Swim program for grade 3 students	225,000

Caring For Our Environment

Deep-Water Well moratorium and obtain independent science	200,000
One million trees reforestation plan	125,000

Caring About Our Culture and Heritage

Support growth in rural arts and crafts entrepreneurial businesses	150,000
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Caring for our Families

First 1000 Days Initiative	350,000
Create a Crisis Prevention Navigator	70,000
Allocate resources to address the growing need for seniors' mental health treatments	100,000
Make shingles vaccines free for seniors	2,750,000
Financial support for employers who hire high school and post-secondary students	375,000
Work collaboratively to deliver youth programming, focused on at-risk youth	100,000

COSTING SUMMARY

COST SUMMARY

INVESTMENT

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Provide more funding and resources to the PEI Human Rights Commission	50,000
Give more support to groups that support female entrepreneurs	250,000
Increase funding to gender-based initiatives	200,000
Provide increased funding to encourage diversity in traditional occupations	60,000

Supporting Farmers, Fishers and Tourism Operators

Create a stand-alone Department of Fisheries	500,000
Establish a farmland bank	1,000,000
Develop and implement a PEI Food First Strategy	150,000
Establish a tourism product development fund	300,000
Expand the marked diesel program	850,000
Assist PEI wild oyster industry	65,000
Tourism wage subsidy program for shoulder season hiring of seniors	200,000

Strengthening Trust and Integrity in Government

Create a full-time arms-length Ethics Commissioner	200,000
Increase the resources available to the Auditor General	100,000
Increase funding to Information and Privacy Commissioner; eliminate the up-front fee for FOIPP	100,000
Create a provincial Ombudsperson	200,000

Offsetting Revenue	3,648,000
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Overall Total	51,971,000
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**IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE,
IT'S ABOUT YOU &
IT'S ABOUT TIME**





“Working together, sharing ideas,
collaborating - that’s how we can succeed.
Because for me, **it’s about people.**”

Dennis King

**WE ARE LISTENING AND ARE COMMITTED TO PUTTING YOU FIRST
CONTACT US TODAY 1-800-859-4221**