



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES

### About Us

The National Association of Federal Retirees (Federal Retirees) is the largest national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors.

With close to 170,000 members, including more than 60,000 veterans and their families, the Association has been advocating for improvements to the financial security, health and well-being of our members and all Canadians since 1963.

During this Prince Edward Island provincial election, Federal Retirees is calling on the province's next government to act now to for secure, healthy and dignified retirements for Islanders.

### Federal Retirees on Prince Edward Island

The National Association of Federal Retirees represents nearly 2,000 members and two branches on Prince Edward Island. Seniors are the fastest growing demographic in Canada. P.E.I.'s government has an important role to play in adapting public policies and systems to the needs of today's growing seniors population, and in future-proofing our policies and systems for tomorrow's seniors.

### Membership by branch on Prince Edward Island

Charlottetown Branch — 1,386 members  
Summerside Branch — 582 members

During this provincial election, the National Association of Federal Retirees on Prince Edward Island will communicate with candidates about our Association and the priorities of our members and all older Islanders. For more information on Federal Retirees or to meet with a representative from the branch covering your riding, email [advocacyteam@federalretirees.ca](mailto:advocacyteam@federalretirees.ca) to connect with the Association's advocacy team.

### Federal Retirees' 2023 P.E.I. election priorities

- Access to public health care, close to home
- Safe, quality home care and long-term care
- Affordable and safe housing



## **Federal Retirees and the 2023 Prince Edward Island provincial election**

The past three years have been difficult and too often tragic for Prince Edward Island seniors and their families. P.E.I. needs a plan for its health-care system, including urgent investment and restructuring so that health care and social services are accessible, equitable and high quality.

Older adults deserve dignity and to be involved in policy decisions that affect their well-being and care — and it's time to change our perspective on aging.

This provincial election is our chance to do that.

### **Federal Retirees' priorities**

#### ***Access to public health care, close to home***

The Canada Health Act guarantees that access to health-care services is a fundamental right for all Canadians. And access to a primary care provider is key to healthy aging. However, over 28,000 Islanders are currently without a family doctor, an issue that is even more pronounced in rural P.E.I.

Consistent primary care is essential to manage health, and without it, Islanders are increasingly winding up in emergencies rooms, with severe or more complex conditions that are harder to treat. Islanders' well-being, quality of life and health outcomes are suffering, and informal caregivers are stretched to the limit. Islanders need access to primary care where they live.

As well, many older Islanders face lengthy wait times for consultations with specialists, and for diagnostic and surgical procedures. In some cases, older adults are required to go off-Island to receive the care they need.

Prince Edward Island's next government must commit to investing in primary care and ensuring Islanders are able to access health care close to home.

#### ***Safe, quality home care and long-term care***

Most older adults want to age in place, at home. Community and home care help people live at home, remain independent, and improve or maintain their health and quality of life through supports ranging from nursing to personal care to homemaking. Islanders need continued investment in publicly available and accessible home care and community care, with more nurses and health professionals dedicated to delivering high-quality, safe and effective care where people live.

In response to the devastating conditions and tragic outcomes across long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, Federal Retirees joined the call for national long-term care standards. While the standards have been published, it's now imperative that governments quickly ensure long-term care facilities are regulated and inspected, that long-term care standards meet or exceed the national standard and that those standards are enforced.



Prince Edward Island's next government must commit to investing in home care and long-term care and to ensuring P.E.I.'s long-term care standards are implemented and enforced.

### ***Affordable and safe housing***

Access to affordable and appropriate housing is a well-known social determinant of health. And most older adults want to age in place, in their own communities. However, with rising house prices, along with inflation pressures and limited housing supply, many older adults are having trouble staying in or finding appropriate, affordable and safe housing.

While P.E.I. has a Seniors Housing Program, there are currently 128 eligible older adults on the waitlist. In addition to the shortage of housing, there is a shortage of safe housing. Older adults living in social housing on the Island report buildings in various states of disrepair with unhealthy and unsafe living conditions.

Prince Edward Island's next government must commit to increasing access to affordable and safe housing for older adults.

### **Key messages**

During this provincial election, Federal Retirees is calling for Prince Edward Island's next provincial government to:

- Ensure Islanders are able to access health care close to home, by investing in primary care.
- Invest in home care and long-term care and ensure P.E.I.'s long-term care standards are implemented and enforced.
- Support access to safe, affordable housing for older adults on the Island.

### **Questions**

1. What is your party's plan to ensure Islanders have access to a family doctor through our public health-care system?
2. How will your party ensure that older adults have access to the right care, when they need it, close to home?
3. How is your party going to invest in home care and long-term care, and improve the continuum of health-care services for Islanders?
4. How will your party ensure Prince Edward Island's long-term care facilities are held to a high standard of care, and how will you ensure the standard is regulated and enforced?
5. How will you ensure older adults have access to safe and affordable housing?