



April 17th, 2026

STATEMENT – Investing in Communities Means Investing in the People Serving Them

***How has the budget impacted your organization?** The Community Sector Network will be sharing a survey to hear directly from our members regarding the operating budget. We encourage organizations to stay connected by signing up for our newsletter, following our social media channels, and joining our growing network of community leaders across Prince Edward Island.*

The Community Sector Network of PEI (CSN) recognizes important investments in the province's 2026–2027 Operating Budget, and emphasizes the need for stronger, sustained support for people in the community sector.

Our members are no strangers to making careful choices, a term used often in the budget address. Across Prince Edward Island, **nonprofits continue to do more with less**. While this remains a commendable attribute, it is not a sustainable service model for Islanders or organizations.

CSN is encouraged by the introduction of the **Island Essentials Benefit**, which will support individuals and families navigating ongoing affordability challenges. The allocation of 37% of the budget to healthcare signals continued attention to a critical priority area, and the commitment to create **400 new childcare spaces** is a positive step toward enabling caregivers to enter or re-enter the workforce. There are some organizations seeing a 2% CPI (Consumer Price Index) increase to salaries, which is good news.

We also appreciate government's recognition of the community sector, and that it "leans on them for a lot". Nonprofits and community organizations provide a broad range of essential direct and indirect services to Islanders. It is **encouraging to see investments directed toward communities** and the organizations that support them. CSN welcomes the clear commitment to long-term care supports and shelter services, an area highlighted in our 2026–2027 Pre-Budget Submission.

At the same time, we note areas of concern, including the **reduction in funding for the Jobs for Youth Program**. A key advocacy point raised by our members has been ensuring



investment in government wage subsidy programs to support organizations in hiring Island residents and students at equitable pay rates in line with increased minimum wage, and ideally, the living wage.

The **timing of the provincial budget release remains a persistent challenge**. While we recognize the significant effort involved in releasing an operating budget, its timing creates difficulties for many organizations, particularly in sports, arts and culture, and other groups with seasonal programming, when planning for summer and fall activities.

CSN is disappointed to see **no clear indication of multi-year funding agreements for nonprofits operating with existing single year supports**, despite this being a key recommendation in our pre-budget submission for the third consecutive year. As these organizations face rising costs and increasing demand for services, the absence of predictable, indexed funding presents real risks. We want to see our members operate with enough stability to focus on long-term planning, build their capacity to diversify funding sources, and operate as sustainably as possible. It also raises an important question: what is the greater cost, investing in stable funding now, or addressing service gaps and closures in the future?

We also note that the **absence of Ministerial Mandate Letters** continues to limit transparency around government priorities and direction across portfolios.

CSN will continue to assess how investments and policy decisions impact the community sector, recognizing that leadership in areas beyond direct budget allocations also play a critical role. This is an early-stage view of the budget, and our team will closely monitor further details, and support our members in navigating any new developments.

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