



April 16, 2019

Samantha Grills
Canadian Paediatric Society
100 - 2305 St. Laurent Blvd
Ottawa, ON K1G 4J8

Dear Samantha,

Thank you for your questions and for providing the Green Party with the opportunity to communicate our vision for children's education, healthcare, and poverty reduction to your membership.

Please find attached the Green Party responses to the Canadian Paediatric Society's questions. I welcome any feedback from your membership regarding our party's policies.

Sincerely,

Peter Bevan-Baker
Leader, Green Party of PEI

1. Strengthening child and youth mental health and mental health care

If elected, what will your party do to improve access to publicly funded mental health treatment and resources for children and youth living with mental health issues or developmental disabilities?

A primary challenge is the recruitment of mental health professionals who can deliver much-needed mental health services. The Green Party is committed to working with healthcare professionals to recruit and retain more professionals.

2. Supporting families and children in need

If elected, what will your party do to reduce rates of childhood poverty and ensure safer homes, schools and communities for all children and youth in PEI?

A Green government would spend \$10,000,000 in its first year to improve social assistance rates. We would expand the school food pilot to ensure that all students have access to nutritious food regardless of their parents' means. We would also raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour by 2023.

We would address the housing crisis with at least \$11 million in spending over two years to support the addition of affordable and accessible housing units to the long-term housing supply. We would also launch a basic income guarantee pilot, and we would expand affordable afterschool programs.

3. Nurturing early child development: If elected, what will your party do to strengthen evidence-based early child development services and programs and ensure access to quality education and healthcare for families and children?

Our platform proposes a number of actions to improve and increase access to high quality education and healthcare. One of our biggest priorities is increasing wages for early childhood educators, which would enhance our ability to retain educators and would pave the way for the expansion of spaces in childcare centres. We would invest \$500,000 in our first year to increase classroom supports for teachers in collaboration with the PEI Teachers Federation, education advisory councils and other stakeholders, with ongoing consultation to ensure that the needs of students and teachers are being met. We would increase funding and autonomy for the province's district advisory councils.

We would expand the practice of scope for health professionals to improve access to health services. We would launch a rural healthcare hub pilot, with one hub in both Prince and Kings counties, to expand the availability of health services in rural PEI, and we would also introduce regulated midwifery. Finally, we would expand the Eye See Eye Learn Program for Island children and we would invest \$2.5 million a year to expand dental coverage for low-income Islanders.