

Renew PEI: Economic Recovery and Growth Submission

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I would like to offer two areas of focus to Premier's Council on Recovery and Growth for consideration going forward. Both are areas that are talked about broadly, but too often are left without tangible actions.

"Economic growth accompanied by worsening social outcomes is not success, it is failure" - Ardern

Focus: A triple bottom line for the new economy

For too long, the global community has been willing to accept that environmental degradation was a necessary cost of economic growth, and whether or not societal outcomes improved as a result of that growth simply wasn't factored in. We are seeing the consequences of that in climate change and biodiversity collapse. The cracks in our social fabric are becoming more pronounced. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted those cracks further, and as we rebuild our economy, we need to ensure the actions we take are moving us in a direction where we meet the needs of all Islanders, within the ecological limits of PEI and the planet.

Key points:

- *You can't manage what you don't measure.* Establish economic, social and environmental measures for success, and report against them regularly. Decisions are made differently when impacts of actions are considered against all three of these bottom lines instead of just the economic one.

Models: [Doughnut of Social and Planetary Boundaries](#) and [The Genuine Progress Indicator](#)

- Create a Green Growth Economic Strategy that integrates social, economic and environmental goals.

Model: [Nova Scotia Greener Economy Strategy](#)

- The circular economy offers an opportunity to de-couple resource consumption from economic growth. The new economy must ensure resources and products are kept in use for as long as possible, with the maximum value being extracted while they are in use and from which, at the end of their service life, other materials and products of value are recovered or regenerated. Nova Scotia is showing leadership in building their circular economy, and PEI should follow suit.
- Begin implementation of the interim recommendations from the Special Committee on Climate Change immediately.

- Begin implementation of the interim recommendations from the Special Committee on Poverty immediately.

Focus: An economic recovery that includes women.

Women were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, and prospects for women continue to be worse than for men. Gender based analysis won't happen by accident. It's not enough to say the province is using a gender lens. Processes and tools must actually be implemented.

Key Points:

- Fully implement a gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) lens across all government departments.
 - Build a GBA+ accountability framework for the Province;
 - Develop and deliver a suite of GBA tools and training;
 - Take a "cluster" approach to engage groups of like-minded departments to ensure appropriate information and tools are available to all sectors and functional communities;
 - Pilot the framework in Economic Development.
- Assess the uptake of the COVID economic recovery programs for gender equality. How does the uptake of programs by men and male-led companies compare to the uptake of recovery programs by women and women-led companies? Ensure a gender lens is used in designing all future programs.
- Increase the number of daycare spaces available across PEI to ensure access to childcare is not a barrier, working towards a goal of universal childcare. Before COVID-19, there were about 6000 spaces, and currently, there are less than 4500.
- Women's unemployment rates remain higher than men's in PEI. Information should be gathered to provide a fulsome understanding of what barriers specifically are keeping more women from returning to work.