



PATTERSON PALMER

Law



A guide to doing **BUSINESS** in
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Canada



A GUIDE TO DOING BUSINESS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CANADA

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1. THE PROVINCE AT A GLANCE

1.1 Province's geography and proximity to other countries.

Prince Edward Island is a province of Canada and is an island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the east coast of Canada. It is connected to the North American continent (via the Province of New Brunswick) by [Confederation Bridge](#).

The Province is also accessible via air and a seasonal car ferry connecting Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Canada borders the United States, and Prince Edward Island is in close proximity to Toronto, Montreal, Boston, and New York City. The Province is 304 miles (490 km) east of the US (Maine) border, 684 miles (1,100 km) northeast of Boston, MA, 1,019 miles (1,640 km) east of Toronto, and 1000 km (625 miles) from Montréal.

The province's capital city, [Charlottetown](#) is located 144 miles (231 km) south of Halifax International Airport. As of 2004, [Statistics Canada](#) Preliminary Postcensal Updates lists the population of Prince Edward Island as 138,102, and that of Charlottetown as 58,358.

1.2 Climate

There are four seasons in Prince Edward Island. Spring temperatures usually range from 8 to 22 degrees C (46 to 71 degrees F). Summer temperatures are usually in the mid to high 20 degrees C (70s F) and can go as high as 35 degrees C (90 degrees F). Autumn temperatures range from 8 to 22 degrees C (46 to 71 degrees F). Winter temperatures usually range from -3 to -11 degrees C (26 to 11 degrees F).

1.3 Languages

English and French (especially in certain areas of the province) are the predominant languages in Prince Edward Island.

1.4 Exchange rates

Prince Edward Island uses the Canadian Dollar as currency. For current exchange rates, refer to the [Bank of Canada](#) website.

1.5 Cultural or religious influences or prohibitions on the conduct of business

There are no cultural or religious influences or prohibitions on the way business is conducted in Prince Edward Island.

1.6 Province's infrastructure

KPMG has developed a [Competitive Alternatives Report](#), which is a comprehensive guide for comparing business costs in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. This report measures the combined impact of various cost components that affect specific business operations based on geographic location. The 2004 report cites Canada as the overall cost leader for 2004 with a cost index of 91.0, representing a 9.0 percent cost advantage over the United States (US = 100.0). Charlottetown was cited as having a 12% cost advantage relative to the U.S. Further information on the Prince Edward Island economic climate can be found at the [PEI Business Development Inc.](#) website.

The major industries in Prince Edward Island have traditionally been agri-food products/services, fishing/aquaculture, and tourism and these continue to be the largest contributors to the Province's economy. Emerging industries include equipment/machinery manufacturing, health/education, and shared services/call centres.

[Charlottetown](#) hosts the only commercial airport in the province, although Summerside is the site of a former Armed Forces base, which now operates under [Slemon Park Corporation](#). Slemon Park is 1500 acres with 70 buildings including warehouse space, offices and hangars. It also hosts Summerside airport, with daily commuter service to Maritime centres and connections to the world. It is also the site of Summerside Aerospace Centre with 150,000 square feet of hangar space.

[Confederation Bridge](#) opened on May 30, 1997 and became the main link between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick (mainland North America). It offers 24-hour access between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick including services such as traffic control, wind monitoring, snow and ice removal, and a pedestrian and cyclist shuttle service. It is 12.9 km in length and 11 metres in width, including one lane and one emergency shoulder in each direction.

There are no longer any railway systems in the Province. Most goods are carried into and out of the province by transport or by sea carriage. The Province has a modern highway transportation system, although there are weight restrictions imposed during the early Spring. The Province also hosts 4 major ports at Summerside, Charlottetown, Georgetown and Souris which accommodate vessels carrying pulpwood, gravel, oil, potatoes, and other products.

There are full service industrial parks in the top two industrial areas on Prince Edward Island: Summerside and Charlottetown. [West Royalty Industrial Park](#), on the northern perimeter of Charlottetown, is about 5 minutes from the Charlottetown Airport. Facilities ranging from 1700-30,000 square feet are available for lease.

It also offers a day-care service, free on-site parking for over 1000 cars with expansion capabilities, and the landlord assumes responsibility for all maintenance to the exterior of the facility. The 38 acre Industrial Park in Summerside is located 5 minutes from the town's airport. Lease space ranges from 2000-7500 square feet. Both industrial parks also offer fully serviced land for sale. Commercial construction costs range from \$40 to \$45 per square foot. The Charlottetown Airport Authority and the City of Charlottetown have recently opened a business park at the [Charlottetown Airport](#) providing excellent industrial sites with ready airport access. The recently constructed Souris Food Park in eastern Prince Edward Island is a 52 acre food park overlooking Souris Harbour. It is fully serviced and has capacity for up to five additional food processing tenants.

1.7 Telecommunications system.

Prince Edward Island has a modern telecommunications system. Users have access to telephone (including cellular, paging, PCS, GPS), facsimile, computer-related communications, cable, satellite, etc. The Island Telephone Company ("Island Tel") is PEI's premier telecommunications company. Island Tel is a sole-source, full-services communications provider to every major business in the province. The company is affiliated with the other Atlantic telecommunications companies through [Aliant](#), a Canadian leader in modern voice, video and data transmission. A strategic partnership between Island Tel and the government of Prince Edward Island has been successful in delivering solutions to call centers, distance education initiatives and network development programs.

In May of 1996, Island Tel announced the creation of a new subsidiary company, Island Tel Advanced Solutions. Focusing on the development of information technology related services and solutions, the company, which operates in an unregulated environment, provides the flexibility to customize products and services to meet the current and future needs of business clients.

1.8 Public services

Clean water supplies are readily available throughout the Province. Outside city or town limits, homes or businesses are connected to a private well, whereas users within city or town limits access a public supply operated by the municipality. Electricity is provided by a private sector provider, although rates are regulated. The Province is not yet linked to natural gas reserves, although this may be available in the future with the development of the Sable Island Offshore Natural Gas Project.

2. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 Government

Prince Edward Island has a democratic form of government electoral system. Upon election a party remains in power for 5 years, although an election writ is often “dropped” within 4 years. The most recent election being held September 29, 2003. A governing party may only be defeated (forcing an election) upon defeat of a fiscal bill. Since 1990, the Liberal party held power until 1997 when the Conservative party took office and currently holds power. The head of state in PEI is the Lieutenant Governor, being the Queen's representative. The leader of government is the Premier who appoints 6-9 individuals as departmental ministers. Prince Edward Island has 27 electoral districts, each with one representative.

2.2 Courts

Prince Edward Island's judicial system, although defined as a 3rd branch of government, is independent of government and impartial. There are various methods of alternate dispute resolution available in Prince Edward Island, in fact few of the total cases proceed to trial. Cases may be settled at any point before trial, they may be submitted to arbitration, mediation, or may not be resolved at all. The length of time to resolve a dispute depends on the resolution method chosen, the complexity of the case, and various other factors.

Criminal law and civil law in Prince Edward Island proceed through the Province's [court system](#) by two slightly different routes. Criminal matters first go to Provincial Court and then to the PEI Supreme Court (depending on the charge). The Supreme Court has a trial division and an appeal division, after which cases may proceed to the Supreme Court of Canada. In civil proceedings, any claims up to \$8000 go to Small Claims Court. All other claims go to the Prince Edward Island Supreme Court, beginning at the Trial level.

Proceedings in the Prince Edward Island Supreme Court are governed by the [Rules of Civil Procedure](#). These rules provide for two types of proceedings, namely an “Action” (facts in dispute) and an “Application” (facts not substantially in dispute). Absent settlement, an action eventually results in a “trial” with witnesses, evidence and argument, while an application results in a hearing usually with only Affidavit evidence and argument of law.

3. STRUCTURES FOR DOING BUSINESS

3.1 Prince Edward Island Corporations

A corporation is a legal entity distinct from its owners, the shareholders. The shareholders have ultimate control over management of the company through the election of directors. To incorporate in Prince Edward Island, one must do so under the [Companies Act](#) (PEI). A

corporation is usually a more complex type of business structure and often involves higher legal and accounting fees. The biggest advantage of incorporation is limited liability, therefore no shareholder or director is personally liable for the debts, obligations or legitimate acts of the company. A shareholder's liability for debts and obligations is limited to the amount the shareholder has paid or agreed to pay for their shares. Further, there is a potentially greater source of capital available, shares may be transferred without distributing the management of the business, it does not cease to exist with the death of a shareholder, and there is a benefit of greater flexibility concerning taxation.

The Prince Edward Island *Companies Act* requires disclosure of all shareholders having more than 5% of the issued and outstanding shares of the company both at the time of incorporation and subsequently on an annual basis. This provision is driven by historic concern in PEI over non-resident land ownership. Until 1875, the entire Island was largely owned by non-resident English landlords.

Companies are incorporated in Prince Edward Island under the *Companies Act* by letters patent, issued under the authority of the Crown's representative. Letters patent is the incorporating document issued by the Department of Provincial Affairs and Attorney General. The distinction between public and private companies is the same as that in the federal legislation.

A person wishing to incorporate must have [Consumer, Corporate & Insurance Services Division](#) conduct a computerized name search of the proposed corporate name. Other costs of incorporating include lawyers' fees, corporate seal, minute book, etc. A corporation incorporated under the Prince Edward Island legislation must file an annual return with the Consumer, Corporate & Insurance Services Division, which includes the name of the company, date of incorporation, fiscal year end, and a description of the business carried on in Prince Edward Island and outside the Province, as well as disclosure of the authorized and issued share capital and names and addresses of officers, directors, and stakeholders. The actual letters patent for corporations incorporated under the *Companies Act* are usually available within 24 to 48 hours after incorporation.

Non-profit organizations may also be incorporated under Part II of the *Companies Act*. Such are incorporated without share capital by letters patent. Most of the regulations that follow a corporation follow a non-profit corporation, however there are some differences. A non-profit corporation's application must be made by three individuals rather than just one. These individuals must be over the age of 18.

The by-laws are more flexible, usually the quorum for non-profit organizations are lower than in regular corporations. The Directors of non-profit organizations may be less liable than the directors of for-profit corporations because these directors may be seen as doing a community service and will be held less liable for their actions in this regard. On the whole, non-profit organizations have the same rights and responsibilities as a regular corporation. Non-profit organizations often seek a charitable organization tax number from [Canada Customs and Revenue Agency](#).

3.2 Sole Proprietorship in Prince Edward Island

A sole proprietorship is the simplest form of business enterprise. It must be [registered](#) under the [Partnership Act](#). All functions of the business are performed by one person, and that person assumes all risks and liability. Unlimited liability applies as all business and personal assets of a proprietor may be used to satisfy liabilities.

If a sole proprietorship is operated under a person's name, it does not have to be registered, but if a business name is used, or additional names indicating plurality of ownership, (i.e., John Smith and Sons), it must be registered with the Department of Provincial Affairs and Attorney General, [Consumer, Corporate & Insurance Services Division](#). The purpose of registration is that the business name selected may already be registered by another business.

The benefits of this type of business structure is the low cost of organization. The registration remains valid for three years, at which time it must be renewed [tax considerations - losses may be offset against the sole proprietor's income from other sources]. A NUANS name search is required for corporate and business names.

3.3 Partnership in Prince Edward Island

A partnership is a contract between two or more persons where there is a proportional sharing of profits and losses between them. A partnership agreement should be drawn up, outlining rights, interests and responsibilities of each partner. A partnership allows individuals to pool resources and divide management responsibilities. However, a drawback is the fact that each partner is held liable for all the debts and liabilities of the partnership (see *Partnership Act*). Partnerships must be registered under the *Partnership Act* through the [Consumer, Corporate & Insurance Services Division](#). The registration remains valid for three years, at which time it must be renewed.

A partnership may be a general partnership or a limited partnership. In Prince Edward Island, the *Partnership Act* governs general partnerships, although most of the provisions relate to matters which are usually addressed in a partnership agreement, which will take priority over the *Act*. All partners in a general partnership are entitled to participate in ownership and management (subject to the Partnership Agreement).

A partnership will be responsible for a wrongful act or omission of any partner acting in the ordinary course of the business of the firm. There is joint and several liability for all contractual and debt obligations of the partnership.

Persons carrying on business in a partnership must file a declaration in the Department of Provincial Affairs and Attorney General in the form prescribed by the *Act* with an affidavit of one of the partners respecting the name of the partnership. The declaration must be filed within three months after the formation of the partnership.

A person carrying on business by himself or a corporation carrying on business under a different name may register the name under the *Act*.

Partnership Agreement

A standard partnership agreement should cover such items as contribution to the partnership, banking, division of profits, accounting and bearing of expenses. The agreement also restricts the rights of partners to assign or pledge their partnership interest and prescribes a very simple buy-sell arrangement in the event one partner wishes to leave the partnership. There should be a clause outlining the disposition of a partner's interest on death or insolvency. For example one partner should take out life insurance and leave the other partner as the beneficiary and in the event that one partner goes bankrupt the other partner should be able to buy out the shares of the other partner. The division of assets on the dissolution of the partnership should also be addressed.

Dissolution of a Partnership

Any declaration ceases to be valid three years after its filing, unless a renewal has been filed extending the validity of registration for a further three year period. The Registrar must publish in the Royal Gazette and a newspaper the list of names to be dissolved. In practice, a substantial period of grace is given by the Registrar before a name is actually dissolved by this process. Further, on application of a partnership, the court may adjudge a dissolution of the partnership.

3.4 Limited Partnerships

[The Limited Partnership Act](#) governs limited partnerships. In a limited partnership there is a separation between managing partners and “silent” partners, or those who only contribute capital. A limited partner is liable only to the extent of his/her capital contribution. (A limited partnership must have at least one general partner). A limited partnership may be formed to carry on any business that a partnership without limited partners may carry on.

A limited partnership is formed when a declaration is filed. The declaration shall be signed by all of the partners desiring to form a limited partnership and shall state the firm name under which the limited partnership is to be conducted; the general nature of the business; the names of the partners, generals and limited partners being respectively designated; the value of money and other property contributed or to be contributed by each limited partner; the principal place of business in the province; such other information as is required by the regulations made under the *Act*. Every declaration expires five years after its date of filing unless the declaration is cancelled by filing a declaration of dissolution or the declaration is replaced by filing a new declaration before the expiry date. The *Act* sets out the powers of the limited and general partners. An extra-provincial limited partnership offering its units for sale in the province must be registered under the *Act*.

3.5 Other Business Entities

Co-operative

A Co-operative is a body corporate, a separate legal entity created under the [Co-operative Associations Act](#). Each member of a cooperative has one vote, no member is personally liable for the debts, obligations or acts of the co-operative except to the amount of shares. There are many active co-ops in Prince Edward Island, where they are a popular of doing business especially in Acadian areas of the Province.

Credit Union

Credit Unions in Prince Edward Island are governed by the [Credit Unions Act](#).

Joint Venture

Parties may form a joint venture when agreeing to work together on a project. The joint venture is formed by agreement between the parties and normally lasts until completion of the project. A joint venture is neither a partnership nor a separate legal entity, although the parties may agree to incorporate a new company whose member companies form a consortium.

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUSINESS

4.1 Business Names

In Prince Edward Island, every proprietorship and partnership must be registered under the *Partnership Act*, and all corporations must be registered under the *Companies Act*. An unregistered business cannot maintain a proceeding in court in Prince Edward Island in connection with that business unless it has leave of the court. A business in contravention of the Act may obtain leave if it satisfies the court that the failure to register was inadvertent, there is no evidence that the public has been deceived or misled, and at the time of the application the business is no longer in contravention.

A corporation, partnership or proprietorship that has been established elsewhere may carry on business in Prince Edward Island but must register under the [Licensing Act](#). Application forms and information on prescribed fees may be obtained from [Consumer, Corporate & Insurance Services Division](#).

4.2 Franchise and Competition Regulation

Prince Edward Island has no statute regulating franchise operation other than the requirement to be licensed in the Province. All franchises are required to be licensed under the *Licensing Act*. The license has a one-year duration at which time it must be renewed.

4.3 Licensing

A corporation must be licensed to do business in Prince Edward Island before they are able to bring or maintain any action, suit or other proceeding in any court in Prince Edward Island in respect to any contract made in whole or in part in Prince Edward Island in connection with any part of its business done or carried on in Prince Edward Island while it did not hold a license that was in force. This does not apply to any company incorporated by or under the authority of an Act of the Parliament of Canada, or by or under the authority of an Act of the Legislature of Prince Edward Island.

5. INVESTMENT

5.1 General investment policies

Investment and competition law is primarily under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Federal Government, however, there are certain unique Prince Edward Island reporting requirements for the purchase of real property by non-residents (see Real Property section).

5.2 Investment Incentives

[PEI Business Development Inc.](#) has several incentive programs for business. It assists businesses in PEI develop from start up through to international marketing. Programs are available to manufacturers and processors for capital costs and marketing costs focusing on the provincial market. There are also programs available for export development.

5.3 Real Estate

Prince Edward Island employs a registry system of land recording where one must determine the quality of his or her title based primarily on priority at time of registration. Real estate investors in Prince Edward Island may acquire several types of interests in land including full ownership (freehold estate), an interest for a specified period (leasehold interest) or a partial interest in a freehold or leasehold interest as co-owners under a joint venture. Further, Prince Edward Island is the only province in Canada that has not abolished fee tails (estate with a fixed line of inheritable succession).

The Agreement of Purchase and Sale

Most real property acquisitions begin with an agreement of purchase and sale. The transfer of title usually takes place upon the "closing" of the transaction. Most real estate transactions involve the services of an agent licensed under the [Real Estate Trading Act](#). Before signing an offer to purchase, a purchaser should obtain legal advice to ensure the offer contains appropriate representations, conditions and other provisions. The lawyer will conduct a search to ensure the vendor has good title to the property. Many purchasers will have a survey prepared by a land surveyor showing the outline of the property and buildings situated on it. This will confirm the identity of the land, whether it is subject to or benefited by any easements, that there is not any encroachment on or by adjoining property, and the buildings are placed in accordance with zoning requirements.

Where a vendor breaches his (her) obligations in the purchase and sale agreement, the purchaser may proceed with the transaction and apply to the court for an order for "specific performance" to compel completion of the transaction. The purchaser may also terminate the contract, have the deposit returned and sue the vendor for damages as a result of the breach. Where a purchaser breaches his (her) obligations under the contract, the vendor may proceed with the transaction, seek specific performance and damages, or terminate the contract and retain the deposit.

Restrictions on Use or Sale

Pursuant to Prince Edward Island's [Land Protection Act](#) non-residents are restricted to acquisition of no more than five (5) acres of land or 165 feet of shore frontage without the approval of Cabinet. Corporations are restricted to no more than five (5) acres or 165 feet of shore frontage. Most applications to hold more than five (5) acres of land or 165' of shoreline

are approved, provided the purpose of the acquisition is personal use or business development and not land speculation. Farm corporations (with approval from Cabinet) and residents can acquire land, but limits of 1000 acres are placed on individuals and 3000 acres on corporations. An excellent summary of the rationale for these restrictions and for the process to obtain approval may be found at the [Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission](#) website.

5.4 Securities Regulation

Securities regulation in Prince Edward Island is governed by the [Securities Act](#). Brokers and salespeople must be registered as such under the *Act*. Brokers are any persons engaged in the business of trading in securities whereas salespeople are any persons authorized by a broker to trade in securities.

The *Securities Act* provides that no person or company may trade in a security unless a preliminary prospectus and a prospectus have been filed and receipts obtained from the Registrar. A prospectus must contain "full, true, and plain" disclosure regarding the affairs of the company and the securities to be offered. Certain exemptions from the requirement to file a prospectus when distributing a security include trades where the purchasers are certain regulated financial institutions or insurance companies and trades where a purchaser acquires securities with an aggregate acquisition cost of at least \$97,000.

Where material changes have occurred in the affairs of a reporting issuer, it must immediately issue and file an amendment disclosing the nature and substance of the change. The *Securities Act* also imparts civil liability against issuers, underwriters, directors and every person or company who signed the prospectus where such prospectus contains a misrepresentation.

5.5 Secured Financing

Secured interests in personal property are now governed by the [Personal Property Security Act](#) in Prince Edward Island. The *Personal Property Security Act* establishes a system for the registration of notices in relation to agreements purporting to create a security interest in tangible or intangible personal property. The *Act* also sets out various rules pertaining to the attachment, perfection and priority of security interests. It also sets out a mechanism for the enforcement of such security.

The notice and search system allows users to determine what registered interests are attached to any borrower's personal property. One important point is that the *Act* does not cover all competing claims and property interests, for example, most statutory or common law liens, most interests in real property, deemed trusts, some assignments of accounts and rights of buyers and sellers of goods.

6. TAX

Canada enjoyed the lowest overall national costs. In 2002 Canada enjoyed a 14.5% cost advantage over the United States.

6.1 Income Tax

It is the responsibility of all Prince Edward Island businesses to collect federal and provincial income taxes, Canada Pension Plan (CPP) contributions and Employment Insurance (EI) premiums.

Prince Edward Island taxes corporate income allocated to PEI under the [Income Tax Act](#) (Prince Edward Island). Corporate tax is assessed on corporate income at the general rate for regular income, a small business rate, and a manufacturing and processing rate. Further, the Province has a scientific research investment tax credit (ITC), an ITC on machinery and equipment for manufacturers and processors, and a capital property ITC.

The Province of Prince Edward Island imposes a personal tax on income as a percentage of income. Surtaxes are also assessed on basic income tax payable for certain levels of income.

An annual study entitled Tax Facts 13 published by the [Fraser Institute](#) in British Columbia rates total taxes as a percentage of cash income for Canadian families. The overall tax burden of the average Canadian family (two or more individuals) as a percentage of income in 2003 was 43.6% in PEI, compared with 48% in Ontario, 49.6% in British Columbia and 45.6% in Nova Scotia, and a national average of 48.6%.

The Fraser Institute has also declared that PEI had the 2nd earliest tax freedom day in Canada for 2003 and estimated to be 1 day behind Newfoundland. It is approximately 3 weeks earlier than the national average. With lower taxes, employees can achieve a higher standard of living on PEI than in many other parts of Canada and the U.S.

6.2 Goods and Services Tax

The Canadian Federal Government imposes a 7% tax on certain goods and services. For more information on the Goods and Services Tax, visit the [Government of Canada](#) website.

6.3 Provincial Transfer and Sales Taxes

Real commercial property and non-commercial property is [taxed](#) at a percentage of market value. Residents of Prince Edward Island are eligible to receive a tax credit depending on location within the province.

6.4 Other Taxes

The Prince Edward Island government also collects provincial consumption tax by way of a sales tax (PST) through the Provincial Treasury. Before selling goods, a vendor must obtain a [registration certificate](#) (per the *Revenue Tax Act*).

The PST rate in the Province is 10% on retail sales. A Vendor Registration Number can be used to purchase various goods free of tax. All goods consumed in the province and imported for consumption in Prince Edward Island are subject to the 10% sales tax at the retail level. GST is assessed on fair value of goods excluding PST. PST is charged on goods plus GST. As well, there are various goods exempt from provincial sales tax. (*In the result, total federal and provincial consumption tax is 17.7%*)

There is no capital tax imposed or real property transfer tax. Prince Edward Island has no payroll tax, corporation minimum tax, corporate capital or franchise tax, gross receipts tax, or business and occupation tax. Further, there is no PST on inbound 800 number calls, no PST on outbound long distance telephone usage in excess of 250,000 minutes per year, and no provincial taxes for certain aviation and aerospace related companies in Slemon Park and the Charlottetown Airport Business Park.

The closure of Canadian forces base Summerside provided a unique opportunity to open a tax-free zone for companies in aviation and aerospace. Companies locating in Slemon Park (site of the former Canadian Forces Base) have access to excellent facilities and other benefits. For more information refer to [PEI Business Development](#).

7. IMPORT/EXPORT REGULATIONS

For information on import/export regulations, refer to the [Government of Canada](#) website.

7.1 The International Sale of Goods

Prince Edward Island has jurisdiction over contracts and sales of goods. A provincial *Act* implementing the International Sale of Goods Treaty was given royal assent. The Convention governs all aspects of the sale of goods between parties from different countries and applies automatically unless specifically excluded. Parties to these contracts are able to structure appropriate arbitration agreements under the *International Commercial Arbitration Act*.

8 WARRANTIES AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

8.1 Product Standards

The *Sale of Goods Act* (Prince Edward Island) implies various conditions and warranties in a contract of sale, including a seller's right to sell goods, a buyer's right to enjoy quiet possession of goods, and that those goods are free from any encumbrance in favour of a third party unknown to the buyer of goods at the time the contract is made.

The *Consumer Protection Act*, pertains to any person extending credit terms to buyers or borrowers. It regulates non-industrial or business credit and identifies the manner in which the cost of credit must be disclosed. It prohibits prepayment penalties, except when a loan is secured by a mortgage of land. It also regulates the conduct of creditors in attempting to collect debts.

The *Business Practices Act* outlines unfair business practices including misleading representations. It is an unfair practice to make false, misleading or deceptive consumer representations with respect to sponsorship, approval, performance characteristics, accessories, etc. of products. Further there are industry specific statutes (i.e. *Collection Agencies Act*) protecting consumers from loss or unfair treatment.

8.2 Advertising

The *Consumer Protection Act* and the *Business Practices Act* affect advertising in PEI. The *Business Practices Act* renders it an "unfair practice" to make false, misleading, or deceptive consumer representations with respect to sponsorship, approval, performance characteristics, accessories, uses, ingredients, benefits or qualities that the products do not have.

8.3 Product Liability

A person suffering loss due to an unsafe or defective product may bring an action for damages against the manufacturer, vendor, or distributor of the product depending on his/her relationship with the prospective defendant. A party to a purchase or supply contract is entitled to sue for damage for breach of contract if the quality, fitness or performance of the product is not in compliance with the express or implied terms of the contract. Implied terms may be found by reference to common trade practice, and Prince Edward Island's *Sale of Goods Act* will imply terms and conditions as to the fitness and quality of goods sold. These conditions cannot be excluded from contracts by agreement between the parties, according to Prince Edward Island's *Consumer Protection Act*.

An injured purchaser or user of a product may also claim damages in negligence. A duty of care is owed to all persons who might foreseeably be injured by such a product. There are certain

defenses to such an action, but a vendor, manufacturer or distributor of a product must be certain not to make false statements concerning safety or utility features of a product.

9. EXCHANGE CONTROLS

For exchange controls, refer to the [Bank of Canada](#) website.

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

10.1 Trade-Marks/Passing Off

The law of passing off in Prince Edward Island is similar to that of the other common law provinces. When someone makes a misrepresentation in the course of business designed to cause damage to the business of another and the damage is a reasonably foreseeable consequence, and actual damage is caused, an action may be brought for passing off at common law.

10.2 Trade Secret Law

In Canada, there are no provincial or federal statutes dealing with trade secrets although the courts are willing to protect much of the confidential information or trade secrets produced or acquired by a business. There is some protection at common law. A trade secret is protected by the common law action of misappropriation or wrongful disclosure.

There are a number of causes of action available where a party may seek a remedy in this area. Depending on the circumstances, damages may be awarded for breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contractual duty of secrecy breach of an implied provision of a contract breach of confidence or unjust enrichment.

Certain remedies available to plaintiffs at common law in trade secret cases are founded in Section 32 of the Prince Edward Island *Supreme Court Act*, which provides for damages in equity to be awarded in addition to, or in substitution for, an injunction or specific performance. A constructive trust may also be available as a remedy for breach of confidence. A common law remedy of damages is available to most breach of trade secrets actions (except breach of fiduciary duty), with both pre-judgment and post-judgment interest. Accounting of profits is available to plaintiffs as an alternative remedy to damages. In some cases, punitive damages may be awarded if the defendant is found to have callously disregarded the plaintiff's rights.

Canada has a federal *Access to Information Act* and a *Privacy Act*. Prince Edward Island has a statute in force dealing with individual rights of access to information and protection of

privacy in relation to information, including trade secrets, entitled the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

10.3 Trade Marks and Service-Marks

The Canada *Trade-Marks Act* regulates trade marks and service-marks. Trade-marks and service marks are registered under the federal *Act* which protects marks as a supplement to, but not a replacement for, protection at common law. An application for a trade-mark or service-mark may be filed with the [Canadian Intellectual Property Office](#).

If a corporation has registered its name under the *Trademarks Act* it will enjoy exclusive use and rights throughout Canada, although there are some trade-mark decisions which have established geographical limitations on trade-mark protection. Corporations, when adopting corporate names, should conduct both a name search in the province in which they intend to conduct business, and a federal trade-mark or service-mark search. For more information, refer to the [Canadian Intellectual Property Office](#).

10.4 Trade Names

The Canada *Trade-Marks Act* regulates trade names. Both the [Canada Business Corporations Act](#) and the Prince Edward Island [Companies Act](#) provide limited protection for trade-names, but these provisions only provide a system of registration. On the other hand, trade-names are only registered under the *Trademarks Act* where the name is also part of a trade-mark. For more information, refer to the [Canadian Intellectual Property Office](#).

10.5 Patents

Inventions may be protected under the Canada *Patents Act*, usually for a period of twenty years. The first to file an application for a patent in Canada is the first entitled to the patent, providing the requirements of the *Act* are complied with. An application for a patent must be filed one year from the publication of the invention. This application includes a specification and a claims statement outlining the claims being made in relation to the invention.

Patent applications filed in Canada are laid down for public inspection eighteen months after the effective filing of the application. The *Patent Act* provides for mandatory maintenance and renewal fees for both pending patent applications and granted patents and a requirement that all examinations of patents be requested either by the applicant or a third party. For more information, refer to the [Canadian Intellectual Property Office](#).

10.6 Copyrights

The Canada *Copyright Act* is concerned with regulating unauthorized production, copying, use or performance of literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works of authorship. Copyright is a proprietary right which arises from authorship alone. Copyrights protection arises automatically, without formality, although optional registration under the *Act* does afford certain benefits to an author.

Copyright is deemed to be infringed where any person, without the consent of the owner of the copyright does anything that only the owner of the copyright has the right to do. There is a three year limitation in respect of infringement actions. The author of the work is presumed under the *Copyright Act* to be the owner of the copyright, unless the contrary is proved. Where copyright of any work is infringed, the owner of the copyright is entitled to all remedies, including injunction, damages and accounts, that a court considers appropriate.

Canada is a signatory to the Berne Convention, an international agreement which sets out an author's copyrights in relation to member countries, including the waiving of registration formalities and establishing temporal terms of protection. For more information, refer to the [Canadian Intellectual Property Office](#).

10.7 Personality Rights

Prince Edward Island as most other common law provinces does not have legislation dealing with personality rights.

10.8 Confidential Information

A party who has confidential information of commercial value may legally enforce another party who obtains it to maintain its confidentiality if there is a contractual or other special type of relationship in fact creating an obligation of confidentiality.

10.9 Employee Confidentiality

Confidential information is defined as proprietary information, usually non-technical in nature, which includes, in the context of business and commerce, customer lists, price lists, business plans or specifications which cannot be classified as secret processes, formulas or methods of design and production as in trade secrets.

In Canada, an employer, while having no right of control over the basis skills, experience, and knowledge of an employee, may have certain rights to the intellectual property created by an employee during employment.

There is no statutory protection in Canada against employee use of confidential information, although an employer may be subject to the [Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act](#). At common law and in equity, however, causes of action are available which may be heard before the P.E.I. Supreme Court (or in any provincial superior court), where an employer may seek to enforce an implicit obligation of confidentiality against an employee. This obligation may also arise in an explicit term of contract, including a franchise agreement or employment contract.

Another civil cause of action against employees in this regard is breach of fiduciary duty, which is limited to a duty owed by top management to their company and has been seen as equivalent to, unless modified by contract, the duty owed by corporate directors to their employers.

10.10 Non-competition clauses

Normally, in Canada, agreements which are likely to contain non-competition clauses are employment contracts or franchise agreements. Employees who promise not to compete with their employers after the termination of employment are acting on a covenant either in the employment contract or in some other legal instrument such as a franchise agreement, or a vendor/purchaser agreement.

The common law has traditionally frowned upon these clauses as constituting restraint of trade unless they are “reasonable”. The test in applying restrictive covenants such as non-competition clauses in employment contracts is found by determining what is reasonable between the contracting parties and to what extent such covenants are in the public interest. A balance must be struck between adequately protecting the parties in whose favour the covenant is imposed while in no way injuring the public or, in this case, oppressing an employee by restricting his or her use of skills, knowledge and experience. Courts have tended to look at the particular restrictive covenant in context, looking to the clause itself, the contract in which it exists, and all of the surrounding circumstances.

There are often restrictive covenants contained in an agreement for the sale of a business, and when such agreements “reasonably” define the *duration in time* and establish the *geographical area* within which the covenant is operative, courts will give the covenant effect.

Although Canadian courts will not sanction blanket restraint of trade covenants, employees will be held to obligations restricting disclosure of trade secrets, confidential information and other trade information.

10.11 Franchises and Business Opportunities

Franchise agreements are regulated under provincial law, although there are issues of confidentiality, trade-marks, and copyrights which may be implicated by the appropriate federal

statutes. Licensing requirements in Prince Edward Island are dealt with in the *Licensing Act*.

The franchise agreement will typically specify that the franchise be operated in accordance with an Operations Manual (which contains information concerning standards and procedures for the operation of the franchise) the contents of which is normally confidential information between the Franchisor and Franchisee. This confidentiality will usually extend beyond the term of the Franchise Agreement.

11. CESSATION OR TERMINATION OF BUSINESS

11.1 Receivership

The appointment of a receiver is a remedy frequently invoked by a secured creditor which holds security over the assets of the debtor, particularly where the continued operation of the debtor's business after the enforcement of the security is desired. The receiver is given the authority to deal with the debtor's assets, including authority to operate and manage the business in the place of the existing management.

A receiver may be appointed by a single secured creditor or by the court. When a receiver is privately appointed, the appointment is made pursuant to the security document. The scope of the receiver's authority is derived from the powers listed in the document. If these powers are not sufficient, the secured creditor may be able to apply for a court appointed receiver.

In the case of a court appointment, the creditor begins with an action for payment of a debt, and the creditor applies to the court for the appointment of a receiver as part of the relief requested. The court can then appoint a receiver where it is satisfied that it is just and equitable to do so. The security documents held by a secured creditor commonly provide that a receiver may be appointed or other enforcement action taken immediately following default.

11.2 Enforcement of Security

In many cases, secured creditors take enforcement action against the debtor by the exercise of private contract remedies granted in the security document. The secured creditor is required to give notice to the debtor and any other party holding security in the same asset. In Canada, the required notice is 10 pursuant to the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*. If the assets involved are farm assets, there is a 15 day requirement pursuant to the *Farm Debt Mediation Act*.

12. LABOUR LEGISLATION, RELATIONS AND SUPPLY

Employment and labour law in Prince Edward Island is governed by the PEI *Employment Standards Act* and the PEI *Labour Act*. Employers and employees each contribute a percentage

of gross earnings to the Canada Pension Plan, to an annual maximum. Employers pay 1.4 times the employee's share of Employment Insurance premiums to a given maximum.

12.1 Employment Standards

The PEI *Employment Standards Act* prescribes conditions of employment concerning such things as wages, hours of work, holiday and vacation periods, rest periods, leave, sexual harassment, termination, etc.

Minimum Wages

The general minimum wage rate as of January 1, 2004 is \$6.50 per hour for all employees. It will rise to \$6.80 on January 1, 2005.

Hours of Work

The regular hours of work of an employee are restricted to 48 hours in a week. Employers or industries may be exempted from the standard work week provision. Any work in excess of the standard work week is paid overtime at the rate of 1^{1/2} times the regular rate of pay.

Termination

Under the PEI *Employment Standards Act*, employers must provide employees with a minimum period of notice upon termination of employment. An employee who is employed greater than 6 months but less than 5 years is entitled to two weeks notice. An employee who is employed for 5 years or more is entitled to four weeks notice. Additionally, an employee must provide his or her employer with one week notice for employment of 6 months to 5 years, and 2 weeks notice for employment of 5 years or greater.

Occupational Health and Safety

Workplace safety is governed by Prince Edward Island's *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

12.2 Human Rights

The Prince Edward Island *Human Rights Act* prohibits discrimination with respect to employment or accommodation on a number of grounds, such as relation to age, colour, creed, ethnic or national origin, family status, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or source of income of any individual or class of individuals.

12.3 Collective Bargaining

The Prince Edward Island *Labour Act* regulates collective bargaining in the province. Labour legislation is designed to separate management and employees for the purposes of collective bargaining. Managerial employees and employees employed in confidential matters relating to labour relations, are excluded from participating in collective bargaining.

Employers are prohibited from participating in or interfering with the formation of a trade union. Employers have a limited right to express their opinions, but cannot use undue influence, threats, coercion, intimidation or promises to affect employee's support for a union. Where employers violate this rule, certification may be granted even if the required membership support is not obtained by the union. Employers must accordingly be extremely careful when responding to an organizing campaign. Employers cannot refuse to employ or discriminate against employees because they are involved in a trade union.

A union may seek certification for a unit of employees in a geographic area. The appropriate bargaining unit is determined by the Prince Edward Island Labour Board. The main consideration is that employees must have a community of interest. The employer has a right to contest the bargaining unit proposed by the union. An employer may have an interest in minimizing repetitive bargaining by preventing a proliferation of bargaining units and inappropriate groupings of employees.

With certification the union has exclusive jurisdiction to bargain collectively on behalf of the bargaining unit. The employer must meet and bargain in good faith with the bargaining agent.

Strikes or lockouts are illegal during the life of a collective agreement. They can be implemented only after the expiration of the agreement and after the parties have failed to reach an agreement through collective bargaining and attempts at conciliation have failed.

In Prince Edward Island, the purchaser of all or part of a business is bound by existing collective agreements and must recognize the certified union until the Labour Board rules otherwise. The Board will not usually interfere with a certified union after a sale unless there has been an intermingling of employees and the bargaining unit is no longer appropriate.

12.4 Government Administered Benefits - Prince Edward Island

Workers Compensation Legislation provides non-taxable disability and death benefits for work-related accidents and replace a worker's right to take legal action against an employer. It is funded by employer contributions based on accident frequency within an industry.

Under the *Workers Compensation Act*, workers and their dependants are given financial protection, medical benefits, and rehabilitation services in the event of death or injury. Employers are protected from legal action if workers are hurt. The workers compensation "accident fund" is entirely funded by employers. Employers must register with the Workers Compensation Board, upon hiring one person whether full-time, part-time, casual, temporary,

etc. Employers contribution depends on their industry group, the size of their payroll and the cost of the claims. Workers receive benefits for work-related injuries, which range from 80-85% of net earning capacity; (benefits are tax free).

The labour movement in Prince Edward Island is generally less “aggressive” than in other geographic areas.

13. ENVIRONMENT

The purpose of the *Environmental Protection Act* is to manage, protect and enhance the environment.

13.1 Air, Water and Land Pollution

The *Environmental Protection Act* provides for the control of air, water and land pollution and prohibits the emission of a broad range of contaminants which will cause or are likely to “adversely effect” the natural environment. These include harm or material discomfort to humans, impairment of the safety of persons, injury or damage to plant or animal, loss of enjoyment of use of property, and interference with conduct of business.

Where accidental spills or discharges of contaminants occur, the person(s) in control must notify the Department of Fisheries Aquaculture and Environment and do everything practicable to clean up the area and restore the natural environment.

13.2 Environmental Assessment

Prince Edward Island is governed by the *Environmental Protection Act* which is aimed at managing, protecting and enhancing the environment. Certain major projects may also be impacted by the Federal *Environmental Act*.

13.3 Air Pollution

As a result of the U.S. - Canada Air Quality Control Accord, Prince Edward Island has adopted two regulations: one dealing with air quality control and another with ozone depletion.

There are no prescribed fee schedules based on emission calculations, however, contravention of, or failure to comply with, any part of these Regulations constitutes a violation under the *Environmental Protection Act*. Any person or corporation violating them is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$1000 to \$50,000 (Cdn.) and to pay such restitution as the Court sees fit.

13.4 Water Pollution

The Prince Edward Island Department of Fisheries Aquaculture and Environment exercises exclusive control over the quality, use, protection or alteration of all surface, ground and shore waters and all beaches, sand dunes, and wetlands within the provinces. The *Environmental Protection Act* also regulates any altering of a watercourse, wetland, or waterflow without a permit.

Under the Water Quality Certification Regulations, in conformance with current "Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality" set by the National Department of Health and Welfare, an environment officer may, upon request and for a fee, collect and analyze water samples to determine the presence or concentration of such physical, chemical, microbiological constituents as the Department considers appropriate. If water quality is acceptable, the environmental officer may issue a certificate for that water supply. Mandatory water testing and certificates must be obtained prior to any sale of land in PEI.

Water Well Regulations under the *Environmental Protection Act* provide for the issuing of licenses and permits to apply for, or engage in, the construction of water wells. A well may not be constructed unless a groundwater permit is first obtained, based on pump testing and appropriate hydrogeological data.

Under both federal and provincial environmental assessment rules, an applicant seeking a building permit for a major cost-shared development must comply with waste water and groundwater regulations before the permit is granted. However, these assessments are limited in scope to the confines of the structure itself and do not incorporate the overall cumulative effects of development on surrounding areas.

Under the *Natural Areas Protection Act*, areas that exhibit exceptional and diversified scenery or sensitivity, including areas with natural rivers, lakes, and brooks, may be designated as "natural areas" where human activity is subject to regulation. Regulations under the Act accordingly create offenses or prescribe penalties with respect to unauthorized activities in these designated areas.

There is much concern about land use on the shorelines of Prince Edward Island. Sand dunes and coastal areas in general are protected under the Coastal Area Regulations because of the role played by dunes and coastal areas in protecting the Island's geologically fragile landforms by preventing and prolonging the onset of shoreline erosion. The Sand Removal From Beaches Regulations restrict the traditional use of beach sand as construction material, by designating certain beach areas where sand may be removed for the manufacture of concrete and concrete products. The regulations limit amounts that may be removed and specify acceptable methods of transport.

13.5 Solid Waste Management

There are no provincial regulations for landfill sites or public criteria for siting a landfill. However, the Environmental Resources Department does follow internal "Guidelines for Landfill Site Selection". The number of local dumping stations has been reduced dramatically over the past number of years and there has been a ban on open burying.

Much of PEI's solid waste continues to be incinerated. Some Island municipalities, however, have voluntarily entered into federal-provincial cost-shared infrastructure programs for the construction and operation of waste management plans at recycling and composting depots.

Under provincial Litter Control Regulations no seller of beverages is permitted to sell beverages (including beer and soft drinks) in a container other than a refillable container. Wine and liquor must also be sold in recyclable containers.

13.6 Hazardous Waste Management

Several regulatory measures have been introduced for the management and disposal of hazardous wastes on PEI. The Used Oil Handling Regulations deal with alternative purposes for used oil as well as the handling of contaminated oil (defined as used lubricating oil with a flash point below 38 degrees C or containing specified concentrations of prescribed substances).

All sellers of oil, except industrial sellers, are required by regulation to provide a return facility for the short-term storage of used oil at or in the vicinity of their premises. Such facilities must be available without charge to anyone returning used oil in quantities up to 10 litres per person per day. The seller must maintain records of the volume of used oil transferred for a period of three years.

It is not permitted to transport used oil into or out of the province without prior testing and written permission from the Department of Fisheries Aquaculture and Environment. If tests reveal that oil collected is contaminated, the oil must be disposed of as required by the Department. In any case, used oil may not be disposed of at a solid waste site, return facility, sanitary or storm sewer, not at any fixture, catch basin or drain leading to a sanitary or storm sewer.

The PEI *Environmental Tax Act* provides a tax to be applied on all purchases of new motor vehicle tires for purposes of defraying the cost of shredding and recycling old tires, thus minimizing contaminating emissions. There has also been some experimentation using old tires as a road base.

Under the Lead-Acid Battery Regulations, no person may dispose of any lead-acid battery in a solid-waste site. This includes batteries that are unsuitable for return or exchange at a retail outlet. Used batteries may be transported to recycling facilities.

Sellers of lead-acid batteries must accept used batteries of all kinds, including automobile,

motorcycle, farm, marine, etc. from customers or collect a \$5.00 (Cdn.) deposit on new batteries if the old battery is not offered.

Sellers are also required to provide a secure area, constructed so that possible contaminants can not enter sewers, watercourses, groundwater, or otherwise be discharged into the environment. Used batteries must be collected and removed at least once every three months. Failure to comply with these Regulations could result in revocation of license or application of more stringent penalties under the Environmental Protection Act.

13.7 Underground storage Tanks

Underground oil storage tank systems of any capacity in PEI must be registered. Above-ground storage tanks of over 2,000 litres capacity must also comply with registration requirements.

All systems require four months notice prior to commencement of construction and are subject to environmental inspection and Ministerial conditional approval. Approval is based on compliance with minimal construction and installation standards or such additional conditions deemed necessary for environmental protection. These standards cover specifications and manner of installation for underground steel tanks, fibreglass tanks, piping and associated fittings.

The Minister may refuse a system because of sensitivity of the proposed site, or for any other reason in the name of environmental protection.

Leak detection testing immediately following installation or altering of an underground storage tank system is required by Regulation. An operator has an obligation to report any possible leaks and must keep daily inventory records of underground liquid and diesel fuel for a five-year period.

Out-of-service tanks must be reported to the Department of Fisheries Aquaculture and Environment within six months of abandonment and must comply with conditions concerning emptying of all liquids and locking of pipe openings. Systems continuously out of service for twelve month must be inspected by the Department of Fisheries Aquaculture and Environment, and later permanently sealed, and removed to above-ground storage, alternate underground sites, or some other designated area. Petroleum-contaminated soil must also be removed.

Mandatory insurance coverage of bodily injury or property damage for not less than \$1 million (Cdn.) per incident is required for all operations.

13.8 Environmental Criminal/Civil Law

Although there are no criminal sanctions in Prince Edward Island against persons or corporations who contaminate the environment, the Department of Fisheries Aquaculture and

Environment has the power to prosecute a person or corporation on summary conviction, and may also invoke search and seizure and injunctive relief provisions where the seriousness of the matter warrants such action.

Tort actions are open to person or corporations where any injury to persons or damage to property has been caused by a contaminating source such as leakage from underground storage tanks or contamination from hazardous waste. Several cases of contamination from leaking underground tanks have provoked litigation in recent years.

Given the tendency in Canada, mentioned above, to favour compliance over stringent enforcement, and in view of recent federal attempts to exempt businesses from environmental regulations by permitting negotiated private agreements, it seems unlikely that Canada's federal government will move to more extensive enforcement measures.

13.9 Regulatory/Enforcement Agencies

In Prince Edward Island the principal agency for control, management and regulation of the environment is the Pollution Prevention Division of the Department of Fisheries Aquaculture and Environment. The Pollution Prevention Division regulates air emissions, water quality and contamination, (including wells, surface, ground, shore waters, beaches, sand dunes, and wetlands within the province), hazardous and solid wastes (including landfills, dumping stations and incineration), underground and above-ground chemical and fuel storage tanks. The Department also regulates certain litter, waste treatment, and water supply systems.

13.10 Emergency Response and Voluntary Cleanups

The Prince Edward Island *Emergency Measures Act* regulations provides for the coordination of emergency operations where a disaster occurs which may impact the environment or the health, safety, or welfare of the civil population. Provincial or municipal plans for such emergencies are designed to mitigate the effects of a disaster or emergency.

The *Emergency Measures Act* grants the authority to request municipalities and/or individuals to develop emergency plans in conjunction with a provincially established Emergency Measures Organization.

Any authorized *Emergency Measures Act* person has the right to enter upon any property in Prince Edward Island when implementing an emergency measures plan. Any individual who obstructs an *Emergency Measures Act* representative in the performance of any action under the *Act* is subject to prosecution on summary conviction and a fine up to \$2,000 (Cdn.), or in the case of a corporation to a fine up to \$10,000 (Cdn.), or to imprisonment up to six months, or both.

Debris washed up on coastal shorelines continues to be a problem affecting Prince Edward Island marine life and scenery. However, Prince Edward Island has a notable record for annual volunteer beach cleanups. For the past few years over one thousand volunteers each year have joined forces to collect litter on 160 km. of beach. Co-sponsored by corporations and the Environmental Coalition, the annual “Beach Sweep” provides volunteers with the materials to coordinate this major shoreline clean-up.

14. IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

For information on immigration requirements, refer to the [Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada](#) website.

15. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Several sites are available for industry specific information on Prince Edward Island. Many useful resource links include the [Government of Prince Edward Island](#), and [Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency](#).

The [Prince Edward Island Business Directory](#) provides useful information for business wishing to locate in Prince Edward Island. [Human Resources Development](#) at the Government of Canada website also has useful information on the labour market. [Tech PEI](#) contains information on technology development in the Province and the [Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce](#) provides useful business support within Charlottetown.

For educational institutions, readers should refer to [University of Prince Edward Island](#) and [Holland College](#). The University of Prince Edward Island also has a [UPEI Business Intern Program](#).

For visitor information, please refer to the [PEI Visitor’s Guide](#), or [Prince Edward Island Online](#).

16. AFTERWORD

[PATTERSON PALMER](#) is a full-service law firm with offices in each of the Atlantic Canadian Provinces. With over 150 lawyers, the firm provides services in most areas of the law. Please consult our website for further information on individual lawyers, practice areas, publications and office locations.