



Islanders First...

Liberal

For Post Secondary Education

Affordable, High-Quality Post-Secondary Education: A Driver of Prosperity

Liberals believe that post-secondary education is a path to a brighter future for both our children and our province.

Increasing the number of young Islanders who can access quality education builds opportunities for them as individuals and for our province by increasing the skills base of our workforce.

Prince Edward Island is home to two high quality post-secondary institutions that can play an even greater role in equipping Islanders with the skills they need to build a more prosperous future.

Over the last eleven years, access to affordable post-secondary education has been an increasingly elusive goal for a number of students and their families. More must be done to encourage attendance at our post-secondary institutions. Prince Edward Island ranks last in Canada in terms of government spending on post-secondary education as a percentage of total government spending. This is not acceptable.

Liberals believe that we need innovative thinking in order to make post-secondary education more affordable to young Islanders. However, ensuring that Islanders have access to high quality, affordable education is only part of the challenge. A Liberal Government will look for ways to retain and attract newly educated Islanders.

A Liberal Government will put Islanders first by:

1. Establishing a **Skills at Home Tax Rebate Program** that will encourage recent post-secondary institution graduates to live on the Island by offering \$2000 per year in a non-taxable tuition rebate to a maximum of 50% of their tuition costs capped at \$10,000 over five years.
2. Creating a **New Beginning Education Program** that will provide a one-time \$2000 grant to any full-time Island student entering the University of Prince Edward Island. A comparable program will be developed for Holland College in applied arts, trades, and technology programs.
3. **Changing student loan funding eligibility** to reduce the extent to which parental income is a consideration for eligibility for assistance.
4. Working with both U.P.E.I. and Holland College to encourage the delivery of courses on a regional-basis through **satellite campuses and/or distance learning initiatives**.
5. **Increasing operating funding** on a per student basis to UPEI and Holland College to the national average over a 4-year period.
6. Developing a **Provincial Skilled Trades Strategy** that engages industry, the high school system, and Holland College in order to dramatically increase the supply of skilled workers on Prince Edward Island.
7. Working with other provinces and the federal government to establish a dedicated **Post-Secondary Education Transfer** to provide for more stable and predictable funding.
8. Pursuing **new tuition support measures** as provincial finances permit, with a goal of significantly reducing or eliminating the cost of tuition for students in their 4th year of full-time studies.
9. **Expanding the mandate of the Department of Education** to include skills development.

