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Highlighted bits have not been approved yet – resolutions for each item are being considered at each provincial council meeting, and if necessary will be forwarded to the next policy convention.

Welcome to the Policy Manual of the New Democratic Party of Prince Edward Island!

The New Democratic Party of Prince Edward Island believes that a more equitable and environmentally sustainable province is possible. But to achieve that we need broad social policies that share our wealth more fairly, bring better wages to our workers, better support those living on low incomes, bring more economic control to communities and protect the ecosystems which support us.

Over the past several decades as the power and influence of our corporate elites has grown and policies have been shaped to meet their needs we have seen increasing inequality on Prince Edward Island.

Workers are often forced to take precarious, poorly paid and unsafe jobs with unpredictable hours and schedules. Women are kept out of the workforce by an acute shortage of affordable and flexible childcare. Farmers find it hard to make a living using sustainable practices. A quarter of our children experience food insecurity and one half of single person households cannot afford average market rents.

At the same time lax regulation is taking its toll on our environment - the air we breathe, our rivers, our forests, our soil and our fragile coastal waters.

As you read through this manual you will see many policies addressing these issues.

The New Democratic Party of Prince Edward Island believes that we can build on PEI's shared sense of community by investing together in economic projects and services which will support our neighbours and family members. We support greater public investment in public or community-based non-profit services such as childcare, renewable energy, pharmacare, dental and vision care, housing, transportation and internet services. Such innovative projects will strengthen our communities by providing good jobs with greater pay equity for women.

We support innovation in renewable energy technology and businesses, both small and large, which are good for our communities, our workers and the environment and help us move towards a carbon-free economy.

We believe that the success of an economy must be measured not by how much it exports, not by its Gross Domestic Product and not by the wealth accumulated by a few, but by how well we are sharing our commonly created wealth and lifting people out of poverty, how well the rights of the Indigenous people of Epekwitk are being respected, how well we are including Newcomers, how well we are including those with disabilities and other differences and how well we are taking care of the land and ecosystems for future generations.

Many are troubled by our present government's high-handed lack of respect for democracy including the processes through which the people of Prince Edward Island have expressed their views. The New Democratic Party of Prince Edward Island believes in governing by listening to all citizens and learning from their perspectives. Our constitution firmly states our belief that "the people have a right to a voice in public policy through meaningful consultation and participation in all levels of public decision-making".

You may wonder how all of these policy positions have arisen. They are based on resolutions which have been brought forward by members and approved at annual conventions since the Party's foundation in 1961. There is often lively and rich debate around resolutions when they are being proposed for approval. Any member of the Party can bring a resolution forward and every member present gets to vote on its approval.

We hope you enjoy reading through the policy manual and find that it embodies some exciting visions for a just future!

A Snapshot of An Economy which Serves Us All

Progressive tax policies which enable us to build a fairer province and invest in stronger public services with wage parity for women

- Increasing tax benefits for low income households
- Creating a new tax bracket for the most wealthy
- A Pharmacare and vision care program
- More publicly and community owned rent-geared-to-income and affordable housing
- A Basic Income Guarantee pilot project
- Increasing social assistance rates
- Addressing food insecurity: e.g. school lunch program
- More affordable post-secondary education
- A full transition to renewable energy generation supported by public investment and public ownership
- A province-wide publicly run transit system
- Supporting research and innovation in renewable energy production and storage

A government-led and just transition to a carbon-neutral economy which keeps economic benefits on PEI and creates good jobs.

- **Supporting non-profit cooperatives and non-traditional ownership models in local renewable energy initiatives**
- **Support for organic farmers to expand production and markets**
- **Rewarding agricultural practices that increase soil organic content**
- **A fiscally neutral carbon tax with rebates to those living on low incomes**
- **Increasing grants to assist homeowners conserve energy in their homes**

**Fairness for
workers in a
vibrant
economy**

- **Raising the minimum wage to a livable wage**
- **Improving employment standards: paid sick leave, equal pay for equal work for part-time, temporary and contract workers, accommodation of disabilities and fairer over-time rules**
- **First Contract legislation to support unionizing workers**
- **Supporting businesses which are low-carbon, create good jobs and are good for the community and the environment**
- **Special protection for migrant workers to prohibit reprisals from employers and provision of health benefits on arrival**
- **A province-wide universal childcare program**

This is just a sample. Please read on for more detail on all of our policies.

A Livable Income for All

It is the role of government to create policies and programs to ensure that every person living in Prince Edward Island has a livable income without having to rely on charity to meet their basic needs. The NDP-PEI believes that it is possible to eliminate poverty by redistributing wealth on the basis of a fair tax system, and by investing in public services.

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Implementing, in cooperation with the federal government, a Basic Income Guarantee pilot project
- b) Making minimum wage a livable wage, to be evaluated on an annual basis
- c) Social Assistance Rates that match the real costs of living, and which are evaluated on an annual basis
- d) Investment in public services such as childcare, public transit, internet, pharmacare, vision care and dental care
- e) Investing in a school nutrition program, based on locally produced food, available to all students in the public school system
- f) Ensuring that people living on low incomes have access to programs and funding for energy efficiency renovations
- g) Speaking up for Island workers and calling on the federal government for improvements to the Employment Insurance program
- h) Constant monitoring and assessment of the Employment Standards Act and its implementation, to ensure that PEI workers, especially those who are not unionized, are treated fairly

Fairness for Workers

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) A minimum wage which reflects a livable income
- b) Making changes to the Employment Standards Act which bring dignity and fairness to the workplace and include new protections for workers including, **but not limited to:**
 - Fairer overtime rules

- Equal pay for equal work for casual, part-time, temporary and contract workers
 - Paid sick days
 - Fair scheduling that workers can depend on and organize their lives around
 - Accommodation of disabilities
 - Special protection for migrant workers to prohibit reprisals from employers
 - Parental benefits available to all employees, with no qualifying period
- c) First contract legislation to help unions get a first contract with an employer
- d) Working towards greater power for workers in the workplace
- e) Providing migrant workers with full access to health services immediately on arrival
- f) Requiring employers of migrant workers to be registered and recruiters to be licensed
- g) Implementing protective measures for migrant workers such as workplace inspections
- h) Demanding that the federal government
- end the practice of tying migrant workers to specific employers
 - transition migrant workers towards permanent immigration status upon arrival with rights to family reunification and full social entitlement

Education

Our schools and post-secondary institutions should offer students at all stages of their learning opportunities to explore the natural and built world around them, to be creative and to think critically, and to develop a sense of belonging and social responsibility.

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Election of school board trustees

- b) Education as a public service - no public school should charge additional student fees or require students or their families to take part in fundraising activities
- c) Maintaining a school transportation that meets the needs of all students in the public school system, including those who wish to take part in after school activities
- d) In consultation with Indigenous leaders and Elders, including Indigenous culture and history in PEI's school curriculum
- e) Expanding Indigenous language programs
- f) Including the cultural history of Prince Edward Island in Social Studies curricula, including the stories of Indigenous peoples, Black Islanders, Metis and Acadians as well as immigrants from other parts of the world who have contributed to PEI's cultural diversity
- g) Providing support for students who struggle to keep up with the pace of instruction in class, including publicly funded extra after-school tutoring (which would not be intended to replace instruction in class)
- h) Ensuring that all children in the public school system have access to the level of support they need in order to learn and participate
- i) Integrating environmental and outdoor education into the school curriculum
- j) Curtailing annual standardized provincial assessments and enabling educators to accurately assess students' ability and achievement through classroom-based measures
- k) Implementing a universal school food program, based on locally produced, nutritious food
- l) Ensuring accessible quality post-secondary education for all by:
 - Freezing and reducing tuition fees with the goal of eliminating tuition fees for all, including domestic and international students
 - Converting student loans to grants and eliminating interest on existing student loans
 - Providing adequate funding to colleges and universities to support high-quality post-secondary education

Health Care and Staying Healthy

The NDP-PEI recognizes that income, housing, transportation and social inclusion are significant determinants of mental and physical health. Ensuring that every resident of Prince Edward Island has a livable income and investing in strong public programs and services are essential elements of any plan to improve people's health and wellbeing.

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) A universally accessible, public healthcare system
- b) Making health promotion and prevention a priority by improving access to programs and activities (nutrition, exercise, etc) that support healthy living
- c) Interdisciplinary, collaborative models of practice which utilize the expertise of a broad range of personnel, including nurse practitioners, pharmacists and physiotherapists
- d) A fully funded public pharmacare system
- e) Development of publicly-funded programs for essential dental and vision care
- f) Providing all migrant workers with PEI health cards when they arrive in the province
- g) Legislation, certification and regulation to allow publicly-funded midwifery services to be integrated into the PEI healthcare system
- h) Provincial healthcare coverage of contraceptive drugs and devices
- i) Full access to publicly-funded, comprehensive medical and surgical abortion services for Island women
- j) Investment in public education about positive sexuality and consent, sexual and reproductive health
- k) Comprehensive programs that meet the needs of all people living with or at risk of HIV infection, including harm reduction (needle exchange/peer-to-peer outreach and support); and anonymous HIV testing
- l) A full range of services to meet the health needs of transgender people including access to hormone replacement therapy, clear policies and procedures for coverage of transgender surgeries, and qualified personnel to provide assessments and monitoring
- m) An Island-wide system of public long-term care facilities and sufficient investment in home care programs to ensure that Island seniors have access

to a full range of options and supports to live where they choose and as independently as they wish

- n) Treatment of youth addiction as a health issue
- o) Investment in community-based youth addictions and prevention programs with a focus on broadening supports which assist young people move successfully from the live-in programs into the community
- p) Expanding programmes for adults over the age of 24 who are suffering from addictions or mental illness with a focus on broadening supports which assist people move successfully from live-in or intensive programs into the community
- q) Supporting the development of mental health/well-being teams in all schools

Affordable Housing and Livable Communities

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Increasing public investment in public, non-profit and cooperative housing using varied and creative models appropriate for both urban and rural settings
- b) Expanding eligibility for public housing to all PEI residents in need including youth and people with disabilities
- c) Creating a land bank which protects land for use for affordable housing
- d) Working with other levels of government to introduce policies which ensure that our communities remain affordable for people living on low and medium incomes such as
 - requiring private developers to create a certain percentage of affordable rental units in every new development
 - creating policies to preserve rental buildings which are at risk of becoming unaffordable upon sale or of being demolished
 - regulating short-term rentals
- e) Working with other levels of government to introduce and enforce rental property standards by-laws which apply to interior maintenance and repair such as broken stove elements, cracks in walls, leaking windows, faulty fridges, lack of adequate fire escapes and dirty hallways
- f) Assisting low-income households gain energy efficiency [F]

- g) Amending the Rental of Residential Property Act to give tenants more rights, particularly with respect to protecting their tenancies, enforcing standards of maintenance and repair and challenging illegal rent increases.
- h) Supporting tenant advocacy organizations
- i) Encouraging community design and planning for walkability, movement with wheelchairs and mobility scooters, biking, access to public transit, access to services and green space as part of affordable housing development.

Childcare

A universal, affordable, publicly-funded childcare program is essential to women's equality, and an important contributor to the health and wellbeing of our children.

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Publicly funded, universal, affordable, high-quality public and not-for-profit childcare services that meet the needs of all parents, including parents who:
 - work irregular and/or part-time hours
 - are employed on a seasonal basis
 - require care for infants
 - have children with disabilities
 - live in rural areas of the province
- b) Appropriate and comprehensive education and training for childcare workers, including opportunities for in-service training
- c) High-quality jobs, with wages and benefits that provide a livable income and options for part-time work for childcare workers
- d) Enforcement and monitoring of PEI Employment Standards (including paid breaks, unpaid leave, overtime and paid holidays) in all childcare operations

Access to High Speed Internet

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Equality of access for all PEI residents to a publicly provided high speed 9as defined by national standards) internet service
- b) Improving access to internet services at libraries, post offices and other public spaces

Public Transit

The NDP-PEI believes that a comprehensive, publicly owned and operated Island-wide public transit system contributes to the health and wellbeing of all residents of Prince Edward Island by improving access to healthcare and other essential services, enhancing social inclusion, supporting labour force integration and promoting equality. It is also an important element of any plan to address climate change.

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Connecting Island communities with a publicly owned and operated, affordable transit system
- b) Oversight of the transit system by a provincial Public Transit Authority, with participation of appropriate municipal and provincial government representatives and of people who use the services, with responsibilities which would include:
 - Developing and monitoring service standards for all routes
 - Ensuring services are universally accessible
 - Maintaining and enhancing transit services in communities where they do exist
- c) Investing, where possible in innovative vehicle designs to provide the most cost-effective and environmentally sustainable service possible
- d) Investing in energy-efficient vehicles and a transition to electrically powered vehicles as soon as there is sufficient infrastructure

Staying in Control of Public Services

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Opposing public private partnerships (PPPs) which are wasteful and inefficient models for delivering public services
- b) Urging the federal government to stop negotiating “free trade” agreements which restrict PEI’s ability to create new public services and reverse previous privatisations [F]

Clean Energy, Green Energy Jobs and Addressing Climate Change

The PEI NDP believes that a complete transition to renewable energy is an important goal. This would include wind, solar, marine and other sources of natural power. Public, community and municipal ownership in our energy generating systems is important to ensure that our transition to a carbon-neutral economy brings economic benefits and good jobs in both urban and rural communities.

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) A full transition to renewable energy generation supported by public investment and community ownership of renewable energy production
- b) Supporting the establishment of municipally-owned energy utilities and grass roots, non-profit or cooperative models of ownership of renewable energy generation projects
- c) Public ownership of PEI's electrical distribution system
- d) Public investment in research and development in energy storage
- e) Enhancing programs to assist homeowners conserve energy through renovations and upgrades [Platform 2019]
- f) Upgrading the provincial Building Codes with respect to energy efficient design
- g) Policies requiring landlords to upgrade energy efficiency in residential rental premises
- h) Providing financial incentives to encourage electricity usage at times outside peak usage periods in order to reduce our need to invest in energy infrastructure
- i) Developing a province-wide publicly-owned transit system run on renewable energy
- j) A province-wide network of electrical car charging stations in public facilities such as Canada Post offices [Platform 2019]

At the current global rate of growth in CO₂ emissions, levels will hit 500 parts per million within 50 years, putting us on track to reach temperature boosts of perhaps more than 3 degrees C (5.4° F) – a level that climate scientists say would cause bouts of extreme weather and sea level rise that would endanger global food

supplies, cause disruptive mass migrations and cause great damage and loss of coastal land on PEI.

Therefore PEI New Democrats believe in:

- k) Implementing a fiscally neutral carbon tax including
 - A progressive rebate program which compensates those living on lower incomes for the added cost of the tax
 - Investment of a portion of the revenues in programs which help us reduce our use of fossil fuels and provide benefits such as enhanced energy-saving retrofit programs for home owners and public transit [Platform 2019]
- l) Monitoring our progress in reducing the use of fossil fuels through clear targets and timelines in areas such as retrofitting public buildings and reduction in the use of vehicles dependent on gasoline
- m) Regulating emitters where reductions in carbon emissions are not being achieved through carbon pricing
- n) A moratorium on off-shore drilling in Prince Edward Island waters

Stewardship of Land, Soil, Water and Forests

Prince Edward Island forests, land and water are held in common and we have a responsibility to protect them for future generations. The NDP-PEI is committed to putting protection of the environment at the centre of all decision-making, understanding that our economy and our communities depend on healthy ecosystems on land and in the waters surrounding this island.

The NDP PEI believes in:

- a) Making environmental education a core feature of the public school system
- b) Providing meaningful incentives for farmers to take sensitive lands out of production and to increase soil organic matter
- c) Strengthening, monitoring and enforcing crops rotation and buffer zone legislation and bringing an end to fall ploughing
- d) Closing loopholes in the PEI Lands Protection Act and respecting the Act's spirit which is to promote steadfast stewardship of PEI lands
- e) A strong PEI Water Act, monitored and enforced
- f) Making the current moratorium on high-capacity wells permanent

- g) Providing community-based watershed groups with secure funding and technical support [Platform 2019]
- h) Working with watershed groups to expand buffer zones and windbreaks, and to plant trees on sloped land
- i) An enhanced ban on cosmetic pesticides
- j) Prohibiting exploration or drilling for oil or gas in PEI waters

Agriculture

The NDP-PEI recognizes the importance of family farms in our food system and in our rural communities, and the need for a model of agriculture based on environmentally-sustainable production of diverse crops and livestock.

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) A provincial food policy based on the principles of food sovereignty¹
- b) Implementing targets for procurement of locally produced food by publicly-funded institutions as a way to support PEI food producers and provide fresh, healthy food in our schools, hospitals, prisons and long-term care facilities
- c) A universal school nutrition program, based on locally produced food
- d) Protecting and expanding supply management, as a means of fairly compensating farmers and ensuring that they receive at minimum their costs of production
- e) Ensuring farmers receive a livable income by working towards a Basic Income Guarantee program for all people living in Prince Edward Island
- f) Protecting soil from by strengthening crop rotation and buffer zone legislation, and restricting fall ploughing [Platform 2019]
- g) Working with farmers to advocate for targets incentives to enhance organic content, fibre and fertility
- h) Rewarding practices that protect and improve the quality of soil, land, forests and water
- i) Significantly reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides

¹ Food sovereignty is the right of all peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food based on ecologically sound and sustainable methods of production. It is the right of food producers to earn a fair living and the right of people to define their own food and agriculture systems.

- j) Compensation of farmers for land taken out of production for ecological considerations [Platform 2019]
- k) Providing financial support and developing marketing opportunities for organic farmers
- l) Closing loopholes in the PEI Lands Protection Act and respecting the Act's spirit which is to promote steadfast stewardship of PEI lands

Innovation and Creating Jobs

Working together using our many skills and talents we can build a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive economy.

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Creating good jobs through investment in new and innovative public services which meet the needs of Island residents in areas such as childcare, housing, mental health services, high-speed internet and dental and vision care.
- b) Investing in, and supporting, innovation in areas such as
 - renewable energy generation and storage,
 - a public transit system
 - processing and distribution of locally produced food such as seafood and agricultural produce
- c) Supporting small and large businesses which are low-carbon, create good jobs and are good for the community and the environment
- d) Supporting local community development, cooperative enterprises and other innovative non-profit ownership models
- e) Establishing a department of Cooperative and Community Economic Development

Fair Taxes, Smart Spending and Trade which helps us Build a Sustainable Island Economy

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Progressive tax policies which enable us to build a fairer province by investing in programmes such as more affordable post-secondary education and expanded public health, housing and childcare services

- b) Creating a new tax bracket in order to raise taxes for the highest income earners in Prince Edward Island
- c) Directing tax revenue to improve the lives, and increase the income, of people living on low-incomes
- d) Allowing deficits in certain economic conditions. Deficits help the economy recover more quickly from economic downturns by supporting spending despite the loss of jobs and private spending.
- e) Monitoring the public debt. Debts incurred to fund productive public investment, or to employ workers who would otherwise sit idle, can be economically efficient.² Incurring debt in order to mitigate climate change is an example of a wise investment on behalf of future generations.
- f) An overall goal of reducing deficits and public debt so that public spending may be applied to public services.
- g) Urging the federal government to stop negotiating new “free trade” agreements which contribute to increased inequality and restrict PEI’s ability to:
 - legislate in the public interest
 - implement policies promoting local economic development
 - expand public services
 - implement policies necessary to transitioning to a zero-carbon economy
 - transition our agriculture to a more sustainable model
- h) Exploring options for promoting trade and sectoral agreements with other countries and provinces which are based in co-operation and benefit workers, communities, Indigenous peoples and the environment in all participating jurisdictions.

Arts and Culture

The PEI NDP recognizes that artists play a fundamental role in Island culture. Cultural enterprises allow us to share our stories and celebrate the differences that

² In 2019 PEI’s debt-to-GDP ratio (the measure of our ability to pay off accumulated debt without incurring more) is better than our neighbours including New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba. In addition, we are on an overall positive trajectory.

make PEI the province that it is. Artists serve to reflect, promote, and critique Island society and culture.

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) The right of artistic freedom and freedom of speech for artists
- b) The creation of an independent Arts Council as an arm's length body from government for peer review of applications and distribution of grant funds
- c) Stable and secure funding for the creative sector based on the belief that artists should be paid for their work and share equitably in profits from their work
- d) A Basic Income Guarantee program which would support artists in the central activity of making art
- e) In consultation with Indigenous leaders, expanding Indigenous language programs and improving the representation of Indigenous culture and history in PEI's school curricula.
- f) Public financing of Indigenous cultural preservation, with a specific focus on fostering the preservation and proliferation of Indigenous languages and arts.
- g) A recognition of the distinct nature of both English and Acadian languages and ensure fair treatment of both linguistic communities in the implementation of all cultural policy. [F]
- h) Fostering of cultural expressions of a diversity of artists through the lens of sexuality and gender identities, age, ability, mental health, social class, ethnicity, and culture.

Truth and Reconciliation

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Working nation-to-nation to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action across Prince Edward Island and working towards a provincial adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples including, but not limited to:
 - Determining avenues for ongoing provincial and federal funding for culturally sensitive addictions program support for Indigenous people residing off-reserve across ancestral Mi'kmaq territory in PEI (Epekwitk)
 - Ensuring access to smudging and other cultural healing practices in healthcare facilities on Prince Edward Island

- Ensuring ongoing stable funding for the Mi'kmaq Confederacy and the Native Council of Prince Edward Island
 - Ensuring that Indigenous people residing off-reserve are supported through their own chosen strategies to expand the supply of truly affordable housing for their community and can provide culturally sensitive housing supports
 - Ensuring stable funding for short-term culturally sensitive emergency housing support available to off-reserve Indigenous communities
 - Ensuring that the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat consults meaningfully with, and addresses the rights, interests, and needs of, all Indigenous peoples including off-reserve Status, Non-Status, Métis, and Inuit Indigenous peoples in PEI
- b) Renaming Fort Amherst in consultation with the Indigenous people of Epekwitk

Immigration and Welcoming Newcomers

Immigrants to Prince Edward Island strengthen our workforce, but above all, they enrich our communities. The NDP-PEI supports policies and programs that make it easier for immigrants to remain and thrive in this province.

The PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Working with the federal government to:
- promote family reunification as a main priority for immigration and
 - expand the criteria for family-class immigrants up to and including first cousins
 - ensure language requirements do not exclude family-class immigrants [F]
- b) Providing equitable access for immigrants to come to PEI as:
- Refugees
 - Family class immigrants
 - Investors
- c) Reducing barriers for immigrants who do not qualify to come to Canada as economic immigrants
- d) An open process (according to federal rules) for appointment and licensing of immigration agents in PEI

- e) A clear and transparent process for the recognition of foreign professional credentials and diplomas [F]
- f) Provision of comprehensive services and supports for temporary foreign workers seeking information or help with matters including those relating to health, labour, justice, housing and communication
- g) Provision of access to legal and other services for permanent residents and for immigrants on a work or student visa
- h) Provision of independent oversight for the Provincial Nominee Program

Access to Justice

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) Conducting a review of lack of access to the justice system for those who cannot afford to hire a lawyer
- b) Expanding Legal Aid and other government services to provide access to legal assistance in a greater range of Family Law issues³
- c) Providing Indigenous people with culturally sensitive legal programs and the right to choose their own lawyer
- d) Ensuring that the Restorative Justice Program of the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island receives continuing and adequate funding
- e) Establishing a specific court process for domestic violence cases with a judge or judges with training in family violence
- f) Establishing a poverty law advocacy centre which specialises in legal issues experienced by those living on low incomes such as landlord/tenant issues, income assistance, refugee claims and Employment Insurance
- g) Adequate services for ex-offenders beginning the process of rehabilitation and integration back into Island communities
- h) Implementing Supported Decision-Making legislation to ensure that those with cognitive impairments maintain their right to stay in control of their decisions in accordance with the United Nations Convention on The Rights of Persons with Disabilities

³ These might include division of property, divorce and the need for supervised arrangements for picking up and dropping off children.

- i) Securing sustainable multi-level funding for community-based legal information services such as the Community Legal Information Association
- j) Ensuring that services are accessible to people who live in rural communities and people whose first language is neither English nor French

Democracy

The NDP PEI believes that all people living in Prince Edward Island should have a voice in its governance, and that our legislature and the policies it enacts should reflect the diversity and interests of PEI's population.

PEI New Democrats believe in:

- a) An electoral system based on Proportional Representation as a means to achieve fairer representation of the diversity of the population of PEI in government and a more cooperative way of functioning in the Legislature
- b) Supporting participation in the electoral system by identifying barriers to voting, ensuring those barriers are addressed and by providing whatever support is needed [F]
- c) Meaningful and comprehensive public consultation when new policies or legislation are introduced
- d) Strong environmental assessment legislation to ensure that public consultation processes are meaningful and effective
- e) Providing people living in municipalities and unincorporated areas alike with opportunities for public input into decisions about local government and rural amalgamation
- f) Eliminating patronage and implementing ethical guidelines for hiring of government workers and tendering of contracts
- g) Maintaining adequate support for the Auditor General's office
- h) Striving for diversity in government by supporting initiatives to increase representation of women and other under-represented groups
- i) Election of public school trustees
- j) Incorporating the "duty to consult" with the Indigenous people of Epekwitk into all planning and decision-making
- k) The importance of supporting civil society organizations, whose function includes engaging people in the community to participate in public processes and decision-making