

COVID-19

Prince Edward Island Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND | Summary of the Government's Response to COVID-19

School System	Status, Date of Closure, & Expected Date of Re-Opening	Current Graduating Classes	Access to Online Learning	Provincially Mandated Assessments & Report Cards	Financial Aid for Schools and Parents	Tuition, Scholarships & Entry Fees
Preschool & Daycare – Department of Education and Lifelong Learning						
Early years centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEI early years centres and licensed childcare centres closed for an indefinite period of time, except for essential workers (<i>current as of May 12</i>). Center-based child care will be provided to Islanders who work in essential services for children over 2 and who are not immunocompromised. Alternatively, in-home child care will be supported for these children and families as well. 11 emergency child care centres are now operating across the province and 13 more are ready when needed (<i>current as of April 7</i>). As part of the Renew PEI Together Plan, families who are returning to work are eligible to receive a child care allowance of up to \$75 per child, per week between May 22, 2020 and June 26, 2020 to help with child care costs. The government will be increasing the number of licensed child care centres operating from 22 to 155, allowing private home-based child care centres to re-open to their full 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEI established a fund of up to \$2 million to support early learning centres and their staff, maintain child care spaces and ensure parents do not pay fees during the period of closures (<i>current as of March 20</i>). The Department of Education and Lifelong Learning is exploring compensation plans for child care staff, and protocols and supports to address the impact on working parents/caregivers (<i>current as of March 27</i>). From May 22, families returning to work will receive \$75 per child, per week until June 26 to help with child care costs. Licensed centres will receive the payment directly. For parents using private child care services, they will need to complete an application form. The Child Care Subsidy Program is also available for families based on their income and family situation (<i>current as of May 15</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020.
Licensed child care centres						

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	<p>capacity (up to 7 children), and providing a new childcare allowance to support families using either licensed or private child care services (<i>current as of May 15</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency Child Care Services form discontinued on May 13, 2020. 					

Kindergarten to High School – Department of Education and Lifelong Learning

Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools will not reopen as usual for the remainder of the school year (<i>current as of May 11</i>). Beginning May 11, several designated schools will open to some students who currently receive individualized supports from educational assistants and youth service workers. These students will return to their designated school for part of the day where they will be supported by their Student Services Team (<i>current as of April 30</i>). The designated schools are: Souris Regional, Montague Regional, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 students who were on track to graduate and engaged with their learning prior to the school closure will have the opportunity to graduate and will not be affected by COVID-19 (<i>current as of April 17</i>). Extra support is being offered to high school students to ensure they have their prerequisite courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>). Additional activities that support ongoing learning can be found here (<i>current as of April 8</i>). Students will not be tested while learning from home; however, feedback on learning materials/tasks may be provided by your teacher where 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All provincial assessments for this year are cancelled including the DELF French language skills assessment and the Early Years Evaluations which assess readiness for kindergarten (<i>current as of March 31</i>). Any learning gaps as a result of COVID-19 will be addressed and students will progress to the next 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school-specific update as of May 21, 2020, but the Government of PEI announced the deferral of loan payments for clients of Finance PEI, Island Investment Development Inc. and the PEI Century Fund, and that \$4.5 million will be provided to <i>Community Business Development Corporations</i> across the province to deliver financing to small business and entrepreneurs. PEI also established the Emergency Working Capital Financing program aimed at providing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).
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Public	<p>Morell High, Colonel Gray, Westwood Primary, Athena Consolidated, Queen Elizabeth Elementary and Westisle Composite. Other schools, including those in Commission scolaire de langue française, will be added as required (<i>current as of April 30</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning June 15, K-12 teachers will meet with every student by phone call, video or in person if needed, to review their progress and provide them with feedback for future learning (<i>current as of April 30</i>). As of July 2nd, schools are expected to re-open for teachers and staff on September 1 and students on September 8. The Public Schools Branch and Commission scolaire de langue française will submit their operational plans to the Department before school resumes in the fall. 	<p>and are on the right path to apply to university or college (<i>current as of May 11</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the week of June 22, and working with students, schools will offer innovative year-end and graduation activities that enable students to connect with their teachers and friends and bring closure to the school year. This will include small group tours and activities to support students who will be transitioning to intermediate and high school in the fall (<i>current as of April 30</i>). 	<p>possible (<i>current as of April 8</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Educational activities" will be posted on the Public Schools Branch and the French school board's websites for parents and students to use at home, and will focus on three areas: health and well-being, literacy and math. Students will not be tested or graded on these activities (<i>current as of March 20</i>). Starting April 6, teachers will be taking the lead on home learning activities for their students. A variety of online and printed home learning materials will be provided so that regardless of access to the internet, families and students can still practice skills and 	<p>grade level (<i>current as of April 17</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Education and Lifelong Learning and the two education authorities have worked to revise curriculum for September 2020 to address learning gaps and curriculum outcomes that could not be taught this spring (<i>Current as of July 2</i>). 	<p>emergency working capital financing to assist small businesses (<i>current as of March 18</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Province will support the creation of 1,000 new job placements for Island high school and post-secondary students through increases to current employment programs and partnerships with community and industry, such as Team Seafood, the Jobs for Youth Program and the Post-Secondary Employment Program (<i>current as of April 14</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable.

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			continue learning. (current as of March 31).			

Post-Secondary Institutions – Department of Education and Lifelong Learning

University of Prince Edward Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of Prince Edward Island decided to suspend in-person classes and in-person labs effective Monday, March 16, 2020 for the remainder of the semester (current as of March 20). The University of Prince Edward Island continues to monitor developments about the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Information about the University's gradual return to full campus operations is available on UPEI's Operational Ease-Back Plan—Planning the Way Forward web page. (current as of June 12). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UPEI Convocation 2020 ceremonies that were scheduled for May 7 and 8 have been cancelled. Students will still be awarded their degree(s)/credentials at the May meeting of the UPEI Senate (current as of March 16). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any course delivery will occur through alternative means—in most cases, this will mean email communication and/or online delivery through tools such as Moodle, Google Meet, Collaborate, etc. (current as of March 20). Instruction resumed on March 23, 2020 via alternative methods. All courses for the Summer Semester (first session and second session) have been moved online except clinical rotations in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and clinical courses in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be no in-person exams for this semester. However, faculty have been encouraged to provide alternate forms of assessment (current as of March 13). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the COVID-related supports provided by post-secondary institutions to students in immediate need, the Government of PEI will provide a total of \$95,000 to support the UPEI Student Union, Holland College and Collège de l'Île (current as of April 14). The Government of PEI announced a partnership with the University of Prince Edward Island to develop a \$75,000 research fund for students wishing to pursue opportunities in their respective fields of interest (current as of April 14). The Province will support the creation of 1,000 new job placements for Island high school and post-secondary students through increases to current employment programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21). PEI is suspending repayments for provincial student loans from March 20, 2020 to September 30, 2020 (current as of May 19).
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			the Faculty of Nursing (<i>current as of April 23</i>).		and partnerships with community and industry, such as Team Seafood, the Jobs for Youth Program and the Post-Secondary Employment Program (<i>current as of April 14</i>).	
Holland College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The closures apply to all Holland College centres, and to all programs that include in-person classes. The College will remain closed until the province's Chief Public Health Officer informs that it is safe to reopen (<i>current as of March 25</i>). The college has announced its plans for program delivery for the upcoming school year. To view a list of programs and their delivery methods, visit this page (<i>current as of May 27</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The deadline to apply to graduate has changed to April 22, 2020 (<i>current as of April 16</i>). All graduation ceremonies have been postponed (<i>current as of March 25</i>). The Registrar's Office will mail out all diplomas and certificates to students as soon as it is safe to do so. Currently, delivery is estimated to be in June (<i>current as of April 22</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate delivery of courses commenced on March 25. These alternate delivery methods will be in place for the remainder of the term (<i>current as of March 22</i>). For programs or parts of programs that cannot be delivered online, a decision has not yet been made regarding whether the college will extend the school year after the pandemic restrictions are lifted (<i>current as of April 16</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the COVID-related supports provided by post-secondary institutions to students in immediate need, the Government of PEI will provide a total of \$95,000 to support the UPEI Student Union, Holland College and Collège de l'Île (<i>current as of April 14</i>). The Province will support the creation of 1,000 new job placements for Island high school and post-secondary students through increases to current employment programs and partnerships with community and industry, such as Team Seafood, the Jobs for Youth Program and the Post-Secondary Employment Program (<i>current as of April 14</i>). 	

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College de l'île	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 5 p.m. on March 18, the campuses are closed to the public, students and personnel until further notice (<i>current as of March 22</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The date and format of graduation ceremonies is being reconsidered and a decision will be announced by May 15 (<i>current as of April 2</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courses will resume online on March 23, 2020 (<i>current as of March 22</i>). Program coordinators will be in touch with students to provide further details on online learning for the term and on assessment measures (<i>current as of March 22</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase the COVID-related supports provided by post-secondary institutions to students in immediate need, the Government of PEI will provide a total of \$95,000 to support the UPEI Student Union, Holland College and Collège de l'Île (<i>current as of April 14</i>). The Province will support the creation of 1,000 new job placements for Island high school and post-secondary students through increases to current employment programs and partnerships with community and industry, such as Team Seafood, the Jobs for Youth Program and the Post-Secondary Employment Program (<i>current as of April 14</i>). 	

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Maritime Christian College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All in-person classes at the MCC campus at 503 University Avenue will be suspended for the rest of this semester (<i>current as of March 14</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The May 9 graduation ceremony is cancelled. It will be rescheduled in early September. Students who were to receive degrees will still be awarded those in May (<i>current as of April 2</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate arrangements for online classes will be made during the coming days and students will be informed of the specific details for accessing the online classes (<i>current as of March 14</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update as of May 21, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No school-specific update as of May 21, 2020, but the Government of PEI announced the deferral of loan payments for clients of Finance PEI, Island Investment Development Inc. and the PEI Century Fund, and that \$4.5 million will be provided to <i>Community Business Development Corporations</i> across the province to deliver financing to small business and entrepreneurs. PEI also established the Emergency Working Capital Financing program aimed at providing emergency working capital financing to assist small businesses (<i>current as of March 18</i>). 	

A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to post-secondary students and recent graduates:

- Post-secondary students and recent graduates who are ineligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or for Employment Insurance, but who are unable to find full-time employment or are unable to work due to COVID-19, may apply for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB). The CESB would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students from May through August 2020, and \$2,000 for students with dependents and those with permanent disabilities. The CESB will be delivered by CRA. More information is found [here](#) (current as of May 13).
- The Government of Canada announced a new Canada Student Service Grant which will provide up to \$5,000 to support student's post-secondary education costs in the fall. More details to follow (current as of April 22).
- The Government of Canada will revise the Canada Student Loan Program's eligibility requirements in 2020-21 to allow more students to qualify for supports and be eligible for greater amounts, including doubling the non-repayable Canada Student Grants for full and part time students, as well as for students with disabilities and students with dependents, in the coming academic year. The changes are expected to expand the reach of the program and the benefit to more than 760,000 students at an estimated cost of approximately \$1.9 billion over two years starting in 2020-21 (current as of April 22).
- The Government of Canada will revise various student and youth employment programs, such as the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. More information is found [here](#) (current as of April 22).

A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to international students:

- As announced on March 20, 2020, international students who held a valid study permit or had been approved for a study permit when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020, will be able travel to Canada by air or land. They will be exempt from air travel and border restrictions. This exemption is to accommodate students who are in the middle of their course of study or who have just been approved to study in Canada but were outside Canada when the travel restrictions took effect (current as of March 26).
- Courses of study being delivered online on an exceptional basis due to COVID 19 will not affect Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Program eligibility (current as of March 26).
- Students who have a study permit or who have been approved for a study permit for a program starting in May or June may begin their classes while outside Canada and may complete up to 50% of their program while outside Canada if they cannot travel to Canada sooner (current as of April 16).
- Individuals who are already legally in Canada will be able to remain in the country (current as of March 26).
- Temporary residents who are currently in Canada are able to apply to extend their status online if they need to extend their status. A temporary resident who has applied to extend their status is allowed to remain in Canada until a decision is made on their new application, even if their initial status expires while they are waiting for that decision. This is called implied status (current as of March 26).
- At least one post-secondary institution has suspended the intake of new incoming International students from overseas for the Spring Semester beginning in May.
- The Government of Canada is temporarily allowing international students holding study permits, who are eligible to work off campus and already present in Canada, to work more than 20 hours per week while classes are in session, provided they are working in an essential service or function, such as health care, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods. This change is in effect until August 31, 2020 (current as of April 22).

Information on the Government of Prince Edward Island's response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:

- <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/covid-19-faqs>
- <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-and-wellness/closures-due-covid-19>
- <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/province-announces-next-steps-for-education>

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