

## **A Roadmap for Heat & Heat Stress Management in PEI Schools**

PEITF's Request from Government

Spring 2025

As our climate continues to change, schools are increasingly facing extreme temperatures that disrupt learning and create challenging working conditions. To ensure our schools remain open and provide safe, effective learning environments, we must adapt by implementing policies and infrastructure that address heat management. It is essential that we take action now to equip our schools with the necessary resources to support students and staff in a changing climate.

### **Short-Term Actions - Within the Next 6 Months**

#### *Policy & Communication*

- Establish clear policy for managing heat stress across all public schools.
  - The policy should include:
    - Clear criteria for modifying academic activities, reducing physical exertion, and adjusting school schedules.
    - Clear communication with parents, guardians, and the public that heat events will impact academic schedules and student performance.
    - Effective and reliable mechanisms for full or partial school closures during extreme heat events.
  - Fans for all teachers requesting them.
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### **Medium-Term Actions - By 2028**

#### *Funding and Establishment of Air Conditioned Cooling Areas in All Schools*

- Every school must designate and equip at least one or more climate-controlled (air-conditioned) areas capable of accommodating a minimum of 20% of the total student and staff population.
  - These areas should:
    - Be maintained at a safe indoor temperature (e.g., 22°C–24°C) during heat events.
    - Allow for the rotation of students and staff to help reduce body temperatures.
    - Provide ongoing relief for individuals experiencing acute symptoms of heat stress.
  - Schools to develop plans to rotate students and staff through cooling areas.
  - Clear communication with parents, guardians, and the public that heat events will impact academic schedules and student performance.
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### **Long-Term Goal - By 2035**

#### *Investing in Full Climate Control Infrastructure Across All Schools*

- Ensure that all student and teacher workplaces are fully climate-controlled by 2035 to provide protection from the health risks of heat stress caused by climate change.