



News Release

For Immediate Release

July 18, 2011

Province seeks feedback on poverty reduction discussion paper

CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI -- Islanders are being asked to help shape a strategy to prevent and reduce poverty in Prince Edward Island, says Community Services, Seniors and Labour Minister Janice Sherry.

The provincial government released a detailed paper today with information on trends, impacts and programs, as well as questions for the public to consider when providing input on how to reduce poverty in Prince Edward Island.

“Together with the community, we have taken many measures to make life better for low-income Islanders,” said Minister Sherry. “Efforts that are making a difference across Prince Edward Island include enhanced child protection services and family violence prevention, minimum wage increases, social assistance increases, new housing units for seniors and persons living with disabilities, public transit, the George Coles Bursary and social assistance increases. This discussion paper will guide us as we continue our collective efforts to help Islanders in need.”

The discussion paper on a poverty reduction strategy contains sections on:

- Measures and definitions of poverty

- Poverty reduction strategies in Atlantic Canada and work to date in Prince Edward Island
- Patterns and trends in poverty in Prince Edward Island
- Profiles of high risk groups
- Impacts of poverty and a rationale for taking action
- Descriptions of the various programs and services that could form part of the strategy
- Consultation process and questions for public consideration

In response to major social and economic changes, and the resulting pressures placed on Canadians, a number of provinces have recently developed poverty reduction strategies. The Government of Prince Edward Island also sees the need for such a strategy, and committed in the November 2010 Speech from the Throne to “release a Poverty Reduction discussion paper that will begin the process, in consultation with Islanders, of examining further options to improve the well-being of Islanders who are vulnerable or in need.”

“The discussion paper will assist Government in working with Islanders, community organizations, and employers on how to prevent and reduce poverty across Prince Edward Island,” said Minister Sherry. “Throughout the summer and fall, we are seeking feedback from the public, concerned groups, and especially from Islanders who are living in poverty. After more public input, I expect government to release its Social Action Plan to reduce poverty in early 2012.”

To access the full-length and summary versions of A Strategy to Prevent and Reduce Poverty in Prince Edward Island: Discussion Paper visit www.peipovertystrategy.ca, e-mail www.peipovertystrategy@gov.pe.ca or phone 1-866-594-3777. Copies of the discussion paper are also available at Access PEI centres across the province and through many community organizations. Feedback can be provided online, or delivered in person or by mail to: Second Floor Jones Building, 11 Kent St. PO Box 2000, Charlottetown.