



Prince Edward Island

Legislative Assembly

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Hon. Dennis King
Premier of Prince Edward Island
Shaw Building
95-105 Rochford Street
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8
5th Floor

19 April 2023

Subject: Speech from the Throne and Operating Budget Input

Premier King:

Thank you for your letter dated April 13 asking for input on the Speech from the Throne and the 2023-2024 Operating Budget. The Speech from the Throne is an occasion for the governing party to share its plan for the province, and what it hopes to achieve during the legislative session. It is also, importantly, the first confidence vote faced by the government; members of the Legislative Assembly will have the opportunity to voice their confidence or non-confidence in the government and its vision.

To be clear, it is not the responsibility of the opposition parties to prepare the government's throne speech—private members are not government. Framing the Speech from the Throne as a collaborative exercise muddies the waters for Islanders. There can be no mistake: the Speech from the Throne is the Progressive Conservative vision for PEI, not the Green vision.

The PC government owes it to Islanders to show it can generate its own ideas and resolve the crises it has so far failed to resolve, including in healthcare, housing, and affordability. The Green caucus will have the opportunity to speak to the Speech from the Throne, and we look forward to sharing our thoughts at that time.

With respect to your request for input on the 2023-2024 Operating Budget, in January the Green caucus submitted a long list of outstanding priorities that your government has failed to advance. We still expect action on these files.

We know the King government will take good ideas wherever it can find them. [The Green Party 2023 election platform](#) outlined a number of good ideas to grow our province. Some of these priorities include, but are not limited to:

- Substantial increases to pharmacare funding, including free contraceptive care for Islanders;
- Immediate wage increases for all frontline healthcare workers;
- The implementation of a rental registry to protect Islanders from illegal rent increases;
- A refundable tax credit for low-income and middle-income workers;
- A citizens' assembly for proportional representation;
- Funding to implement a Island-wide land-use plan within the next two years and introduce shoreline protection legislation;
- Multi-year core funding for community organizations, including but not limited to Pride PEI, PEI Transgender Network, PEERS Alliance, and BIPOC USHR; and
- Funding to complete an anti-racism strategy for PEI.

We look forward to returning to the House and continuing to advocate on behalf of Islanders.

Sincerely,



Peter Bevan-Baker
MLA New Haven-Rocky Point
Leader of the Third Party



Karla Bernard
MLA Charlottetown-Victoria Park