

A close-up photograph of a person's lower legs and feet. They are wearing traditional Indigenous clothing, including a patterned skirt and beaded moccasins with yellow laces. The person is walking on a grassy field with large rocks in the background.

Property Rights: A Guide for People Living on Reserve in PEI



**Community Legal
Information**
Empowerment Through Knowledge

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  @TrishaB223

Introduction

This publication shares legal information about property rights on reserves in Prince Edward Island (PEI). It was reviewed by the Executive Director of the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils Inc., and the Chiefs of Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation.

This publication provides legal information only. The information in this publication is not legal advice and does not replace guidance from a lawyer.




It does not include information about cultural practices or Indigenous rights to housing.

About us

Community Legal Information is a registered charity serving PEI. We offer legal information and support navigating the justice system.

We acknowledge that we live and work on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

Community Legal Information

-  www.legalinfopei.ca
-  info@legalinfopei.ca
-  902-892-0853; 1-800-240-9798 (toll-free)



Property rights on-reserve are complex and impacted by many factors. This publication shares general information only.

Community Legal
Information





The legal terms Band and Indian can be offensive. For this reason, we'll use the terms First Nation and First Nation member in this resource.

Legal terms to know

The following terms are helpful to know while you read this publication:

A **Band** is a body of Indians, as that term is defined in the *Indian Act*. This term is interchangeable with **First Nation**.

A **Band Council** is the elected governing body of the Band (First Nation). This term is interchangeable with **First Nation Council**.

A **Band member** is a person whose name is on a Band list or who's entitled to be on a Band list. This term is interchangeable with **First Nation member**.

An **Indian** is an Indigenous person who's registered as an Indian, or who's entitled to be registered as an Indian in accordance with the *Indian Act*. Although the legal term remains “Indian,” it's common to use the term First Nation member with status or First Nation person eligible for status.

An **Indigenous person** is a descendant of the original people of North America. The Canadian Constitution recognizes First Nation, Inuit, and Métis people as aboriginal. We'll use the term “Indigenous” throughout this publication.

A **reserve** is land the Crown (Government of Canada) owns but set aside for the use and benefit of a Band (First Nation) under the *Indian Act*.

How property rights work on reserves

A reserve is land the Crown (Government of Canada) owns but has set aside for the use and benefit of a Band (First Nation).

First Nations and their members do not own reserve land, but they may lawfully possess it. **Lawful possession of reserve land** is the right to manage, use, live on, and benefit from it.

There are two First Nations on PEI:

- Lennox Island First Nation
- Abegweit First Nation

There are three Abegweit First Nation reserves:

- Morell
- Rocky Point
- Scotchfort

There are three Lennox Island reserves:

- Lennox Island
- East Bideford
- Fernwood

Abegweit and Lennox Island Reserves

 Lennox Island First Nation Reserves

 Abegweit First Nation Reserves



This map shows the approximate locations of Lennox Island First Nation and Abegweit First Nation reserves.

Who can make decisions about land use on-reserve?

First Nation Councils, and sometimes individual members, can make decisions about land use on reserves. These decisions need to be approved by the Crown.

Approval from the Crown means approval from the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) through the federal ISC department or, in some situations, it can mean approval from courts.

A First Nation Council or First Nation member's decisions about reserve land must comply with laws, like:

- The *Indian Act*
- The *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act* (FHRMIRA)
- The First Nation's Matrimonial Property Code

For example, with approval from ISC, First Nation Councils can:

- Give the exclusive right to manage, use, or live on a piece of reserve land to a member of the First Nation.
- Rent or lease housing property on reserve to a member of the First Nation.
- Manage, build, or maintain roadways and bridges.





Lawful possession of reserve land is the right to manage, use, live on, and benefit from it.

How are First Nations involved in court decisions about land use on-reserve?

The First Nation is often notified about court processes related to land use on one of their reserves.

Judges often consider First Nation members' cultural, social, and legal interests, as well as input from the First Nation's Council.

What is a Certificate of Possession?

A **Certificate of Possession (CP)** is a document that proves which First Nation member or members lawfully possess a piece of reserve land.

A CP is not a deed, and it does not prove land ownership; it proves lawful possession only.

A Certificate of Possession usually states any special rules that apply to the land.

Who can get a Certificate of Possession?

Only First Nation members can get a valid CP.

To get a CP, a First Nation Council must allot reserve land to one of its members, or the Council must approve the transfer of lawful possession from one member to another.

Then, if the Minister responsible for ISC approves, the department will issue a CP.

How do I know if I'm named on a Certificate of Possession?

To check if you're named on a Certificate of Possession:

- Ask your First Nation Council's land registrar.
- Contact ISC Atlantic Lands Division.
- Check the online [Indian Land Registration System](#).

ISC Atlantic Lands Division

✉ terreat-atlands@sac-isc.gc.ca

☎ 902-661-6209

Can I sell my Certificate of Possession?

If you have a CP, you can transfer lawful possession of the land back to your First Nation or to another member of your First Nation.

You cannot sell ownership of reserve land, but you can transfer lawful possession in exchange for money.

To transfer your lawful possession of reserve land, you must:

- Make a written Transfer of Land in a Reserve agreement.
- Get approval from your First Nation Council.
- Get approval from the Minister of ISC.

**Indian Land
Registration System**



To get help with this process, you can:

- Contact your First Nation Office.
- Talk to ISC’s Atlantic Registration of Lands Contact.
- Use ISC’s Fillable Transfer of Land form on the [ISC Forms by Category](#) webpage.
- Hire a lawyer for legal guidance and advice.

If you're married, in a common-law partnership, separated, or divorced, you may need to complete additional ISC forms.

Indigenous Services Canada’s Atlantic Registration of Lands

☎ 902-661-6200, 1-800-567-9604

✉ AANDC.ATLands-TerreAT.AADNC@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca



If you're married or in a common-law partnership, you need written, free, and informed consent from your spouse or partner before you can transfer your CP. This applies even if your spouse is not Indigenous.

I’m a First Nation member. May I live on-reserve without a Certificate of Possession?

Yes. For example, some First Nation members without a CP rent or lease housing on-reserve from their First Nation Council.

If you do not have a CP, your right to live on-reserve may depend on permission from your First Nation Council.

ISC Forms by Category



I'm not Indigenous, can I live on-reserve?

Non-Indigenous people generally have no legal right to use, live on, possess, buy, or sell property on a reserve.

ISC generally does not allow First Nation Councils or members to make legally valid agreements to lease, rent, or transfer lawful possession of reserve land to anyone who's not a First Nation member.

There are exceptions. For example, ISC can issue special permits in some situations.

A First Nation member's common-law partner, spouse, or parent may also have legal rights to live on-reserve even if they're not Indigenous. Learn more throughout this publication.

Do I still live on-reserve if I leave for a while?

Yes, in some situations. If you live away from your home on-reserve to access education, medical care, or to flee family violence, you're often still considered to live on-reserve.





Family homes on-reserve

What is a family home?

A **family home** is a structure on a First Nation reserve where spouses or common-law partners usually live. It can be a house, part of a house, a trailer, or an apartment.

While you cannot own reserve land, it's possible to own a family home located on-reserve.

Who can live in a family home?

Both spouses or common-law partners are allowed to live in a family home on a reserve during a relationship. This applies even if one spouse is not Indigenous.

Who's a spouse?

Federal, provincial, and First Nation laws have different definitions of spouse. In this guide, **spouse** means someone who's married or who's in a common-law partnership.

Common-law partnerships are couples who have lived together in a sexual relationship for at least one year. This definition applies only to couples who usually live on-reserve.

If you live off-reserve, different definitions may apply. Find more information in our guide, *[Family Law Essentials](#)*.

Dividing assets after separation

When spouses who usually live on-reserve separate or divorce, there's sometimes conflict about who can use the family home and how assets should be divided.

To resolve conflict, think about your situation and options:

- Learn about the laws that apply.
- Get guidance and information from your First Nation Office (Band Office).
- Talk to a lawyer.

In some cases, you may be able to work with your spouse to find a way forward. To do this, you can:

- Talk with your spouse to reach an agreement.
- Get help from a mediator to reach an agreement.
- Make a domestic contract.

There are multiple resources that may help you learn about your options and resolve your conflict out of court. Your First Nation Council can help you learn about and access community resources.

If you and your spouse cannot reach an agreement out of court, you can go to court and ask a judge to decide what each spouse is entitled to.

What laws apply to separating spouses who live on-reserve?

PEI's provincial laws governing housing or division of assets do not apply on First Nation reserve land.

In addition to the *Indian Act*, other laws apply when couples living on-reserve separate.

On Abegweit First Nation reserves, the federal *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act* (FHRMIRA) applies.

On Lennox Island First Nation reserves, the *Lennox Island First Nation Matrimonial Real Property Law* applies.

Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act



Abegweit First Nation Council



Lennox Island First Nation Council




These laws set rules about the division of assets and who can live in the family home on-reserve after a separation. They only apply if at least one of the spouses or common-law partners is a First Nation member.


These supports may help you learn more about the laws that apply to your situation:


Abegweit First Nation Council

 www.abegweit.ca

 902-676-2353

Lennox Island First Nation Council

 www.lennoxisland.com

 902-831-2779

Community Legal Information

- 📄 www.legalinfopei.ca
- ✉ info@legalinfopei.ca
- ☎ 1-800-240-9798; 902-892-0853

Our legal navigators can share legal information and help you navigate the legal system. In some cases, our Lawyer Referral Services can connect you with limited advice from a lawyer for a small fee.

The Law Society of PEI

- 📄 <https://lawsocietypei.ca/find-a-lawyer>

The Law Society offers a list of practicing lawyers on PEI.

What am I entitled to if I separate from my spouse?

Each spouse is generally entitled to:

- Half of the value of the family home, and
- Half of the value of the couple's other assets.

This applies to couples who usually live on-reserve, even if one spouse is not Indigenous.

This is a general rule. Many factors can impact what you and your spouse are entitled to. Talk to a lawyer to get advice about your situation.



Community Legal Information



The Law Society of PEI - Find a Lawyer





What is matrimonial interest?

Matrimonial interest is the financial value of a couple's assets aside from the value of the family home.

Matrimonial interest includes the value of property acquired by both spouses and/or either spouse:

- During the relationship, or
- In direct anticipation of the relationship.

Matrimonial interest does not include the value of gifts or the value of a spouse's right to reserve land. For example, the value of a Certificate of Possession is not a matrimonial interest.

Matrimonial interest may include the value of vehicles, furniture, electronics, or buildings like barns or sheds.

If property increased in value during the relationship, the change in value is considered matrimonial interest.

Do we have to separate our assets and debts evenly?

No. You do not have to divide the value of your family home, your matrimonial interest, or your debts evenly. If you and your spouse agree, you can move forward with a different arrangement.

Making a legal separation agreement can help you make sure your agreement is clear. It can also prevent future conflict about your arrangement. Learn more about separation agreements on page 19.

There are situations when the court will divide a separating couple's assets unevenly. A judge will consider many factors before making a decision. For example, the judge may consider how much each parent is paying to support the couple's child.

Ask a lawyer for more information and advice to learn what you may be entitled to after a separation.

Do we have to go to court to divide our assets?

No, you do not have to go to court to divide your assets. You and your spouse can decide how to divide your assets.

If you and your spouse cannot reach an agreement or if you think an agreement you made in the past is unfair, you can apply to the Supreme Court of PEI to get a judge to decide how to divide your assets.

Is it ever too late to go to court?

Yes. You have up to three years from the date you and your spouse stop living together to apply to the court about dividing your assets.

There are timeline exceptions. The court may give you an extension if:

- Circumstances that were out of your control held you back from applying to court within the three-year limit.
- You became aware of assets that you may be entitled to after the three-year time limit passed.

Resolving conflict out of court

There are tools, resources, and processes that can help you resolve conflicts out of court, including mediation and making domestic contracts.

What is mediation?

Mediation is when people on two sides of a conflict and a mediator meet to try to resolve disagreements. The mediator is neutral and helps the parties communicate.

The courts encourage the use of mediation before taking legal action.

Mediation that follows the traditions and practices of your First Nation may be available. Contact your First Nation Council for more information.

**Abegweit
First Nation**




**Lennox Island
First Nation**




Abegweit First Nation

 www.abegweit.ca

 902-676-2353

Lennox Island First Nation

 www.lennoxisland.com

 902-831-2779

What is a domestic contract?

A **domestic contract** is a legal contract between you and your spouse or common-law partner. It can be an agreement about parenting, finances, communication, property, and more.

You may write a domestic contract to:

- Prevent future conflict and miscommunication by writing down your current agreement.
- Agree on what will happen to the property if the relationship ends.
- Resolve conflicts with your spouse about parenting, finances, communication, and more.

Writing the location of your family home in your contract can clarify your situation if you use more than one property for different purposes.

How do I make a domestic contract?

You can write your own contract or get help from a lawyer.

To be legally valid, a domestic contract must be:

- Written
- Signed and dated by you and your spouse
- Witnessed

Spouses and witnesses must be competent when signing or witnessing the contract. **Competent** means being able to understand financial or legal matters and make informed legal or financial decisions.





The witness does not have to know the details of the contract. The witness signs to confirm that:

- You and your spouse were both competent when you signed the contract.
- Neither you nor your spouse was forced to sign the contract.

A mediator can help you reach an agreement with your spouse.

A lawyer can help you understand your rights and options. A lawyer can also draft or review a contract for you and your spouse.

You do not need a lawyer to make a contract. But it's always a good idea to get legal advice before signing a legal document.

Where do I get more information about family law?

We offer family law guides. Some of the information in our guides applies to families who live on-reserve, but other information does not. Ask your First Nation Office, First Nation Council or a lawyer about which laws apply to your situation.

For information about parenting arrangements or child support on PEI, read our guides *[Parenting and the Law](#)* and *[A Parenting Plan for PEI Families](#)*.

For information about family law on PEI, read our guide *[Family Law Essentials](#)*. All our guides are free and can be found on our website. Contact us for paper copies.

Rights to the family home after separation

A number of factors affect who can stay in the family home on-reserve after a separation, including:

- The First Nation's laws and policies
- If one spouse is not a First Nation member
- If one spouse has primary custody of a child who's a First Nation member
- Family violence or abuse

You can talk to the First Nation's Office or Council to learn more about its laws and policies. With this information in mind, you can work with your spouse to figure out who can, and who will stay in the house.

If you, your spouse, and your First Nation Council cannot reach an agreement, you can apply to the Supreme Court of PEI for an Exclusive Occupation Order or a decision about who's entitled to live in the house long-term.

What is an Exclusive Occupation Order?

An **Exclusive Occupation Order** (EOO) is a court order that gives a spouse the sole right to live in their family home for a period of time.

You do not need to be Indigenous to get an EOO.

A **court order** is a document from the court that states a judge's decisions and the rules that must be followed.



A judge may issue an EOO even if there's no family violence and even if the couple does not own the family home.

The court can issue an EOO in two situations:

- After spouses breakup
- After a spouse dies

There are cases when the court will prioritize giving First Nation members the sole right to live in the family home.

What will the judge consider when making an Exclusive Occupation Order?

To make an Exclusive Occupation Order after a separation, a judge considers the people living in the home. For example the judge may consider:

- The interests of any child who's a First Nation member and living in the home
- Any elderly person who lives in the home
- Anyone with a disability who lives in the home

The judge also considers each spouse. For example the judge may consider each spouse's:

- First Nation membership
- Domestic agreements
- Medical condition
- Financial situation
- Time spent living on the reserve

The judge will also consider other people's rights or interests. For example the judge may consider:

- The collective interests of First Nation members
- Anyone else who holds an interest or right in the family home

The judge may consider other circumstances such as:

- Family violence or abuse
- Availability of other housing
- Court orders related to the family home or relationship

What can the judge include in an EOO?

An EOO issued in response to a separation can order a spouse to:

- Leave immediately, or by a specific time.
- Leave the home undisturbed.
- Leave specific items in the home.
- Remove specific items from the home.

An EOO may order either spouse to pay for some or all of the family home's utilities, maintenance, or repairs.

The judge can order the spouse who will stay in the family home to pay for some or all of the other spouse's accommodations.





Will the court prioritize First Nation members' right to the family home?

Yes. When making an EOO in response to separating spouses, judges generally must give priority to the spouse who's a First Nation member. But there are exceptions:

- When there are exceptional circumstances, like family violence or abuse.
- When a spouse who's not a First Nation member has primary custody of a child who's a First Nation member.

Emergency protection orders



You do not need to be Indigenous to get an Emergency Protection Order on-reserve.

What is an emergency protection order?

An **Emergency Protection Order (EPO)** is a court order that can give immediate legal protection to victims of family violence.

Family violence is any violence by one family member against another family member. It includes unwanted physical contact, threats of harm or property damage, and unwanted sexual contact.

An EPO gives rules for who can live in and enter a family home.

You may want to file for an Emergency Protection Order (EPO) if there's family violence in your home. You can file an EPO without your spouse knowing. A peace officer will notify your spouse about the EPO after it's in place.

An EPO may:

- Give the applicant exclusive access to a property
- Require the applicant's spouse to leave the property immediately.

The EPO can last up to 90 days. A judge can also extend it.

If you or someone you know is experiencing family violence, there are support services available. Learn more starting on page 35.

It's also a good idea to create a safety plan. You can use our *Health & Safety Plan for Indigenous Families*.

We also have the following free resources:

- *Family Violence and the Law*
- *Preventing Abuse and Neglect of Older Adults*
- *Planning Ahead, Staying Safe: A Guide for Indigenous Seniors*

For more information about protection orders and how to get one, read our publication, *Court Orders for Your Protection*.

Rights to the family home when a spouse dies

If your spouse dies, you have the right to live in your family home on-reserve for 180 days. This applies even if your family home is rented or leased, and even if you're not Indigenous.

You can apply for an Exclusive Occupation Order (EOO) to stay in the home longer.

If there's conflict about who has rights to the family home long-term, you can ask the court to decide. To do this, you must apply to the court within ten months of your spouse's death.

How long can I stay in the family home with an EOO?

Laws about how long you can stay in the family home with an EOO differ between Lennox Island First Nation reserves and Abegweit First Nation reserves.

Lennox Island reserve

On Lennox Island First Nation reserves, an EOO for a surviving spouse can last for a maximum of one year beyond the initial 180 days.

That means, depending on the details in your EOO, you may be able to stay in the family home for up to 545 days.

If the First Nation does not own the family home, the court order can be renewed in exceptional circumstances.





If Lennox Island First Nation owns the family home, the court cannot renew or extend the EOO. You can talk to the Lennox Island First Nation Office or Council to learn more about your options.

Abegweit First Nation reserves

Abegweit First Nation does not have its own Matrimonial Property law, so the federal law (FHRMIRA) applies. The federal law does not set a maximum time period for an EOO issued to surviving spouses.

Judges must consider Abegweit First Nation members' collective cultural, social, and legal interests when making an EOO. They must consider what the First Nation Council says or asks them to do.

Who has the right to the family home long-term?

Many factors influence who has the right to the family home after the 180 days pass, and any EOOs expire. Here are some examples:

- If the spouse who died owned the family home
- The spouse's will (if the spouse who died owned the home)
- If the surviving spouse is a member of the First Nation
- If the surviving spouse is the parent of any children who are First Nation members and living in the family home
- The First Nation's housing policy and laws

Talk to a lawyer and the First Nation Council to learn more about your situation.

Wills

What is a will?

A **will** is a document that leaves instructions about what you want done with your property and belongings after you die. Making a will is the only way to ensure your wishes are followed after your death.

What laws apply if I live on-reserve?

If you're a First Nation member living on-reserve, the *Indian Act* applies when you make your will. Provincial laws do not.

To write a will that is valid under the *Indian Act*, you must:

- Have Indian status
- Be 18 years or older
- Live on-reserve

Your will must:

- Be written
- Be signed by you
- State what you want done with at least one of your possessions
- State that it takes effect after your death

It's best practice to:

- Date your will
- Get two witnesses to sign your will
- Name an executor

Your witnesses and/or their spouses cannot be beneficiaries of your will.

Consider describing your wishes and instructions in your will. For example, you can write information about:

- Who should care for your children and dependants
- Who should inherit each of your assets
- Who should get specific items

Leaving other information can help your executor manage and distribute your estate. For example, you can:

- List all of your assets and where they're located.
- List all of your debts, how much they're worth, and who holds them.

Can I leave instructions for my Certificate of Possession in my will?

Yes. You can leave instructions about your Certificate of Possession in your will if you're the sole holder of the Certificate. But the *Indian Act* says a Certificate of Possession can only be transferred to another First Nation member.

Can I leave instructions for my family home in my will?

Yes, you can leave instructions for your family home in your will.

However, if your instructions do not align with the *Indian Act* or the laws that apply to your reserve, your wishes may not be fulfilled when you die.

You can talk to your First Nation, to a lawyer, or to ISC estate officers to learn more about your options.

ISC Atlantic Estate Services

✉ estateservices-atservicesdadmindessuccessions@sac-isc.gc.ca

☎ Estates Officer NS/PEI: 902-664-7435

What if I live off-reserve?

Provincial laws apply when making a will if you usually live off-reserve. For more information about provincial laws, read our publications *Wills, Executors and Administrators: Distributing an Estate*, and *Planning Ahead, Staying Safe: A Guide for Indigenous Seniors*.





Glossary

Band

A body of Indians, as that term is defined in the *Indian Act*. This term is interchangeable with **First Nation**.

Band Council

The elected governing body of the Band (First Nation). This term is interchangeable with **First Nation Council**.

Band member

A person whose name is on a Band list or who's entitled to be on a Band list. This term is interchangeable with **First Nation member**.

Certificate of Possession

A document that proves which First Nation member or members lawfully possess a piece of reserve land.

Common-law partnership

A couple that has lived together in a sexual relationship for at least one year. This definition does not apply if you live off-reserve on PEI.

Competent

Able to understand financial or legal matters and make informed legal or financial decisions.

Court order

A document from the court that states a judge's decisions and rules that must be followed.

Domestic contract

A legal contract between spouses or common law partners.

Emergency Protection Order (EPO)

A court order that a judge can issue without delay to protect family members from violence, and a family home on-reserve from damage.

Exclusive Occupation Order (EOO)

A court order that gives a spouse the sole right to live in their family home. You do not need to be Indigenous to get an EOO.

Family home

A structure on a First Nation reserve where spouses or common-law partners usually live.

Family violence

Any violence by one family member against another.

Indian

An Indigenous person who's registered as an Indian, or who's entitled to be registered as an Indian in accordance with the *Indian Act*. Although the legal term remains “Indian,” it is common to use the term First Nation member with status or First Nation person eligible for status.

Indigenous person

A descendant of the original peoples of North America. The Canadian Constitution recognizes First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people as aboriginal. We use the term “Indigenous” throughout this publication.

Lawful possession of reserve land

The right to manage, use, live on, and benefit from the land. Lawful possession is not ownership.

Matrimonial interest

The financial value (excluding the value of the family home) held by married spouses or common-law partners.

Mediation

When people on opposite sides of a conflict and a mediator try to resolve disagreements.

Reserve

Land the Crown (Government of Canada) owns but set aside for the use and benefit of a Band (First Nation) under the *Indian Act*.

Safety plan

A tool to help you prepare for a crisis that is made by you and makes sense for you and your family.

Spouse

A person in a married or in a common-law partnership.

Will

A document that leaves instructions about what you want to be done with your property after you die.

More resources


We offer other publications. Contact us for paper copies.

- [*Court Orders for Your Protection*](#)
- [*Executors and Administrators: Distributing an Estate*](#)
- [*Family Violence and the Law*](#)
- [*Health & Safety Plan for Indigenous Families*](#)
- [*Planning Ahead & Staying Safe: A Guide for Indigenous Seniors*](#)
- [*Wills*](#)

Support services

First Nations



Abegweit First Nation Council

-  www.abegweit.ca
-  902-676-2353

The governing body for the Abegweit First Nation.



Lennox Island First Nation Council

-  www.lennoxisland.com
-  902-831-2779

The governing body for Lennox Island First Nation.



Indigenous-led services and supports

Chief Mary Bernard Memorial Women's Shelter

-  www.cmbmws.ca
-  womensshelter@lennoxisland.com
-  902-831-2332; 1-855-297-2332


Provides safe housing on Lennox Island to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous women and their children who are experiencing family violence, and for women who are homeless.





Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI (MCPEI)


 www.mcpei.ca

 902-626-2882

A non-profit organization dedicated to supporting an empowered Mi'kmaq and Indigenous community in the journey towards self-determination.

MCPEI's Family Pride program


 www.mcpei.ca

 902-626-2882

Offers support to children, youth, and families living on-reserve, to help prevent crisis, harm, or maltreatment. The program also offers crisis intervention support.

MCPEI's Indigenous Justice program


 www.mcpei.ca

 902-626-2882

Offers conflict resolution circles which create an opportunity to address conflict within a healing environment before it becomes a criminal activity.



Mi'kmaq Family Resource Centre


 1-902-892-0928

 mfrfc.pei@gmail.com

Offers support services to Indigenous families.

Native Council of PEI (NCPEI)


 www.ncpei.com

 902-629-1541

The self-governing authority for all off-reserve Indigenous people living on Epekwitk (PEI).




NCPEI's SAFE program

 902-892-5314

 safe@ncpei.com

SAFE stands for Strengthening Aboriginal Families Effectively. SAFE works to support off-reserve Indigenous children, youth, and families who are involved, or at-risk of becoming involved, in Child & Family Services.

NCPEI's Winter Street shelter

 902-436-2502


 sheltermanager@ncpei.com

Provides overnight accommodations to Indigenous and non-Indigenous male-identifying adults experiencing homelessness or in vulnerable living arrangements.

Government services and supports

Indigenous Services Canada's Atlantic Registration of Land

Contact

 902-661-6200; 1-800-567-9604 (toll-free)

 AANDC.ATLands-TerreAT.AADNC@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca





PEI Family Legal Aid

- ☎ Charlottetown: 902-368-6656
- ☎ Summerside: 902-888-8066

PEI Criminal Legal Aid

- ☎ Charlottetown: 902-368-6043
- ☎ Summerside: 902-888-8219

Legal Aid provides free legal representation for some family law and criminal issues. There are criteria that you must meet to qualify for this service.

Victim Services - Charlottetown office

- ☎ 902-368-4582
- ✉ victimservicescharlottetown@gov.pe.ca

Victim Services - Summerside office

- ☎ 902-888-8218
- ✉ victimservicessummerside@gov.pe.ca

Victim Services assists victims of crime on PEI or those who have experienced a crime on PEI.






Police (non-emergency lines)

- ℹ www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/pe/home
- ☎ Queens: 902-368-9300
- ☎ East Prince: 902-436-9300
- ☎ West Prince: 902-853-9300
- ☎ Montague: 902-838-9300
- ☎ Souris: 902-687-9300

RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) operate in all PEI communities without a municipal police department.

Non-profit services and supports

Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour United for Strength, Home, Relationship (BIPOC USHR)

-  www.bipocushr.org
-  connect@bipocushr.org
-  902-892-5681 (call/text)



Provides a network, community, forum, and collective voice of solidarity for BIPOC communities on PEI. BIPOC USHR engages in educational, advocacy, and supportive practices.



Family Violence Prevention Services (FVPS)

-  www.fvps.ca
-  admin@fvps.ca











FVPS offers safety planning and emergency shelter (Anderson House) for victims of family violence. They also offer different programs, public education, and outreach services.

FVPS's Anderson House

-  1-902-892-0960
-  1-800-240-9894 (24-hour)

FVPS Outreach Services

-  Emergency Number: 902-892-0960
-  Toll Free: 1-800-240-9894 (answered 24/7)
-  O'Leary: 902-859-8849
-  Summerside: 902-888-3310
-  Charlottetown: 902-894-3354 ext 224
-  Montague: 902-213-7540
-  Queens/Kings County: 902-628-9401
-  East/West Prince County: 902-330-3818

Our services and supports






Community Legal Information (CLI)

-  www.legalinfopei.ca
-  info@legalinfopei.ca
-  902-892-0853; 1-800-240-9798

Provides legal information, referrals, publications on legal topics in both official languages, and public speakers, workshops, and presentations on legal topics. The inquiry line is confidential, and you do not need to give your name. Clients can also access the lawyer referral service, which provides a short meeting with a lawyer for a small fee.






CLI's Justice Avenues program

-  www.justiceavenues.ca
-  info@justiceavenues.ca
-  782-772-0957 (call/text)

Offers free legal support for racialized people living on PEI who are dealing with criminal, family, or immigration matters. Justice Avenues is a program of Community Legal Information.



CLI's RISE Program

-  www.legalinfopei.ca/program/rise-program.ca
-  rise@legalinfopei.ca
-  902-218-6143 (call/text)

Offers free legal support for people on Prince Edward Island who are 16 or older, and who have experienced sexual violence, intimate partner violence, or workplace sexual harassment.



Community Legal Information is a registered charity that receives funding from Justice Canada, the Law Foundation of PEI, the Law Society of PEI, the PEI Department of Justice and Public Safety, and other sources. We provide understandable and useful information about the law and the justice system in Prince Edward Island.

For more information on other legal topics, visit www.legalinfopei.ca, email us at info@legalinfopei.ca, or call us at **902-892-0853** or **1-800-240-9798**. You can also find us on social media.

Donate to support our work at www.legalinfopei.ca/donate.

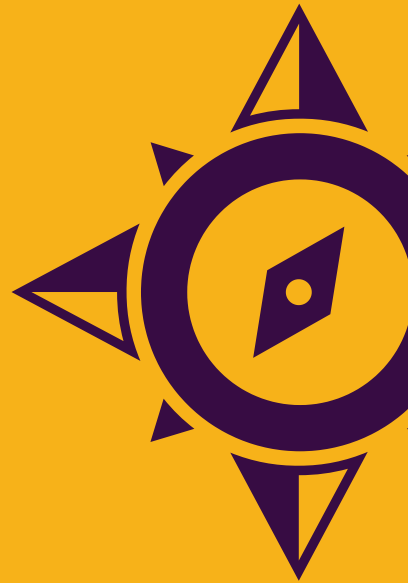
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Charitable registration number: 118870757RR0001
ISBN 978-1-989140-61-1

Published March 2026

Community Legal Information

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**Community Legal
Information**
Empowerment Through Knowledge