What does Prince Edward Island’s resource allocation model need to include to provide equity in the delivery of the elementary and secondary education program and focus resources to achieve the greatest impact on the quality of education for our students?

Background Information

The budget for the public elementary and secondary education system is approximately $145 million. This includes not only the grants to school boards but funding for all activities related to the elementary and secondary program. This consists of the following:

- School Board Salaries $110 million
- School Board Operating Grants 12 million
- Program Development & Implementation 6 million
- Student Services 2 million
- School Construction and Bus Purchases 11 million
- School Textbooks 1 million
- Technology Support 2 million
- Other 1 million

Of this amount approximately 66% is direct support to the classroom/school.

There is no local taxation in support of education. The funding for public education is drawn from general revenues of the Province. In addition to the funding provided by the Province there are substantial amounts raised at the school level for supplementary materials and equipment. Recently an education foundation was established in one of the school boards, the purpose of
which is to raise supplementary funding in support of education in the district.

There are 69 schools in the system with approximately 23,500 students and this number is declining. The transportation system has approximately 300 buses which transports roughly 85% of all students on a daily basis.

The school boards employ approximately 1500 full time equivalent instructional staff and 800 non instructional staff plus casual and substitute or relief employees.
Considerations

Respondents are encouraged to comment on the following and any other matters that are relevant to the Terms of Reference:

How do we define equity for funding purposes in Prince Edward Island?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the current funding model?

What are the financial challenges facing our system, now and into the future?

What are the priority areas for funding?

Apart from additional resources what are some of the options to address the priority areas?

Can the current model be modified or are there other models which would better meet the objective of equity and at the same time ensure that the resources are applied to the areas which will have the greatest impact on student outcomes?