

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

## AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2026

Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) has had one woman serve as 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 26\* members, of which 7 are women (26.9%). P.E.I.'s last election took place in April 2023.

\*one additional seat is vacant



**Population**  
182,001



**Female to Male**  
50.8% : 49.2%



**GDP**  
\$7.9+ 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.

11 Cabinet Members  
4 women (36.4%) : 7 men (63.6%)

#### Notable portfolios currently held by women:

- Land and Environment
- Economic Development, Trade & AI
- Finance and Affordability
- Social Development and Seniors
- Status of Women

### CURRENT LEGISLATURE

(as of May 2026)

26 MLAs total\*  
7 women (26.9%) : 19 men (73.1%)

#### MLAS PER PARTY

**Progressive Conservative Party of P.E.I.:**

18 MLAs  
5 women (27.8%) : 13 men (72.2%)

**P.E.I. Liberal Party:** 4 MLAs  
1 woman (25%) : 3 men (75%)

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

**Independent:** 1 MLA

0 women : 1 man

\*one additional seat is vacant, pending a by-election



### 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 P.E.I.'s history, though it has been tied by subsequent elections.