

## Supports for Seniors

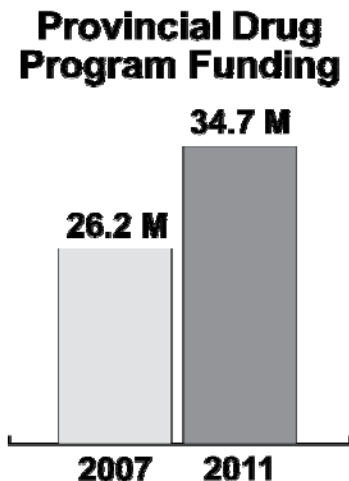
Government has taken significant measures to make life more affordable for seniors - through such initiatives as lowering electricity rates by 14 per cent, reducing the co-pay on seniors' drugs by 25 per cent, and bringing back the Seniors Home Repair program. More is being done to help seniors remain independent in the community. Home Care funding has doubled, modern new seniors housing units are being built and valuable social programs such as the LEAP program are being funded. Government continues to advocate for pressing seniors' issues such as the need to improve Canada's pension programs. A \$70 million program is well underway to replace five aging manors.

### Pensions

The province continues to press the federal government to strengthen Canada's pension programs and help seniors to retire with dignity. It has urged the federal government to work with provinces and territories to develop a fully funded, phased-in approach to increase the coverage and adequacy of the Canada Pension Plan, and provide more Canadians with access to low-cost pensions.

### Provincial Drug Programs

The medication portion of the Seniors Drug Program was reduced by 25 per cent in 2010. This brought the seniors' cost for a prescription down from \$11 to \$8.25. This has resulted in direct savings to seniors of over \$1 million per year. Government pays most of the cost of seniors' drugs which is about \$14.8 million per year.

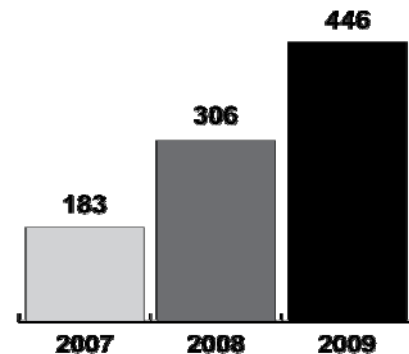


Prince Edward Island has one of the most comprehensive seniors drug programs in Canada. All Island residents covered through Medicare are eligible for the program when they turn 65. Total investments in provincial drug programs increased by 34 per cent in the past four years.

### Seniors Home Repair Program

Government brought back the Seniors Home Repair Program in 2007. This program helps seniors make their homes safer, energy efficient and comfortable - allowing them to stay in their homes longer. Since the program was reinstated, 1,150 seniors' homes have been repaired with funding of over \$1 million.

**Seniors Home Repair Program (grants)**



### Seniors Housing

There are 1,148 subsidized housing units across the province. A 34-unit seniors housing building is being built in Summerside at a cost of \$4 million. It is the first time in over 20 years that a new building has

been constructed for seniors. An additional 104 new subsidized seniors housing units will be made available across the province this year.

### Community Care

There are approximately 1,000 community care beds in the province. Government subsidizes over half of these beds. The number of Islanders in Community Care who received provincial government subsidies increased from 450 to 540 in the past four years. Total funding for these clients increased from \$4.5 million to more than \$7 million.

### Long term care

There are more long term care beds in Prince Edward Island than ever before. The total number of beds is now 1,052, up from 975 beds in 2006. There were 58 beds added in the past five years.

Government is replacing five public manors at a cost of over \$70 million. The manors will offer care and comfort to seniors, as well as residents with dementia and residents under the age of 60 with complex continuing care needs.

<b>\$70 million Manor Replacement Program</b>	
<b>Manor</b>	<b>Occupancy</b>
Colville Manor, Souris	Fall 2011
Maplewood Manor, Alberton	Fall 2011
Summerset Manor, Summerside	Fall 2012
Prince Edward Home, Charlottetown	Fall 2013
Riverview Manor, Montague	Construction 2015-2016

### Seniors Secretariat

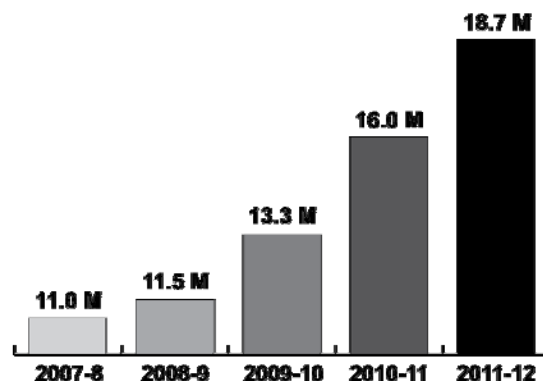
The Seniors Secretariat is an advisory body that enables seniors to work with government on seniors' issues and interests. The Secretariat provides grants to community groups to address seniors' issues such as ageism, age-friendly communities, financial security and safety, healthy aging, housing and social isolation. It recently developed a popular Seniors Guide that provides

information on government and community services for seniors along with contact information.

### Home Care

Funding for Home Care, including the Dialysis Program, increased by 70 per cent since 2007, from \$11 million per year to \$18.7 million a year.

**Home Care Funding (millions)**



During this period, the number of Home Care clients increased from 3,899 to 4,283, and the number of staff increased by 32 per cent.

This program includes a new Palliative Home Care Drug Pilot Project which has provided medications to 178 patients at home since 2008. Patients with end stage illness now spend 77 per cent of their time at home, compared to 55 per cent before the program was introduced. This worthwhile program has resulted in savings of \$2.7 million to the health care system.

### Elimination of ambulance fees

The elimination of in-province ambulance fees for seniors has resulted in savings to seniors of \$ 1 million. Out-of-province ambulance fees have also been eliminated for all Islanders.

### Learning Elders Arts (LEAP) Program

With annual government funding of \$50,000, the LEAP program enriches the lives of Island seniors through the arts. Professional artists teach seniors artistic disciplines such as visual arts, dance, music and theatre. Since 2008, over 1500 seniors participated in LEAP projects across the Island.