

One Island Working Together

Speech from the Throne Highlights – 2009

- Government will work to ensure the smooth transition of kindergarten into the public school system as a full-day program by September of 2010.
- Three Regional Business Centres will be established in rural areas of the Island – to provide Island firms with one-stop access to the programs and services that they need to succeed and grow.
- With the support of Government, Holland College will initiate a new Regional Training Centre in West Prince offering a number of programs to meet the social and economic needs of the region.
- A new team-based model of care will be piloted throughout the health care system to use our skilled health care human resources to their fullest potential.
- Legislation will be introduced to establish a new arms-length organization, Health PEI, to deliver health services in Prince Edward Island – drawing on community leadership under a strong monitoring and accountability framework to ensure integrated high quality health services Island-wide.
- The *Tobacco Health Care Costs Recovery Act* will permit the province to pursue possible action to recover damages from large tobacco companies.
- Government will begin consultations this fall on gift card legislation to guard against the exploitation of the generosity of Islanders.
- A Social Prosperity Framework will be developed to support participation by all Islanders in the opportunities and benefits of our One Island Community – complementing our Island Prosperity Strategy and our Rural Development Strategy.
- Government will continue to pursue negotiations to reduce energy costs for Islanders.

- Government will continue to build on work initiated by the Premier to persuade the federal government to provide enhanced funding for post-secondary education.
- Government will continue to ensure tax fairness for Islanders – building on the actions that have already saved Islanders over \$50 million since 2007. Starting in 2010, Government will take action to link future changes in the owner-occupied component of residential property tax assessments to changes in the cost of living – with an expected zero increase in 2010.
- Amendments to the *Highway Traffic Act* will be introduced – to prevent the use of handheld devices while driving, and promote safety on our roads.
- A *Pesticides Control Act* will dramatically reduce the use of lawn pesticides.