

Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning

2011-2012 Budget Highlights

- 4,300 people have received training or job experiences through SkillsPEI programs since 2009.
- The new budget contains \$400,000 for new immigrant settlement initiatives.
- Development of the Biocommons Research Park will continue.
- More than 40 international trade events are planned by Trade Team PEI such as trade missions, trade shows and regional events such as the ECMAs.

The Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning supports business development, immigration, post-secondary education and skill development.

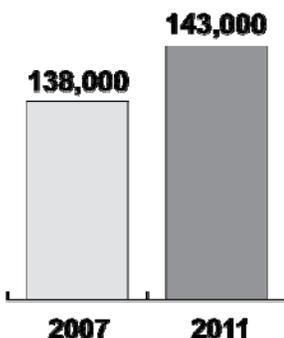
Skills PEI

In 2010, SkillsPEI assisted 2,400 people to get education and training, explore new careers or return to the workforce. For example, 650 individuals were supported to enroll in post secondary programs; 340 apprentices participated in block release training; 300 individuals were supported to complete or upgrade high school; and 161 individuals pursued new careers through the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers.

Population Secretariat

Through the Population Secretariat, government is investing more than \$2 million in settlement services such as language training, interpretive services, and supports for newcomers.

Population growth



The population of Prince Edward Island has grown from 138,000 in 2007 to over 143,000 in 2011.

Immigration to Prince Edward Island rose from 330 people in 2005 to 1,725 people in 2009. The background of immigrants is changing.

Immigrants to PEI by native language			
2005		2009	
English	70	Mandarin	1040
Korean	65	Korean	115
Mandarin	55	English	105
Spanish	35	Arabic	70

Innovation

In 2009, government launched the Island Prosperity Strategy, a social and economic development program that will see \$200 million invested over four years in people, innovation and strategic infrastructure.

The strategy builds on the Island's strengths in farming, fishing and higher education, while seeking opportunities in strategic sectors such as aerospace, bioscience and IT.

The Island aerospace sector, which did not exist 15 years ago, now employs 900 Islanders at 10 companies. Annual sales grew by 24 per cent from \$287 million in 2007 to \$355 million in 2010. At its current rate of growth, the industry will account for \$500 million in annual exports in the next seven years.

The Island bioscience sector includes 30 private companies and 10 research centres which employed almost 1,000 Islanders in 2010. Recent major developments include the expansion of Novartis Animal Health, the acquisition of Genzyme PEI, construction of the Natures Crops Internal oilseed plant in Kensington and a gold-medal finish for Island Abbey at the SIAL D'Or international food exhibition in Paris.

There are an estimated 60 companies involved in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in PEI, with more than 2,000 people employed in IT related work. With an average salary of \$51,000, the ICT industry pays wages well above the average in Prince Edward Island.

Graduate and post-doctoral fellowships were given to 21 researchers, many in biosciences and health.

The Game Force Designer's Bootcamps have offered hands-on video game design experience to more than 1,000 Island junior high students.

The Pilot and Discovery Fund, now in its third round, has extended support to 40 projects aimed at deriving commercially-viable projects from the work of Island researchers.

The Development and Commercialization Fund has helped 29 projects prepare to move to manufacturing or commercial-scale production.

Post-secondary education

While post-secondary enrolment across the Atlantic Region has slowed and in some cases declined, enrolment at Island institutions has continued to increase.

In 2010-2011, enrolment at UPEI increased by 3 per cent, and enrolment at Holland College increased by 21 per cent. Total enrolment at UPEI and Holland College grew from 6,068 in 2007 to 7,076 students this year.

In 2008 and 2009, the George Coles Bursary provided \$4,008,000 to 1,198 students; the Island Skills Award provided \$1,385,000 to 1,385 students; and the Island Student Awards provided \$1,406,200 to 3,210 students.

Operating grants to UPEI (unrestricted)	
2007/08	\$25,605,800
2008/09	\$28,041,773
2009/10	\$29,702,900
2010/11	\$30,296,900
Total	\$113,647,373. (\$4,691,100 increase)

The Holland College Centre for Applied Sciences and Technology is in the late stages of construction.

This \$17 million project (\$8.5 million each federal and provincial) will allow the college to double the number of students in bioscience technology, environmental science technology and wildlife conservation technology, while also allowing more students to enter other programs such as practical nursing and paramedicine. The new facility will allow the college to offer new courses in heritage retrofitting and renewable energy technology.

The new West Prince campus of Holland College in Alberton will begin accepting students in the fall of 2011. The new provincial budget contains \$1.1 million to assist with operating costs.