

PEI Women's Network – “Advocating Changes to Parental Benefits Legislation”

This initiative will address the issue of women's economic autonomy. It will build on our original research of the current parental benefits legislation and our extensive consultation process. In this initiative, we will use our final recommendations to advocate for public policy change. Phase I of the initiative examined the broad implications and the equitability of the new parental benefits legislation. Phase II took the research findings and analysis and used them as the basis of developing policy options and recommendations towards a more equitable system and conducted extensive consultations. In the first two phases, we did gender analysis and looked beyond the surface to understand the inequities of the legislation. As we continue our work, the focus will shift to influencing the content of public policy.

Through this initiative, the short term objective of the Women's Program that will be addressed directly is, “organization members and women affected by the issue understand the issue and are mobilized to engage in the public policy process”. The Intermediate Outcomes will be, “governments and publicly elected bodies understand and are engaged in addressing the issues” and “women participate in public policy decision-making processes.” The projected long-term outcome will be, “government and publicly elected bodies have integrated the diversity of women's perspectives in public policies.”