

## Some of the suggestions from the public for the 2012-2013 Provincial Budget

1. Act on the Thompson report. Islanders are landlocked.
2. Look to the Manitoba model to fund municipalities
3. Keep an eye to the future when considering funding programs for people with intellectual disabilities.
4. Attract skilled labour to West Prince.
5. Implement a red tape reduction strategy.
6. Postpone increasing minimum wage by six months.
7. Examine public sector wages and benefits.
8. Put a UPEI Campus in West Prince.
9. Increase spending on youth.
10. Make sure environmental issues have minimal impact on farmers
11. Small communities need help to self-promote.
12. Do not cut Tourism. Spend more of the tourism budget in smaller communities
13. Better transportation in the rural areas for seniors would be a revenue generator.
14. Need a progressive tax rate.
15. Tax rate is adequate now.
16. Implement the HST.
17. Do not implement the HST.
18. The Department of Education should provide more services in-house instead of contracting out.
19. Do not go to a two-tier minimum wage.
20. Do not cut public sector wages and benefits.
21. Businesses need more access to training programs to retain and attract staff.
22. Government is asking for too many qualifications in its job descriptions.
23. Stay away from program renewal.
24. Provide access to healthcare in both official languages.
25. Ensure french language education continues from kindergarten to grade twelve.
26. Accessing health services in French is not just a question of respect, but one of health and safety.
27. Continue to work toward adopting the French language services act.
28. Keep the Labour Market Development Agreement going.
29. Ask front-line public sector workers about ways to eliminate inefficiencies.
30. Conduct energy audits on schools.
31. Promote entrepreneurship in the high schools.
32. Continue the rural jobs initiatives
33. Encourage buy local programs
34. The continuing costs of increasing training standards costs family farms.
35. Family farms are becoming corporate entities. It is the most pressing issue of our time.
36. Don't look for short term savings that will result in long term costs.
37. Ensure a liveable income for Islanders.

38. There should be a Minister of Business.
39. Immigrants will drive the economy if we can keep them here.
40. If we don't look after our farmers and fisherman, we won't have a tourism product.
41. Farmers need help supporting innovative ideas( like dog food from animal by-products)
42. We should increase social awareness of online shopping. The more spent on the internet, the less there is to spend here on the Island.
43. School bus routes could be more efficient. The same bus may cross the same road three times.
44. Decentralize government services.
45. Government services should not be sacrificed. Don't decrease the public service.
46. We need to strengthen rural communities, work to encourage immigrants.
47. Government should make the CEDB process easier.
48. Some liquor (wine and beer) should be taken from the liquor stores and sold in the community; this would save many rural stores.
49. Municipalities need to work on infrastructure (water, sewer) to create more opportunities to expand small businesses.
50. Expand tourism marketing in the winter (like snowmobile trails). Look at innovative ideas like snow trail tours.
51. Expand homecare. This is a better option for families than having to out a loved one in a manor.
52. Money from pension funds should be reinvested back into the community.
53. Invest in youth at an early age; keep them away from crime and drugs.
54. Bring courses offered at UPEI to the eastern and western ends of the province.
55. Trade missions need to go to places like Alberta and Saskatchewan.
56. We should find something to produce at Opacmare that could be used out west.
57. Need to focus on trades; encourage young people to take up a trade.
58. Losing PVI is awful. Not having it robs kids of self-esteem. Kids had the first start to their red seal.
59. The Chambers of Commerce should work with the high schools on cooperative programs
60. Strengthen the French schools; they are the heart of the Acadian Community.
61. Teachers in the French schools need access to tools and strategies to best educate students in their language.
62. Government should consider non-indexing of income tax credits
63. Increase the basic, age and pension credits.
64. Utilizing transport services, particularly in East Prince, to transport non-emergency patients to and from hospitals, rather than using ambulances.
65. Stop waste in areas like tourism (such as visitor books and concerts in the busy season). Stop pricey mail outs.
66. Reward public sector workers for coming up with ways to save money.
67. Increase in salary dollars and funding for marketing aquaculture.
68. Fund a fin fish veterinarian and provide funds for shellfish research and development.
69. When property tax is owed on a property, it should be the system that the property is sold in two or three years of arrears.
70. Government departments that don't use their entire budget in a fiscal year should not be clawed back for the following year, but rewarded for their management of resources.
71. The cost of the bridge is prohibitive to tourists.

72. Walking programs are needed for Seniors to network..
73. Introduce physicians assistants as a way of reducing strain on healthcare system.
74. Anything used to maintain a golf facility or grounds should be PST exempt.
75. Green fees should be PST exempt.
76. Review the provincial tax system to ensure Island businesses are not disadvantaged when competing with other provinces.
77. Identify waste and duplication within government; look at the British Columbia One for One model.
78. Drop the small business rate to zero for businesses under \$200,000.
79. Have a transparent mechanism to look at minimum wage.
80. We have higher energy costs than Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; province needs to monitor the situation.
81. Keep the Provincial Nominee Program within reach for smaller operators.
82. Expand the shoulder season for tourism.
83. Continue programs for tourism operators under the rural action plan
84. Ministers should drive hybrid cars.
85. Start charging for parking in the government parking lot.
86. Make power a publicly-run utility.
87. Cuts to Health should be administrative only. No cuts to services.
88. Come up with a poverty reduction strategy.
89. We need less reliance on fossil fuels.
90. Improve social programs.
91. Invest in affordable childcare.
92. Don't touch the lands protection act.
93. Balanced budgets are not always the healthiest way to proceed.
94. Money should not go to the Salvation Army for a heating oil program; government should distribute it.
95. Focus of the government should be lobbying the federal government for increased health transfers.
96. Transportation assistance should remain at current level for hogs shipped out of the province.
97. Keep Atlantic Beef Plant in operation.
98. Pay for egg grading stations.
99. Reinstate the lime subsidy for agriculture.
100. Soil tests for farmers should be free.
101. Farmers should be paid rent for buffer zones.
102. Blood testing in agriculture should be free of charge.
103. The Province should pay for ear tags.
104. The herd health and the heifer retention program should be reinstated.
105. The future farmers program should be maintained at its current level.
106. Competitive tax system is needed on the Island, no more bracket creep.
107. Implement a catastrophic drug plan.
108. Fund smoking cessation programs.
109. Increase tobacco taxes; put that revenue in nicotine therapy.
110. Improve outcomes for cultural workers (artisans, musicians, etc).
111. Offer tax incentives to self-employed artists and artisans.

112. Provide funding for a study measuring the impact of arts and culture on the Island economy.
113. Maintain funding for current growing forward business risk management programs.
114. Workers compensation costs in PEI for potato growers are high and out of sync with other jurisdictions
115. The Provincial Nominee Program money should go directly into the Treasury.
116. Remove impediments like security bonding for new vendors.
117. Continue to build public buildings, stay away from P3.
118. Increase the corporate tax rate.
119. Sell provincial golf courses.
120. Reduce MLA pensions.
121. Reduce the number of media relations staff.
122. Reduce the size of cabinet.
123. Eliminate IRAC's rate setting mandate on fuel.
124. Stop giving government grants to lure businesses to PEI when there are already existing competitors in the market.
125. Marginally increase fees, augmented by reallocation of funds derived from decreased purchases of capital equipment through privatization of more government programs and operations.
126. Move the Government Garage to the outskirts of Charlottetown so its current location can be properly developed.
127. Reduce the one percent land tax in order to boost real estate.
128. Getting on board at the early stages of the Halifax shipyard and not only get some work in Georgetown but modify existing sites for contract work.
129. Government needs to be more efficient and responsive to issues such as the environment.
130. Reduce programs which are harmful to the soil, land and water. And increase funding to programs such as ALUS which can benefit the environment particularly to increase organic matter.
131. Provide more funding for auditing services, like the Auditor General.
132. Make any loan or handout to businesses a contractual agreement that targets for employment must be met.
133. Look into more job shadowing opportunities in IT and Biotechnology.
134. Special reduced price bridge pass for permanent Island residents.
135. There needs to be less reliance on supply teachers by hiring more full-time teachers.
136. Offer a "PST free" tax break to new businesses trying to get off the ground.
137. Set up an interest free venture capital fund for island enterprises only with a good business plan that any bank or accountant would endorse.
138. Reduce "luncheon" meetings in government.
139. Convert all physicians in the province to a Fee for Service pay modality.
140. Implement an "Unhealthy Food" tax on items that are high in sugar/sodium/trans fats in order to either generate additional revenue for health.
141. Fund more affordable housing for seniors and individuals with accessibility issues.
142. Money spent on advertising to promote government is a waste of money.
143. The government needs to look at the costs associated with electronic health records.
144. Sell PEI as a tax-free zone.
145. Every tender within 10 percent should be reviewed to ensure tax fairness and that our

- Island businesses are not disadvantaged.
146. Build a small shopping village (Like a Dartmouth Crossing) where young people would like to shop. This would stimulate the economy.
  147. The technology in our schools needs to be current with the rest of the country, so our kids can keep pace.
  148. Implement a seniors' tax credit for health and fitness.
  149. More support should go to supporting the theatre as a tourism product.
  150. Combine the two English school boards into one.
  151. There should be one point of contact for ordering office supplies in government.
  152. We need homeless shelters province wide.
  153. Address the underground economy, especially tips at high end restaurants.
  154. Public sector pensions must become defined contribution - no more defined benefit guaranteed by the taxpayers.
  155. Mental Health & Addictions - review dept business processes and involve family members in a working group to evaluate and offer suggestions.