

## EDUCATION:

Islanders living in poverty have inadequate access to early learning and education opportunities.

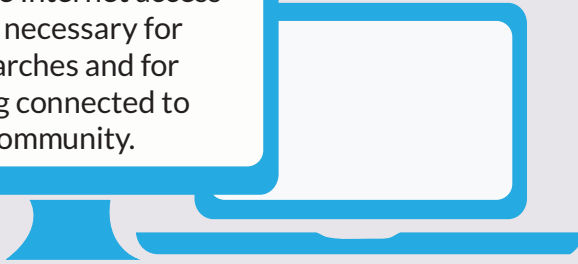
“Education is the key to freedom”

“Education gives you the ability to look after yourself.”

“We need to empower people with education.”

“Everyone who is on Social Assistance should be encouraged to get their GED if they don't have it, but instead they just say no to the people who ask.”

People reported that reliable Internet access is now necessary for job searches and for staying connected to your community.



Over the course of 40 years, a college graduate will earn **\$394,000** more than a high school graduate.

Also over 40 years, a bachelor's degree holder will earn a premium of **\$745,800**.

In 2005, a bachelor's degree holder earned **\$18,000** more per year than a high school graduate; and a university graduate with a post-bachelor's degree earned **\$29,000** more than a high school graduate.

Statistics Canada

We heard... that there is not enough support to help women trying to re-enter the workforce after staying home with their children.

We heard... many parents have difficulty finding childcare for their children that is affordable, which impacts their ability to go to school. This is especially challenging for the 15% of families that are led by single parent families.

## SOLUTIONS OFFERED FOR EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION BY COMMUNITY:

Have accessible, affordable education at all levels.

Have universal childcare or more subsidized childcare spaces. This should include childcare for parents who work hours other than 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (many working poor fit here).

Encourage all Social Assistance clients to get their GED.

Have more literacy, financial literacy and life skills programs.

Have targeted education and training programs for the groups who need them the most.