

We've come to a conclusion that in some cases they want government to stay right out of Internet connections right across the Island and realize that it's a fair opportunity and it's a complex issue. They want to be a fair enterprise.

But I can tell you this, that what we're doing is we're opening up information to these companies. We're responding to some of their needs. We're putting our infrastructure in place for them. That if they require any additional infrastructure –

Speaker: Thank you, hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I'm glad that you've heard – I don't understand how you can say that businesses want government to stay out when you keep on extending the contract.

If the Premier cared at all about this issue we'd be having a serious discussion about how to improve access for residents, businesses, and communities. Instead, your government's twisting like a pretzel to hide information – again – about how poorly your government manages this issue.

Question to the Premier. Islanders are crying for a better high-speed Internet access and your government ignores them. Why should they believe you have an interest in making the service better?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, it is important to ensure that Islanders have information about the options that are open to them.

I had a meeting with three constituents earlier this week, along with officials from the department. They left with information about two additional services that they could consider.

That's what government needs to do and for all of us to recognize, that there are new

options, competitive options, and that by the end of next year we're going to have the best Internet service in Canada.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Oh! Oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Internet contract

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Our members have been trying to have government release its secret untendered Internet contract since it was signed back in 2008. We have tried FOIPping it, we've asked in question period, we've asked for estimates, we've requested it in standing committee multiple times. Finally this summer we got a copy that was blacked out and redacted.

Can the minister of economic development explain why this government has repeatedly refused to release the full contract?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, our government has contracts with multiple companies and corporations and we have to respect their privacy in regards to that contract.

But I can tell you that this company, in particular, went before committee. They had an open discussion and asked several questions in relevance to this contract. If I recall, the media the next day was wondering why they even actually went to committee because the questions were somewhat irrelevant to the whole process.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Government's fiction on this issue goes back years. The former minister told this House in