

Welcome to *Making Waves*, the GSCC's newest newsletter, dedicated to keeping our chamber members informed and up-to-date on the latest chamber initiatives and government updates.

Keep reading for the latest news and updates from the GSCC!

Chamber Initiatives

Pre-Budget Consultation

Last week, we released our 2023-24 provincial pre-budget submission. In the submission we advocated for:

- 1) A reduction in Federal Government Transportation Tariffs And Tolls to enter and leave PEI, and
- 2) An increase in reliable flight connections to major airports nationally.

To view our full submission, click HERE.

Request for Reconsideration of Property Purchasing Restrictions

On Monday, Feb. 13th, the GSCC issued a press release regarding our concern over the recent legislation "Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act" that went into effect on January 1, 2023.

The blanketed approach of this act affects smaller markets like ours and applies a disproportionate penalty. The Chamber is requesting an immediate reversal of this legislation and a re-evaluation of our affected communities.

To read the full Press Release, click HERE.

To listen to Chamber President Blake Doyle's interview on this topic on Island Morning from Feb. 14th, click <u>HERE.</u>

Government Updates

New BioAccelerator Facility Announced

This past week, the Government of Canada and Prince Edward Island announced that they have invested \$50 million in the BioAccelerator, the largest ever investment in PEI's economic development infrastructure.

The BioAccelerator is a 75,000 sq. ft. bio-manufacturing centre that will support research, product development, and training in the bioscience sector.

For more information, click **HERE**.

Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program

The Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) Program is launching its second scheduled intake and is now accepting applications.

Eligible applicants with large projects to retrofit existing community buildings or projects to build new community buildings with total eligible costs ranging from \$3 million to \$25 million can apply now until February 28, 2023, 15:00 ET.

For more information, or to apply click HERE.

PEI Labour Force Survey Released

The Province of PEI has released its annual report on the Labour Force, compiled and published in partnership with Statistics Canada. Some highlights from the report include the following:

- Employment increased by 5.4 per cent or 4,300 in 2022, to an all-time high of 84,200.
- PEI's average hourly wage rate was \$26.95 in 2022. This is an increase of \$1.61 or 6.4 per cent over 2021.
- Total unemployed persons on PEI averaged 6,900 in 2022, a 19.8 per cent decrease and the lowest annual number since 1983.

To access the report, click **HERE**.

Funding Opportunities

Tourism Seasonal Extension Program

Funding to help tourism operators extend their season. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$50,000.

See more details here.

PEI Climate Challenge Fund

Supporting PEI businesses and organizations that demonstrate innovative solutions to the threat of climate change.

Deadline to apply - Mar. 1st

See more details here.

Indigenous Arts Grant Program

Funding to celebrate, highlight, support, and encourage the artistic accomplishments of the Mi'kmaq people of Epekwitk (PEI).

Deadline to apply - Mar. 8th

See more details <u>here</u>.

Community Services Recovery Fund

A fund to support charities and non-profits as they focus on pandemic recovery. Funding ranges from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

Deadline to apply - Feb. 21st

See more details here.







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