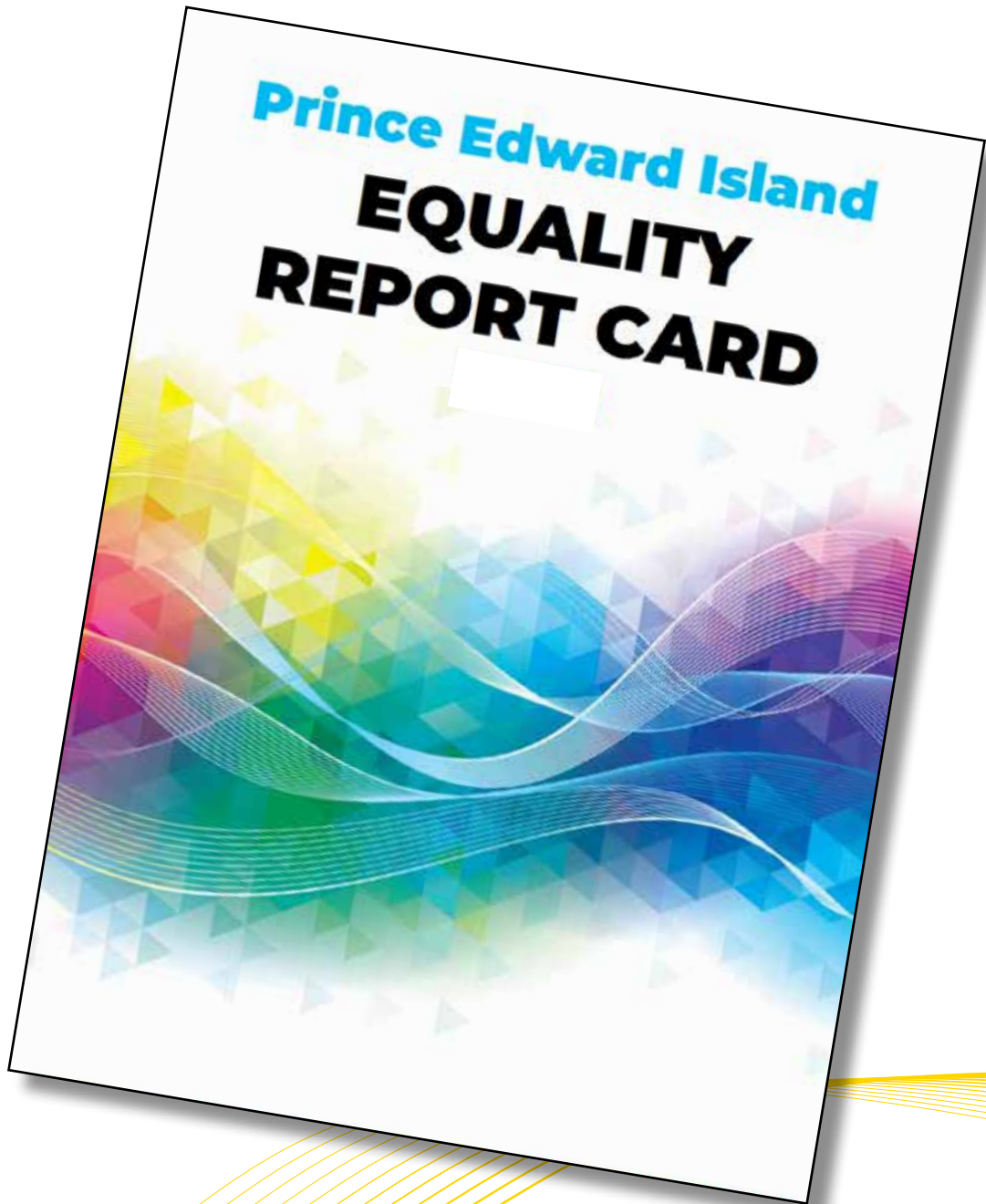


2026

**EQUALITY REPORT CARD
ASSESSMENT MODEL**



**PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
February 2024**

2026 EQUALITY REPORT CARD ASSESSMENT MODEL

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The Equality Report Card is a process to assess Prince Edward Island's progress towards women's equality goals. It was initiated by the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women in 2007.

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women's goal is to use the Equality Report Card process as a tool to work collaboratively with government to help the Province achieve high grades in all categories.

This document's purpose is to outline the assessment model for the 2026 Equality Report Card. This will be the only Equality Report Card for this mandate of government and will proceed regardless of any change in government.

The Report Card process begins with a new government's mandate after an election. During any four-year mandate of government, there will ordinarily be one Equality Report Card.

Previous Equality Report Cards were published in 2008 (pilot), 2009 and 2011; 2013 and 2015; 2018; and 2022. Models and benchmarks were adjusted by Council members each time there was a new government mandate.

The assessment model represented in this document sets out the terms of evaluation for the mandate of government elected April 3, 2023, won by the Progressive Conservative Party under the leadership of Premier Dennis King.



The members and staff of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women are committed to working collaboratively with government to help them achieve high grades on the Equality Report Card.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASSESSMENT MODEL

FOR THE 2026 EQUALITY REPORT CARD

The proposed model for the 2026 Equality Report Card retains the best-received aspects of the 2022 Equality Report Card model, including the following:

- Credit for sustaining hard-won equality goals.
- Openness to giving credit to government-determined priorities and government proactive work on emerging issues.
- Checklist-style reporting by government.
- A reporting period that coincides with the end of a fiscal year.
- Straightforward, transparent math to determine grades.
- Inclusive community consultations.
- A background report to provide context.
- Robust consensus-based processes for grade-setting.
- A commitment to collaborate for government to achieve high grades.

The 2026 Equality Report Card model also intends to respond to criticisms and missed opportunities from the 2022 Equality Report Card model.

- The 2022 model didn't have a means of including areas where the "status quo" was far from achieving equitable outcomes. (For example, the 2022 Report Card noted that appointment of chairs and vice-chairs of ABCS fell below gender parity compared to 2019. This was not an equality gain, and it was not a status quo we wanted to sustain.)

A new category of action for aspirational goals (priority actions to fill unmet needs) will allow the Council to identify and name areas where the status quo has not yet met an acceptable level of equity.

- The 2022 model didn't allow Council members to make proactive recommendations or set aspirational targets like those included in Report Cards from 2008 to 2018.

A new category of action for aspirational goals (priority actions to fill unmet needs) will allow the Council to proactively set out aspirational targets and expectations.

- The timelines for the members of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women to complete its part of the work were unrealistic.

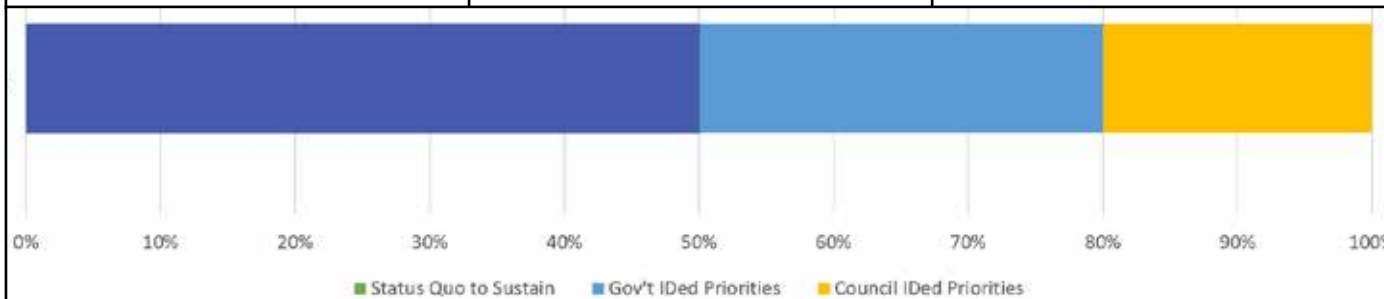
The new model still allows more time to government for reporting than Council for assessing, but with some end dates yet "to be decided," it makes a better attempt at balance.

- The path to government getting an "A" grade was not clear.

By reserving points for specific initiatives and promising points for action on these initiatives, the new model makes it clear what actions government can undertake to gain an A, and it incentivizes government taking up Council recommendations to achieve high grades.

2026 EQUALITY REPORT CARD ASSESSMENT MODEL
General Considerations

General	Government Reporting	Council Process
<p>Government can earn up to 100 points across 5 priority issue areas and the following three categories of action.</p> <p>Out of the 100 points available,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 50 points will relate to sustaining equality gains identified by Council. b. 30 points will be available for government for new progress on equality goals, based on emerging priorities and priorities identified by government. c. 20 points will be reserved for priority actions to fill unmet needs; these aspirational priorities will be identified and named as target actions by Council and community in early 2024. <p>Maintaining the 2022 status quo with no backsliding – sustaining equality gains – will result in a grade of 50/100, or a D.</p> <p>The maximum grade achievable by sustaining equality gains and adding on actions on government-identified priorities but not acting on Council and community-identified priority actions to fill unmet needs (aspirational goals) will be 80/100, or an A–.</p> <p>With the final 20 points reserved for actions Council names, an A+ (more than 80/100) will be achievable by a combination of a) sustaining equality gains, b) acting on government-identified priorities, and c) acting on Council and community-identified priority actions to fill unmet needs.</p>	<p>Council will collect information from every department of government through a checklist/questionnaire customized to the department's specialization.</p> <p>Some questions will require data from every department.</p> <p>Some questions will be directed to one or two departments only.</p> <p>The questionnaire will be designed to make reporting as simple and straightforward as possible, with as many yes/no or checklist-oriented questions as possible.</p>	<p>Through consultation and using the 2022 Equality Report Card as a baseline, Council members will list equality gains that Council assesses as a priority for government to maintain. Council will ascribe a value to each item on the list, to a total of 50 points. For 2026, Council has selected 50 equality gains to sustain, worth 1 point each.</p> <p>Council members will also prescribe areas for action to fill unmet needs in the community. These target actions will be ascribed a total value of 20 points; those 20 points will be reserved exclusively for government action on these priorities. The points will not be available for government-identified priorities. Half-points may be awarded for progress towards aspirational goals.</p> <p>Council staff will manage checklists/questionnaires and compile responses from all government departments.</p> <p>Council members will review evidence submitted by government and analysis added by Council members and Council staff, and comments and analysis received through community consultation.</p> <p>Council will develop draft grades and supporting analysis through a survey of Council members and a consensus-building decision-making process.</p>



2026 EQUALITY REPORT CARD ASSESSMENT MODEL
General Considerations, continued

General	Government Reporting	Council Process
<p>The priority issue categories will be as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion a Priority 2. Eliminating Poverty 3. Supports for Caregivers and Caregiving 4. Women’s and Gender-Diverse People’s Mental and Physical Health 5. Ending Gender-Based Violence <p>The overall grade for government will be based on total points out of 100.</p> <p>For example, if government gets a total of 75 points out of 100, that would be a B+.</p>	<p>As in the past, after Council has set draft grades, representatives of government will be invited to provide feedback on the draft report card, including updates, corrections, and arguments for better grades.</p>	<p>Council will validate the draft through community consultation and feedback from government.</p> <p>Council will additionally publish a context/background report to accompany the Report Card grading summary.</p> <p>The members and staff of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women are committed to working collaboratively with government to help them achieve high grades on the Equality Report Card.</p>

Status Quo: Equality Gains to Sustain
50/100

General	Government Reporting	Council Process
<p>The status quo for gender equality on past Equality Report Cards was determined by Council members to be a grade of D (50%). The 2026 Equality Report Card will explicitly and transparently award up to 50 points for maintaining the status quo.</p> <p>Each of the priority issue areas will include a list of programs, policies, achievements, or other traits that characterize the status quo situation for gender equality on that issue, as of 2023. The items on the list will be ascribed a total value of 50 points.</p> <p>Government will begin with a full 50 points for the status quo. Points will only be subtracted if there is regression from the 2023 status quo as assessed by Council members, based on data provided by government.</p>	<p>Thanks to past feedback from government liaisons to the Equality Report Card project, the 2026 model for the Equality Report Card recognizes the challenge and rewards the value of sustaining equality goals.</p> <p>Departments of government will be invited to complete a checklist to indicate that identified achievements and progress are being sustained. There will be space for them to submit brief supporting evidence, if required.</p> <p>Some questions will require responses from several (or all) departments.</p> <p>Where assessing the status quo requires comparison to a baseline, data up to April 2023 will be the basis of comparison.</p>	<p>Council members will receive a summary of government’s self-assessment and supporting evidence.</p> <p>Council will review the checklist results and complete a survey to affirm or to challenge totals.</p> <p>Council will select from government-provided evidence and/or add their own analysis and information to support their assessments that items have been sustained or not sustained and award points to a maximum of 50 points.</p>

**New Progress on Equality Goals: Government-Identified Priorities
30/100**

General	Government Reporting	Council Process
<p>New progress will include government's best initiatives and practices that go beyond the status quo.</p> <p>Council members will consider initiatives that represent government's agenda and priorities that advance gender equality and will also consider action on emerging or unanticipated issues.</p> <p>Initiatives selected to receive credit on the Report Card will be ascribed points up to a maximum total of 30 points.</p> <p>A substantial policy, program, or service may receive points for each of several components. Valuation will be commensurate with valuation of initiatives that characterize sustained measures.</p>	<p>In each category, departments will be asked to list, in point form, their department's best initiatives and practices to advance gender equality beyond sustained equality gains in a given category.</p> <p>Detailed information is not required. Council will commit to asking for more information about any items in the point-form lists that require additional explanation or background.</p>	<p>Council members will review a summary report of all evidence from departmental questionnaires to inform their score for new progress on equality goals.</p> <p>Council may add to government's information or validate it through consultation with Council members and/or by community consultations.</p> <p>Based on a summary of evidence in each category, Council members will complete a survey to indicate which initiatives they award points to, to a maximum of 30 points.</p>

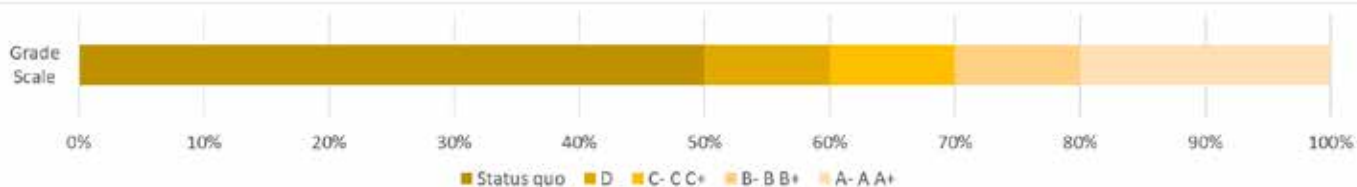
**Priority Actions to Fill Unmet Needs (Aspirational Goals): Council-Identified Priorities
20/100**

General	Government Reporting	Council Process
<p>Priority actions will consider government's progress towards aspirational goals Council identifies as necessary to fill unmet needs in the community. Council members will consider steps towards priorities they have identified on substantive equality issues.</p> <p>Council guarantees and promises that points will be awarded for substantive action on identified priorities to fill unmet needs. Initiatives will be ascribed points up to a maximum total of 20 points.</p> <p>Steps towards an aspirational goal may be awarded half-points. A substantial policy, program, or service may receive points for each of several components. Valuation will be commensurate with valuation of initiatives that characterize sustained measures.</p>	<p>Departments of government will be invited to complete a checklist to indicate actions taken and progress being made on a list of Council-identified priority areas. There will be space for them to submit brief supporting evidence, if required.</p> <p>Some questions may require responses from several (or all) departments.</p>	<p>Council members will review a summary report of all evidence from departmental questionnaires to inform their score for progress on aspirational goals.</p> <p>Council may add to government's information or validate it through consultation with Council members and/or by community consultation.</p> <p>Based on a summary of evidence in each category, Council members will complete a survey to indicate which initiatives they award half-points or full-points to, to a maximum of 20 points.</p>

2026 EQUALITY REPORT CARD ASSESSMENT MODEL

Totals

General	Government Reporting	Council Process
<p>The only published “grade” will be an overall grade for the full assessment. For example, this grade in 2022 was a “B+.”</p> <p>The total number of points in all categories will determine the overall grade. Totals or grades for individual categories will be presented in a way that is transparent, but results in individual categories will not be emphasized.</p> <p>For example, a total of 47/50 points for sustaining equality goals plus 23/35 points for new progress on equality goals plus 7/15 for priority actions would total 77/100 points. This would give an overall grade of B+.</p> <p>49 or less = F 50–59 = D 60–63 = C– 64–66 = C 67–69 = C+ 70–73 = B– 74–76 = B 77–79 = B+ 80–83 = A– 84–86 = A 87 or more = A+</p>	<p>As in the past, representatives of government and of the community will be invited to provide feedback on the draft Report Card, including draft grades.</p> <p>Updates, corrections, and arguments for better grades will be welcome and Council members will consider them carefully.</p>	<p>Council members will review summary information from their survey and will take part in a workshop to come to consensus on draft assessments and to identify supporting evidence. Grade-setting processes may be open to recently retired Council members as well as current members.</p> <p>A context/background report will be developed as a companion to the Report Card.</p> <p>As in the past, Council members may be asked to participate in consultations with representatives of government and of the community to receive feedback on the draft report card, including draft grades, before finalizing and releasing the report.</p> <p>The 2026 Equality Report Card will be released at a news conference in spring 2026, at a date to be determined between April and June.</p> <p>The 2026 Equality Report Card will become the baseline for any future report.</p>



MAKING DIVERSITY, EQUALITY, AND INCLUSION A PRIORITY

ASPIRATIONAL GOALS: COUNCIL-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- 1 Actions for meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous people, fulfilling commitments on the provincially relevant Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**
- 2 Gender parity (defined as a maximum of 45-66% of any one gender) in elected, appointed, and hired provincial senior leadership roles**
- 3 Transformed employment standards that make diversity, equality, pay equity, and inclusion a priority**
- 4 A comprehensive provincial anti-racism strategy targets and timelines, based on needs and priorities identified by racialized people with an intersectional lens**
- 5 A population strategy based on principles of equity and justice, with the explicit goal of supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion in PEI society**

We expect the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to work across all of government to advance substantive equality for women with a clear plan and coordination across departments. We expect the Minister to ensure the use of gender and diversity analysis to understand different effects of existing and proposed legislation, policies, programs, and budgets on Island residents of all genders and diverse groups.

We expect government to meaningfully consult and consciously include and accommodate diverse groups in its policies, programs, and services. We expect government to enter intentional partnerships with community, supported by predictable, sustainable funding to community organizations.

We expect government to make active efforts to prevent systemic discrimination and remove barriers to social inclusion. Additionally, we expect government to substantially address exclusion and discrimination based on gender, race and ethnicity, ability, age, language, and other diversity factors.

We expect the provincial government to continue progress towards greater pay equity. Particularly in areas where women have been under-represented, we expect government to support and promote women's equitable access to workforce development programs, services, education, and training.

We expect the provincial government to remove barriers to women's leadership in elected and appointed decision-making.

We expect government to be a model employer of women in the public sector, recognizing their work is essential to delivering public services and their income is a foundation for families' incomes and the provincial economy.



ELIMINATING POVERTY

We expect the provincial government to work towards a province where everyone is able to meet their basic needs at all times, including access to enough healthy food and to affordable, accessible, appropriate, and safe housing. We expect government to set a high priority on improving the health, dignity, choice, and wellbeing of poor and economically vulnerable Island residents.

We expect the provincial government to negotiate with the federal government to prioritize the development of a basic income program for PEI.

We expect responsive, flexible, non-stigmatizing social programs and meaningful action to implement an effective cross-governmental provincial strategy to eliminate poverty and promote social inclusion. We expect poverty elimination plans to be informed by the voices of lived and living experiences of low-income.

We expect government's workforce development plans and programs and the Province's labour standards to be based on fairness for workers and to strive towards living wages and employment equity as their fundamental goals.

ASPIRATIONAL GOALS: COUNCIL-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- 6** Implementation of a province-wide guaranteed basic income program
- 7** Minimum wage, set as a livable wage (as calculated based on Market Basket Measure or by credible sources such as the Canadian Council for Policy Alternatives) and indexed to the cost of living
- 8** No one is homeless in PEI and services are delivered on housing-first basis, not in part-time shelters



SUPPORTS FOR CAREGIVERS AND CAREGIVING

ASPIRATIONAL GOALS: COUNCIL-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

9 A revised Child Protection Act based on children’s fundamental human rights

10 A universal, accessible after-school program for grades K to 6

11 A comprehensive home-care and home-support plan to promote well-being and quality of life and ensure supports and resources for living and aging in place, including support for caregivers to adults and seniors


12 Adequate core funding for social-sector not-for-profits providing essential public services that support basic needs, health, and dignity

We expect the provincial government to acknowledge, value, and invest in the frequently unpaid and underpaid work of caregivers, often women, who care for children or adults, including seniors.

We expect government to enact policies that increase supports, not burdens for caregiving, to allow caregivers full participation in the life of Island society and to ensure that we share collective responsibility for caregiving along with individual caregivers in families and communities.

We expect government to invest in affordable and accessible caregiving services, including childcare, eldercare, homecare, long-term care, and respite services, with the goals to increase equitable access to paid work, education, and training opportunities, and to support the mental health and wellbeing of caregivers.

Government must also consider caregiving responsibilities and availability, and our common responsibilities of collective care, must also be considered in emergency preparedness and response, health system planning, and climate change adaptation. We expect government to recognize and provide resources to the voluntary sector’s work in caring for the community.



WOMEN'S & GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE'S MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH

We expect the provincial government to sustain a strong system for primary care, balanced by proactive, upstream investment in wellness and health promotion. We expect government's plans and actions to be rooted in health equity and to focus on public health measures ahead of individual behaviours.

We expect government to recognize whole-body, holistic physical and mental health, with services grounded in best practices and up-to-date, gender-sensitive research and evidence. We expect government to build responsive health systems that listen to and learn from people's lived and living experiences. We expect the health system to support and celebrate gender diversity.

We expect government to acknowledge the impacts of and respond to the social determinants of health, such as income, gender, language, and culture, as well as the impacts of climate change and environmental factors.

We expect access to health services with dignity and without judgment, discrimination, or stigma, including system-wide support and help for mental health and addictions, including timely care in crisis situations, and also care and support across the lifespan.

ASPIRATIONAL GOALS: COUNCIL-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

13 Appropriately staffed primary care through patient medical homes and neighbourhoods that provide everyone with access to primary care services incorporating the social determinants of health and gender equity

14 Expanded, timely, and fully accessible gender-sensitive mental health service options for women and gender diverse people that meet their needs, with specialized supports for sectors and communities with specific needs (such as youth, food producers, 2SLGBTQIA+)

15 Comprehensive care for breast health, including reconstructive breast care for anyone who requests it; and breast screening, monitoring, and follow-up that meet or exceed national good-practice guidelines such as those of the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care, including monitoring options for people with dense breasts

16 Access to free contraceptive care and menstrual products, with a range of options, for those who need it, through programs founded in principles of reproductive justice

ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

ASPIRATIONAL GOALS: COUNCIL-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

17 Comprehensive, evidence-based K-12 curriculum linked to public education and public awareness campaigns to increase recognition of healthy relationships, consent, and continuum of gender-based violence

18 Increased access to justice for family law matters, including sufficient family law legal aid (especially expanded eligibility), community legal clinics, and pro bono legal clinics

19 Robust restorative justice options for situations of sexualized and other gender-based violence, taking into consideration what safeguards and supports are needed for survivors

20 Third-party reporting for sexualized violence against adults

We expect the provincial government to work towards ending violence against women and children, other gender-based violence, and all forms of family violence.

We expect government to provide and support programs that aim to prevent violence, whether it is an abuse of power and control that is physical, emotional, financial, or sexual. We expect government to invest in prevention work that addresses the community role in eliminating the root causes of gender-based violence: misogyny and gender discrimination and lack of respect for women-identifying people.

We expect government services that are gender appropriate, culturally sensitive, trauma-informed, and that never revictimize victims or survivors. We expect services for people who cause harm that support them to be accountable.

We expect the provincial government to place high priority on ensuring women and families have access to justice, particularly for family law. We expect government to invest in programs and services that help people get legal help.

We expect therapeutic court options, including domestic violence court options, supported by timely treatment or services, including appropriate follow-up. We expect more restorative and transformative justice programs and approaches, with transparent processes for deciding when restorative and alternative approaches are appropriate for victims, offenders, and the community.

GENDER-EQUALITY PROGRESS TO SUSTAIN

FOR THE 2026 EQUALITY REPORT CARD

50 ITEMS TO DESCRIBE THE STATUS QUO AS OF APRIL 2023

- 1. A public mandate for the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to advance equality for women in all government policies, programs, and services
- 2. All departments of government complete a questionnaire for the Equality Report Card project
- 3. Support for the Interministerial Women's Secretariat to gather representatives of all departments of government to regularly consult on gender and diversity analysis and progress towards gender equality goals through the Task Force for Gender Equity and Diversity
- 4. All government departments are able to provide at least one concrete example of applied gender and diversity analysis and at least half of government departments report that employees participate in gender and diversity analysis training
- 5. Consistent government-wide and cross-departmental support for the Interministerial Women's Secretariat's efforts on the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence
- 6. A requirement to account for gender and diversity analysis on all Executive Council memos (proposals for policies, programs, and services), in pre-budget consultations, and in capital and operational budget requests, and at least half of government strategies, action plans, and reviews demonstrate that they applied gender and diversity analysis
- 7. Gender parity (defined as 45% to 55% of any one gender) in appointments to agencies, boards, and commissions through an Engage PEI process, and a critical mass of women (defined as 33%) in senior leadership roles, including senior staff, deputy ministers, CEOs, and senior executives
- 8. Consistent funding for the Interministerial Women's Secretariat at rates unreduced from 2023, to support, at a minimum, core funding for gender equality-seeking organizations; community grants and Violence Against Women grants; work to promote women in decision making; and a gender and diversity analyst position

*MAKING DIVERSITY,
EQUALITY, AND
INCLUSION A
PRIORITY*

GENDER-EQUALITY PROGRESS TO SUSTAIN, CONTINUED

- ✓ 9. A public commitment to updating the statistical profile of women regularly, comparable to the Statistical Profile of Women produced in 2020
- ✓ 10. Maintained family-friendly changes to Legislative Assembly sittings
- ✓ 11. Maintained and supported Guidelines for Respecting, Accommodating and Supporting Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sexual Orientation in Schools, to protect the health and rights of people of all genders and sexual orientations
- ✓ 12. Funding for the Anti-Racism Policy Advisor within government, the Anti-Racism Advisory Table, and operational support for the Black Cultural Society and BIPOC USHR
- ✓ 13. Leadership by the Public Service Commission (PSC) within government on diversity and inclusion, especially through training programs enhanced by gender and diversity analysis and the continuation of the Public Service Commission Diversity Employment Program
- ✓ 14. Municipal governments across the Island are required to provide information about the level of representation of women
- ✓ 15. Support for a 211 service to connect people with government and community-based social programs and supports
- ✓ 16. Continued progress toward a fully accessible, province-wide, public transit service
- ✓ 17. Continued implementation of a poverty elimination strategy and associated Income Support programs, and support for a Poverty Elimination Council to monitor implementation
- ✓ 18. Maintained supports through the AccessAbility Program at a minimum of 2023 levels
- ✓ 19. Support for the Generic Drug Program and Catastrophic Drug Program at unreduced levels from 2023
- ✓ 20. Support for increased food security through programs such as the Community Food Security and Food Education Program, school breakfast and snack programs, and the Healthy School Food and Summer Food Security Programs
- ✓ 21. Support for Skills Enhancement and Mentoring Program (SEAM) and Start to Apply Right (STAR) for youth at high risk of not completing high school
- ✓ 22. Funding for Women's Network PEI-led programs for women including but not limited to Trade HERizons and Propelle

*ELIMINATING
POVERTY*

GENDER-EQUALITY PROGRESS TO SUSTAIN, CONTINUED

- ✓ 23. Continued implementation of the Provincial Housing Action Plan, including continued support for rental supplements and mobile rental vouchers to help to address low-income housing needs and support for the Housing Council to oversee implementation
- ✓ 24. Support for shelter services in various locations across the province and community outreach services such as the Charlottetown Community Outreach Centre
- ✓ 25. Work to finalize and implement agreements that will move us toward an average of \$10-a-day childcare, in partnership with the federal government
- ✓ 26. Support for early years centres across the Island with funding for at least 6,864 total child care spaces including school-age programs and 4,386 spaces excluding school-age programs, and 450 infant spaces in public and private settings
- ✓ 27. Investment in a child-care action plan focused on under-served populations and vulnerable children, including support for child-care subsidies for before and after-school child care and private sitters
- ✓ 28. Tuition-paid SkillsPEI programs and services to assist PEI residents in completing their high school education (GED) and upgrade for further study, and SkillsPEI child care allowance to cover incremental costs incurred for child care while the caregiver is attending programs approved under Training PEI
- ✓ 29. Support for and promotion of parenting programs including the “Triple P” Positive Parenting Program, Handle with Care, Period of Purple Crying, Parenting from Two Homes, Best Start voluntary in-home visiting for caregivers and young children; and Strongest Families Program for mental health
- ✓ 30. Support for the Grandparent and Alternative Care Provider Program to provide financial support to some grandparents and alternative care providers
- ✓ 31. Continued implementation of the recommendations and actions in “Promoting Wellness, Preserving Health Action Plan for Seniors, Near Seniors and Caregivers,” including continued support for programs that allow seniors to stay in their own homes, such as Seniors Safe@Home, Seniors Home Repair Program, and Seniors Independence Initiative

*SUPPORTS FOR
CAREGIVERS AND
CAREGIVING*

GENDER-EQUALITY PROGRESS TO SUSTAIN, CONTINUED

- ✓ 32. Continuation of all services provided by the Sexual Health, Options and Reproductive Services (SHORS) programs for women and all genders, including abortion care through in-province access to both surgical and medical abortion (the abortion pill), clear and accessible information about services and choices, and follow-up care
- ✓ 33. Continued implementation of recommendations and actions from "Awareness to Action: A Health Strategy for Women and Islanders Who Are Gender Diverse 2022-2027"
- ✓ 34. Specialized mental health help for specific groups, such as: youth and families, through Student Well-being Teams; youth, through the Insight Program; and food producers, through the Farmers Talk Program and Fisher Assistance Program
- ✓ 35. Health promotion and health monitoring through the Public Health Office that focus on social determinants of health and applying gender and diversity analysis
- ✓ 36. Use of gender-specific protocols in Health PEI substance use treatment programs, such as the Strength and in the Transition Unit
- ✓ 37. Health supports to enhance physical health, bodily integrity, and dignity: most importantly free menstrual products in schools
- ✓ 38. Continued Enhanced Emergency Sexual Assault Services (medical and forensic support for victims of sexual assault by specially trained nurses) in all hospital emergency rooms
- ✓ 39. Continued support for the Gender Affirming Care Clinic, including approval and funding for gender-affirming surgeries
- ✓ 40. Annual commitment of core funding to Family Violence Prevention Services and the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre with yearly increases of at least 1% and that reflect cost of living
- ✓ 41. Ongoing steps toward implementation of the domestic violence court as a therapeutic court option
- ✓ 42. Continued implementation of the recommendations and actions outlined in "Creating A Culture of Care: A Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Adult Sexual Violence in Prince Edward Island 2023," including continued support for the Enhanced Emergency Sexual Assault Services Program and restorative justice programs

*WOMEN'S AND
GENDER-DIVERSE
PEOPLE'S MENTAL
AND PHYSICAL
HEALTH*

*ENDING GENDER-
BASED VIOLENCE*

GENDER-EQUALITY PROGRESS TO SUSTAIN, CONTINUED

- 43. Maintaining the “Third Option” for preserving anonymous sexual assault forensic evidence to allow time for victims to decide if they want to involve police
- 44. Continuation of in-school resources and supports, including high-quality, meaningful sexual consent and sexual violence resources, and Multi-Agency Service Teams (MAST) to bring together a variety of professionals to create a case plan for a child or youth
- 45. Support for PEI families affected by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- 46. Updates and training on woman abuse/spousal abuse protocols and policies in justice and social services, and for intervention in family violence, relationship violence, and gender-based violence for front-line workers such as police, justice workers, child protection workers, and health-care workers
- 47. Ongoing application of a spousal assault risk assessment/management tool and training for new staff to become certified
- 48. Maintenance of leave provisions for domestic violence/intimate partner violence/sexual violence under employment standards
- 49. Continuation of the Bridge: a hub model of intervention that brings together government departments and community agencies to allow information-sharing and to connect people at acutely elevated risk of serious harm to timely services
- 50. Support for work by the Premier’s Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention (PAC) at a minimum of 2023 funding levels

**PROPOSED TIMELINE
for the 2026 Equality Report Card
final deadlines may be negotiated**

Date	Activities
2022 to 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Council on the Status of Women (ACSW) strategic planning confirms continued commitment to the project, subject to approval of a renewed model
April 3, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election results in a new government • Beginning of reporting period for 2026 Equality Report Card • Baseline for status quo on gender equality gains is set
May–August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with ACSW members to draft updated Report Card model, assessment criteria, and timeline
August–September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACSW chair and staff to invite feedback on draft model from general conversation and feedback
October 2023–February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council workshop to update and finalize category statements that set out principles and expectations • Consensus decision-making by ACSW members to confirm Report Card model, assessment criteria, and timeline • Development of community perceptions feedback on 2023 baseline (community survey) • Distribution of community perceptions survey to establish research baseline
February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson Serena Smith to present model, timeline, and assessment criteria to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Natalie Jameson • ACSW publishes and distributes description of model, timeline and assessment criteria for 2026 • ACSW begins to work with Interministerial Women’s Secretariat to develop and distribute draft checklists/questionnaires to departments and reporting units • Translation of static elements of the Equality Report Card begins
February 2024 to March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing public communications about Equality Report Card through ACSW correspondence, submissions to consultations, news releases, and opinion pieces • Ongoing research and monitoring of relevant media reports and government documents by ACSW • Relationship-building with departments and departmental liaisons (task force) • Meetings and consultations with departments as requested • Consultation with government representatives to finalize deadlines
MARCH 31, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of reporting period for the 2026 Equality Report Card

Date	Activities
April to December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support available for government departments completing checklists/questionnaires • ACSW leads focus group(s) and/or community consultation(s) with under-represented women and groups • Community perceptions survey follow-up and comparative analysis • ACSW prepares draft context/background document
December 2025 (date TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for questionnaires from all government departments to be submitted to ACSW members (precise date to be determined)
January to April 2026 (precise dates TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of government questionnaire data to be provided to Council members • Analysis of questionnaire data by ACSW members • Consensus-based Council workshop to draft assessments (grades) and select supporting evidence and analysis • Completion and publication of context/background document • Preparation of layout templates for the Equality Report Card
Spring 2026 (precise dates TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Equality Report Card, including draft assessments and analysis, to be distributed to all departments and to community groups • Council consultation with community groups to validate assessments • TBD deadline for updates and feedback from government and community on the draft Report Card
Spring 2026 (precise dates TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report Card release date to be set with a strong preference for a week the Legislative Assembly is not sitting • Council members to consider any changes to the draft grades and analysis • Council staff to prepare final versions of documents and supporting materials for publication • Council Chairperson to present an advance copy of the final report to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Spring 2026 (precise dates TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members to release 2026 Equality Report Card and any background documents in a public launch • Distribution to follow

QUESTIONS?

Serena Smith, Chairperson

Jane Ledwell, Executive Director and Project Lead

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