



LIBERAL
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Prince Edward Island
Generic Drug Plan



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The Liberal Government has taken a number of steps to increase access to prescription drugs for Islanders.

The Province has worked in collaboration with other provincial governments to reduce the per-unit cost of various drugs and to increase the use of generic versus more expensive brand-name drugs where medically appropriate.

Savings realized by these policy initiatives have been reinvested to broaden the number of drugs covered and to increase the number of Islanders eligible for assistance.

A number of advances have been made in the recent past to deal with particular medical conditions, financial circumstances and demographics.

Since 2007, 242 new drugs, and expanded coverage, have been added to the Provincial Drug Formulary. A Catastrophic Drug Program provides assistance to all Islanders with high medication costs. The Seniors Drugs Plan has been expanded.

In spite of these very positive improvements, a substantial gap in coverage remains.

Approximately one-third of Islanders do not have private medical insurance. For many of these Islanders, the cost of prescription drugs causes financial hardship.

The PEI Generic Drug Plan is intended to close this gap. The Plan will be open to all Islanders who are under the age of 65 and without private drug coverage.

Under the plan, Islanders will not pay more than \$19.95 for a generic drug prescription.

The only generics not covered by this Plan will be narcotics and drugs for diabetes.

Narcotics are excluded for health and public policy reasons. The Liberal Party and Islanders are rightly concerned about the quantity of narcotic drugs currently in circulation and use, and steps must be taken to decrease their prevalence. Diabetes drugs are covered by a separate plan. Islanders over the age of 65 are covered by the Seniors' Drug Plan, which caps prescription costs at an even lower amount.

Backgrounder

The Plan is estimated to cost \$4 million annually, but is expected to be largely offset by other savings.

For example, it is expected that the Plan will result in greater use of generic as opposed to more expensive brand-name drugs. Second, timely access to medication will enhance the health of the general population, reducing other impacts on the health care system. Finally, the Liberal Party believes that further savings in drug costs can be identified within the existing plans and will continue to aggressively pursue these savings in co-operation with other provincial governments.