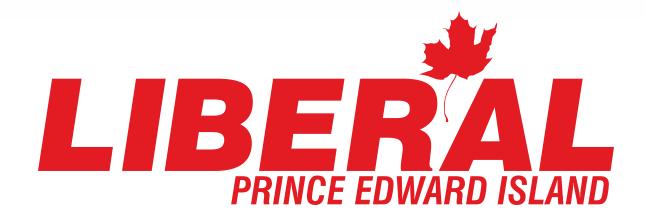
Media Backgrounder



Prince Edward Island Education Platform



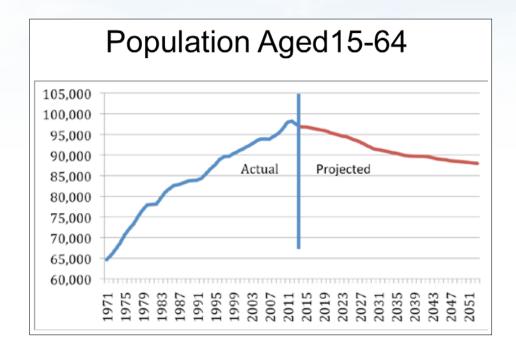
## **Backgrounder**



## Prince Edward Island Education Platform

The graph below indicates that P.E.I. is moving into a time of shrinking labor supply. The Liberal Party is committed to meeting the educational and workforce challenges of the 21st century. We must continue to grow the post-secondary credentials of Islanders and to properly position our students for a 21st century workforce.

To assist in these objectives, a new Liberal Government will create a department of workforce and advanced learning. This new department signals the important interconnection between our educational system and workforce.



## **Summary of Education Announcements:**

- Maintain an annual commitment of \$1.2 million to CHANCES to provide programs and supports for high-risk children from birth to 36 months and commit a further \$60,000 a year for five years to support literacy programs for these families.
- Continue with the Classroom Technology Upgrade at a total cost of \$8 million over five years. This will include the purchase of 7,000 new computers by 2016-17 and Wi-Fi in all Island schools by 2016.





## **Backgrounder**

- Capital investments in our schools, including a significant capital investment at Three Oaks Senior High of \$15 million over three years and the completion of the project at Ecole Francois Buote.
- Replace approximately 20 school buses per year.
- Double current funding for school breakfast and lunch programs. Food for this program must be healthy and locally purchased.
- No plans to close small schools.
- Will make necessary investments in teaching positions as required.
- Undertake a review of current programs for students with special needs.
- Move forward with school board elections in 2016.
- Establish District Advisory Councils.
- Maintain a 0 per cent interest rate on Prince Edward Island student loans and continue the George Coles Bursary, the Island Skills Awards and the Island Student Awards.
- Support strategic capital and operational investments at our post-secondary institutions and work with these institutions to develop multi-year funding plans.
- Support the new UPEI Engineering School.
- Support Island companies working with UPEI on research and development to bring new ideas to market.
- Provide capital funding to Holland College for a new performance hall for the Performing Arts Program and community
- Increase opportunities for French speaking Islanders to access a broader range of post-secondary programs in the language of their choice



