

1. How will your government prioritize small businesses in its policy decisions?

Small businesses are an important part of the Prince Edward Island economy. A Green government would consult with industry and stakeholder groups on policy and legislative matters that impact them, and would work with industry sectors to advance their plans for growth. Local business growth is a critical part of our economic success, and purchasing locally is not just the responsibility of individuals but of government too, through its procurement policies.

2. What steps will your government take to encourage Islanders to shop locally?

We know that those with lower-incomes are more likely to spend their money locally. A Green government would put more money into Islanders' pockets, through wage increases and tax relief, including indexing tax brackets to inflation and creating a refundable tax credit for Island workers with income between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

The Green platform also includes commitments to update our *Planning Act*, promote more density in housing and promote public transit. We have heard concerns, particularly in the early days of the pandemic, that the closure of workplaces in downtowns had reduced traffic for businesses. By planning better communities, we can ensure there are more locals living close to businesses and other locals have greater access to transit that can transport them to local businesses, ultimately improving the viability of small businesses on PEI.

3. What policies will your government put in place to further reduce the tax burden on small businesses?

We have no plans to adjust the small business and corporate tax rates at this time. However, we remain open to conversations on taxation policy.

4. How will your government ensure that the realities of small businesses are reflected in employment standards to ensure fair balance and reasonable flexibility between employers and employees?

We believe workers should enjoy the same minimum standards of work, regardless of where they work. Where there are concerns about small businesses' capacity to comply with employment standards updates, we are committed to working with them through the transition. As an example, when the Greens proposed new paid sick leave legislation, it also proposed a transitional fund to help alleviate any financial cost that would be borne by smaller businesses.

5. What is your plan to reduce government red tape for small businesses and citizens?

The Green Party recognizes that regulation can play an important part in protecting small businesses and citizens alike. This includes ensuring that goods and services meet certain standards. Effective regulations can protect businesses from harm and liability. However, where

regulations might be outdated or where the burden of compliance outweighs the benefit, a Green government would review these regulations to improve their efficacy. Consultation with stakeholders would be key to this review and any potential action.

6. Will your government introduce mandated employer paid sick leave for employees?

Yes. The Greens support 10 days of paid sick leave. Evidence suggests that paid sick leave reduces business disruption, protects against productivity losses, and reduces the likelihood of worker injury and mortality – all of which are shared interests of workers and employers. Our platform includes a commitment to establish a paid sick leave fund for smaller businesses to support them in the transition to 10 paid sick days.

7. What will be your government's plan to address skills shortages?

Labour shortages are limiting PEI's economic potential, and are making it harder for Islanders to access important services like healthcare, housing, and maintenance services. This is impacting the quality of life of Islanders. A Green government would:

- Promote enrollment in programs that address key labour shortages on PEI;
- Work with community organizations and employers to retain skilled graduates and recruit internationally-trained workers;
- Convene a panel of employer and employee representatives from the construction industry to explore the creation of a wage grid for the construction sector;
- Work with industry to identify labour shortages and help recruit and retain internationally-trained professionals to fill those gaps.

8. What is your position on eliminating the tolls on the Confederation Bridge?

A Green Government would advocate for the elimination of fees on both the Confederation Bridge and Wood Islands ferry.

9. What is your government's plan to reduce the cost of doing business in PEI ?

A Green government would undertake a number of measures to help reduce the cost of doing business on PEI, including:

- Review and update commercial tenancy laws to protect Island businesses from unreasonable rents and evictions;
- Support businesses to adopt the technology they need to compete online;
- Eliminate incorporation and name search fees for new business start-ups;
- Along with federal partners, advocate for a national right-to-repair strategy to make repairs easier and more affordable;
- Complete the expansion of high-speed internet in rural PEI, and make sure our broadband infrastructure keeps up with future demand and technological changes;
- Work with Island industry associations to implement their industry growth strategies; and
- Create industry-specific employee support programs and emergency management plans in case of extreme weather events.

10. Is there anything else you would like to tell business owners about your plans for the province?

To strengthen our economy, we need to take a holistic approach. We need to ensure that people can afford to live on PEI, that they have reliable access to high quality public services like healthcare and education. Only then will we be able to attract and retain the workers that businesses need to succeed.