

Official Opposition Capital Budget Priorities 2021-2022

23 September 2020

Submitted to Sidney MacEwen, Government House Leader.

The Official Opposition thanks Government for the opportunity to share our priorities for the upcoming 2021-2022 capital budget.

As with previous submissions, an overall priority for our caucus is that sustainability criteria be applied to all capital projects, taking into account savings accrued on lifetime expenses.

In the memo from the Government House Leader dated 11 September 2020, a request was made for this submission to be fully costed. This is a novel request that was not made in regards to previous opportunities to submit our budget priorities.

Given the short timeframe (8 business days) associated with the request, the lack of access to internal Government information and staff resources, and our own expectations for presenting thorough, realistic, and evidence-based policies, we were not able to accommodate the request for this submission to be fully costed. We have included some costings where we are relatively confident in the required expenditure, but for the most part we have identified priority areas where we would like to see increased spending.

In the spirit of collaboration, we would be happy to work with Government officials over the coming weeks to elaborate on, and determine appropriate costings for, the priorities outlined in this document.

As always, we look forward to working together on improving the lives of Islanders.

Agriculture and Land

- Investment in meat processing infrastructure (abattoir).
- Investment in cold storage infrastructure (food hubs).

Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture

- Investment in planning and design work toward the development of an integrated province-wide active transportation network (i.e. concept map for tip-to-tip trail network).
- Funding for a concept design competition for mixed-occupancy complexes.

Education and Lifelong Learning

- Increased investments in capital repairs for schools.
- Any new school bus purchases should be exclusively zero-emitting vehicles (e.g. electric buses).
- Funding for construction of the new high school in Stratford in the 2021-22 fiscal year.
- Commitment to begin construction of new Sherwood school in the 2021-22 fiscal year.
- Additional water refilling stations for schools.

Finance

- Increased equipment funding to ITSS to fast-track the implementation of recommendations from the Auditor General.

Fisheries and Communities

- Washroom and shower facilities at Green Park overflow camping area, and appropriate power upgrades for the concert site, so Rock the Boat can expand to a 2 day festival in 2021, and more than one event per year in 2022.

Health and Wellness

- Commitment to new building for Summerside Harbourside Medical Centre.
- Expedited timeline for Hillsborough Hospital replacement.
- Investments to renovate an appropriate space within the QEH for a restorative care unit. This would provide much needed care/rehab for patients and would slow down the production of ALC patients.

Social Development and Housing

- \$10,000,000 investment in affordable housing developments in Charlottetown with rents geared to income.
- \$3,000,000 investment in Housing First projects to address systemic homelessness (provincial portion of cost-shared funding leveraging federal funds available via CMHC including the Rapid Housing Initiative)

Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy

- Increased investment in active transportation infrastructure.
- Investment in additional electric vehicle charging stations.
- Initial investment toward developing a carpooling app to connect drivers and passengers for door-to-door transportation.
- Funding for the design of a school that meets the Net Zero standard.