



LIBERAL
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Enhancing Health Services
in Rural PEI

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY *Under embargo until speech begins*



Enhancing Health Services in Rural PEI

Community Paramedicine Program

Paramedics play an essential role in the Island healthcare system but have the ability to do much more. At the present time, paramedics are typically on standby for emergency calls. When they receive a call they go to the location, attempt to stabilize the patient and deliver that patient to a health care facility. Under the Community Paramedicine Program, Paramedics would be trained to respond to calls and, in non-urgent and less-urgent situations, “treat and release” the patient at his or her own home.

In addition to responding to non-urgent and less-urgent calls in this manner, paramedics operating under the Program will play a role in supporting the Province’s current homecare services. Working in collaboration with other healthcare providers, paramedics will, when not responding to calls, visit seniors and other Islanders in their homes to ensure that their health care needs are being met.

In addition, a Liberal Government is committed to pursuing discussions on the introduction of a Bachelor of Science in Paramedicine.

Ambulance for Eastern Kings

Eastern Kings has seen the system struggle to provide rapid ambulance response times as the geographical area the fleet covers is larger than other regions. An additional ambulance in the Eastern Kings fleet will provide faster response times.

Physician Complement

The physician complement for Eastern Kings is four. At the present time, there are three physicians working in Eastern Kings and Health PEI is advertising for a fourth. One of the physicians currently working in Souris will be departing, and this has raised concerns that the complement will be reduced to three. Today’s announcement confirms that the Liberal Party will maintain the current complement.



Health Advisory Councils

At the present time, the governance structure of Health PEI includes a Board appointed by government. Concern has been expressed by citizens in Eastern Kings, in particular about insufficient opportunity for meaningful input into the decisions made by this Board and management at Health PEI. It has been suggested that one way to improve input is to establish Advisory Councils.

The Liberal Party supports the establishment of regional Advisory Councils; one for each County of the Province. The establishment of these Councils aligns with our emphasis on transparency and citizen engagement. In our view, it is essential for all Islanders to have the opportunity to express their opinions and views on health care services.

From our perspective, there is value in obtaining local perspective on the delivery of health care services.