

# FILMING IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

## About Prince Edward Island

The whole island has an area size 5,660 km<sup>2</sup> and population of 156,947 (2019). Prince Edward Island is located in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, west of Cape Breton Island, north of Nova Scotia, and east of New Brunswick. Its southern shore bounds the Northumberland Strait. The Island has two urban areas. The larger area surrounds Charlottetown Harbour situated centrally on the Island's southern shore and consists of the capital City of Charlottetown and suburban towns Cornwall and Stratford and an urban fringe. A much smaller urban area surrounds Summerside Harbour, situated on the southern shore 40 km (25 mi) west of Charlottetown Harbour, and consists primarily of the city of Summerside.

The Island's landscape is a pastoral setting. Rolling hills, woods, reddish white sand beaches, ocean coves and the famous red soil have given Prince Edward Island a reputation as a province of outstanding natural beauty. The island's lush landscape has a strong bearing on its economy and culture.

The smaller, rural communities as well as the towns and villages throughout the province retain a slower pace. Prince Edward Island has become popular as a tourist destination for relaxation. The economy of most rural communities on the Island is based on small scale agriculture, however, Industrial farming has increased as businesses buy and consolidate older farm properties. Fishing, forestry and bioscience industries also exist.

The coastline has a combination of long beaches, dunes, red sandstone cliffs, saltwater marshes, and numerous bays and harbours. The beaches, dunes and sandstone cliffs consist of sedimentary rock and other material with a high iron concentration, which oxidizes upon exposure to the air. The geological properties of a white silica sand found at Basin Head are unique in the province; the sand grains cause a scrubbing noise as they rub against each other when walked upon and have been called the "singing sands". Large dune fields on the north shore can be found on the barrier islands at the entrances to various bays and harbours. The magnificent sand dunes at Greenwich are of particular significance. The shifting, parabolic dune system is home to a variety of birds and rare plants; it is also a site of significant archeological interest.

Despite Prince Edward Island's small size and reputation as a largely rural province, it is the most densely populated province in Canada.

## Transportation to Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island's transportation network has traditionally revolved around its seaports of Charlottetown, Summerside, Borden, Georgetown, and Souris and the one main airport in Charlottetown.

The Confederation Bridge provides a fixed link between the island and mainland New Brunswick. There is no cost to enter Prince Edward Island from New Brunswick, but there is a cost to leave that is based on the vehicle type or the number of axels.

**Visit Confederation Bridge:** <https://www.confederationbridge.com/>

The province also has a passenger/vehicle ferry services to mainland Nova Scotia that runs between May and November, and sometimes earlier or later depending on ice coverage.

**Visit Marine Atlantic:** <https://www.marineatlantic.ca/>

The Island has the highest concentration of roadways in Canada. The provincially managed portion of the network consists of 3,824 kilometers (2,376 mi) of paved roadways and 1,558 kilometers (968 mi) of non-paved or clay roads. The province has very strict laws regarding use of roadside signs. Billboards and the use of portable signs are banned. There are standard direction information signs on roads in the province for various businesses and attractions in the immediate area. The by-laws of some municipalities also restrict the types of permanent signs that may be installed on private property.

Several airlines service the Charlottetown Airport (YYG) including: Air Canada, West Jet and beginning in June 2020, Swoosh Airline (with direct flights from Hamilton, Ontario).

**Visit: Fly PEI** for further information: <http://flypei.com/>

## **Public Transportation**

Public bus transportation is available in Charlottetown and around the surrounding area.

**Visit T3Transit:** <https://t3transit.ca/>

There is an extensive bicycling and hiking trail that span the island. The Confederation Trail is 470 kilometers (290 miles) recreational trail system.

**Visit Confederation Trail:** <https://www.tourismpei.com/pei-confederation-trail>

## **Climate**

The climate of Prince Edward Island is considered to be moderate and strongly influenced by the surrounding seas. As such, it is milder than inland locations owing to the warm waters from the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The climate is characterized by changeable weather throughout the year. It has some of the most variable day-to-day weather in Canada, however, specific weather conditions seldom last for long.

Because the Gulf of Saint Lawrence freezes over, the Island's climate is similar to a continental climate as opposed to an oceanic climate.

During July and August, the average daytime high in PEI is 23 °C (73 °F); however, the temperature can sometimes exceed 30 °C (86 °F) during these months. In the winter months of January and February, the average daytime high is -3.3 °C (26 °F). The Island receives an average yearly rainfall of 855 millimeters (33.7 in) and an average yearly snowfall of 285 centimeters (112 in). Winters are moderately cold and long but are milder than inland locations, with clashes of cold Arctic air and milder Atlantic air causing frequent temperature swings. The climate is considered to be more humid continental climate than oceanic since the Gulf of Saint Lawrence freezes over, thus eliminating any moderation. The mean

temperature is  $-7^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $19^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in January. Springtime temperatures typically remain cool until the sea ice has melted, usually in late April or early May.

Summers are moderately warm, but rarely uncomfortable, with the daily maximum temperature only occasionally reaching as high as  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $86^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Autumn is a pleasant season, as the moderating Gulf waters delay the onset of frost, although storm activity increases compared to the summer. There is ample precipitation throughout the year, although it is heaviest in the late autumn, early winter and mid spring.

## **Film Permits, Regulations, Taxation and Import**

Producers are advised to contact local authorities well in advance of their planned shoot to ensure awareness of and compliance with local regulations.

Local governments play a key role in the production process by providing production companies with access to government services such as police and fire and coordinating the use of public property, parks, and all other municipal services required when shooting a production on location. There are also authorities that oversee water, sewage systems, bridges, and bus transportation.

## **Flora and Fauna**

Some species common to P.E.I. are red foxes, coyote, blue jay and robins. Skunks and racoons are common non-native species. Species at risk in P.E.I. include piping plovers, American eel, bobolinks, little brown bat, and beach pinweed.

North Atlantic right whales, one of the rarest whale species, were once thought to be rare visitors into St. Lawrence regions until 1994, however they are now showing a dramatic increase in number, as well as notable numbers of whales.

## **Pets and Animals**

You can bring a cat, dog or horse to Prince Edward Island without a permit, and they can be moved freely around the province. However, the importation of non-indigenous animals is restricted. If you have any questions about bringing animals to the province, you must contact the authorities below.

Environment Canada is responsible for wildlife habitats and federal parks. Sometimes Parks Canada and Environment Canada both need to be involved, if a production could potential impact certain types of habitat.

**Visit Environment Canada** <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/wildlife-plants-species/wildlife-habitat-conservation.html>

**Visit Parks Canada:** <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/index>

**Visit Provincial Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division:**

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/communities-land-and-environment/prohibited-wildlife> or phone 902.368.6450

**Soil and Plants**

Neither soil nor plants bearing soil may be planted or removed from Prince Edward Island because of the possibility of accidentally spreading soil-borne diseases from certain areas. Special permits for removing plants under strict conditions may be obtained from Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

**Visit Canada Food Inspection Agency:**

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/eng/1297964599443/1297965645317> or phone (902) 566-7290

**Firearms:**

Firearms are strictly controlled in Canada, and fully automatic weapons are banned. Visitors may bring firearms into the country only for a legitimate purpose, such as hunting or a target shooting competition, and for film and television. For special considerations you must contact the Canadian Firearms Centre.

**Visit Canadian Firearms Centre:** <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms> or call 1-800-731-4000 in Canada and the US, or 506-624-5380 from other countries.

**Parks and Historic Sites, Government Lands**

The Province of Prince Edward Island manages provincial parks, wilderness areas, some historic sites and the provincial museum and archives. For permission to film in these locations, contact should be made with an appropriate division of the Department of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture.

**Visit Department of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture:**

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/legislation/recreation-development-act/provincial-parks-regulations> or call 902.368.5540

**Appendix A:- Provincial Parks Regulations**

The Department of Canadian Heritage oversees historic and natural resources through Parks Canada. For filming at national parks or historical sites throughout Prince Edward Island, permission should be sought from Parks Canada

**Visit Parks Canada:** <https://www.pc.gc.ca> or contact [Elizabeth.deblois@canada.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.deblois@canada.ca) or 902.672.6436

**Appendix B: Parks Canada Film & Photography Fee Guide**

Permits are required to shoot in both the Cities of Charlottetown and Summerside. A City Police Officer may be required for street closures and signage. Typically, they will provide a single officer for a 4-hour period, depending on the location and time of the shoot. Hours beyond the four hours are billed at their

current rate. Barricades, event fences and traffic cones are available or rent at a modest fee. Both cities will often require liability insurance as well.

### **Appendix C: City of Charlottetown – Extra Duty Request Form**

### **Appendix D: City of Charlottetown – Barricade Request Form**

**Visit City of Charlottetown:** <https://www.charlottetown.ca/> or call Wallace Higgins, the Public Works Department at 902.894.5208 or email [whiggins@charlottetown.ca](mailto:whiggins@charlottetown.ca)

**Visit City of Summerside:** <https://www.summerside.ca/> or call 1902.432.1230

## **ON AIR AND WATER**

### **Aircraft:**

Transport Canada is responsible for Air, Marine, and Road Transportation in Canada. The Department approves any aircraft use, including helicopters, fixed wing aircraft and drone usage.

Typically, a permit requires ten to twenty days for approval, and a fee is charged for the application. Permits are typically arranged by the pilots of aircraft on behalf of the Producer/Production Company.

**Visit Transport Canada:** <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/atlantic/menu.htm>,  
<https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/aviation/drone-safety.html> or

### **Transport Canada - Regional Headquarters**

95 Foundry Street, Moncton, NB E1C 5H7

Transport Canada General Inquiries **1-866-995-9737**

### **Drones**

Flying a drone is legal in Canada, however, there are a clear set of rules involved and users must be registered with Transport Canada and the pilot must have a drone pilot certificate.

The following authorities can be contacted for further information:

**Transport Canada -Drone Regulations:** <https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/aviation/drone-safety/flying-drone-safely-legally.html>

**National Parks of Canada Aircraft Access Regulations:** <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-97-150/page-1.html>

**Aeronautics Act:** <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-2/page-1.html#h-3>

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/en/services/aviation/drone-safety/flying-drone-safely-legally.html>

## **Appendix E: Transport Canada – Drone Information**

## **Appendix F: Parks Canada – Drone Information**

### **Navigation and Marine Safety**

Navigation, marine safety and fish habitats are the responsibility of Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Plans to film on oceans and inland waters should be reviewed with the relevant government agencies to ensure compliance with safety regulations and to ensure fish habitat is not adversely affected

**Visit Fisheries & Oceans:** <http://www.dfo-mpo.g.ca/index-eng.htm>

### **Lighthouses, Lighthouse Parks and Some Rescue Boats and Helicopters**

The Canadian Coast Guard is responsible for most light houses, lighthouse parks and some rescue boats and helicopters. Parks Canada may also be responsible for federal government lighthouses. Transport Canada regulates flight safety and would stipulate conditions for permitting low-level flying and other flight activity outside standard regulations.

Transport Canada, General Aviation, Moncton  
Tel: 1-506-851-7484

### **Health and Safety**

Health and Safety matters are regulated by the Workers Compensation Board of Prince Edward Island. The guidelines include detailed information on rules, procedures and regulations including electrical hook-ups, permits for pyro techniques, and animal handling. All film productions are required to register with WCBPEI for compliance with the guidelines and health and safety regulations. The provincial Workers' Compensation Act requires film production companies to register and pay assessments based on their payroll.

**Visit Workers Compensation PEI:** <http://www.wcb.pe.ca/Employers/SafetyMatters>

## **Appendix G: - Workers Compensation of PEI – Safety Matters**

### **Employment Standards**

Employment standards are regulated by the Province of Prince Edward Island. To review the act please visit . [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-06-2-employment\\_standards\\_act.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/e-06-2-employment_standards_act.pdf)

## **Appendix H: Employment Standards Act**

## **Work by Non- Canadians, Taxes and Imports**

Non-Canadian citizens are required to obtain a permit to work in Canada. This is arranged by contacting a Canadian Embassy or Consular Office in the country of the applicant's origin and providing information on the purpose and duration of the proposed activities in Canada. The Embassy or Consular Office liaises with potential employers and partners in Canada to expedite approval and issue of work permits. Film producers who act on their own behalf or represent a company, as well as company controllers may be exempt from requiring a work permit. During scouting, personnel may be allowed to enter temporarily without employment authorization. Producers, production executives and auditors should have a letter from the company they work for outlining their position with the company, their responsibilities, and the purpose and nature of their trip to Canada. They should have this letter and their passport with them when they arrive in Canada, and report to an Immigration Officer to clarify their status.

**Federal Government's Canada International:** [www.canadainternational.gc.ca](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca)

In Canada and the USA, the toll-free phone number for Canada International is 1-800-755-7046. The website also lists the appropriate toll-free numbers if calling from other parts of the world.

Email: [CanadaInternational@Canada.gc.ca](mailto:CanadaInternational@Canada.gc.ca) or contact: Citizenship and Immigration Canada - Tel: 1-888-242-2100.

## **Federal Business Registration and Taxation**

Film producers working in Canada are required to register their business activity with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) through the nearest office. The revenue department will provide the company with a BN (Business Number), which is to be used in remitting deductions from payroll, filing for goods and service tax and corporate income tax, and to identify importer accounts. The Government of Canada links to specific information concerning regulations and requirements for doing business in Canada. Or you can directly contact the Canada Revenue Agency.

**Government of Canada:** [www.canadabusiness.gc.ca](http://www.canadabusiness.gc.ca)

Guides and forms: [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca). Business enquiries toll free: 1 800 959-5525. Forms and publications toll free: 1-800-959-2221.

Non-residents of Canada may be subject to Canadian taxes based on their earnings while in Canada. Independent contractors who are not in an employee relationship may obtain a tax waiver, on application, from the Canada Revenue Agency exempting their earnings from withholdings. Each non-resident should apply to Canada Revenue Agency for clarification of their situation, as there are many variables such as length of stay and position. Tax counsel should be obtained regarding contracts that have services provided in two countries.

## **Sales Taxes and Sales Tax Rebates**

A 15% federal-provincial Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is applied to most goods and services in Prince Edward Island. However, non-Canadian visitors and non-Canadian businesses can apply for a refund of sales taxes paid on certain items.

**Canada International:** [www.Canadainternational.gc.ca](http://www.Canadainternational.gc.ca) \

Connect to the Publications section of the website for brochures about visitor tax rebates. Or you can call, within Canada, toll free 1-800-668-4748. Outside Canada call 902-432-5608.

A production company that makes sales (or rentals or exchanges) while carrying on business in Canada may be required to become a HST registrant. A company that carries on business in Canada but makes no sales may still be entitled to register.

**Canada Revenue Agency, Excise GST/HST:** - [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca) - 1-800-959-5525.

## **Canada Customs Regulations/Ports of Entry**

Equipment and goods being temporarily brought into Canada to be used in film production may qualify for duty-free entry. If goods do qualify for duty-free entry, they may also qualify for remission of all or part of taxes paid or of customs duties paid. Goods may be further subject to GST or may be partially or fully relieved of GST.

The services of a customs broker are recommended. Information on import and export can be found through the Canada Revenue Agency ([www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca)) and the Canada Border Services Agency. <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html>

## **Fires and Burning**

All burning on Prince Edward Island requires a permit. This includes commercial, grasses, leaves and branches. Special Industrial Burning Permits are requiring for film productions, agricultural and management purposes. Burning Permits are available free of charge at any Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division office, Monday to Friday during normal working hours. Please call the applicable office to ensure someone is there to authorize your permit.

Western PEI: 902-854-7260

Central PEI: 902-368-4800 or 902-368-4700

Eastern PEI: 902-962-7296

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/environment-water-and-climate-change/burning-permits>

**For further questions about filming in Prince Edward Island, contact:**

Film PEI - Tel: 902.892.3131 or email: [director@filmpei.com](mailto:director@filmpei.com)

**Visit:** [www.filmpei.com](http://www.filmpei.com)