

Strengthening child and youth mental health

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

Access to timely mental health services is important for all Islanders, but especially for our children and youth. Our government has enhanced Student Well-Being Teams, so they are able to provide more support to students. Through Bridge the gapp, an online mental health resource, we have provided online programming and support that youth can access anytime, anywhere, reducing barriers to accessing support.

A re-elected PC government plans to add 100 new positions to the school system that include counselors, youth service workers, and mental health support workers. We will also continue to develop the Mental Health Campus to improve access to community-based mental health programming.

Prioritizing paediatric healthcare

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

Our government has taken steps to reduce pressures on the healthcare system by embracing a team-based approach to medical services and providing wrap-around care through Patient Medical Homes. We have made investments in virtual care and Primary Care Access Clinics to connect Islanders on the Patient Registry with timely access to medical services.

A re-elected PC government will continue our work to reduce pressures across our healthcare system by

- **Expanding Primary Care Access Clinics (PCAC's) to provide care for unaffiliated patients by increasing capacity at the existing clinics in Charlottetown and Summerside and opening new clinics in West Prince and Kings County.**
- **Establishing Mobile Primary Care Clinics that can provide care in any community across the province based on need.**
- **Launching Nurse Practitioner-led walk-in clinics across the province.**
- **Making Apps like Maple and other virtual care apps free for all Islanders.**
- **Attaching all Island patients on the Patient Registry to a Medical Home in the next 24 months.**
- **Work with the PEI Speech and Hearing Association to reduce waitlists and service gaps by adding new Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists in the public health system.**

Tackling childhood poverty

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

Over the last four years, our government has increased funding by 20 percent to social programs which would directly benefit at-risk families and youth.

We have taken strides to reduce the province's childhood poverty and food insecurity. In September 2020, our government launched the School Lunch Program, with a pay-what-you-can model, that provides healthy and affordable lunches to students.

The Summer Food Security Program was launched in 2020 and operated in 2021, 2022 and 2023 to provide reheatable meals to students. This ensured children and youth had access to nutritious meals throughout the summer months.

A re-elected PC government will continue our commitment to addressing food insecurity and will explore the creation of a universal breakfast program with the English and French language school boards.

Improving sexual and reproductive health care

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

Our government has worked to enhance sexual and reproductive healthcare options through the expansion of the Women's Wellness Program, now the Sexual Health Options & Reproductive Services program.

Island women can now access contraceptives and emergency contraceptives at their local pharmacies through the Pharmacy Plus Program, and a re-elected PC government will expand upon that by providing access to free contraceptive care.