

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2025

Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) has had one woman premier, and its legislature has not yet achieved gender parity by having women make up at least half of its MLAs. The Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island seats 27 members, of which 6 are women (22.2%). P.E.I.'s last election took place in April 2023.



Population
178,550



Female to Male
51.0% : 49.0%



GDP
\$7+ billion

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

P.E.I. has a unicameral legislature, with one chamber: the **Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island**. As a parliamentary democracy, P.E.I. has 27 constituencies which are each represented by an elected **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)**.

The political party with the most elected MLAs forms government, and their leader becomes the head of government, called the **Premier**. The Premier selects MLAs to serve as Cabinet Ministers.

The **Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island** is appointed by the Governor General of Canada and represents the King, Canada's Head of State.



CURRENT EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION (as of Mar 2025)

Premier: Rob Lantz (M)
Assumed office: 21 Feb. 2025
Party: Progressive Conservative Party of P.E.I.

12 Cabinet Members
4 women (33.3%) : 8 men (66.7%)

Notable portfolios currently held by women:

- Finance
- Economic Development, Innovation and Trade
- Social Development and Seniors
- Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population

CURRENT LEGISLATURE

(as of Mar 2025)

25 MLAs total*
6 women (24%) : 19 men (76%)

MLAS PER PARTY

Progressive Conservative Party of P.E.I.:
19 MLAs
5 women (26.3%) : 14 men (73.7%)

P.E.I. Liberal Party: 3 MLAs
0 women (0%) : 3 men (100%)

Green Party of P.E.I.: 3 MLAs
1 woman (33.3%) : 2 men (66.7%)



LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS (as of Mar 2025)

30 Lieutenant Governors since 1873
3 women : 27 men

Current Lieutenant Governor:
Wassim Salamoun (M)

PAST PREMIERS

(as of Mar 2025)

34 Premiers since 1873
1 woman : 33 men

Catherine Callbeck, 25 Jan. 1993 -
10 Oct. 1996

MILESTONES

1951

Hilda Ramsay was the first woman candidate for the Legislative Assembly in P.E.I.

1970

Jean Canfield was the first woman MLA elected in P.E.I.

1972

Jean Canfield was the first woman named to Cabinet in P.E.I.

1982

Leone Bagnall was the first Minister Responsible for the Status of Women in P.E.I.

1983

Marion Reid was the first woman Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of P.E.I.

1990

Marion Reid was the first woman to be appointed Lieutenant Governor of P.E.I.

1990

Pat Mella was the first woman to lead a P.E.I. political party.

1993

Catherine Callbeck was the first woman premier of P.E.I. Callbeck was also the first woman premier to be elected in a general election anywhere in Canada.

2006

As a result of a P.E.I. by-election in 2006, a record number of women held seats in the province's legislature, with 7 women MLAs out of 27 (25.9%). This is the highest proportion of women MLAs in Nova Scotia's history, though it has been tied by subsequent elections.