



March 27, 2023

Marie Adèle Davis,
Executive Director
Canadian Paediatric Society
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Ottawa, ON
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Sent via Email

Dear Ms. Davis,

Thank you for submitting your questionnaire on behalf of the Canadian Paediatric Society regarding the Liberal Party's plans to address priority issues of strengthening child and youth mental health, prioritizing paediatric healthcare, tackling childhood poverty, and improving sexual and reproductive healthcare that impact the health and wellness of children and youth in Prince Edward Island. The following is the Liberal Party's response to your questions:

1. What will your party do to improve timely access to publicly funded mental health services for children and youth?

The Liberal Party recognizes that new and expanded initiatives are required to ensure that all Islanders – including children and youth – that are suffering from mental health and addiction challenges get the help that they need. Specific examples of new and expanded initiatives that the Liberal Party is committed to providing to improve timely access to publicly funded mental health services for children and youth include:

- Expanding the number of mental health walk-in clinics and mobile mental health units to increase services to Islanders, including the provision of 24/7 coverage;
- Providing online access to mental health and addiction services for every Islander in need; and
- Expanding access to mental health services through the use of psychologists as part of the PEI Health system on a fee-for-service basis.

2. How will your party reduce pressures on the paediatric healthcare system across the province and build capacity across the spectrum of care?

The Liberal Party's plan to reduce pressures on the paediatric healthcare system across the province and build capacity across the spectrum of care includes:

- Implementing underexplored recruitment and retention strategies for nurses, doctors, and allied health professionals;

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- Expediting professional credential recognition for healthcare workers who want – and are ready – to work in PEI;
- Expanding opportunities for virtual care through Maple and other telemedicine/virtual initiatives;
- Leveraging technology for enhanced health delivery;
- Expanding further the scope of practice of pharmacists, nurse practitioners, and advance care paramedics; and
- Introducing new healthcare providers, such as registered psychiatric nurses.

3. What will your party do to reduce rates of childhood poverty and food insecurity across the province?

The Liberal Party's plan to combat poverty and low-income challenges facing Prince Edward Island families includes:

- Indexing social assistance supports to inflation to ensure that recipients do not fall behind during times of high inflation;
- Increasing allowable income to be earned while still remaining eligible for social assistance programs;
- Expanding eligibility and funding under AccessAbility Supports to ensure that more Islanders access funding for services; and
- Enhancing the Emergency Shelter system to provide 24/7 access as opposed to 12-hour nighttime access only and fully implement the recommendations of the 2019 Community needs assessment on emergency shelters.

4. Will your party commit to expanding sexual and reproductive healthcare, including through universal access to no-cost contraceptives?

The Liberal Party is committed to putting healthcare first by making new investments in health services that increase investments in women's reproductive health, which includes providing public coverage for prescription birth control and expansion to fertility treatment funding.

Thank you again for your questionnaire.

Sincerely,



Sharon Cameron,
Leader of the Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island

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