

PEI Election 2011: Equality Matters

Women's Equality a Priority...

Training and economic development

Women as Decision-Makers...

More women in leadership roles

Prevent Violence...

Proper supports for eliminating violence

Access to Justice...

Court for domestic violence matters

Supports for Caregiving...

New and flexible supports for caregiving

Health and Well-being...

Innovative health and well-being programs

Social Assistance and Housing...

Proper supports for eliminating poverty

**Our democracy needs your vote at the polls, and
it needs your voice every single day.**

*Diane Kays, Chairperson
PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women*



Possible questions about equality for candidates

- When you think about issues that affect women on PEI, what issues do you think of?
- What issues are you hearing on the doorstep that could affect women differently from men?
- What issues such as poverty or violence are people not talking about on the doorstep even though they know they exist? Why aren't these issues coming up?
- If you are my MLA for the next four years, what can I do to help you improve the status of women on PEI?



Consider joining us in a vote for a government that supports Active, Equal Citizens of PEI

Opportunity Knocks!

When a political candidate knocks on your door in September, it is your opportunity to talk to him or her about issues that are important to Island women.

My name is Diane Kays, and I'm the new Chairperson of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women. It matters to me that women across PEI are part of the political process. To me, that means talking with political candidates at the door about issues that matter. It means voting on October 3. It also means staying engaged after our new government is elected.

Our democracy needs your vote at the polls, and it needs your voice every single day.

It can seem that every issue is a women's issue. Over the years, we have seen that many issues have different impacts for women than they do for men. Women's and men's lives are still different. Our roles in our families and communities are different, and they are not equal. Women working full-time earn less money than men. Women still are responsible for much of society's caregiving and unpaid work. Women continue to experience violence at home and in the community.

You don't have to be an expert to be a part the political process. You don't need statistics and charts and graphs. You can tell your political candidates what you experience and what you see in your community. Or you can start with good questions like I suggest on the checklist.

This Election Guide features the voices of the government-appointed women of the Advisory Council. They profile a selection of election issues important to women's equality. These are priorities of good government that will benefit all Islanders.



*Sue Connolly
Breadalbane*



EQUALITY Matters
Prince Edward Island Election 2011

Issue: Making Women's Equality a Priority

"My name is Sue Connolly. It matters to me that women's equality is a priority for government. This means our next government should support women's success through good education and training opportunities and economic development plans that include women."

The 2011 *Equality Report Card* found that government is doing better than in the past to consider how policy affects women differently from men. Government has also updated statistics about PEI women, which will be a big help for future planning. We want our next government to count women in when they make plans for economic development. Many Island women are well-educated and well-trained; others need support to get into well-paying, stable jobs. Women's learning and work will benefit families – and the whole Island economy.

"Please join me. Take the opportunity to talk with politicians about making women's equality a priority on PEI."

Possible questions about equality for candidates:

- Will you support education or training that helps women and men find their places in non-traditional areas of work?
- Will you consult women and include women meaningfully when you make plans for economic development?

*Catherine Rankin
Summerside*



EQUALITY Matters
Prince Edward Island Election 2011

Issue: Women in Decision-Making

"My name is Catherine Rankin. Seeing women in leadership roles is important to me. I want our next government to take steps to create a good balance of women in elected office and on appointed boards."

The 2011 *Equality Report Card* found that women are well-represented in the public service, even gaining a foothold in non-traditional jobs. The balance between women and men on appointed boards is increasing. But women and diverse groups are still under-represented in elected office. We expect our next government to show faith in women's leadership. First, we expect a strong showing of women in cabinet, and then steps to reduce barriers to women in elected office.

"Please join me. Take the opportunity to talk with politicians about women in decision-making on PEI."

Possible questions about equality for candidates:

- As an MLA, what will you do to make the work of a politician more attractive for women and under-represented people to run in the future?
- What steps will your party take to support a better balance of women and men in elected office?

*Louise MacLeod
Vernon*



EQUALITY Matters
Prince Edward Island Election 2011

Issue: Family Violence Prevention

“My name is Louise MacLeod. It is important to me for government to take steps to prevent family violence and violence against women. The community organizations that provide services to women and families need more support.”

The 2011 *Equality Report Card* found that government has been paying attention to family violence prevention. For example, they have supported a new mandate for the Premier’s Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention and staffed the prevention coordinator’s position. These supports are important. We expect our next government to invest in the community organizations that provide outreach, counselling, emergency services, and shelter for families in crisis and women in fear.

“Please join me. Take the opportunity to talk with politicians about preventing family violence and violence against women on PEI.”

Possible questions about equality for candidates:

- Will you increase funding for community organizations that provide services to women and families that experience violence?
- Will you enhance programs that prevent violence against women of all ages and abilities and from diverse backgrounds?

*Eileen
Brown Wilt
West Cape*



EQUALITY Matters
Prince Edward Island Election 2011

Issue: Access to Justice

“My name is Eileen Brown Wilt. It matters to me that women and families have access to justice. I want our new government to improve access to family law legal aid, or alternatives, and to set up a domestic violence court option for women who experience violence.”

The 2011 *Equality Report Card* found that the current government has continued to make small changes to improve the PEI Family Violence Act. There was an increase in access to family law legal aid in 2009, though none since. For women to have equitable access to justice, we expect our next government to show leadership and fresh thinking about family law legal aid. We are also looking for swift action on a domestic violence court.

“Please join me. Take the opportunity to talk with politicians about access to justice for women on PEI.”

Possible questions about equality for candidates:

- Will you immediately work to establish a domestic violence court option?
- Will you take part in planning new ways to support families to settle disputes fairly and affordably inside or outside of courts?

*Pauline Thomson
Canoe Cove*



EQUALITY Matters
Prince Edward Island Election 2011

Issue: Supports for Caregiving

“My name is Pauline Thomson. It is important to me for our society to support the caregivers who help our children and seniors. I expect our next government to continue to improve early childhood care and education and home care for seniors.”

The 2011 *Equality Report Card* found that the current government has made big investments and set high goals for support for pre-school children. There has been new investment in home care for seniors, as well, though these supports start from almost nothing. We challenge our next government to continue to set the bar high in supporting children and seniors and their caregivers.

“Please join me. Take the opportunity to talk with politicians about supports for caregiving on PEI.”

Possible questions about equality for candidates:

- Will you continue to enhance access to good quality early childhood care and education?
- Will you invest in homecare for seniors and other supports that let them live at home as long as they choose?

*Kelly Robinson
Stratford*



EQUALITY Matters
Prince Edward Island Election 2011

Issue: Women’s Health

“My name is Kelly Robinson. Island women’s health matters to me. I want our next government to put a priority on helping people with mental illnesses and problems with addictions, especially young people and women.”

The 2011 *Equality Report Card* found that government took steps to integrate nurse practitioners in health care, to have nurses trained to help people who experience sexual abuse, and to move towards midwifery choices for women giving birth. What needs urgent attention from our next government: services and supports, in communities across PEI, for people who need help with mental health or addictions. Women and men and diverse groups all have particular needs that require special attention.

“Please join me. Take the opportunity to talk with politicians about women’s health on PEI.”

Possible questions about equality for candidates:

- Will you increase resources in the health system to assist people with mental health and addictions challenges?
- Will you look at ways to prevent illness, by considering how factors in people’s lives affect their health (for instance, their income, gender, culture, age, or language)?

*Marcia Enman
Wellington*



EQUALITY Matters
Prince Edward Island Election 2011

Issue: Social Assistance and Housing

“My name is Marcia Enman. It is important to me to help people meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter with affordable housing and adequate social assistance. I expect our next government to play its part in caring for people who have too little income to meet their basic needs.”

The 2011 *Equality Report Card* found that increases in affordable housing and social assistance are helping vulnerable citizens, but are not enough to make sure recipients can meet their basic needs. Increases to the minimum wage and improvements to employment standards help workers, but do not bring them up to a livable income. We expect our next government to support a livable income for all citizens.

“Please join me. Take the opportunity to talk with politicians about women’s economic status on PEI.”

Possible questions about equality for candidates:

- Will you invest in affordable, appropriate, and accessible housing and work to prevent homelessness on PEI?
- Will you press for increases to social assistance, disability supports, and other programs that assist vulnerable Islanders to achieve a livable income?

*Gwyn Davies
Belle River*



EQUALITY Matters
Prince Edward Island Election 2011

Issue: Poverty Prevention and Reduction

“My name is Gwyn Davies, and I’m Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. It is important to me for our next government to develop a plan to eliminate poverty on PEI.”

The 2011 *Equality Report Card* came out shortly before the current government released the discussion paper “Preventing and Reducing Poverty in Prince Edward Island.” We expect our next government to consult and collaborate with community organizations to develop a poverty reduction strategy that includes all sectors of PEI society and all departments of government. We want every citizen to see they have a role in working towards a province where everyone has an adequate income that allows them to live in dignity and good health.

“Please join me. Take the opportunity to talk with politicians about eliminating poverty on PEI.”

Possible questions about equality for candidates:

- How will you listen to grassroots community voices as government develops a strategy to prevent and reduce poverty on Prince Edward Island?
- What part will you play in a strategy to reduce poverty? What part do you believe government should play in reducing poverty?