

Planning a Bold Tomorrow – Beyond 2014

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Next year PEI celebrates the 150th anniversary of the meeting that birthed Canada. The celebration's slogan: "Honour the past. Celebrate the present. Plan a bold tomorrow."

Along with the birth of the grand vision that formed our great nation, 1864 also launched PEI's tradition of being a catalyst for bold tomorrows.

Our island can look back with pride at a long string of bold accomplishments that many thought were initially impossible: the aerospace industry; bio-sciences research facilities; a world-class veterinary school; hosting both the summer and winter Canada Games; cutting-edge wind-energy research; the Confederation Bridge; and, giving Canada its first woman Premier.

We've certainly demonstrated that this island can "punch above its weight."

What could Prince Edward Island's next contribution be? What epic new vision can we now birth? What can our descendents celebrate 150 years from now?

Many of us already think of Prince Edward Island as Heaven on Earth. Why not embrace that idea and make Prince Edward Island a real Heaven on Earth?

What if, in 2014, we created and began living this Heaven on Earth vision with such passion and commitment that it evoked the next level of greatness in our province, our country, and our world?

What would that take?

Start by letting your imagination run free. What would *your* Heaven on Earth be for this island? What is your grand, splendid, and lofty vision? In order to realize a vision 'what' always precedes 'how'. We didn't know 'how' to get to the moon, or how to make health care available to every Canadian, or how to see and speak with friends and family anywhere in the world via computer. But we knew 'what' we wanted and then we discovered 'how' to get there. In planning a bold tomorrow, don't be limited by beliefs or notions about what is possible. Instead, open the doors of your mind, your heart and your spirit and discover Heaven on Earth for PEI. Welcome to a Bold Tomorrow!

Once you know Heaven on Earth for PEI, begin making it real. Take one simple, easy,

concrete step today. Do something each day and tell others about it. Dream big, imagine boldly, and then start simply. Small steps...BIG difference.

Imagine what will happen when more and more of the 146,000 Islanders participate in creating Heaven on Earth. We'll have a new vitality that will positively impact PEI in ways we can't yet imagine.

Just by starting, we will discover a new and growing sense of possibility, optimism, and hope for our future. We'd be a model for the rest of Canada and the rest of the world – and be worthy of being remembered 150 years from now.

Martin Rutte is an Islander by marriage, a long-time summer resident, and co-author of the *New York Times* business bestseller *Chicken Soup for the Soul at Work*. His newest book is *Project Heaven on Earth: The 3 simple questions that will help you change the world ... easily*