

Provincial Pharmacy Programs

Investments in drug programs increased 25%

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
\$28.3M	\$32.5M	\$34.4M	\$35.6M	\$34.6M

- The cost of drugs is one of the fastest growing health budget items, as newer and more expensive drugs continue to become available.
- Over the past four years, provincial government investments in drug programs rose from \$28.3 million to \$34.6 million, an increase of 25%.
- Since 2007, 154 new drugs and expanded coverage were added to the provincial formulary. This included adding coverage of blood glucose strips for diabetics, adding new drugs to the High Cost Drug Program and expanding drug coverage for low-income families and seniors.
- In 2010, the medication co-pay for the Seniors Program was reduced by 25 %, from \$11 to \$8.25, making drugs more affordable for Island seniors.
- The cost of new drugs and the growing demand for catastrophic drugs are forcing provinces to take a serious look at how they deliver public drug programs. PEI and New Brunswick are the only two provinces that do not have a catastrophic drug program. PEI now pays more for generic drugs than most other provinces.
- The Province is proposing fair generic drug pricing measures that hold potential for significant savings to public drug programs.
 - Legislation would be tabled so that manufacturers charge the province less for drugs. This, in turn, would lower drug costs for Islanders, help to pay for new high-cost drugs, and help to expand the scope of pharmacy services.

