

# CONFEDERATION BRIDGE AND THE WOOD ISLAND FERRY TOLLS

FACTS AND FIGURES

JOINING CANADA

FINANCIAL  
CONSIDERATIONS

SOLUTION



# An Essential Condition of P.E.I. Joining Canada

When Prince Edward Island joined Confederation in 1873, the Terms of Union required that the Government of Canada be responsible for assuming and defraying the costs of efficient and “continuous communication” for the conveyance of mail and passengers between the Island and the mainland.



To build Confederation Bridge, the Canadian Constitution had to be amended in 1993 to allow “a fixed crossing joining the Island to the mainland may be substituted for the steam service” referred to in the Terms of Union.



# 2015 Election Promise

**LIBERALS ANNOUNCE PLAN FOR INVESTMENT IN CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE**  
*September 3, 2015*

*BROSSARD, QC – A Liberal government will remove the toll on the Champlain Bridge and immediately move forward with the necessary bridge construction, said the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, Justin Trudeau, today...*



ON THE FEDERALLY OWNED **CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE**

## AT A TOWN HALL MEETING

In response to a question on the \$47.75 toll to  
cross Confederation Bridge

*"We will look at what can be done to make sure that people are able to travel freely, travel efficiently, and openly across this country at **modest costs.**"*

*- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,  
January 13, 2017*

ON THE FEDERALLY OWNED **CONFEDERATION BRIDGE**



# Financial Considerations

The Federal Government **subsidy to the Champlain Bridge** is:  
*(Source: Parliamentary Budget Officer, Infrastructure Canada)*

**\$168 million per year**

The Federal Government **subsidy to both Confederation Bridge and the Wood Island Ferry** is:  
*(Source: Public Accounts of Canada 2018)*

**\$77 million per year**

The difference between those two subsidies is:

**\$91 million per year**



Tolls collected to cross Confederation Bridge and the Wood Island Ferry:

*(Source: Library of Parliament, Statistics from PEI government and other sources)*

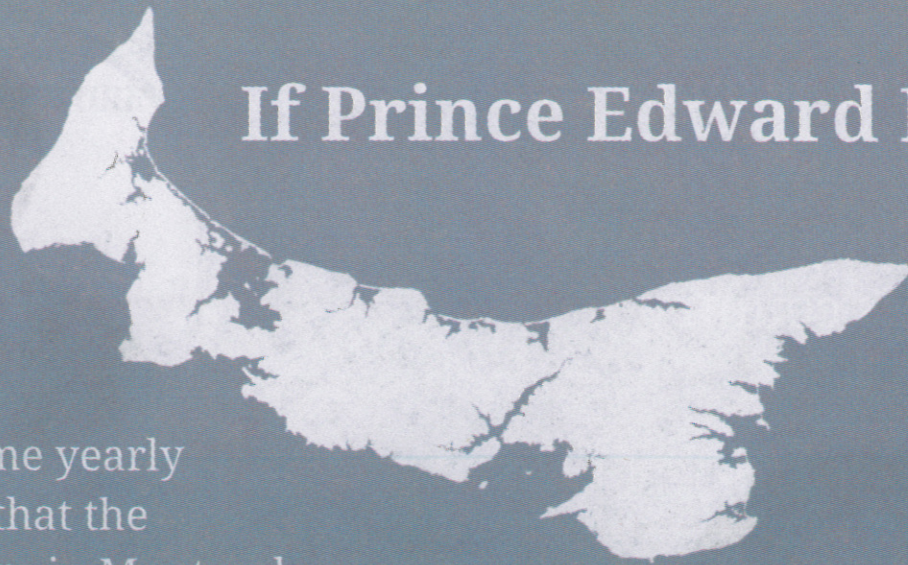
**\$55 million per year**

Tolls collected to cross the Champlain Bridge:

**\$0 per year**



# Solution

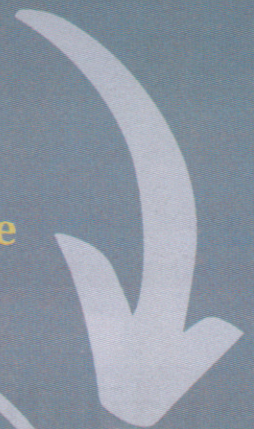


## If Prince Edward Island

Received the same yearly federal subsidy that the Champlain Bridge in Montreal is receiving



The toll on **BOTH** the Confederation Bridge and the Wood Island Ferry



could be reduced to \$20.00 IMMEDIATELY



# Federal - Provincial Cooperation

To meet the promise made by **Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** on travelling at "*modest costs*" across this country



And to honour the electoral commitment made by **Premier Dennis King** to "*work with the federal government to decrease the cost of bridge tolls and ferry service for Islanders*"

Available funds from the new *Investing in Canada Plan* could be used on existing infrastructure such as the **Confederation Bridge** and the **Wood Island Ferry**





# Investing in Canada Plan

**The *Investing in Canada Plan* is an initiative announced by the federal government in 2017 with the goal of creating "long term economic growth" through investment in trade and transportation infrastructure among other things.**



**This \$180 billion Investing in Canada program has been grossly undersubscribed, and some of that available money could be dedicated to decreasing travel costs on existing infrastructure, such as Confederation Bridge and the Wood Island Ferry**

**This funding could reduce export costs for Prince Edward Island businesses and travel costs for Islanders, as well as increase tourism in our province.**



Using the unallocated money from the *Investing in Canada Plan* to reduce the tolls on Confederation Bridge and the Wood Island Ferry to \$20.00 would achieve the “modest costs” the prime minister promised in 2017 and would demonstrate the Government of Canada’s commitment to promote economic growth and facilitate the efficient movement of products and traffic across Canada.

It would also honour the electoral commitment made by Premier Dennis King to “work with the federal government to decrease the cost of bridge tolls and ferry service for Islanders”.



Senator Percy Downe