

**2026-2027
Provincial
Budget
Survey
Results**

Round One Summary Report



About this report:

This report summarizes the **first round** of feedback from community sector organizations on the 2026-2027 PEI provincial operating budget. Fourteen organizations responded between April - May, 2026, representing different subsectors across sports and recreation, arts and culture, social services, education, health, gender equality, economic development, transportation, and family resource services.

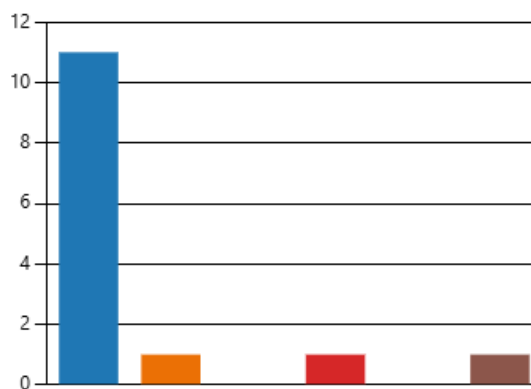
Most respondents (79%) are Executive Directors, and most identified their organization as a member of the Community Sector Network of PEI (CSN).

3. What best describes your role with the organization?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Executive Director	11
 Director or Manager	1
 Project Coordinator	0
 Chairperson or President	1
 Board Member	0
 Other	1



Respondents generally described themselves as "somewhat familiar" with the budget, and most found the information from government about funding impacts to be only "somewhat clear" or "unclear." This points to an early opportunity: **better, plainer communication from government** about what the budget actually means for community organizations across the Island.

Quotes & Themes from the First Round

Island organizations were pleased to see:

Investment in Certain Areas: Several people welcomed continued funding for healthcare, child care (including \$10/day program), and accessibility services.

Island Essentials Benefit: The new, means-tested Island Essentials Benefit was seen as a smart way to target support to Islanders.

Core Funding Remained For Some: People were also glad that core funding held steady for some organizations and sectors, including arts and culture, and a few rural community groups.

Rural Investments: Three respondents pointed to the benefits of specific investments in rural areas and for rural development as a positive sign.



*We were pleased to see the continuation of **\$10/day daycare**, funding for **healthcare**, and the Island Essentials Benefit.*



***Support** for community organizations and continued recognition of **arts and cultural** programs.*

Quotes & Themes for the First Round

Where Island organisations see the budget falling short:

Lack of long-term, sustainable supports: Many organizations said funding remains short-term, project-based, and unpredictable, making it hard to plan, staff up, or commit to multi-year programming. Several respondents specifically called for stable, multi-year core funding rather than one-off grants.

Closure of the PEI Alliance for Mental Wellbeing: This was the single most frequently mentioned concern in the entire dataset. Multiple organizations said grants they had already been awarded, in some cases for multi-year terms, were pulled when the Alliance was dissolved. Organisations stated that they want government to commit that this funding will continue to reach organizations in some form.

Cuts to climate and green energy programs: Several respondents raised concerns about cuts to climate action, active transportation fund, and green energy transition supports, especially given PEI's vulnerability to climate change and coastal erosion.

Other shortfalls: Items mentioned included the deficit, reduced funding for early years and adult education programs, some cuts to core operating funding, shortened youth employment programs, and a lack of attention to French-language and Acadian family programming.

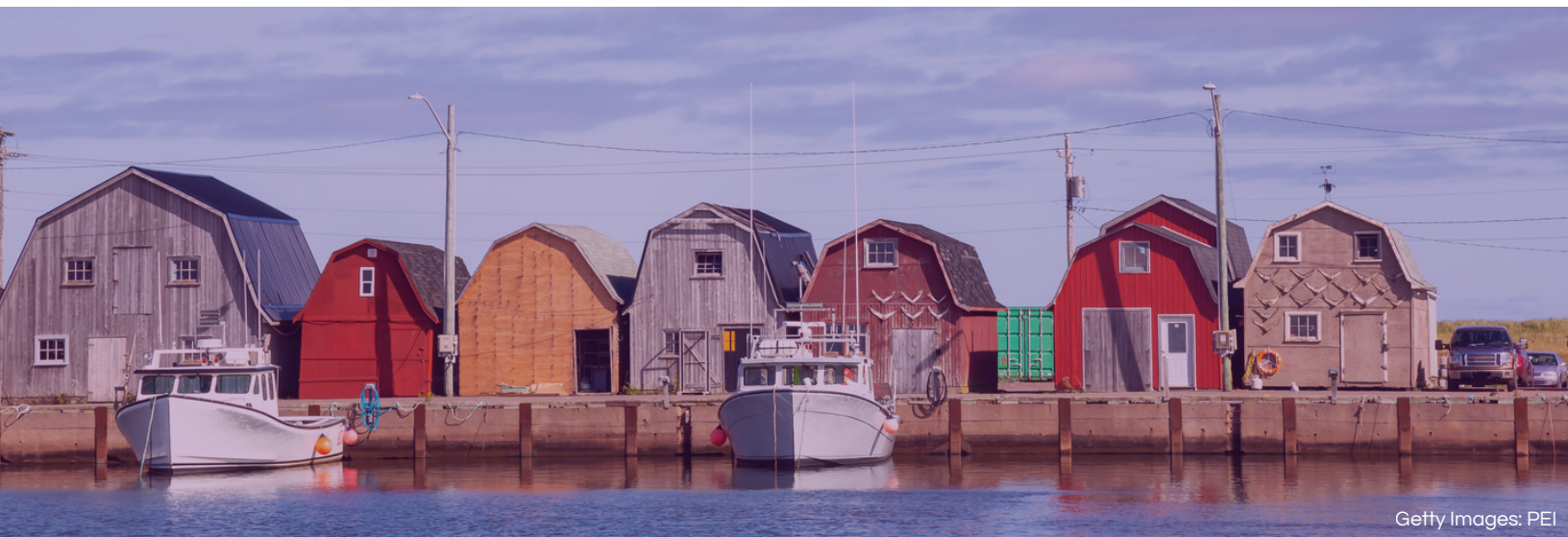


*The removal of funding from the PEI Alliance for Mental Wellbeing is **devastating**.*

Longer-term Concerns from the First Round

The provincial deficit (cited at \$410 million by one respondent) was repeatedly flagged as a serious worry, with people concerned that **debt servicing** will crowd out funding for social programs in future years. Several respondents framed this as a call for new revenue tools, particularly from higher-income earners, rather than further cuts.

Transparency was another recurring theme. A few people said they only learned the full picture of cuts impacting them through opposition questions in the legislature rather than through clear government communication, and felt this lack of proactive disclosure undermined trust.



Getty Images: PEI

The timing of the budget itself was raised as a practical problem. With the budget landing as late as May, organisations that run programs over the summer season said they have very little runway to confirm contracts, staffing, and programming before their busiest period begins. Other organisations mentioned similar issues, with late notice of budget impacts affecting program delivery and their ability to build more sustainable operations.

How CSN Can Better Support Our Members

When asked what supports CSN could offer, respondents most often asked for plain-language explainers **connecting budget decisions to real-world impacts**, training on how to read and understand government budgets, and a clear comparison showing how the budget responded to CSN's own pre-budget submission. Another idea proposed was for CSN to **host a "lock-up"** style session ahead of - or just after - budget day so member organizations can review and respond together.



What comes next? Join the conversation.

This summary reflects the perspectives of 14 organisations, collected between April and May 2026. As this is the first round of engagement, these findings should be treated as an early snapshot rather than a complete picture of responses.

The **second round for the survey will open in August** and run until mid-September. The more Island nonprofits and charities that participate, the greater the impact. Add the voice of your organisation to the conversation!

Disclaimer: *This report is compiled from survey responses submitted by representatives of individual PEI organizations and does not necessarily reflect the positions, opinions, or official views of the Community Sector Network of PEI. It is intended as a summary of what respondents shared, not as a statement of CSN policy or advocacy positions.*