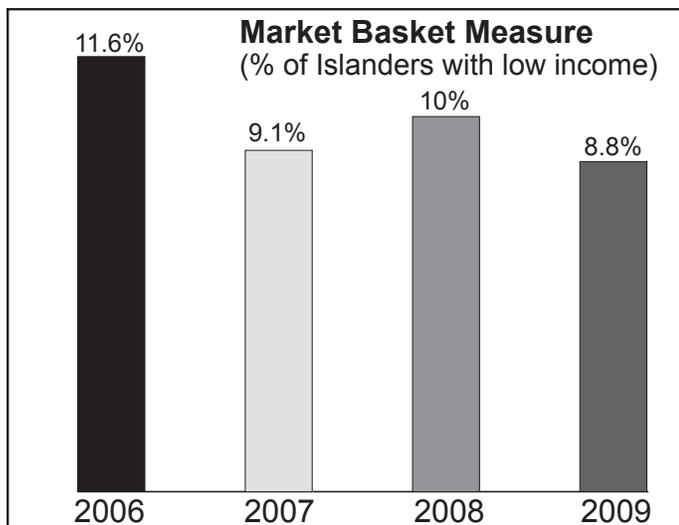


## Support for Low Income Islanders

### Low Income Measures

The two most widely used ways to measure low income in a region in Canada are the Market Basket Measure (MBM) and the Low Income Cut Off (LICO). Based on these measures, poverty rates in Prince Edward Island are among the lowest in the country.

Low Income Measures		
<b>Market Basket Measure (MBM)</b> Income needed by a family for necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, basic needs		
Low income threshold (PEI family of four)	Rural PEI \$30,391	Urban PEI \$31,470
Percentage considered low income (2009)	PEI 8.8%	Canada 10.6%
<b>Low Income Cut-off Measure (LICO)</b> Income level where a family would devote at least 20% more of their income on food, clothing, and shelter than the average family		
Low income threshold (PEI family of four)	Rural PEI \$22,783	Urban PEI \$29,089
Percentage considered low income (2009)	PEI 4.8%	Canada 9.6%



The percentage of Islanders with low income according to the Market Basket Measure, has steadily declined from 12.8% in 2002 to 8.8% in 2009, the lowest it has been in many years.

Currently, the groups in Prince Edward Island who are most at risk of living in poverty are single parent families, singles aged 45-64, persons with disabilities, Aboriginals and recent newcomers.

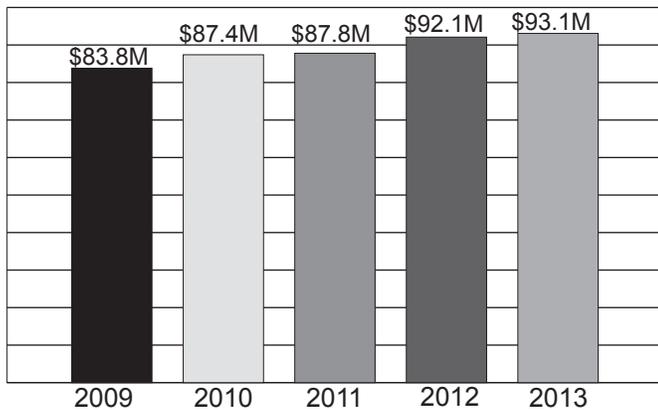
### Provincial government supports for Islanders with low income

Even though poverty rates on the Island are lower than most other provinces, government is firmly committed to increasing support for Islanders who need help with their basic needs, and to creating conditions that enable Islanders to work and earn a good income.

## Social services

This year the provincial government will invest more than \$93 million in direct supports to Islanders with low income through the Department of Community Services and Seniors. The department's budget is approximately \$10 million more than it was five years ago.

**Community Services and Seniors Budget**



<b>Major program allocations</b> Department of Community Services and Seniors, 2012-2013	
Social housing	\$10.8 million
Social assistance	\$34.1 million
Child care subsidies	\$3.9 million
Disability supports	\$11.3 million
Community grants	\$7.6 million

## Other social programs

Government has invested heavily in social programs such as health, education, and early childhood development in order to give all Islanders an equitable chance in life.

Government is protecting the major gains made recently in these areas by ensuring that there are no reductions in the Health and Wellness, Education and Early Childhood Development, and Community Services and Seniors budgets.

## Community Grants

The impact of poverty goes well beyond social justice. Poverty impacts the lives of Islanders in many ways, whether it is social isolation, low self-esteem, increased stress or narrowed opportunities, which all contribute to lower personal fulfilment.

To help address these issues, government provides funding of more than \$7.6 million each year to more than 30 non-government organizations who work directly with Islanders at the community level.

## Economic support

Government is taking steps to reduce government expenditures and return to balance so that government services are protected for future generations.

It is also working to spur economic growth, which in turn will create jobs, increase wages and allow Islanders to better provide for themselves and their families.

Government regulations have increased minimum wage by 33% since 2007, bringing the minimum wage to \$10 per hour.

Employment and training opportunities are offered to Islanders with low income through the federal/provincial Labour Market Agreement and Labour Market Development Agreement.

Literacy and adult education programs continue to be available for low income and other Islanders at Holland College locations throughout the Island.

Many grants and bursaries are available to encourage lower income students to pursue higher education and skills training.