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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



A

Speaker: Hon. Kathleen M. Casey

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Matters of Privilege and Recognition of  
Guests

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the gallery. We've got a great crowd here today. I see Lea MacDonald here, great to see Lea back in the Legislature. I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome the Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada class from Holland College, along with their instructors Susan and Charles. Welcome very much to the Legislative Assembly today.

I also see Carrie St. Jean up in the gallery. I want to thank her for all the great work she's doing for our education system. In particular, helping the government with our move - probably the most fundamental move in a generation when it comes to education in our province - and that of course is to move kindergarten into the school system, which I know the minister of education will be updating us on later on.

So I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone and hope everyone has a great weekend.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to rise and welcome everybody to

the gallery to day as well. The class from Holland College and their instructors, as well as Carrie St. Jean, and mostly we'd like to welcome back the member from Hillsborough that's with us in the Legislature.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Leader of the Opposition:** He's one of the great MLAs that stick up for the primary sectors.

In addition to that, I would like to say hello to Susan from Souris who watches faithfully every day. Finally, this is April, which is Cancer Month and also Parkinson's disease month, so we should think of both of those groups that work very well for everybody for better health.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General.

**Mr. D. Currie:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I rise today to welcome all our guests in the gallery and our special friends from Holland College, and also to acknowledge Carrie St. Jean and her commitment in leadership and dedication for teachers across this province who are doing a tremendous job in classrooms. So, welcome Carrie, and all other guests to the gallery today.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to recognize and welcome all to the gallery today. It's great to have you all with

us. I'd also like to say hello to those residents in Sherwood that are watching today on EastLink. I know, as I speak to more and more, I find out there are a lot of people in my area that watch it on a daily basis, so it's great to have you watching and I hope you have a great weekend.

As well, I'd like to say a very happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday to one of the residents in my area, Grace McInnis, who's having her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday. The family is holding a little get-together for her at Fort Augustus rec centre, which is where her early roots were. It's going to be on Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00, so I hope anybody that can get out and say hello to Grace and wish her a happy birthday.

Also, I have one more thing to do that I haven't done this session yet, which is to say good morning to my mother Agnes Mitchell, who watches on a daily basis. It's great to have you watching, so I had to get that in this session.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Gallant:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, would like to welcome everyone to the gallery, and also welcome the hon. Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park back to the House. We missed your friendly demeanor around the office for the last two weeks. I'd also like to say hello to everyone back home in the wonderful district of Evangeline-Miscouche and wish everybody a nice weekend.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's great to see such a crowd here in the public gallery this morning. I'd like to welcome everyone. In particular, I'd like to welcome our EAL students and the instructors from the Holland College program - great program - and I want to thank our partners in English language instruction at both Holland College and Study Abroad Canada for the wonderful work they do. I certainly wish all the students who are studying English good luck, and I want to - of course, on behalf of government - welcome our new Islanders. Whether you've been here for some time in the province, or whether you've recently arrived, on behalf of the government we welcome you and wish you luck in your studies of the English language.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour.

**Ms. Sherry:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would also like to rise this morning and welcome all our guests in the gallery here, and to wish everyone on Prince Edward Island a safe and happy weekend, and to say hello to all of those that may be watching through EastLink this morning.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford.

**Mr. McIsaac:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I rise today and welcome everyone in the gallery and those watching on cable from

the great District of Vernon River-Stratford. I want to say hello to my mom, too, who has begun to watch this show from her room at the Park West Lodge.

I also want to say hello to Eddie Lund and remind him of the big event taking place tomorrow out in Vernon River-Stratford. At Vernon River School it's the annual meeting of the PEI Liberal Association, with registration from 12:00 till 1:30, and then the meeting after that.

**Speaker:** Sounds like a great member's statement. Thank you.

The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I, too, would like to rise today and welcome all those to the gallery and enjoying this beautiful Friday in a very exciting and historic day here in the House. Very much a welcome to you all. I'd like to point out Susan Escoffery, one of my former neighbours in the Kensington-Malpeque area, and her wonderful class, and Betty and Wendy and the gang that are here as part of the class. Welcome to the proceedings.

We also have another great Kensington-Malpequian roots' character today. Mr. Wilfred Banks is sitting up here. He has come down to the darker side of the province here, towards Charlottetown, but we believe to have great Kensington roots. He would be cheering very heartily this weekend as our Junior B representatives head to Nova Scotia to take on the Atlantic champions Don Johnson Cup. So, go Vipers go.

Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Kellys Cross-Cumberland.

**Ms. Docherty:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise today. I welcome all of you in the gallery today - those of you that I can see. It's a wonderful thing. I don't want anyone to lean over too far to try and see me, in case we have you down here by mistake. I welcome everyone today.

Today's a little bit cooler than we've been experiencing weather, but I think this could be a good weekend maybe for attending a garden show in Crapaud. So, those of you that look like gardeners up there, I encourage you to go there. I encourage everyone to have an enjoyable weekend this weekend.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like to welcome everyone to our public gallery today, and welcome those viewers on this Friday.

It's a pretty good day out there, weather-wise, but this morning many of the members of this Legislature had the opportunity to take in the PEI division of the cancer society's MLA breakfast. I would like to recognize president Betty Newson and the invitation by the members to take part in that, to obviously show the commitments that have been made by government in the area of cancer control and to recognize where we need to go into the future. It was a great morning and I thank the PEI division and all their hard work, and like I've said before, we recognize the volunteers that are

out going door-to-door for their campaign right now.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness.

**Mr. Henderson:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, want to welcome those in the gallery here today. Also, welcome for the Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park. It's always good to have somebody to nudge you every now and then and keep everybody on their toes, so I appreciate that.

Also, as a representative of the potato capital of PEI, I want to congratulate all the farmers in getting started up there. It's great when you're taking a drive down the roads and you see every farm - the warehouses, there are trucks up there, people are grading seed, cutting sets, and machinery out getting ready to start tilling the land.

Also tonight in the area is John Deere farm day, where everybody gets together and they talk about what the new farming practices will be, and I want to take this opportunity to wish them a very safe and successful planting season.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park.

Welcome back, and you're welcome to sit if you want.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Watts:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's great to be back in the House with all my comrades here. I've been watching proceedings. First of all, I just want to welcome everybody to the gallery today. I hope you enjoy the proceedings.

I guess a special hello too to my old buddy Eddie Lund there - Eddie's a regular - and Lea MacDonald. Great to see everybody here. But, during my absence, of course, I did watch the proceedings on EastLink, and you looked very good. I think the whole - appear to be doing a pretty good job. But I was just thinking the music that EastLink plays before - like leading up to the opening of the House - I'd give them a little word of advice and maybe change the music. It sounds pretty morbid and I would think maybe some contemporary rock would be more in order, especially when the proceedings start.

Anyway, once again, thank you, Madam Speaker, it's great to be back.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An Hon. Member:** Maybe they should play rock.

**Speaker:** Statements -

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier. He just snuck in there.

**Mr. Webster:** Matter of privilege, Madam Speaker.

This morning I would like to take the opportunity to apologize to the House for any confusion that may have arisen yesterday regarding the question from the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

At the time, I was unaware that the reference to the block rates had any impact on the agricultural community. However, as minister of agriculture, as soon as I became

aware of the potential impact, my department and government acted swiftly to investigate the potential impacts on the agricultural community. I am proud to belong to this government that did act quickly. That said, I would like to reiterate my apology for the confusion that has been caused.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

**Recognition of Elizabeth Cannon**

**Mr. Mitchell:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Today, I would like to recognize the recent appointment of Sherwood native Elizabeth Cannon who is soon to become the first female president of the University of Calgary. She will become the university's eighth president and vice-chancellor on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

The chair of the board of governors, Jack Perraton, recently remarked that the University of Calgary is about to embark upon a new era with a bold new leader. He refers to Elizabeth Cannon as both a visionary and a practical leader. He also expects that her international knowledge and expertise will serve the university well as they continue to build one of the best universities in Canada and in the world.

After leaving Charlottetown Rural High School, Elizabeth earned her undergraduate degree in applied science from Acadia University. Elizabeth then went on to obtain her undergraduate engineering, master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Calgary, where she eventually became

professor in the engineering faculty. In 2006 Elizabeth was named the first female Dean of Engineering at the university.

In closing, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Elizabeth Cannon on her five-year appointment as president and wish her well in her new role. I would also like to recognize Elizabeth's very proud mother, Mickey Cannon, who is unable to be here today but is watching from her home on the Brackley Point Road. Mickey is well known by several members of this House as a former educator at Charlottetown Rural High School.

Mickey, I'm sure Elizabeth no doubt credits you with much of her success.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**55-Plus Games**

**Ms. Dunsford:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It gives me great pleasure today to recognize a remarkable group of people committed to sponsoring wellness in older Islanders. I, of course, am speaking of the 55-Plus Games that promote a person's spiritual, mental and physical well-being.

I was very proud that the organizing committee chose the beautiful and growing District of Stratford-Kinlock to host the 2010 games. This year's winter games were held between March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup> at many different venues in and around Charlottetown. The organizing committee can boast a total of 19 events with over 600 participants from all over Prince Edward Island.

A few of the 19 events included crokinole, curling, squash - good sport - hockey, swimming, darts, cross-country skiing and five-pin bowling. So you can see, that encompasses quite a large broad view of activities and sports on PEI.

I was proud to be able to attend the celebration dinner held at the end of the games where the winners of the events were recognized. In fact, the winners of the various events will probably represent PEI at the Canada 55-Plus Games to be held in Brockville, Ontario in late August.

I especially want to recognize there were many winners from Stratford. One in particular, Gord Lawlor, who many of us know, who is a very good squash player, he won the squash competition and will be representing PEI later in the summer.

I want to commend both the participants and the organizing committee for their hard work and dedication to promoting healthy and active living in older adults in Canada and on Prince Edward Island. I also want to wish those wearing our PEI colours at the Canada 55-Plus Games this summer much success in Brockville.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

### **Dockendorff's Mussel King**

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm pleased today to recognize an incredible company in Eastern Prince Edward Island and their extensive community involvement.

PEI Mussel King was begun by the late

Russell Dockendorff, Sr. in 1978 and has since grown into one of the largest mussel farming operation in Canada. The company is now headed by Russell's daughter, Esther. The family members include Stewart, Russell Jr., Scott, Donna, Linda, Esther and their families, and of course his wife, Dorothy.

The Dockendorffs need to be commended for the incredible generosity that they exhibit time and time again. In December they donated 10,000 pounds of mussels from a truck at Canadian Tire in Charlottetown to anyone wishing to give money to the stroke care fund at the QEH, an act that raised over \$8,000.

Just this past winter they once again showed leadership by coordinating and supplying a drop-off location for Islanders wishing to donate to Haiti, which saw an influx of materials from many Islanders who were eager to donate to the country ravaged by an earthquake.

I'd like all members of this House to join me in expressing our sincere appreciation for all the amazing work this family has completed. They are a shining example of a family business that truly understands the meaning of the community, and we thank them for continuing with their father's legacy.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Responses to Questions Taken As Notice

### Questions by Members

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

### **Negotiations with Hydro-Québec**

**Mr. M. Currie:** Thank you, Madam

Speaker.

My first question today is for the Premier.

Premier, you have positioned yourself as the great negotiator with Hydro-Québec on bringing cheap electrical power to the people of Prince Edward Island. Can you tell me how many times you have met with Hydro Quebec officials?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Our negotiating team has now met with Hydro-Québec on two different occasions. We're going to continue to have talks with them. This is really a unique opportunity for Prince Edward Island, because what we have to realize is Hydro-Québec produces in the vicinity of, I think, somewhere around 40,000 megawatts of electricity. Prince Edward Island is in the need of about 100 megawatts. So we're a very small player and it's difficult for Maritime Electric to even get heard. This is an opportunity, government to government, for us to have an opportunity to be able to sit down with Hydro-Québec to see if there is an opportunity for us to buy cheaper renewable energy.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

#### **Negotiating team members**

**Mr. M. Currie:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Could the Premier please divulge who is part of that negotiation team?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much,

Madam Speaker.

We have Gordon MacKay, and also an expert by the name of Bill Marshall.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Is that the same Bill Marshall who designed the sale of the assets for New Brunswick Power that fell apart? Is that the same Bill Marshall?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Yes. He's done work in New Brunswick, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. M. Currie:** So there's no one else on that team, just Gordie MacKay, Bill Marshall and yourself? No one else?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you.

No. That's it.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

#### **Sell-off of assets**

**Mr. M. Currie:** A question for the Premier.

Are you planning in your negotiations to sell off our assets? Our underwater submarine cable connection to New Brunswick, our wind farms in North Cape and East Point, and our hydrogen village. Is that part of your negotiations with Hydro-Québec?

**Premier Ghiz:** No, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from

Georgetown-St. Peters.

### Wind development

**Mr. M. Currie:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

In your negotiations, is there anything there in regards to wind development? What are you negotiating with Hydro-Québec on the wind development?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Just to perhaps update the hon. member a little bit, from Georgetown-St. Peters, currently right now what the Province of Prince Edward Island is looking for is a power purchase agreement. That is an opportunity for us to purchase up to 100 megawatts of electricity from Hydro-Québec. Right now Maritime Electric really puts out a request for proposal where they look to buy electricity from different sources. The problem is, Maritime Electric, Prince Edward Island, is a very small player. Our max capacity is somewhere around 200 megawatts. It's been told to me many times that Prince Edward Island uses as much electricity as one pulp-and-paper mill in New Brunswick.

So we're a very small player, and that's why Maritime Electric sometimes has trouble going out and looking for that cheaper energy, because really, we're not on the radar screen of many large suppliers of electricity. So what we're trying to do is take it from a government perspective, and go government to government and look for an opportunity for a power purchase agreement.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

### Hydro-Québec demands

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, is Hydro Quebec, as they demanded with New Brunswick - a complete control of the distribution and generation - are they demanding that in these negotiations, that they have the rights to all of our underwater cables and the distribution lines?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** No, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

### Negotiations with Fortis re: Maritime Electric

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, is the Premier in negotiations with Fortis to buy Maritime Electric?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** No, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

### Risk to sovereignty

**Mr. M. Currie:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm just wondering if the Premier, that you have placed all your faith in Bill Marshall - and he's the one that messed up the New Brunswick deal - are you going to allow our sovereignty to be put at risk with him negotiating this deal?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I could give a really short answer there, but I might as well explain it out a little bit. Bottom line is Prince Edward Island, really, when it comes to electricity has no sovereignty. Our problem here in Prince Edward Island is that we do not have an abundance of nuclear energy or natural gas. We do have wind. Unfortunately the wind doesn't blow all the time. So we need to find ways for us to be able to find backup energy for us to be able to import that here to the Province of Prince Edward Island.

That's what we're out trying to do, talking to Hydro-Québec, talking to Newfoundland - Nalcor, I believe it's called. We're looking for any possible opportunity for us to lower down electricity rates. Is it going to happen? Are our negotiations going to be successful? I don't know. I'm not going to get up Islanders' hopes, but what I can say is that we are working very hard for it to happen.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

### **Transmission path through New Brunswick**

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, I'm sure the Premier as the chief negotiator in these negotiations with Hydro-Québec, that you have negotiated a path for the transmission of that electricity through the Province of New Brunswick.

Can you tell me if you have that agreement signed, and will you table a copy of that?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Perhaps the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters is forgetting that back, I think it was 10 or 15 years ago, yes, you used to have to negotiate the transfer of electricity, and

that's what's happened to us in the past. If we've had a deal with Quebec before, trying to get the electricity through New Brunswick, they've charged us rates that did not make it feasible. Fortunately for us, now the transmission capacity around North American is now an open market. So once that electricity is obtained we just have to bid to be able to get that electricity to go through, and we're waiting to find out if we're able to purchase electricity from the Province of Quebec.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, I'm a little bit surprised, and I think probably this is the second time that the Premier announced something of this nature.

He also did this when he announced that billion-dollar dream to build a wind farm, and you had no capacity to get that across. I was in the New Brunswick legislature a few months ago and the question was asked about capacity, and the New Brunswick energy minister indicated that there was no more capacity on those lines. So I'm wondering how you're going to get that cheap hydroelectricity from Quebec to Prince Edward Island if there's no capacity through New Brunswick.

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Surely you must (Indistinct).

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Obviously they were able to get the electricity from New Brunswick now to Prince Edward Island now, so there is capacity there. It's an open market. You're

able to bid on the capacity that's available there. So, unfortunately, the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters just needs to get a little bit up to speed on that. But it is a very confusing process and I will forgive him for not being up to speed on that.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, I think all Islanders are anxious to hear.

It's seven or eight months since the Premier made an announcement that he's going to supply Islanders with cheap electricity from Quebec, and he's only had two meetings, in seven or eight months. So I don't think he's the great negotiator he pretends to be.

#### **Vermont deal with Hydro-Québec**

I'm wondering if the Premier can tell us today if he's going to achieve the same deal that Vermont did, in achieving a negotiated deal with Hydro Quebec for 4.5 cents a kilowatt. Do you think you're going to bring the same price to Islanders?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Just for everyone's information in here, at no point did I indicate that I was a great negotiator. At no point did I say to Islanders that we were going to lower down electricity rates in this province.

Just to put things in context a little bit, there was a New Brunswick plus 10 that was in place here about 10 or 15 years ago. The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters was the minister at the time. He got rid of the New Brunswick plus 10, and he did make a commitment that this could bring down, lower electricity rates to people in the

Province of Prince Edward Island.

The same minister indicated that Meteor Creek was going to be an opportunity -

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Premier Ghiz:** - for Islanders to have natural gas in the Province of Prince Edward Island. The same minister indicated that Deep Panuke -

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Premier Ghiz:** - was going to bring natural gas to the Province of Prince Edward Island to lower down electricity rates.

I'm not going to go out like that and mislead Islanders. What I'm going to tell Islanders is that I'm working very hard on their behalf to look for any possible opportunity to lower down electricity rates, and I'll continue to do that as long as I have the privilege to be the Premier of the Province of Prince Edward Island.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

#### **Negotiations with Hydro-Québec (further)**

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, I think this is the same Premier that promised lower rates from Churchill Falls, he promised a \$1 billion wind farm, he promised us tidal power from Nova Scotia, and he promised us cheap electricity from Quebec.

I believe that the Premier, as a Canadian - you would think that a fellow Liberal premier would give you even the same deal as he gave an American state. Do you not believe that we should get the same rates at 4.5 cents a kilowatt for our province and our

people?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Mr. M. Currie:** I'm sure you can get that for us.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Unfortunately, I know in the last session of the House the hon. member indicated to me that after the New Brunswick deal was announced with Quebec - that didn't go through - he actually said that I let down Islanders because I got to the table too late. Now he's telling me that I should be getting the lowest possible rates that ever existed.

We know that this member has a history of misleading Islanders when it comes to electricity rates in the province. What I'm going to do is I'm going to be honest with Islanders.

**Mr. M. Currie:** (Indistinct).

**Premier Ghiz:** I know our electricity rates are too high, Madam Speaker.

I'm working very hard to lower them down, and as long as I have the privilege of being Premier of Prince Edward Island, I will continue to work towards that goal.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, here's a Premier that has burdened the people of Prince Edward Island with a 42% rise in electricity rates.

You should be embarrassed over that. So I'm wondering: What rate do you expect to achieve for Islanders in your negotiations? What rate?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Again, we're going to try to get the best rate possible for Islanders. Are we going to get a lower rate? I don't know. Unfortunately, Prince Edward Island is a very small user of electricity in the grand scheme of things. Our leverage is not what it is in other provinces where they buy huge quantities of electricity. Prince Edward Island uses max capacity, and that's the maximum, which is probably around Christmas time, around 200 megawatts. We're looking to buy about 100 megawatts from a company that produces upwards of 40,000 megawatts, if not more. They're looking for big contracts out there, and we're just fortunate that we're actually at the table.

I know that the former minister was also responsible for energy at one point. At no point did I know if they were sitting down with Quebec Hydro. The only thing they were doing was chasing natural gas between Deep Panuke and Meteor Creek. What did Islanders get? Absolutely nothing.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, the Premier talks about leverage.

I believe I read in the media where he was going to leverage a deal with Hydro Quebec because of the close proximity to the Magdalen Islands. I'm just wondering how you're negotiations are going on with running a cable to the Magdalens? Is that part of your negotiations?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Mr. M. Currie:** You did mention that in the media.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, (Indistinct), that could be part of the negotiations, Madam Speaker, anything could be part of the negotiations.

Right now what we're looking for is a power purchase agreement from the Province of Quebec. If they indicate that at some point that they may want to ship electricity to the Maggies, we'll do everything that we can to help them out, as long as we get a good power deal ourselves. That's part of negotiations. I can't go more into than that.

What I can indicate to the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters is that we are working very hard on this side of the House, to lower down electricity rates. We know what the previous government did. I'm not making any commitments that I'm going to lower them down. The commitment I'm making, and the commitment that I've always made, is that I will continue to work hard to try and lower them down.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, the Premier should be demanding that a fellow Liberal premier, and you a Canadian, that you should and deserve the same price as Vermont.

If they're going to give a price to Vermont for 4.5 cents a kilowatt, why wouldn't you demand the same price for your people here in Prince Edward Island?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Mr. M. Currie:** He's the chief negotiator.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

That'd be a very good negotiation, for

anybody who's been involved in negotiations. You're a province that needs to buy 100 megawatts, you're dealing with another province that produces over 40,000 megawatts, and I'll walk into the room and say: Give me 4.5 cents or I'm walking out.

What are they going to say? They're going to say goodbye. We know probably that's how the previous government negotiated, and that's why under their leadership electricity rates continued to rise in this province for a long period of time.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, we're not going to sleep very good in this province from now on with this Premier negotiating with Hydro-Québec.

It's fearful what's going to happen. He's already put the prices up 42% and we don't see anything coming in the future.

### **Submarine cable negotiations**

The Premier indicated that he was in negotiations with Ottawa for a new submarine cable. Can you please update us on your negotiations?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

We're working very hard on that file. We hope that there'll be an announcement in the near future. I sat down, actually, with Minister Ashfield just last week, or the week before. We discussed it again. I know our minister has been in contact with his counterparts. I'm hoping at some point that I'll have an opportunity to sit down with the

prime minister again to raise that issue. It's very important, in this province, that we receive some funding for this new cable. It will lead to our ability to not only import the electricity we need, but hopefully to export some of our excess wind energy as well. So we're continuing to work on that file.

I encourage the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, anything that he's able to do to help, we welcome it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

### **Future wind developments**

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, it's seven or eight months since the Premier made this announcement that he was going to achieve cheap power rates for Islanders.

I think what's puzzling a lot of Islanders is the fact that we don't know where we're going with wind, we don't know if the wind farms are going to be able to be built in the future if Hydro-Québec has monopoly over all our distribution lines and everything. So maybe, Premier, you could get up and clarify some of the issues that are out there today. Are there going to be future wind developments? Are you going to be able to fulfill that billion-dollar dream you promised?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

If the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters would like a briefing at some point, I'm sure I can get our department to provide it for him.

Just so he knows, Prince Edward Island,

currently right now produces around 150 megawatts of electricity from wind. We're about to use 50 of that here in Prince Edward Island. We'd like to use the whole 150. Unfortunately, the wind does not blow all the time. We export the other 100 with the private sector. Also we have an RFP that's out now, that's coming back in, to build more wind projects in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Just so the hon. member knows, he talked about distribution rights and Quebec having a monopoly on them, I've explained this to him in the past. There's a new process called FERC where transmission is now open. There's no one individual that owns transmission. So we feel very confident in the new system. We're very confident, moving into the future, that Prince Edward Island will be in a good situation.

Are we going to be a dominant player? No, we're not. If we get to our 500 megawatts we'll use as much as we can here in Prince Edward Island, the rest we'll export. But when you have Newfoundland and Labrador that are hoping to produce 5,000 megawatts of wind energy, it just puts it in perspective what a small player Prince Edward Island is. But we're going to continue to do the best we can with the resources that we do have.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

### **Negotiations with Hydro-Québec (further)**

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, if I understood the Premier right, all you're asking for from Quebec Hydro is a purchase agreement for 100 megawatts of power.

Is that all you're asking for?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

In the general vicinity, yes. I'm not going to put all our cards on the table, since we're in negotiations, but we are looking for a power purchase agreement, yes.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Question for the Premier, Madam Speaker.

When, Premier, do you feel that you will have these negotiations completed?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I hope we'll have them completed soon. We may never have them completed. The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters likes to stand up and say that I've made a promise to Islanders. The promise I made to Islanders was that I was going to try and find lower electricity rates. I'm going to continue to do that. If things do not work with Quebec Hydro, I'll go look somewhere else.

But what I can say, is that I am at the table looking for lower electricity rates. I'm not out working on boondoggle projects or makeup projects like Meteor Creek or Deep Panuke. I'm working on concrete solutions for our electricity needs here in Province of Prince Edward Island.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

### **Transmission capacity agreement with New Brunswick**

**Mr. M. Currie:** Madam Speaker, this is the

same Premier that promised cheap power from Churchill Falls, he promised power from tidal facilities, he promised a \$1 billion wind farm that's been cancelled, it's been re-announced, and cancelled again.

He does not have any transmission capacity to go anywhere. I am surprised that he'd stand up there and make those announcements.

Premier, when will you have a transmission capacity agreement with the province and New Brunswick signed? When will you do that? That'd be the first piece of business you should do.

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Obviously, I will, again, offer the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters a briefing, if he so chooses, because he's very mixed up in a lot of his facts.

First of all, we made no commitment with regards to Churchill Falls. We do have an RFP in place. There is a FERC regulation now where we do go out and bid for these transmissions. Once we get more things finalized we'll have more announcements to make.

But the hon. member should try and get his facts straight, and I'd be more than happy to provide a briefing for him.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

### **Negotiating team members (further)**

**Mr. M. Currie:** One final question for the Premier.

Is Billy Dow part of your negotiation team?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

His firm is involved through Gordon MacKay, but he is not -

**Mr. M. Currie:** I knew he'd surface again.

**Premier Ghiz:** He is not at the negotiation table, and, Madam Speaker, I look for the best people.

Billy Dow is the best that I know. He's not at the negotiation table. Gordon MacKay is, and we're very proud of that.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

### **One English school board**

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Many people are wondering if the government's planning on going to one English school board. To the minister of education: Have you had any discussions with the Western School Board going to one English board?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General.

**Mr. D. Currie:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

That question - during the last few months, I've had the opportunity to meet with boards all across the province on a number of occasions. That question has been put to me by boards and right now it is not an immediate priority. Right now our priority is

the investment that we're making in the early childhood sector and the investments that we'll be making with the transition of the five-year-olds into the public school system, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the same minister. Mr. Minister, when you were having one of these discussions with the Western School Board, did you perhaps tell them that the discussions on one English school board would start after the next election?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General.

**Mr. D. Currie:** No.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

### **Funds for Eastern School District rezoning plan**

**Leader of the Opposition:** That's an interesting answer.

My next question to the same minister. Mr. Minister, a few years back, money was given to parents for the Souris Family of Schools to do some work on rezoning. My question to the minister: Will you entertain a request from the Eastern School District to have resources to have resources to do a comprehensive rezoning plan, starting right away?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General.

**Mr. D. Currie:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

During discussions that I've had with the Eastern School District we've had some very positive discussions. If you look at the discussions that we have had, I've made it very clear to boards all across the Province of Prince Edward Island that our two immediate priorities right now in the department of education are the investments in our zero to four-year-olds that have been neglected and ignored for 15 years in this province. Also, the investment of the historical announcement of bringing our five-year-olds, as the last province in Canada I must add, into the public school system.

Our priorities right now, as myself as minister, are going to be focused on instruction and learning. We're going to look at continuing to make investments to strengthen and build our public school system here in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the same minister. A number of people are saying things like it seems like there's a lot of attention on spending a lot of money in your department maybe on expansion of schools in your own riding. My question to you, Mr. Minister: Is it true that you're delaying rezoning, especially in your own riding too, until after the next election?

**Mr. Bagnall:** Well, of course he is. (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General.

**Mr. D. Currie:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I do want to clarify. My riding is Charlottetown-Parkdale and there has been no investment other than general maintenance improvement in schools in the District of Charlottetown-Parkdale.

Basically, right now, I've made it very clear across this province as I've travelled, meeting with the early childhood sector, the kindergarten teachers that we're embracing into the public school system, I've met with the PEITF, the membership - our priority is going to continue to be looking at investments that we can prove today to strengthen our system into the future.

I do want to clarify that rezoning is the priority of the Eastern School District and this government has a strong track record to respect the autonomy of the boards in this province.

I do want to clarify. Back in 1996, which was approximately 14 years ago, the government of the day, which came in, was the Binns government, and there was a report. It was called the Coles-MacAulay Report. That was a report that was done to look at school rezoning and potential renewal of schools in the province. That report was shelved.

In November of 2005 the Binns government was asked to carry out a study on declining enrollment. Government refused the request. In August (Indistinct) we respected the autonomy of the Eastern School District and we gave them the ability to look at a school reorganization plan to build and renew themselves into the future.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Kellys Cross-Cumberland.

**Update on Seniors' Home Repair Program**

**Ms. Docherty:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question this morning is for the Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour. A number of Island seniors across the province, including those in Kellys Cross-Cumberland, have benefitted from the seniors home repair program. I'd like to find out from the minister, if she's able to provide us with an update on how many of the seniors actually accessed this program in the last fiscal year?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour.

**Premier Ghiz:** Don't cancel it like the previous government.

**Ms. Sherry:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

That is an excellent question coming from the Member from Kellys Cross-Cumberland. Certainly it gives me great pleasure to address the issue, and I may have to ask for your indulgence, Madam Speaker, because the seniors in this province are a very important part of our population.

Sad as it may be, the previous administration cut this very important program to assist our low income seniors here in Prince Edward Island. But I'm very happy to stand in the House today and assure the seniors in this province that we are committed to them and we will always be committed to the issues in order to make our seniors here in Prince Edward Island to be able to live in dignity and comfort.

Certainly, this administration, I think in the year 2009-2010, we committed \$500,000 to the seniors repair program, allowing our seniors to fix windows and doorsteps and a lot of other things so that they can live in

comfort in their own home.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Is this a member's statement?

**Ms. Sherry:** To answer the question to the hon. member, I'm proud to stand and say that we have helped 900 seniors -

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Sherry:** - have repairs done to their homes, Madam Speaker, and this year alone the number was 425.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Kellys Cross-Cumberland.

**Ms. Docherty:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd also like to find out from the minister, as a member of this Legislature that's proud that we brought this program back: Are we going to continue it in this upcoming fiscal budget?

**Premier Ghiz:** That's a good question.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour.

**Premier Ghiz:** Don't cancel that.

**Ms. Sherry:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As we know, the budget will soon be brought down in this province and certainly at that time we will know the full answer to that question.

I also just want to mention, I think it's very important to note, as well, the commitment of this government to our seniors. I want to commend the Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood who worked diligently with his

colleagues to increase the threshold from \$30,000 a year to 35.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale.

### **Affordable housing agreement**

**Mr. Dumville:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question today is also to the minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour. Minister, I understand that the affordable housing agreement is administered by your department. Can you advise the House how many projects have been approved and how many units have been created?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour.

**Ms. Sherry:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like to say to the Member from West Royalty-Springvale that I'm very proud to say that it's our department that looks after the affordable housing agreements here in the province. I think we can all recognize the fact that affordable, accessible housing for our Islanders makes a difference in being able to live a quality life here on Prince Edward Island.

I know there's been a couple of projects that have been near and dear to my hear in the Summerside area: the project with the community connections, an independent place. I'm also proud to stand and give those numbers to the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale. To date, there have been 19 projects across our province with 155 units provided.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Sherry:** Just to kind of break that down a little further, there were 49 family rental units, four units for family home ownership, seniors 14 units, and 88 units for persons with disabilities, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

### **Funds for Eastern School District rezoning plan (further)**

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My next question's to the Premier. Premier, this is three years that you've been in government, you keep talking, talking, talking, consulting, consulting, consulting. This is the second education minister we have, education is still in chaos, you have an \$87 million deficit, and my question is: People are worried about value for money. Are you going to commit to have dollars if the Eastern School District put in a request for a comprehensive rezoning plan? Do you commit to that?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Here's what I can tell the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that our government has been more active when it comes to the future education in this Province of Prince Edward Island than any government going back a generation. We just have to look at our commitment. We were willing to tackle the difficult issues like school closure in this province. We were able to tackle the difficult issues like moving kindergarten into the school system. We're able to tackle student-teacher ratios in this province. We're able to say yes, we can to building new high schools in our rural communities in this province, unlike the former

government that just wanted to renovate old high schools.

If there's a government that has been committed to education in this province, it's been our government, whether or not it was the former minister of education or the current minister of education. As long as I have the privilege of being Premier of the Province of Prince Edward Island, education will remain one of our main priorities in this province.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

#### **Tenders for Souris school**

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This Premier is really good at being selective with all that activity. But to the minister of education: Have the tenders gone out for the construction of the new green \$35 million K-12 school for Souris? Are the tenders out for that facility?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General.

**Mr. D. Currie:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I can't speak specifically whether the tenders have gone out. I know that through the \$500 million five-year capital investment, education has been a strong beneficiary of those investments of approximately 120 million.

We're excited to be opening this September, we'll be officially opening the new \$22 million school in Montague, a state-of-the-art facility. We'll also be adding and

opening the new facility in Glen Stewart, which is a \$9 million facility -

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. D. Currie:** - new school. Plus we've also supported the Eastern School District with their request to accommodate five-year-olds with new additions to schools at West Royalty, L.M. Montgomery and Westwood Primary.

So we're excited about the investments and we're excited about the investment that we will be making our long term capital budget with the new facility in Souris.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Back to the education - Madam Speaker, I can't hear myself. Sorry. Thank you.

To the education minister. Mr. Minister, this week you had in your minister's statement on education that you're going back to the planning committee with the school for Souris and you'll have a report in 2011 and the construction's supposed to be done by 2014. So my question to you, Mr. Minister is: Have the tenders gone out for the construction of the promised, re-promised, and promised again, green school for Souris?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General.

**Mr. D. Currie:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

One of the initiatives that we've decided to take on in the great District of Souris-Elmira is that when this government looks at making initiatives and using taxpayers dollars to make investments, it's a priority and we have an impeccable track record, to make sure that we consult and we listen to Islanders.

One of the things that we're doing now is that we've invited the stakeholders to the table to help us be part of the design and the construction of the new Souris high school. Because we want to understand and hear from the communities across Prince Edward Island what the educational needs are, specifically if it's in the trades and technology areas.

So we're going to sit down and we're going to consult and we're going to listen and make sure that the residents and the communities of Souris are part of that discussion, Madam Speaker.

Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's interesting that there seems to be selective priorities all the time with this government. This year, within weeks of taking into your new portfolio in education, new additions were approved for many of the city schools, however, this week you continue to delay Souris. The parents have worked, they've consulted, they've come up with the plan and you've promised several times that there was going to be a

construction. When are you actually going to construct this school?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General.

**Mr. D. Currie:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

One of the realities, if you look at the decision, the \$22 million new school investment in the town of Montague, I had a chance to speak to the architect. They're claiming that facility will be probably be one of the premier high schools in Atlantic Canada.

**Premier Ghiz:** Canada?

**Mr. D. Currie:** Part of the discussion that was had in that construction - we engaged with the community of Montague. The reality of it is, the request to add new additions to schools in the Charlottetown area came directly from the Eastern School District as part of their reorganization plan to accommodate the kindergarten.

At West Royalty Elementary we're seeing an increase of 54% in enrollment at L.M. Montgomery. Both of these schools encompass rural areas. So these are investments that we're making due to the impact of rising enrollments. That was a request that came to me from the Eastern School Board.

As I said earlier, we respect the autonomy and the independence of school boards. My objective was to come in and build a strong partnership with all boards across the Province of Prince Edward Island.

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you,

Madam Speaker.

To the Premier. Mr. Premier, it seems that this education minister was really quick to have the city schools on a priority. In terms of Souris they've been promised, you've had report after report, postponement after postponement. My question: Is there a double standard here in education across the province? Is there, Premier?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** There could be, Madam Speaker.

The Leader of the Opposition could be right, there could be a double standard. Because anybody in PEI who has the opportunity to head down east and head to Montague, if they want to take a drive by the new high school that is going up down in the Montague area for the constituents of Belfast-Murray River, for the constituents of Vernon River-Stratford, for the constituents of Montague-Kilmuir, for the constituents of Georgetown-St. Peters, they will see - and my minister of education was wrong, and I'll say when one of my ministers is wrong. It is not one of the nicest high schools and best high schools in Atlantic Canada, it will be one of the premier high schools in all of Canada. If that's a double standard, I'm willing to accept it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you. To the Premier then: Then will you commit to have dollars for rezoning for the Eastern School District so a comprehensive plan can be put in place so all the students and all the parents and all the people in the school system will be treated equally across the province?

Because Souris is delayed once again, and it's not even going to be started in construction until probably 2013 or 2014. You promised on a regular basis that this school was going to be a priority. It's certainly not any more. Explain.

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Madam Speaker, we'll just go by our track record what our priorities are.

Since we've come to power education has been a priority of this government. We'll continue to do it. We were the ones that met with the parents down in Souris, made sure that they were listened to. We were the ones that announced the new high school was going to be built, or new K-12 school down in that area. That new K-12 school will be built in that area and it will be another state-of-the-art institution in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Let's look at the records. If I was a constituent of Souris and I wanted that K-12 school, I would go and ask the constituents of the people of Montague-Kilmuir, when they wanted to have a new high school there. They could just ask: What did a Conservative government do? They said: We'd go out and renovate a school. What did a Liberal government do? We built a state-of-the-art institution in the community of Montague that will be one of the nicest high schools in all of Canada.

You look at the record, who do you want to trust? The Conservatives that want to renovate in rural PEI or the Liberals that want to build state-of-the-art? Let's go with the Liberal government, you'll get the best possible school.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the

Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

One of the things that we constantly notice is the fact that you're actually the Premier, you've actually been in government for three years. You've had to go through two ministers of health, two ministers of education, two ministers of innovation, the list goes on. How many apologies this week in the House alone?

My question to you, Mr. Premier, is this: How come the city schools got rezoned and the city schools had an opportunity for expansion and you're still refusing the people of Souris a new school? Why is that?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier Ghiz:** Totally untrue, Madam Speaker, what the Leader of the Opposition is saying.

The reason why there was some additions made to some schools is that finally, after 40 years in this province, we've had a government with the foresight to say kindergarten should be in our school system. Full-day kindergarten.

No government in the history of the Province of Prince Edward Island before this government was willing to make the decision, and most likely for political reasons, that kindergarten should be moving into the school system. We made that decision. It's creating a lot of investments in education. One of those investments is that some schools needed to be added on to. We could have put our head in the sand and said: No, we don't want kindergarten in the school system because (Indistinct) we'd have to add on to some schools and it will cost more dollars.

Our government believes investing in education is an investment in the future of this province and we'll continue to invest in education as long as we have the opportunity.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition, final question.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Actions speak louder than words. This government's been in government for three years. There is a definite difference here between what's happening in the Charlottetown school system compared to the Souris school.

So I'll go to the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning, since the kindergarten to grade 12 school's been promised in your district for a long time. You stood up in the House on several occasions talking about how wonderful this is.

Are you comfortable with the fact that everything's back on the drawing board and you're going back to consult again about this school?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Yes, I'm absolutely comfortable. The hon. Leader of the Opposition says that everything is back on the drawing board. I'd like to inform the Leader of the Opposition that it never left the drawing board. In the eastern part of the province, that part of the province was neglected for 11 years by the previous administration. I know, because I and all of my constituents suffered through

those 11 years with no investment by the previous administration.

Now we see unprecedented investment in the first district. I refer to the replacement of Colville Manor, \$9 million. The revamping of water, sewer and the main street in Souris with sidewalks, another \$10 million.

In the capital budget the commitment is there for a brand new state-of-the-art high school in the Souris area - or a new K-12 school in the area. That recommendation was put forward by the Eastern School District and we as a government have shown that we do respect the autonomy and follow the recommendations of that Eastern School District. They have made the recommendation -

**Speaker:** Mr. Minister, we're starting to run out of time. I'd ask you to wrap up your answer.

**Mr. Campbell:** - the commitment is there. I have the commitment of the minister of education, I have the commitment of the Premier, and there will be a new state-of-the-art education facility in the first district.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Statements by Ministers

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

#### **Health PEI board**

**Premier Ghiz:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Our government has made a significant commitment to transforming our health care system.

Our vision for health care in Prince Edward Island is that care will be delivered through

a single, integrated system of care, one grounded in evidence-based decision making and focused on improving health, enhancing access and refocusing the emphasis of the care delivery system on primary health care and services that can appropriately and safely be provided locally.

The system is more focused on meeting needs in the most appropriate setting, by the most appropriate provider and in the most cost effective manner. This is our vision.

The Corpus Sanchez Report recommended that the Island's health care be delivered as a single, integrated system and that the province re-establish a health authority with a global budget to deliver services in accordance with the Department of Health and Wellness plans and overall directions.

Today, we're fulfilling this commitment, in accordance to our vision on health care, and announcing the 11 inaugural board members of our newly established Health PEI. This represents a tremendous, positive step in furthering our One Island Health System.

Our government is committed to building a health care system that rapidly and effectively addresses individual needs.

Health care is a living system. To keep up with changing needs, health care must continually adapt - and the system must be prepared to flexibly respond. An essential element of government's duty is a recognition that our health care system must constantly modernize and improve.

I can assure everyone that health care will continue to be a top priority for our government. We are committed to building a sustainable, integrated health care system, and the quality and the competency-based board being announced here today certainly underscores that commitment to Islanders.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

### Health PEI board announcement

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As the Premier has outlined today, we are announcing our next step in creating a sustainable health system here on Prince Edward Island.

Our province's vision is for One Island Community - One Island Health System. In our formal press conference taking place this morning we will be announcing the 11 members of the Health PEI board. The Health Governance Advisory Council clearly identified the importance of having a single board to oversee the delivery of health in our province.

I am pleased to stand in the House today and inform the House that those 11 members will be:

Dr. Marvin Clark. Throughout his career, Dr. Clark has held several significant professional appointments including family physician and surgical assistant at Prince County Hospital, medical missionary in West Africa, chief health officer for Prince Edward Island, deputy minister of health for PEI and assistant professor of family medicine at Dalhousie University, Halifax. Dr. Clark lives in Summerside with his wife, Marla.

As well, Geraldine MacKendrick, a resident of West Prince who works out of O'Leary. She has a keen interest in leadership. Geraldine has held various executive positions as president and vice president of memberships of several organizations within

the community, and she has completed her advanced communication bronze and advanced leadership bronze and is currently working towards an advanced communication silver. Geraldine lives in Cape Wolfe, PEI, with her husband, Bill.

Dr. Stephen O'Brien. Dr. O'Brien worked as a family physician in Souris from 1976 until 2004. He is also a past president of the PEI chapter of family physicians of Canada. Currently, Dr. O'Brien serves as a medical director for the Workers Compensation Board and is also house physician at the Hillsborough Hospital. He resides in Souris with his wife, Reta.

James T. Revell. James currently serves as chief operating officer of the Insurance Company of Prince Edward Island. Prior to joining the insurance company of Prince Edward Island, he practised law and was a partner in the Charlottetown law firm today known as Cox & Palmer. James has been active in the community with organizations such as the Four Neighbourhoods Community Medical Centre in Sherwood and Parkdale Sherwood Headstart, as well as a number of sports and charitable organizations. James is a member of the PEI Law Society and Canadian Bar Association. He lives in Charlottetown with his wife Margaret and two teenage children.

Kenneth Ezeard. Ken has been the executive director of the Health Association of Prince Edward Island since September 2002. In the 36 years leading up to this position, he was a CEO of the West Prince health region, the director of administrative services at the Health and Community Services Agency, the executive director at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the controller and director of labour relations at the Confederation Centre of the Arts and the director of finance at Etobicoke General Hospital in Toronto.

Gordon MacKay. Gordon has had an extensive and varied career in Prince Edward Island health care system. He began his career as a speech pathologist in 1969. In 1980 he was appointed as administrator at Beach Grove Home in Charlottetown and in 1984 he was appointed as the director of aging and extended care for the province. In 1992 he served as the executive director of addictions services and in 1993 he was appointed as the chief executive officer for Southern Kings Health. In 1997 he was appointed CEO of Queens Region Health. Gordon retired in 2000 after 31 years of service in health care administration.

Dr. Donna Murnaghan. Dr. Murnaghan is an associate professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Prince Edward Island. Her teaching expertise includes advance nursing practice, leadership, communication theory, chronic illness, primary health care, cancer and research and quality improvement. She is the lead investigator for the Comprehensive School Health Research Group, which conducts policy relevant research and knowledge exchange across health behaviours with the goal to influence policy and practice.

Dr. Kinsey Smith. Throughout his career, Dr. Smith has combined active research with clinical practice and administrative roles, both in the university's sphere and in the provincial health care delivery. He is a clinical nephrologist and served as associate dean of education for the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Since moving to PEI 10 years ago, Dr. Smith has provided input to the department of health on the provision of end stage renal failure care and has also served as medical advisor to the kidney foundation.

Denis Marantz. Denis retired to the Island after a full career in Ottawa. That service was divided equally between the Privy

Council Office, where he was the senior advisor on Aboriginal affairs and territorial governments, Canadian International Development Agency, and foreign affairs, where he covered a range of development issues and human rights. He also served abroad in Africa, south and southeast Asia. He retired to Prince Edward Island in 2004 with his Island-born wife, Karen.

Phyllis Horne. Phyllis Horne has been an educator with the Western School Board for the past 38 years. From 2007 to 2009, she served as the president of the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation and has always been an advocate for students, teachers and education. During her career, Phyllis served on numerous committees at the department of education and early childhood development and at the teachers' federation. Phyllis lives in Mill River with her husband, Allan.

And the chair of the board will be Leo Steven. Leo has joined us in the gallery this morning. He has had a long and successful career in health career spanning almost 40 years' experience in various leadership positions. Most recently, he was the CEO of one of the largest teaching hospitals in Canada, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. He has chaired federal and provincial health related boards and has undertaken a number of government initiated studies and reviews. He holds a master's degree in health administration from the University of Toronto. Having spent many summers on PEI, Leo retired to Prince Edward Island and he currently resides in eastern PEI, in St. Georges.

These 11 board members possess key leadership competencies, have a range of relevant skills and experience and are broadly representative of our Island community.

As Minister of Health and Wellness, I want

to say I look forward to working cooperatively with this new board to serve the health care needs of all Islanders.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General.

### **Kindergarten teachers accepted into PEITF**

**Mr. D. Currie:** Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to stand in the House today to inform our members and the public that after an overwhelmingly positive response from the members of the PEI Teachers' Federation, as demonstrated by last night's vote, kindergarten teachers have now been welcomed into PEI's public school system.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. D. Currie:** This is an important step forward in our kindergarten transition process. Madam Speaker, this means that we will be able to answer a number of questions that had been on the minds of many parents, kindergarten teachers and school board officials.

I'm very pleased that this step in the process is completed and we can move forward to continue to strengthen our educational system which will support our One Island Community and One Island Future.

This agreement means that school boards can now issue offer letters to successful kindergarten teacher candidates. These new kindergarten teachers will now be able to provide letters to the UPEI Registrar's Office in order to be officially accepted into the new Bachelor of Education Program.

School boards will assign kindergarten teachers to schools based on the needs of the students, the skills and experience of the team and the school, and as much as possible, the four preferences provided by the candidate.

After the teacher has been contacted by their principal they will be able to prepare for this September. Once kindergarten teachers are assigned to schools they will be contacted by the principal as soon as possible to begin preparing for the arrival of students in September. That preparation includes scheduling the Welcome to Kindergarten session, which will give parents and kindergarten students the opportunity to meet the teacher.

Kindergarten educators will have limited mobility. They will be restricted to transfer solely to other kindergarten positions for a minimum of three years. Those who do not have a B.Ed. will not be eligible to teach other grades until they become a certified teacher.

Kindergarten educators who currently have a B.Ed. will not be able to teach outside of a kindergarten until 2013-2014. During this time they will receive first considerations for any positions that are going to be open to the public.

As well, over the next three years, any kindergarten positions not filled by the kindergarten educators will be open to transfer for teachers in grades 1 through 12.

I'm excited about bringing kindergarten into the public school system. This is the largest educational initiative in the modern history of our province and I'm proud to be a part of it.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new kindergarten teachers all across communities in Prince Edward Island. I

know their expertise and experience in early learning will be a terrific asset to our Island' public school system.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development.

### **Funding for parks and projects**

**Mr. LeClair:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The provincial government is committed to strengthening and enhancing economic opportunities and the quality of life for communities across this province. To that end, in partnership with the federal government and the community groups, we are providing funding for parks and recreational projects. This funding is provided through the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the provincial government's Island Community Fund, and from the sponsors of the projects. This is a highly successful partnership, one that will provide lasting benefits to the communities.

Today I'm pleased to announce that five new projects have been approved. Two of these are in Stratford. One of those projects is an upgrade to the town's soccer and basketball facilities, and the other is replacement of washroom facilities at the Tea Hill Park. The other projects are an expansion to the existing playground at Westwood Elementary School in Cornwall, upgrades to the Miltonvale Community Park, and new bowling lanes at the Alberton Community Centre.

**An Hon. Member:** Great.

**Mr. LeClair:** I would like to congratulate

the sponsors of these projects, and wish them every success in the future.

These projects are in addition to others that have been announced recently in Georgetown, Fort Augustus, Summerside, Tignish Shore and Kinkora. In those communities, similar investments have been made to parks and recreational facilities that will help promote a more active lifestyle and enhance recreational opportunities.

These projects reflect the commitment of the provincial government to strengthening communities throughout Prince Edward Island.

The Island Community Fund provides some \$27 million over a five-year period, aimed at partnering with communities and community groups to provide much-needed infrastructure to support the economic and social development of those communities. The Island Community Fund is a vital part of our Rural Action Plan which is aimed at investing in rural infrastructure for the benefit of rural Islanders.

I want again to congratulate the sponsors of these and other much-needed community-based projects. As well, I want to reaffirm the commitment of this government to continue to move forward in the spirit of One Island Community.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour.

### **Foster Families Symposium**

**Ms. Sherry:** Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a wonderful annual event that is taking place this evening and tomorrow, the Spring

Symposium of the Prince Edward Island Federation of Foster Families.

Current foster families and people who are interested in learning more about the joys and challenges of foster parenting will be gathering this weekend at the Delta Hotel. The theme of the 27<sup>th</sup> annual event is: One Island, One Policy. Along with this theme, Dr. Charles Emmrys, a clinical psychologist from Moncton, will be speaking on the importance of foster parents and the department working together.

As Minister of the Department of Community Services, Seniors and Labour, I will attend the symposium tomorrow afternoon to meet families and speak to participants about the work our department is doing to support foster families, and to encourage new foster families to consider caring for a child.

My department has a strong partnership with the PEI Federation of Foster Families. I believe there are a few folks from this group here in the gallery today. I understand Nancy MacFarlane is here, who is the president of the Queens Region Foster Family Association, as well as the treasurer for the National Canadian Foster Family Association. Although I can't see them, I understand Donna and Alec Blue are here as well this morning. Donna is the treasurer for the PEI Federation of Foster Families and Alec is a member of the board. I would like to welcome Nancy, Donna and Alec to the gallery today and to thank them for their group's ongoing advocacy and cooperation with our department.

Together, we are improving our recruitment and retention of foster parents and we are supporting those families who currently work with us. Since 2007, my department has invested an overall increase of \$300,000 into our foster care program. We have increased level fees and children-in-care

rates and we made changes to provide greater fairness in reimbursements to families who provide kinship care.

I am also very pleased to say that the national foster parent symposium which is being held in 2011, will be right here in Prince Edward Island. This event will be a significant recognition for the work of our local federation and it will give us a cross-jurisdictional perspective on what other provinces are doing, and how we can improve our support for our foster families locally.

I would like to thank the many foster families who are performing an incredible service to the 300 children in the care of the director of child welfare. They are giving some of the most vulnerable children in our province secure, comforting, and nurturing homes during a time when they need it most.

I look forward to attending the symposium tomorrow and meeting many of these families at this event.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning.

**Sanofi-Aventis BioTalent challenge**

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This week some of the most promising young minds on Prince Edward Island have been taking up the challenge of hands-on scientific research through the Sanofi-Aventis BioTalent Canada challenge. This challenge, which has been going for six years on Prince Edward Island and 15 years across Canada, gives students with an interest in bioscience and biotechnology the

opportunity to partner with mentors from the biotech industry in pursuing new knowledge and new technological advances.

The organizations behind BioTalent Canada Challenge sponsor this event in the hope of encouraging more students to pursue studies and careers in biotechnology, which will be one of the major knowledge-based industries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Each Sanofi-Aventis BioTalent Canada challenge features the outstanding work of high school students who have conducted research projects and experiments of their own design in some area of biotechnology. This week Island students were hard at work on projects that were based on key areas of research and development for the bioscience sector here in PEI. These young people are working in aquatics and natural products, and I don't have to tell you how important biotechnology could be in developing new business opportunities for our fishing and farming sectors.

The experience and guidance that students in the BioTalent Challenge program gain is invaluable. We draw on the expertise of professional mentors who are willing and anxious to work with these students. It's a great example of business people and scientists showing leadership by mentoring the bioscientists of tomorrow.

I'd like to recognize the students who won the BioTalent Challenge this week.

Mr. Scott Dewar and Mr. Mark Townsend, grade 12 students at Three Oaks Senior High School, completed a project that looked at the blackknot infection many of our local trees develop and possible solutions to preventing the spread of this disease. Under the guidance of Dr. Junzeng Zhang of the NRC-Institute for Nutrisciences and Health, these two young men worked tirelessly to better understand the nature of the disease.

These students will be eligible to go to the national BioTalent Challenge in Ottawa later this month.

I'd ask the members of this House to join me in congratulating this inspiring group of young researchers.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

### **IWMC Spring Clean-Up**

**Mr. MacKinley:** Madam Speaker, between May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup> the Island Waste Management Corporation will be holding its annual spring cleanup. This year there are a few changes that will make it more efficient and easier for our customers.

The main difference for customers during this year's spring cleanup has to do with metals collection and excess yard and garden material pickup. Small household metal items can now be disposed of as part of a regular blue bag collection along with other recyclable items. This change allows for more opportunities for metal items to be collected and recycled throughout the year. This change also allows the metals week of spring cleanup to be replaced with an extra week of compost collection, giving customers two weeks to dispose of excessive yard and garden material along with other compost. Where they had one week before under the previous government, we've moved that to two weeks.

This change is helpful. As Islanders know, excessive yard and garden material cannot be picked up by Island Waste Watch for the two weeks before the spring cleanup to avoid overloading the trucks. So having an extra week of compost collection during the

spring cleanup helps move all the extra compost material.

Also this year, spring cleanup will happen across the Island on the same schedule. In the past year cleanups happened on different weeks depending on where you lived. This year's spring cleanup will begin with a compost week starting on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be followed by a waste week beginning on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, and will finish with a second compost week beginning on Monday May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for listening to this information.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving Petitions.

Tabling of Documents

Reports by Committees

#### Introduction of Government Bills

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour.

**Ms. Sherry:** Madam Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a Bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Child Protection Act*, and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs, that the same be now received and read a first time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Child Protection Act*, Bill No. 41, read a first time.

**Speaker:** Minister, would you care to give a brief explanation?

**Ms. Sherry:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The changes proposed come as a result of

the *Child Protection Act* review. The proposed changes include: re-ordering the sections of the act to follow the flow of the work of the child protection staff, clarifying the definition of a child, replacing the term child welfare with child protection, notifying a designated band representative when a child protection intervention with an Aboriginal child occurs, clarifying the total time that a child may be in the care of the director of child protection, including the involvement in or exposure of child pornography as a condition for a child to be in need of child protection, clarifying whose identity will be protected when a report of suspected child abuse is made and lengthening the period of time between mandated reviews from three to five years.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

Government Motions

#### Orders of the Day (Government)

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that the 16<sup>th</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 16, *An Act to Amend the Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act*, Bill No. 40, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act*, Bill No. 40, read a second time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

I call on the hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford to chair the Committee of the Whole House.

**Chair (McIsaac):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

Do you want a general statement overall?

**Mr. Sheridan:** What I'd like to do is, I'm going to ask - there has been such great work done on this that I've asked both Albert MacDonald and Patricia McPhail to come in. They were part of the committee struck by Executive Council to put an end to this. I'll ask them both to join us here on the floor.

Agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Just as they're coming to the floor, saying Executive Council asked that this committee be put together to try to bring this act more in line with the Charlottetown City Council bylaws with respect to how the uses of Victoria Park took place. So these two fine folks were asked to sit on this committee by Executive Council, along with Sue Hendricken and Joe Coady from Charlottetown city, and as well from the Victoria Park advocates Sally Blake-Hoof and Heather Orford.

They sat and looked over all the changes that could be possibly brought forward to strengthen our act that would put it more in compliance and respect with the bylaws of the City of Charlottetown. They were very successful in bringing that forward. With these recommendations they decided to take it to an open meeting and at that open meeting they got 100% unanimous support for the recommendations being brought forward. The result of that is what's coming forward today in the form of this change to the act.

So I'd like to thank them, first of all, for doing this and bringing in line something that has been controversial for a number of years now. I think we brought it to resolution and these folks will help us ascertain exactly what we have done in the way of changes.

**Chair:** Are there any questions before we (Indistinct)?

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** First question to Albert, tell us what happened to the ankle?

**Albert MacDonald Director:** I was carrying recyclables to the car. I didn't notice I was on the edge of the sidewalk and I fell over and broke it.

**Mr. Brown:** You'll have to talk to your councillor on that.

**Mr. Sheridan:** So we think it's the first time in the history of the House that we've had two broken feet on the floor at one time.

Madam Clerk, we may have to put that in the record book.

**Chair:** Further questions?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** I'm just wondering is this part of - is this being brought in with part to do with that there was activities going on out at the park that certain people didn't think that they had the right to host out there and is this making corrections to notify that?

**Mr. Sheridan:** The main part of this was what they were trying to correct was the overwhelmingly shutdown of the park at times and charging admission into it.

What you would know, as the Jack Frost Festival did that, and the advocates took great exception to what was taking place and the original use of the park. So that's what they have looked and tried to change here in this act. So that there will not be retroactive to the things that take place in the park such as ball, baseball, that has gone on there for 60 years in the past. The tennis courts that do host tournaments and such there. You're such a big man I can hardly look around you. Then the Aquanis dairy bar, of course, would not be impacted by this. But any newer type of festivities or commercial outlets that would look to set up in the park would not be allowed to do so.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Under the new changes, will they be allowed to?

**Mr. Sheridan:** The retroactive, of course, the ball will continue -

**Mr. Bagnall:** No, if these changes all go through, will they be allowed to?

**Mr. Sheridan:** They will continue, the ones that are there now will continue to go forward. Anything that would come forward in the future would have to have public consultation. There are a few things here in the act: 60-day advanced notice for such things, except in the form of emergency.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Like the Jack Frost, only it's going to be a different name now. But let's say it was the Jack Frost, are they going to be able to participate in the park like they did in the past or are they going to cut them off?

**Mr. Sheridan:** Remember, Jack Frost has been moved. Jack Frost has not been there for the last number of years.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Yeah, but they're not going to be allowed to go back there again under this legislation, right?

**Mr. Sheridan:** That's correct.

**Mr. Bagnall:** So you couldn't have a rock concert there?

**Mr. Sheridan:** That's correct.

**Mr. Bagnall:** So you can't have any paid -

**Mr. Sheridan:** Where they would overwhelmingly shut down the park and provide no allowable entrance to it without paid admission. So that's what they have come to full consideration and agreement on.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Okay.

**Chair:** (Indistinct).

We'll begin reading the bill, then.

1.(1) Subsection 63.5(1) of the *Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C-4.1 is amended

(a) by the deletion of the words “, and has always been able to permit”; and

(b) by the repeal of clause (c).

(2) Subsection 63.15(2) of the Act is repealed.

(3) The Act is amended by the addition of the following after subsection 63.5(3):

Question, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Like repeal of clause (c), what was clause (c) that you're repealing?

**Mr. Sheridan:** Clause (c) says - is this the actual writing of it?

**An Hon. Member:** Yeah.

**Mr. Sheridan:** The actual wording of it is: does not cause and has never caused the reversion of any of the lands comprised of Victoria Park to Her Majesty in the right of the province or in any other person.

(b) is for the purposes of holding a circus, show or exhibition in such use. Just it stipulates the kind of things that they want to eliminate to make sure that what the real use of Victoria Park would be is that it will not take place again.

**Chair:** Further clarification or not?

**Mr. Bagnall:** You got more information?

**Mr. Sheridan:** All this is - Patricia has pointed out to me here the purpose of holding a circus show of exhibition and such use. That is not being repealed. It would be up for public consultation if there's such a

thing to be (Indistinct).

**Mr. Bagnall:** So they have to apply 60 days in advance and then it goes to public consultation, and if the city allows, or public consultations allow, they could put a circus in there or whatever.

**Mr. Sheridan:** That's from the original wording, yes.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Okay.

**An Hon. Member:** Okay?

**Mr. Bagnall:** And the subsection 63.5(2) is repealed. What was that? What were you repealing there?

**Mr. Sheridan:** For greater certainty, this section applies in respect of any proposed use of the lands comprising of Victoria Park that is, as of the date of this section comes into force, subject to legal proceedings before the Supreme Court.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Which means what?

**Mr. Sheridan:** Albert will speak to that one directly, if you would, hon. member.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Albert, what does that mean?

**Albert MacDonald Director:** Back in 2005 that was added. There were some pending legal issues. The legislative draftsmen advised us that that clause was redundant now with the changes that were being made.

**Mr. Bagnall:** So what was the legal - you say for legal purposes? What were the legal purposes? I mean, what -

**Albert MacDonald Director:** Back in 2005 there was a pending lawsuit against the city. That clause was dealing with that lawsuit.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Okay.

**Chair:** Continue on then, with:

- (4) The council shall not, under this Act,
- (a) permit any use of the lands comprising Victoria Park that does not respect the recognized heritage features of such lands;
- (b) set, levy or collect any charge or fee, or permit any charge or fee to be set, levied or collected, for admission generally to the lands comprising Victoria Park; or
- (c) permit all of the lands comprising Victoria Park to be used, at any one time, for one or more of the purposes permitted under subsection (1).

Question, hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Yeah. Victoria Park belongs to the city. Does Victoria Park belong to the city?

**Mr. Sheridan:** Go ahead, Albert.

**Albert MacDonald Director:** The park was vested with the city, yes.

**Mr. Bagnall:** So the city owns Victoria Park?

**Albert MacDonald Director:** Yes.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Then why is government making regulations for the city? Why wouldn't the city set up their own standards and practices for the park, rather than coming to provincial government to put it in an act?

**Patricia McPhail Manager:** The original vesting of Victoria Park to the city was subject to certain conditions that the public - the park was vested to the city but it was for Islanders, so in that sense the park is held in a sort of trust by the city for the use of all

Islanders.

When certain events happen in the park, it could cause the reversion of the park - that's the conditional aspect of it. These legislative provisions tend to generally match the *Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act* bylaw, or not - sorry, no, they tend to match the Victoria Park bylaw of the city, so that they are matching, but it is with the understanding that the province does have an interest in Victoria Park in the sense that Charlottetown holds an interest for all Islanders.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Okay.

**Chair:** Okay?

**Mr. Bagnall:** Just - and I apologize - but in your opening remarks, minister - I did miss some of them. A question back to it. You said that there were some meetings with these changes - who actually met? I apologize if you gave me that before.

**Mr. Sheridan:** No, not all. There were six members that were struck to form this committee to review the changes that would have to be made, and they were two from each group. Two from the province, which was Patricia and Albert that are sitting here with us today, Sue Hendricken and Joe Coady from the city, and Sally Blake-Hooff and Heather Orford from the Advocates for Victoria Park.

So they sat and went over all of the differences and the issues that have been at hand for a number of years now, and once they came to the revisions and came to what they thought would be the very best use for Victoria Park and what would answer the call and respect what the city of Charlottetown has done, they took it to an open meeting. At that meeting -

**Mr. Bagnall:** The open meeting was an

advertised meeting for the public?

**Mr. Sheridan:** Advertised for all of the public. They had over 50 people there and everyone voted on it and received unanimous support for the changes.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Okay. Did this go to city council?

**Mr. Sheridan:** City council was apprised of this by the two representatives that they had on the committee. They chose these people to sit on this committee and they were keeping their council apprised of it all.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Okay, but did city council meet on this issue and support it?

**Mr. Sheridan:** City council is in 100% compliance with this. These are their bylaws that we're trying to support and respect here.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Okay. That's fine.

**Chair:** Move to clause five.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Chair:** (5) The council may, under this Act, set, levy and collect any charge or fee, or permit any charge or fee to be set, levied and collected, for admission to a specific part of the lands comprising Victoria Park which is used for a purpose that the council has authorized under subsection (1).

**Mr. Bagnall:** I have a question.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** The council now, are you talking city council again? So if provincial jurisdiction makes all the laws on this, and the thing, will it have to come through to the minister to get approval, other than city council? Because, according to the act, you

can't do it without government making the changes.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Just by the clarification that Patricia just gave us, there's a clause inside the act that would state that the park would have to revert back to the province if they did not honour the rights of all Islanders, and that's where this act is trying to coincide all of the changes with respect to those uses to coincide very closely with the act, the bylaws of the Charlottetown city council.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Are there regulations drawn up now with this new act, as to what is going to be allowed for the council to make recommendations that can - or can they just make recommendations that anything can happen in the park and they can charge for anything as long as they give the proper notice?

**Albert MacDonald Director:** That's the city bylaw.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Go right ahead, Albert.

**Albert MacDonald Director:** There's a Victoria Park and Promenade Bylaw -

**Mr. Bagnall:** Pardon?

**Albert MacDonald Director:** The city has a Victoria Park and Promenade Bylaw -

**Mr. Bagnall:** Okay.

**Albert MacDonald Director:** - which outlines how the park is to be operated, and it spells out in detail the definitions of major events and when things can occur and the nature of consultation, and under what conditions and what steps have to be taken.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Could you table that? Can you table that?

**Albert MacDonald Director:** Sure.

**Mr. Bagnall:** There's not a problem? Okay.

**Chair:** Moving to clause 6.

(6) The council shall not, under subsection (1), permit

(a) any part of the lands comprising Victoria Park to be used for the purpose of holding a major event;

(b) the construction of a development on any part of the lands comprising Victoria Park;

(c) the operation of a business from a development on any part of the lands comprising Victoria Park; or

(d) the change of use of a development on any part of the lands comprising Victoria Park,

unless the council, before doing so, holds a public meeting to receive public input as to whether, and on what conditions if any, the council should permit the proposed major event, construction, operation, alteration or change of use, as the case may be.

Questions there?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** So, basically what I'm hearing there is that if they wanted to host a concert of some kind, or some major promotional event, that can't be done unless you have a public meeting. Does the public meeting make the decision whether it can be done or it can't be done? Or who makes that decision?

**Albert MacDonald Director:** Council.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Council will make that decision. City council will make the decision. They will get public input as to whether they think it is appropriate or not,

and they will go back and sit, and since they answer to the constituents, they're going to make a decision based solely on what is right for their city.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Okay. So basically, if you have an anti-group that doesn't want to see anything other than grass grow in Victoria Park, if they go to the park - or go to a public meeting with a group, they can stop anything from happening there. Because that's what you're telling me.

**Mr. Sheridan:** What they've laid out in the bylaws are what the uses of the park are, they are very clearly stipulated, and you'll be able to see that from what's tabled there, hon. member. So from that part onward, anything that's over and above what's inside those bylaws would have to go to a special meeting. That's what democracy is all about, just to make sure that everyone gets their views heard, and make sure that if there are those are in favour of something that they are asking to go forward, that they come out in force and have their views heard as well.

From that point, as is, in all democracy, you hear all the voices and then those that are in the positions of decision making make a decision that's best for the park and for the city.

**Mr. Bagnall:** How many showed up at the public meeting when they were having these meetings?

**Mr. Sheridan:** Just over 50.

**Mr. Brown:** Yeah, hon. member, (Indistinct).

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

**Mr. Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It was over at the Charlottetown Hotel. It was a great meeting, great presentation. I want to take this opportunity to thank the groups that attended. A lot of the residents around Victoria Park attended. It was good and open discussions.

This is all about protecting Victoria Park. The city is working on getting other areas, venues, that can be used for major events in the city of Charlottetown which I think is a great idea.

Personally, I've grown up in downtown Charlottetown. Victoria Park was a major player in (Indistinct).

**An Hon. Member:** Parking place.

**Mr. Brown:** I'm not going to comment. There are great ball diamonds out there, swimming pools and everything out there, it's great, but that's enough. Personally, that's what I think, that's enough. That's all that should be in Victoria Park.

I may take some heat over this, but that's a major piece of provincial land, which is still think it is. It was invested in the Queen, it was invested in the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor - correct me if I'm wrong - cut that piece off and made the Victoria Park act which gave the rights of it to the City of Charlottetown which (Indistinct) to pay the bills.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Do you feel that these changes are what the majority of the people in Charlottetown want?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

**Mr. Brown:** Thank you very much.

Yes, I really do. I think the people of Charlottetown and the people of Prince Edward Island know how much Victoria Park means to the province as a whole. I think a lot of people that come to Charlottetown take a drive around Victoria Park and it should be left to the people of Prince Edward Island. I'm a firm believer of that. I guess it could be used as a major event area, but I don't think it should be. I think the city should find other locations to do major events and Victoria Park should be left as a passive park and not turn it into a major event centre.

**Mr. M. Currie:** (Indistinct) believe the (Indistinct) chased out of Victoria Park?

**Mr. Brown:** What's that?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Do you believe the crows should be chased out of Victoria Park?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

**Mr. Brown:** That's a major event at 5:00 every day. You're right. It must a concert every day at 5:00.

**Chair:** Further questions on that clause?

We'll move to clause 7.

(7) The council shall, in accordance with subsection (8),

(a) give an initial notice of any public meeting held pursuant to subsection (6) at least 60 days prior to the date of the public meeting; and

(b) give two further notices of the public meeting during the 30 days immediately preceding the date of the meeting.

Any questions there?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Is there anything in the regulations or act that would allow if something unforeseen comes up in a very short period of time and you don't 60 days to have a public meeting, you don't have 30 days? Is there a clause in the act there that would prevent that from not happening?

**Mr. Sheridan:** Just coming down here, number 9 that you will come to in a moment, it will show that under emergency situations they can do that in less time. An emergency that we discussed earlier was if you thought about an infestation of beetles, for instance, that were taking on the park and 60 days would mean they'd have a chance to move a lot further through the park that they could go in under shorter notice, cut down the four trees that were infested and try to stop the infestation. Now that's the type of emergency that we would be discussing here, but that's why it is impart here under part 9.

**Mr. Bagnall:** So in other words, then, if something happened that there was some kind of an event or circus or whatever, or something came in that would be economical benefit to the City of Charlottetown and they had short notice on a situation that wouldn't be classified as an emergency, is there anything that would allow that to take place?

**Mr. Sheridan:** All that would be is if council deemed it be an emergency, if they felt that that was the case that it meant life or death or a real (Indistinct).

**Mr. Bagnall:** That wouldn't be an emergency, Mr. Minister. But is there anything in there that would allow the city to have some leeway as to making a decision that would benefit the economic of

the city?

**Mr. Sheridan:** The wording is emergency or exceptional circumstances, is what the wording is. So if city council wanted to go to the people of Charlottetown and Prince Edward Island and say that they thought this was exceptional circumstances, they could do that. But again, as in all good democracies, they have to answer to the people and if they're stepping outside the bylaws and indeed the act of Prince Edward Island, they would have to answer very strongly to that.

So I would suspect that they are looking for the same mechanisms here that we are. We are, again, looking to respect and endorse the strength of their bylaw for the city. So this doesn't contravene anything that they are trying to enact and I doubt that they'll do it with the ways to circumstance that.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Just one question again on that just before you're finished, minister. Can the council make that decision themselves under that clause without going to a public meeting?

**Mr. Sheridan:** What Patricia is just clarifying for me is the fact that they still have to go to public meeting, just that they can - certain events of 60-day notice need. So if they think it is that important and there are exceptional circumstances surrounding it, they can go to a public meeting in a shorter time frame than (Indistinct).

**Mr. Bagnall:** So what you're saying is city council can't make a decision in Victoria Park period without going to public -

**Mr. Sheridan:** No, I just said that they shortened the time. They can not do it without a public meeting, but they can get around the 60-day provision if it's an emergency or exceptional circumstances. Just strengthens and what (Indistinct).

**Chair:** Question for the hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

**Mr. Brown:** That's a good question from the member. I hope that it's 60 days - they can only go around that rule of 60 days if, let's say, they had an event planned for the waterfront or somewhere else and something happened at that venue that it couldn't take place there, then they'd have to move it. I hope that there is protection there that they just can't say: Look, a big band just announced that they're ready to come to Charlottetown in 10 days and we're going to go to Victoria Park, so therefore we just found out about that this so we're going to hold it at Victoria Park. I'm hoping that the law will not allow that to happen.

If there is a venue somewhere else that something happened that they couldn't be there, that they had as a last resort got to Victoria Park - and I want to reiterate this, last resort. Again, I believe Victoria Park should be a passive park for the use of all Islanders and the City of Charlottetown residents too.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** They still have to a public meeting.

**Mr. Sheridan:** They have to go to a public meeting. As the hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry says, anyone that feels as strongly as he does about those kinds of things will show up in force and he has his voice heard along with 200 of his compatriots and make sure that the big band is not allowed to appear at Victoria Park. That's very true and that's what takes place. There has to be an open meeting.

**Chair:** Moving to clause (8).

(8) The notices required under -

**Mr. Bagnall:** (Indistinct) I think we discussed (Indistinct).

**Chair:** Okay, great. We'll move on to 10.

(10) For greater certainty, subsection (6) does not apply in respect of any major event, construction, operation, alteration or change of use described in that subsection that was permitted by council before the date that subsection comes into force.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** I want that explained.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Exactly what we talked about early on when we talked about ball games already taking place there, tennis courts and their events that are associated with it, Aquinas park dairy bar. Those kinds of things are not to be affected by it. Nothing retroactive, they will not go and (Indistinct) those things (Indistinct).

**Mr. Bagnall:** So what do you mean by construction on that part of it?

**Mr. Sheridan:** It's saying when they're talking about any - coming forward, the new act is going to say you can't have any major event, construction, alteration, operation, change of use, so it does not - anybody that is already there does not have to abide by these changes. They're not going to walk in tomorrow and tell the Aquinas dairy bar that they have close their doors and walk away.

**Mr. Bagnall:** But any construction can take place in the park then?

**Mr. Sheridan:** No.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Well it says here -

**Mr. Sheridan:** No.

**Mr. Bagnall:** - does not apply in respect to construction.

**Mr. Sheridan:** To anybody that's there. So with the ball park, with the tennis courts -

**Mr. Bagnall:** But minister, that doesn't say that. It just says that - and I'm not trying to - it says for greater certainty does not apply in respect to any construction.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Subsection (6), it says: "subsection (6) does not apply in respect of any major event, construction, operation, alteration or any change of use described in that subsection that was permitted by council before the date that subsection comes into force".

So anybody that was already there, those changes do not affect them. So the ball fields, the tennis courts and the dairy bar are not affected by subsection 6 that says you're not allowed to do any of those things.

**Mr. Bagnall:** But it's also saying you're not allowed to do any construction of anything in the future there.

**Mr. Sheridan:** That's what they're saying. Subsection (6) states you cannot go in and build another dairy bar. You cannot -

**Mr. Bagnall:** Is that right? I'm not saying you're wrong, but Albert seems to -

**Albert MacDonald Director:** Let's say they had to do repairs to the baseball diamond. What that says is that existing facilities can be maintained and operated and altered but new facilities would need to go to a public meeting and could not be -

**Mr. Bagnall:** So nothing can be constructed in there unless it goes through a public meeting and council approve it.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Except for these things that

are already existing there.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Just the maintenance of what's there.

**Chair:** (11) For the purposes of this section,

(a) "major event" means a major event as determined under a bylaw made by the city under section 64;

(b) "development" means any building or structure.

**Mr. Bagnall:** 64, what does the city say is a major affair? We're talking (6)(11) 11 in the act here. Section (6)(11).

**Patricia MacPhail Manager:** In the Victoria Park and Promenade Bylaw, it's defined in 6.11 and 6.12 of that bylaw. Major events, particularly 6.12, explains the aspects council must take into consideration when considering whether or not an event is a major event. So the considerations are the nature, scope and extent of the proposed major event, the expected number of people attending and participating in the proposed major event, the compatibility of the proposed major event with other uses of traditional uses of the park, respecting as well the presence of Governance House, the duration of the event and other factors that may appear relevant.

So there is a fairly lengthy definition by the city as to what a major event is, contained in the bylaw.

**Mr. Bagnall:** You're talking about 6.11?

**Patricia MacPhail Manager:** It's more so in 6.12, but it is in both, yeah.

**Mr. Bagnall:** But it still doesn't say the size of a major event, does it? Or how many people or anything like that?

**Mr. Sheridan:** It's not going to stipulate it by number, but just by scope and such is what they're saying, and they'll take it into consideration as to what they feel is a major event. Most people have a good feel for what that's going to mean.

They don't want to limit, say, a tennis tournament at the park, where they've had them in the past. It's part of exactly what the hon. minister spoke about earlier. We don't want to take away that past (Indistinct) what takes place at the park (Indistinct) -

**Mr. Bagnall:** So does this take away from hosting the Canadian national softball championship or baseball championships in the park?

**Mr. Sheridan:** Anything that was there before and has added to the -

**Mr. Bagnall:** And you can charge for them?

**Mr. Sheridan:** To those, definitely. Anything that went on before, they're not looking to change any of that type of restriction. They understand - I think it'd be fair to say for the hon. minister from town and feels the same way as that part of the pastoral image of the park, and we want that to continue to be part of what it brings to the city and to the -

**Mr. Bagnall:** I just want to make sure. Because they hosted national championships there before in baseball and softball and track and field meets where they would be charging admission. So they're still allowed to charge admission on those events or do they have to get approval?

**Mr. Sheridan:** They can do it at those sights. What we're talking about is shutting down the entire park and charging admission. That is to look at thing like the Jack Frost, where they completely closed it off and changed the whole aspect of what

the park was all about.

**Chair:** Question from the hon. Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park.

**Mr. Watts:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Say a major event like a picnic, let's say the Liberal picnic. Would that have to go to a general meeting and be okayed by the -

**Mr. Brown:** (Indistinct) No, (Indistinct) no fee then.

**Mr. Sheridan:** There's no fee attached, but what would the thoughts be? Would the city council make a determination as to what that major event would be.

**Mr. Bagnall:** That could only be a minor event.

**Mr. Brown:** The PCs usually had theirs (Indistinct) corner here. And there's no phone booth so they're looking for a venue.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park.

**Mr. Watts:** No, I'm just waiting for an answer.

**Chair:** Okay. Do you have an answer for -

**Mr. Sheridan:** Yeah. As we were just chatting here, just for those little tidbits, those little things that could happen, hon. member, as you know, these picnics have taken place in the past and they will not be impacted by any of these changes.

**Mr. Watts:** Okay. Thank you.

**Chair:** Shall we carry that section? Carried.

2. Clause 64(1.1)(b) of the Act is amended by the addition of the words "subject to subsections 63.5(4) and (5)." before the

words “providing for the setting, levying and collection of reasonable user fees”.

Questions on section 2?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** What do you mean, changes? I mean, what was in it before that you’re changing? Because all I see is the changing of three or four words. So what precedes that or what follows that in the act?

**Mr. Sheridan:** What Patricia is saying is that it just is laying out a little greater clarity for what is to be charged levy and usage of the park. That’s all. Just supporting subsection - the justifier -

**Mr. Bagnall:** So what was in (4) and (5) before?

**Mr. Sheridan:** This is just - they’re providing clarity just for the (Indistinct) and collection of the reasonable user fees, and it stipulates inside of that what they’re going to do.

**Mr. Bagnall:** No, I know what you’re change is, minister, but what was there before in it?

**Patricia MacPhail Manager:** Sorry, I’ll just answer that if I can. Subsection 63.5(4) and (5) didn’t exist before so those are new. They’re part of this new bill.

**Mr. Bagnall:** So (4) and (5) -

**Patricia MacPhail Manager:** So they’re as (4) and (5) read in the bill, subsection - yes, it limits the conditions under which you can charge fees. Subsection (4) restricts the uses of Victoria Park and subsection (5) specifies that the entire park can’t be closed.

**Mr. Bagnall:** So how did it read before then to this particular clause?

**Patricia MacPhail Manager:** It only read, providing for the setting, levying and collection of reasonable user fees, admission charges or the like by resolution of council. So now that is subject to subsection 63.5(4) and (5).

**Albert MacDonald Director:** Minister, 63.4 and 63.5 set out conditions under which events can take place. In the past it just simply said you can charge fees. Now, it will say you can charge fees but it can only be under the conditions that have now been set out under 63.4 and 63.5 that meet the principles for the operation of the department.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Like, you have to have a public meeting and you have to have the -

**Albert MacDonald Director:** Correct.

**Chair:** Shall that section carry? Carried.

3. This Act comes into force on a date that may be fixed by the proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Do you know what that’s going to be, minister?

**Mr. Sheridan:** Just as quickly as we can get this through the House and taken back to Executive Council. I would expect it inside the month that we’ll be able to do that. Once it comes back -

**Mr. Bagnall:** Within 30 days.

**Mr. Sheridan:** That’s what we would hope for. There is no further need for consultation or such. It would come back and once the Lieutenant Governor makes her decision to bring forward to Executive Council, then it’ll go through.

**Chair:** Shall that section carry? Carried.

**Mr. Sheridan:** I move the title.

**Chair:** *An Act to Amend the Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act.*

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Sheridan:** I move the enacting clause.

**Chair:** Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Thank you.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Thank you.

Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and the Chair report the bill agreed to without amendment.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Chair:** Madam Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move the report of the committee be adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Thank you very much,

Madam Speaker.

With your indulgence, and that of this House, I ask that we now revert to Government Motions.

**Speaker:** Is that agreed?

**An Hon. Member:** I guess we'll allow that.

#### Government Motions

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, that Motion No. 12 be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Hon. members, that has been read and the debate was adjourned by the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, so I will give him back the floor.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** You know, Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to be appointed minister of transportation by our leader.

**Speaker:** Hon. Minister, just before you get started, I'd like to give the floor to the hon. Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour, just before you get into your - for recognition.

**Mr. MacKinley:** All right.

**Ms. Sherry:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd just like to recognize my son, Lucas

Sherry, who's been sitting in the gallery all morning watching the proceedings of this House. Welcome.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister, for your indulgence.

**Mr. MacKinley:** And to thank the construction industry. I thank you from this Legislature. Because without the construction industry we would not have been able to get the work done. In my department, also, the workers at the department of transportation and public works, people that worked 50 and 60 and 70 hours a week to get our major projects done.

You know, Madam Speaker, you being a university graduate, you know the thing about going to university -

**Premier Ghiz:** She only went to St. FX, though.

**Mr. MacKinley:** What?

**Premier Ghiz:** She only went to St. FX, though.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Oh.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** I'm sure you must have looked at history -

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister.

**Mr. MacKinley:** I'm sure you must have looked at history, and studying history. The reason you studied history: to make sure you try to not make the same mistakes in the future. That's one of the reasons that history is good.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** Another thing is you would have. Another thing is, if you have a problem, if you never recognized you have a problem or with yourself or in your department, you're never going to be able to correct it. Those are the fundamental things of running the department of highways. First of all, look if you've got a problem, admit you've got a problem, and then correct it, because that's your job.

Look at the history of the previous government for the mess they made. Look where it was.

So on November 28<sup>th</sup>, the hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs introduced one of the capital budgets. It was titled: One Island, One Community. That capital plan was intended to be an economic stimulus for the province, to help with the global downturn of the economy.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** It allocated \$250,000 million for highway infrastructure over the next five years.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An Hon. Member:** Unbelievable.

**Mr. MacKinley:** During the 2009 season \$57 million was spent to improve the highway safety, efficiency, quality of our Island roads and bridge repairs. That 57 million is more, I believe - I don't have the notes right here - but it's more close to their total budget - that's the capital budget - to their total budget when that government was in power, when they were in power under the former minister, the former member from -

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** Yeah, there's not many people that remember, Georgetown-St. Peters.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** After him, we have directed into our highways system here for rural Prince Edward Island.

Contained in the capital budget was the single biggest one year increase. Very good news for Islanders, but also good news for the Island construction industry and our workers here in the province.

We had a number of key projects that were completed in 2009 construction season. I want to thank all the construction workers, the companies and everything to be able to come together and to be able to give us good, fair prices, -the tendering was never better - to get this work done.

The expansion of the Charlottetown perimeter highway, between Brackley Point Road and St. Peters Road. The reconstruction of Route 2 in Hunter River. The replacement of the Dunedin Bridge. The replacement of the Tyne Valley Bridge. The replacement of the Victoria Bridge. The replacement of the West Point Bridge. The replacement or reconstruction of five other bridges. Improvements to the main streets in Souris that were long overdue. Improvement to 5.7 kilometres of Route 2 in Norboro. Improvements to 2.6 kilometres of Route 2 in Dingwells Mills. I think that Dingwells Mills is probably where the former minister faced charges years ago. Improvements to 2 kilometres of Route 1 in Belle River. Improvements to 2.1 km Route 2 in St. Andrews. Improvements to 1.7 of Route 2 in West Devon. Improvements of 1.4 kilometres of Route 2 in Morell, the Leader of the Opposition's riding. Improvements to 3.7 kilometres of Route 315 in Mount Vernon. Improvements to 3.2 kilometres of

Route 107 in Kelvin Grove.

**Premier Ghiz:** Come on.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Improvements to 4 kilometres of Route 1 in Hazelbrook.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** And there's dozens of other smaller projects.

**Premier Ghiz:** What's not paved?

**Mr. MacKinley:** Well, what I'm going to talk about, that's our capital outlay.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Unbelievable.

**Mr. MacKinley:** That's where these workers work for us, to do all this work.

**An Hon. Member:** Amazing.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Then you go back to our government crews. In Queens County, they recapped a major pile of roads.

**An Hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. MacKinley:** In Prince County the private contractors did it. In Kings, it was a mixture. Let's put it this way, there's that much paving going down last year, the private contractors couldn't keep up.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An Hon. Member:** Oh, my (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** We did 130 kilometres of recap last year over and above this, 130 kilometres. We did from one end of the Island right through to the other end of the Island in one year in recaps.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** We even paved in your riding.

Now, you know, when I was talking about history - it's good he came in - when I was talking about the history of studying, the history, you've got to have history -

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** - so you don't -

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** What?

**An Hon. Member:** What's your comparison?

**Mr. MacKinley:** Well, here's one where the previous government was: a million dollars for a road going nowhere.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** Now the contractors made a good job about it and they were very happy with the government because they had to rip it all up, and they got to replace it and put it somewhere else.

What else have we got? Minister faces numerous charges, one was down east, departments, write off 5.7 billion, the minister.

**An Hon. Member:** Billion?

**Mr. MacKinley:** Million, million. Let's see what else we got. Oh, here's the best. For a water problem, the former minister, I believe, the former minister of highways, the member, the young lady was from the former minister, from Georgetown-St. Peters, paved her driveway, and how did he get around that one? He was draining water.

He had a water problem. That's how he got around it.

**An Hon. Member:** Oh my (Indistinct).

**An Hon. Member:** Unbelievable.

**Mr. MacKinley:** The water problem. It's right in the paper. I could go back to the history notes. (Indistinct), big Tory supporter.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** Actually, what the *Guardian* carried, was, paving private driveway solved drainage problem, so former minister said.

Then you can go and look at another area. School buses smashed. Headlines in the *Guardian*, picture and everything. No sand on the road.

**An Hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. MacKinley:** They were better putting the money in their back pockets than going out and working.

**An Hon. Member:** There you go.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** I believe Catherine MacKinnon from the school board and myself were on to that and we finally got some sanity into them and got our roads paved. Sand. You know.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** So, I could go on and on here from -

**An Hon. Member:** Bang on.

**An Hon. Member:** Please do. Please do.

**Mr. MacKinley:** This is the previous minister's record -

**An Hon. Member:** Don't stop.

**Mr. MacKinley:** - and what did the previous minister's record state? He stated that if you look at the tender, I was always after him to tender, tender. Would you tender.

**An Hon. Member:** Did he?

**Mr. MacKinley:** Would you tender?

**An Hon. Member:** Did he?

**Mr. MacKinley:** No.

**An Hon. Member:** Come on, come on.

**Mr. MacKinley:** No. He looked after his friends. Some tenders he did invite four Torys to tender against each other, you know, and I could tell you the names, but I'm not going to bother.

But, you know, I think it was the bridge maintenance crew, first time in the history I think it ever went out for tender. The tenders closed today, and it's people from all across the province are tendering on it.

**An Hon. Member:** Fantastic.

**Mr. MacKinley:** The previous people that had it handed to them, plus other people that wanted to tender.

I've got to tell you one thing, and I've often talked about this, that if you're paving roads and doing a good job - the average person going back and forth to work, and every person travelling, who pays our salaries, pays their taxes, helps to keep everything going - if people are working, everybody seems to be happy. Try to do it as fair as you could. Sometimes it might not look quite as

good as it should have, but I'm just telling you, everybody has to try and try to do better.

So anyways, the tenders have gone out. They closed today, and they'll be open tenders, and anybody who tendered will be able to come down and see what the tenders were. Even the Leader of the Opposition will probably be asked in, if somebody asked her in, I don't know. But that's an open government. We saved by tendering last year and the year before something like about \$6.7 million.

**Some Hon. Members:** No. No.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKinley:** You take \$6.7 million and put it in to recap and other work -

**An Hon. Member:** Talk about bridges. How many bridges did they do (Indistinct)?

**Mr. MacKinley:** I don't know if they did any. I can't remember. They were going to do the Dunedin about 10 times and every time there was always an excuse.

**Premier Ghiz:** And you got that done.

**Ms. Bertram:** And you got it done.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Yeah, we got it done.

None of this extremely important work could have been completed without the hard work of engineers, property agents, in my department, but also couldn't have been accomplished without the hard work and the cooperation from the construction industry. I'll name some of the companies. Island Coastal, Kings County Construction, Highfield Construction, Chapman's Construction, Central Roadways, Acadia Construction, AJL Limited, Curran and Briggs, Noye & Noye, Central Prince

Contracting, O'Mera's Heavy Equipment and Island Excavators, Birt & MacKay, G&P Trucking and Construction, I believe is - I don't think he's a Tory any more, or shouldn't be, from down in Morell.

**Premier Ghiz:** He's a Liberal.

**Mr. MacKinley:** These are just a few of the - I don't know for sure, but these people are telling me - what the people are telling me is this. I had a fellow in my office the other day and he's a Liberal and he's hard to handle and he's from up west. How do you like that? And he's always criticizing us.

**Premier Ghiz:** Is he a member?

**Mr. MacKinley:** No it wasn't a member.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKinley:** But he sat in the office and he said to me, he shook my hand and he said: Look, at least we got a chance for that contract, the bridge (Indistinct) he was bidding on. If I win it fine, if it don't win it, fine. I'll be able to keep my head up and I know I bid and did whatever I could. He said: I want to thank you for opening that up so everybody will be able to get an opportunity.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Premier Ghiz:** Islanders first, yeah.

**Mr. Sheridan:** One Island community.

**Mr. MacKinley:** I got great relations with the construction industry and it shows through the quality of work they've done for the province, and I want to thank them for what - couldn't implement this kind of plan without knowing the construction industry was able to deliver. They can deliver. There are some great companies out there. I'm not going to get into - some large companies,

but even the smaller companies, they're really good, very considerate.

For instance, you don't see videos where you hire contractors and they rip all the culverts up, smash them up just to create work, like the former minister did when he was there. I remember. The first time a video was ever tabled in the House. I think it was the Horne Cross Road or something. Ripped all the culverts up. It was unbelievable. I had a video tabled in the House. They didn't know what to with a tabled video. But it's probably still there somewhere. We had evidence. We just didn't make allegations. We had the proof and the proof was delivered.

Another member, investigations, probably about three-quarter of a million dollars to investigate the department of highways. Ended up doing nothing to investigate them because it was rumours. Somebody was at the bootlegger's one night and somebody said something and he investigated us and it cost about three-quarters of a million dollars and it cost a lot of (Indistinct) in the department of highways.

We got Liberals, Conservatives, that I don't even know how they vote down there and they're all good workers as far as I can see, and if they're not, they'll be sent home regardless of what they are.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKinley:** Islanders first.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Good job.

**Mr. MacKinley:** The only time the former minister really listened to anybody was when the former ministers - Beth MacKenzie, Norman MacPhee - got up in the House and criticized and criticized him in the paper for the mess he was making of the department of highways, and he started

to take his own. Not us, not me, somebody else, his own people started criticizing him in public.

**Speaker:** Minister, let's stick to the motion.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Yes. But you know, Madam Speaker, when you get that criticism (Indistinct) the minister, it's awful hard to get these construction workers to hold their head high, the department people to hold their head high. If you don't have them holding their head high and working together, you can't have them tugging one way or the other, and that's what leadership is. To be able to get them to work and work together.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKinley:** Now I've been very fortunate, I will admit, I'll mention my deputy - I can't get in everybody - but I've got a great deputy there, Steve MacLean, who works very hard, but also he's got a great team that's underneath him and they're very dedicated. Like when I'm going home on a Friday night here - I'm coming in around 6:45 a.m. in the morning and you see one of my highway engineers on the bypass looking at things over there. Dedicated. Then when you're going home on Friday evening about 6:30 or 7:00, all of a sudden the same engineer is still there and you knew he was still there Monday morning because I like to be away early. That's dedication. That's hard work.

Then when you look at some of the contractors that won environment awards under us this year, or you look at some of the bridge crews that won environment awards, that's very good to see that. What that does is put pride in your people. People, if they got pride and they're respected and they know everybody is working together, you can probably get 140% work out of them compared to before. That's just the

way it is. Everybody's the same way, even the politicians. They're all the same.

I guess we were so impressed with (Indistinct) decided to add this year, I think there is 56 million going in the budget for road work and bridge work this year in my capital budget, 56 million. That was the amount for this year's budget. That's more than your total budget was when you were there. But 56 million going into road work and construction. Now if our friend in Ottawa through Atlantic Gateway can increase that by their share, Ashfield, through Gail Shea, if they can increase it, that would mean more work. But right today, that's what we're looking at.

This is an announcement that was made and it's part of our five-year long term agreement. Because it's really another big year, it's the second big year in a row for very close to matching last year's spending level. Again, that couldn't happen without the hard work of the construction industry and our engineers.

So, just before I wrap up, I owe it to start looking at some of the programs because that was last year's history and that's history, now we're into this year. The Charlottetown highway perimeter, (Indistinct) 3.27 kilometres, carryover work from last year. We got to put the seal on. Borden-Carlton, there is going to be work done up there, not tendered yet. Stratford has already been tendered. We're doing the Trans-Canada in Stratford, we're making it four lanes.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An Hon. Member:** This year?

**Mr. MacKinley:** Yeah, we're going with phase 2 of Riverside Drive and it's already been tendered.

**Mr. M. Currie:** Where's that roundabout?

**Mr. MacKinley:** The roundabout, it's the one you tried to build down in Pooles Corner that you built three - oh, there's another one. He built fool's corner three times.

**An Hon. Member:** Fool's corner, (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** Pooles Corner, Pooles, three times and he still hasn't got it right. He had to get Morley Annear to come up with a tractor trailer and show him he was wrong in the cover of darkness.

**Mr. M. Currie:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** Richmond storm sewage. Those there ones I mentioned are under the stimulus funds. So they're cost shared. The new deal funds are for Richmond storm sewage and reconstruction and the widening of the York Road.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKinley:** It needed to be done and we got a lot of tourists using that.

**Ms. Dunsford:** Safe for cyclists.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Another thing that is happening this year is A1 underpass towards Middleton and Alberton. It's going to be re-fixed and brought up to modern day standards. Alma to Elmsdale. That's some pile of paving, 2.25 kilometres.

**Mr. Sheridan:** This year?

**Mr. MacKinley:** Yes.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKinley:** That's already been tendered. Kensington storm sewage. Route

103, Memory Lane, then Route 101 -

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKinley:** - 102 Darnley Bridge detour road because we got to fix the Darnley Bridge. Then we go to Queens County. That's just Prince. Queens County, Route 243 to 258, Anglo-Rustico. This is under capital, over 2 kilometres. Another one, Pleasant Valley to Springfield.

**Ms. Bertram:** Good district.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Another paving job.

**Ms. Bertram:** Good minister, thank you, minister.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Then, another one, Route 3, Trans-Canada to the Storey Road, Vernon River.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKinley:** I mean these are County Line Road. The County Line Road. The Brush Wharf Road straightened. Brush Wharf Road. This is Queens. There are a lot more to go, but this is what we've gotten done already.

**An Hon. Member:** Keep going.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Kings County, as I mentioned before. The main street in Kings County.

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** No, Souris, I mean. Yeah. But Water Street in your riding of Georgetown.

**An Hon. Member:** Water Street (Indistinct)

**Mr. MacKinley:** Georgetown. Carry over from last year. We spent 650,000 was the

total amount. We got 250,000 for seal.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKinley:** That's the leader, the guy that'll be running against you for the leadership. Because he took us down, he wined and dined us.

So what else have we got?

**An Hon. Member:** Construction industry (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** Rollo Bay. There's a - oh my land, Rollo Bay. Rollo Bay's another one. What a pile of work is going to be done there. It's 1.2.

**An Hon. Member:** Four point two.

**Mr. MacKinley:** I think it's even more than that. The numbers are that big I can hardly see them here in the fine print.

Then we've got Riverside Drive extension, Montague - roughly, storm sewers extension, Montague. There are many more, Madam Speaker, and I could go on, but I'm just showing you what our contractors are going to have to do this year.

Queens County, Vernon Bridge carry-over. Poplar Point carry-over. New Zealand, we put a new bridge in there last year. It's still not done. Oak Drive overpass, that's going to the member from there, so those residents in all those houses can get - well, so they can get across the highway without going onto the main highways. That's what they're doing.

**An Hon. Member:** Safe.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Safe, no safety. But it's also we've got so much traffic and it's a much booming Island. There's a really booming Island, that we put an extra turn

lane from out Jamie Ballem's way just to get the people into town. They didn't need it when they were there.

**Mr. Sherida:** No. (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** But they need it when we were there.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Nothing going on.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Let me think now. We've got to replace the West River old bridge.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Not another (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** Yes. We have to. Because when the previous government put the first bridge in, they were short 5% of flow.

**Mr. Sheridan:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** Yes, they gypped us. To keep the water.

We thought we might get away with filling in the whole bridge and we had - but then we had experts in. There is an old bridge where you come on first, and then when the bridge comes on first - but now we're going to have to go out to tender - we're going to put a new section of bridge in, because it's only 93 to 95% water flow, and that's a good fishing area out there and we don't want to hurt the fishermen or anybody that's using it.

I wish the previous government, though, had have done some of this stuff right. We could have saved ourselves a million dollars.

So I know there's -

**An Hon. Member:** Vernon River (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** Vernon River Bridge, we're still - that's a settlement we got. You

made a mess of it. We had to go almost to court over that to get money back. That was his. I told him when I was -

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. MacKinley:** I told him -

**Speaker:** (Indistinct) to the motion, minister.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

Kings County. Priest Pond, a replacement. I just don't know exactly where that is either.

**An Hon. Member:** District one.

**Mr. MacKinley:** That's why I need GPS - I know that - that's why I need a GPS unit in my car because there's so much work going on it's not quite sure where I can take that government car I should be.

The phone calls are coming in, the praise is coming in. Madam Speaker, what really makes you feel good as a minister of transportation are all the cards and the letters you get congratulating you on a great job of paving, and how people are happy that the first time that our Island roads have seen a major paving budget since Alex Campbell days, under the development days.

Where do you put people to work? If you put it in the forestry, you got to wait so many years for the trees to grow. We need to stimulate this economy very quickly. Our Cabinet and our colleagues and our Premier decided: What's the quickest way to do it? Put it into infrastructure. Guess what? We get the tax money back and the (Indistinct). We get the salary tax money back. We get the fuel tax. People are working. If people are working, they're spending money. That's why we have a housing boom here in the province. That's why Stephen Harper -

**Ms. Dunsford:** Selling cars.

**Mr. MacKinley:** That's why - yes. That's why Stephen Harper came along and copied our stimulus fund. Because we were the first ones to do it. I will give him credit.

**An Hon. Member:** Give him credit?

**Mr. MacKinley:** Yeah, I'll give him credit for being smart enough to know - why not?

**An Hon. Member:** (Indistinct)?

**Mr. MacKinley:** Well, he's copying ours. What's wrong with that?

But this is what we've had and it's great to have a young leader with lots of new fresh ideas that you're not stuck in tunnel vision. You know, the old days: Just pave roads during an election. Pave it during election, get some paving out, and then the previous government - I don't know how many roads the previous government - every election there'd be a round. Nine or ten of them I won. Everyone'd be around. The Tories would put these red sticks out in the ditch and they'd be out surveying. But after four elections they didn't believe them, because there was nothing there but the red sticks and they wouldn't even clean them up. They were just a mess. Had to rely on the Women's Institute to pick them up.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKinley:** Madam Speaker, I was down in Montague not long ago with Ashfield and the member from there - Montague-Kilmuir - and we were getting our pictures taken with all of the development that has been done in the province of Montague. And you know what?

**An Hon. Member:** What?

**Mr. MacKinley:** People are telling me

down there that Jim MacAulay from St. Peters over there is awful happy with the amount of work we're doing, and awful happy with us turning the schools back to the communities.

That's another one where the communities are getting them back. Where this government - I can't - I'm not going to get into that. We paved the roads for many things.

People were telling me that the Member from Montague-Kilmuir, when I was in the Tim Hortons, said: Why would he go for the leadership? Why would he go for anything other than stay where he's at, because he never did better under a Liberal government.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Exactly.

**Mr. MacKinley:** That's what they're telling me. He never saw the light until we paved it. His own government wouldn't listen to him. So look, we paved and paved and paved down there. They're very happy down there. A new wellness centre, a new state-of-the-art school falls under stimulus funds.

So, Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand up here and to move this nomination. Or not nomination, motion, motion!

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An Hon. Member:** You're nominating for leadership?

**Mr. MacKinley:** I'm moving (Indistinct) nominate (Indistinct).

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** I (Indistinct) -

[There was an interruption in the feed]

**Speaker:** - House Leader to second the motion.

**Mr. Gallant:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Match that, buddy. Match that.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. Gallant:** I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal -

**Speaker:** Order, please!

**Mr. Gallant:** - for his words.

You didn't have to drive very far last summer to see the impact that our government stimulus plan had on PEI. No matter where you were on PEI, you drove through or by construction happening throughout our communities. The treasurer's one Island, one community budget was correctly named as the construction occurred throughout all of PEI.

Specifically in the riding of Evangeline-Miscouche, I am proud to say that both the turning lane going into the Kinsmen Road, which was a very unsafe area, and the Wellington intersection was completed last year. This year we hope to have upgrades to Route 2 through Richmond completed.

As Minister MacKinley mentioned, without the many hard-working individuals of both the transportation and infrastructure renewal department and the many construction companies across Prince Edward Island, this work would never have gotten completed. It speaks to the expertise of our construction industry that so much work is able to get done across our province in such a short time span. It isn't an easy task, given our short season, to complete major construction jobs efficiently and safely while trying to

minimize the impact to the travelling public.

The capital budget that was announced in 2009 is another example of this government's commitment to improving infrastructure throughout rural PEI. It is also an example of the action our government is taking to stimulate the economy and help steer the province through this recent economic uncertainty.

I want to commend the construction industry for all their hard work and, in particular, I want to mention Curran and Briggs, Acadia Construction and AJL Construction.

Again, I want to thank the construction industry in cooperation with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for all they have done to improve the quality of our roads and make them safer and more efficient.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** Are there any other members who would like to speak to the motion before I go back to the mover to close the debate?

The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. Sheridan:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I just want to stand today and congratulate the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for taking the dollars that were granted him through this capital budget that was brought forward by our leader, the Premier of this province, in what was the largest single capital budget spend in the history of this province. This infrastructure was creaking under the pressures that were put on it by the previous administration in total (Indistinct) of what

was needed here in this province.

It was incredible. We looked right across all needs of construction and this minister has answered it in spades, I'll have to tell you. Some of the things that took place that speak to exactly what I am saying here today. This minister has stood from day one on safety. That's what we are looking at.

When I listen to all the people in my constituency and, yes, right across this province, one of the biggest changes in this construction and what this minister has brought forward was every time you saw a road re-paved or topped in any fashion right across this Island for the past number of years, up until this gentleman took over the paving of our roads, every time they paved, it moved in one, two or three inches on both sides. You could see the levels of pavement. When this gentleman paves the roads, now it overlaps and actually spread out an additional six inches because that was his number one priority, coming into this department, to widen every single road that he paves.

I'll tell you the difference that makes, and coming forward with the sidelines on every secondary road now when he paves, he puts a stripe on the outside edge on that extra six inches that he has out there to allow for nighttime driving to be much safer and to help us stay on the roadways for all of our constituents right across this province. I'll tell you, I'm awfully proud to be part of a team that would bring forward something like this.

When we look at what takes place and why he's been able to achieve the type of kilometres that we have right across this Island in the construction industry, it is that he has been talking and working side by side with each of these construction companies that are out there. No wonder he's thanking them because they have worked

unbelievably with him. He is on the site daily checking every one of the jobs that are going on across this province. That's what a good minister's all about. He knows exactly what's going on inside his ministry each and every day.

When he's out there checking on these people, he is getting incredible work out of these people. He touched on it a little bit early, the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, to talk to the fact that he has gotten incredible work ethic, work efforts, out of every one of his partners. They want to over-achieve for this minister. They want to make sure that they do incredible work for him.

When I look at some of the stuff that was done in and around my area, we look at the Blue Shank Road that is now almost totally done over this three-year period, which is a major arterial highway going through Route 2 from Charlottetown to Kensington and cuts across to the Red Bridge in Summerside. One of the most dangerous pieces of highway on Prince Edward Island. He has added six inches of width to that entire piece of roadway, has it completely straightened and topped.

The companies that he's hired and the tender process to do these pieces of highway are incredible, and the efficiency that they do this work in, it's almost unbelievable. When I watch from the time they set up until the time they pull their gear away, it is incredible that they can do the length of highway, the number of kilometres that they do, in a matter of days, which used to take weeks. I attribute much of that to this minister who gets the very best in efficiency from everybody that he works with.

I would certainly be remiss if I didn't stand and thank some of the people that are in his department, that work hand in hand with the minister. His deputy, as we spoke about

earlier, ranks right up there in civil servants across Canada as in the hardest working, brightest young deputies that there is going. Steve MacLean works day and night. There is no shutting down for Steve MacLean. Answers the calls from this minister at any time of day and night and makes sure that he's there for all constituents of PEI.

He has a couple of wonderful engineers that work underneath him. Stephen Yeo answers the call in our area, and Michael Barrigan working under him in the western offices up there for highways. These two gentlemen can't do enough for Islanders. I'd like to thank them, along with the minister and all the construction industry that has worked with him so diligently over the last three years, to spend what is the biggest capital budget ever in the history of Prince Edward Island.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to stand today. I know the minister brought to attention one of the major jobs on the Island last year, it was in my district. I'd just like to make a few comments in regards to that.

As was stated last year, the arterial bypass highway, which is all in my district, of District 10, was one of the major jobs that was undergoing, and I have to complement the construction company that did that job. I believe they're from the first district - the member from there - it's a company in his area that did just a tremendous job.

I had some relatives that were visiting PEI last summer while the construction was

going on, and they were just so impressed with how there was very little or no stoppage of traffic on that whole project. I know there's a big part that's still to continue with that. I know it's very much appreciated from Islanders from one end to the other. Even though it's in my district, it's travelled by all Islanders and the improvements on there are just phenomenal.

Now, the minister also made mention to another aspect of that, which is the overpass that goes across the arterial highway up into the Norwood Road and Oak Drive extension. Unfortunately at the start of the project the department was wanting to play some hardball there and remove that overpass. I got to give credit where credit is due. The department and the minister came out to several public meetings and decided that was the wrong thing to do. There were a lot of homes that relied fairly heavily on getting across the Sherwood area and over to the schools and to the sports facilities.

The minister listened and the staff listened, and of course today the major part of that overpass is being constructed. I'm not sure, but I believe it's got to be ahead of completion date because the weather was so good and they hardly stopped. A couple of weeks there in January where they were waiting for the big piers to come in.

I have to commend that company as well that's putting that overpass together. I live not far from there, and they seem to be there early in the morning and working late in the evening. Before we know it, those residents that are so appreciative that that overpass has gone back in there, I'm sure they'll be making calls to the minister, because it's going to be just wonderful for them.

Also, although I'm not as familiar faced as the minister - I stop and let the folks know what a good job they're doing, but I'm sure they don't have a clue who I am. So it

means a lot more when it comes from the minister.

One other thing I've got to make mention of too, there was a little slight issue there up at the intersection with the two new lanes coming from the Mount Stewart-East Royalty area. It was a little unclear as to where turning traffic coming up St. Peters Road heading onto the bypass was supposed to be, because there was a - I actually witnessed a couple of near misses there. One quick call to the minister's office there and new lines appeared in weather that - at a time of year that I thought was totally impossible. So, just wanted to make a mention of that.

The crews did a wonderful job, and I know before too long they'll be out doing the rest of the recapping on that.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Ms. Dunsford:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise in support of this motion. There's been all kinds of talk about how stimulus money has affected the incredible increases in infrastructure here on Prince Edward Island. The minister, I think, just about listed everything that was under his watch, the amount of jobs it has created and the stimulus to the economy that has caused from that.

Others have talked about safety issues, which of course are very important for everyone on PEI, especially people who don't necessarily use the roads for driving large vehicles or cars. There are many people and more and more people now

deciding to ride their bike on the roads on Prince Edward Island and how this is affecting them in a positive way goes without saying. Of course, it's a healthy thing to do.

The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness will be glad to know that more and more people are on their bikes. Of course, we also know that it affects the level of greenhouse gas emissions that this province is currently responsible for. The more people who use alternative ways of transportation the less we contribute to that issue and that problem.

So the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal is not only creating an incredible amount of economic stimulus, he's also helping with the environment and the health of Islanders. When we talk about adding just a little bit or more to the sides of roads - that's just one action that the hon. minister has been able to pull off - has really benefitted Islanders in a big way.

Now specifically, in the District of Stratford-Kinlock, for the first time in the history of Prince Edward Island transportation there have been 'share the road' signs put up for the reminder to people on the road that it's not just cars that use the road. I have to commend the hon. minister for that action. I believe I asked in one week and two weeks later I had some action.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Dunsford:** Exactly. This is being treated right now as a pilot, using a contained community where I believe over a dozen or more of these signs have been put up. I received an incredible response from all kinds of Stratford residents who appreciated that and now find an incredible difference in the way they're treated as pedestrians and as cyclists. We can thank the department and the minister and especially, as many have mentioned already,

the deputy minister, Steve MacLean, who really took the lead on that.

So there are all kinds of benefits, not just in jobs and economic stimulus. It all works together when you do something, what seems to be very minor, and how it can affect Islanders in a bigger way.

I'm happy to support this. The residents of Stratford are very happy to support the ongoing efforts by the department. We look forward to the efforts and commitments that the department has been speaking of in terms of the new work on the Trans-Canada Highway, the negotiation and the work being done on the new intersection on that highway. Of course, the piece of road that I believe for over 20 years has yet to receive any real attention other than filling potholes, which, again, thank you for that. But it goes deeper than that, as we know. The area between the pharmacy and the blue church is now going to see some long awaited attention and no other department was able to pull that off before. Just like the famous bridge.

You just have to have a minister in there who has the foresight and has the ability to work for Islanders and get the job done. I thank the department. I'm pleased to rise in support of this motion and wish and hope that things continue on as is. As the minister has stated, it's looking good for the future.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford.

**Mr. McIsaac:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I'm very pleased to stand and support this motion as well. I was down at the coffee

shop at the local hardware store in Stratford there, and listened to the group that gathers there every morning on a regular basis. They were talking about the paving that's going on around the province. They actually credit our fantastic minister of transportation for the work he's done, but they also gave a little bit more credit than perhaps he deserves. They were discussing how much paving is going on, and then they got talking about the past winter, and how easy a winter it was, and they said: That's directly responsible for the minister because he ordered pavement instead of snow this past year.

**Some Hon. Members:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. McIsaac:** Anyway, I do want to point out a couple of things that were really interesting and important that happened in the riding out our way.

The New Cove Road that was rebuilt was just busted up. I mean, two springs ago there was mud bubbling up through the pavement on that. That was all rebuilt last year, and they're very pleased down that way.

One of the biggest items, a safety item, was the turning lane going into Clearview Estates, and I want to thank Gary Clow and the town councillors for working with me on that, with the department, to get that in. Because that was just an accident waiting to happen there. In fact, there were two that happened there that I know of.

The Bethel Road and the Robertson Road that were left in mud conditions by the previous government, that linked up to the Donagh School are now paved. Again, thanks to the minister and his department.

The Vernon Bridge corner that was left a pile of mess from the dredging that went on in fixing that bridge eight years ago, that's all levelled out now and it's an absolutely

beautiful spot.

Three point nine kilometres of the Trans-Canada Highway in my district that was paved last year, in working with the federal government, I will say that.

This year, two big items that are happening, besides the regular paving, and that is Route 3, that the minister has mentioned, and the Brush Wharf Road, which has a mussel plant on the end of that, that definitely needs to be fixed. Again, I thank and congratulate the minister and his staff for making this happen.

The basic recap that happens on a regular basis, I thank him for that as well, because the district is really being upgraded and that's very important to myself and to the people in the area.

So, thank you very much. I really support this motion.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I have about two minutes before the hour comes to 1:00 p.m., and I would just like to conclude very quickly by saying I support this resolution. I want to thank the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal for all the work he's done in our District of Rustico-Emerald, District 18, and I want to thank him for his commitment. The Hunter River project was phenomenal last summer. It's a beautiful project, and our community is very happy with that.

Thank you, Minister, thank you. It was great foresight on his part -

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Bertram:** - and it was great to work with him within the Island Community Fund for that project.

I think this resolution thanks also our - it celebrates our construction association. I want to thank Central Roadways,. I want to thank our Highfield Construction Co. Ltd., Maritime Construction Ltd., P & H Toombs Ltd. There's lots of different contractors within our district that do a tremendous amount of work. Thanks to some of the infrastructure projects, huge infrastructure projects, that this minister did last summer. It was very important to jobs in our district, including -

**An Hon. Member:** Call the hour.

**Ms. Bertram:** - flaggers, painters, electricians, plumbers -

**Speaker:** Hon. members, the hour has been called.

**Ms. Bertram:** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Gallant:** Madam Speaker, I move that this House adjourn, seconded by the hon. Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park, that we adjourn until Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The Legislature adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, at 2:00 p.m.