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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Speaker: Hon. Kathleen M. Casey

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Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the gallery today. I think we have some members of the Island Party here. I'd like to welcome them. One of my cousins is a member there. I think I saw him commenting one night. He's very much making sure that he's staying on top of Maritime Electric issues. That's Ray Cantelo. I'd like to welcome him -

An Hon. Member: Good man.

Premier Ghiz: - to the gallery today.

Also like to welcome - I see Bob Morrison here. Bob, of course, was, actually I made him an assistant deputy minister in our Department of Agriculture. I think he moved to ACOA. Now he's off at another job with the federal government. I'd like to welcome Bob as well.

To all those watching and listening today, today's a very exciting day. The sun's out. We see a cruise ship here in the waterfront. We know the farmers are out. The fishermen are getting ready. We're really coming in to the peak of Prince Edward Island season in terms of economic development. I'd like to wish all Islanders a very pleasant day.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you,

Madam Speaker.

I'd like to rise and welcome all our guests to the gallery today, too. Larry McGuire, my former teacher and one of the members of the Island Party, is here with us today. I'd also like to say hello to Jordan Fraser that's joining us today. He's with our PC party. He's our field organizer. He just started that job this week. Of course, I'd always like to say hello to Dr. Bob Morrison. He's one of those brilliant people and the feds are really lucky to have him.

I'd also like to say hello to all the people in the tourism field, especially with the cruise ship in.

Finally, there's a happy birthday in the House. I understand the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness is celebrating today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Leader of the Opposition: She's also - the Queen's birthday today. So hopefully everybody will have a good day.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Ms. Dunsford: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Welcome to everyone in the gallery, to the Island Party members, and to one of Stratford's finest young men, Jordan Fraser, soon to be Liberal, good to see you here. To all the people at home watching on EastLink who live in the beautiful and growing District of Stratford-Kinlock.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism and Culture.

Mr. Vessey: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, would like to rise today to welcome everyone to the gallery. It's great to see a large crowd here on such a beautiful day. Today is a special day as we have our first cruise ship of the season in, the *Costa Atlantica*.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Vessey: Over 2,800, or 2,600 passengers, and they're out and about on the streets.

I'd also like to say hello to those today that are watching at home in District 9 York-Oyster Bed, and a special hello to my mom, Marian, that watches us daily.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's great to stand today. On this great sunny day lots of farmers are on the land today, and fishers are getting ready for the start of the fishing season.

In the gallery today I want to recognize a few people, and the first one is Dr. Bob Morrison. When I was minister of agriculture he was a great employee with the department and he kept me out of trouble for a year and a half, so I would say he's a good man.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bagnall: So I have to give him credit.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Also up there is a gentleman, a friend that I've known for years, it's George Ferguson, welcome. Also, Ray Cantelo and Larry McGuire, welcome to the Legislature today. Also, Jordan Fraser, from the PC party. He's taken on a new position with the party, and I congratulate you on your new position, and I hope you do well.

Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, would like to rise and welcome everyone to the gallery, and also the Island Party, and say hello to Jay Gallant.

I would also like to say hello to everyone back home in District 24 Evangeline-Miscouche, and wish them a beautiful afternoon.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd also like to rise and welcome all those up in the gallery there, especially Mr. Eddie Lund, he's a faithful visitor to the gallery here.

I'd also like to welcome all my constituents that may be watching on EastLink from the beautiful District of Alberton-Roseville.

I'd like to also send out birthday greetings to

Jackie Fraser. It's his birthday today. I don't really know how old he is, but it amazes me that he did live to be as old as he is. I'd like to wish Jackie a happy birthday.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Mr. Brown: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's a wonderful day out, the sun shining, and I notice the first cruise ship of the season is in. I just want to inform anybody in the gallery that is from a cruise ship or a tourist (Indistinct) that will be coming over the next few months that this is the actual sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Because a lot of the times I use to leave the Legislature and they'd say: Boy, what a show you put on in there, you're really good actors. So I want to assure everybody that this is the actual sitting of the PEI Legislature.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. LeClair: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, want to get up and welcome everyone to the House today, and those watching from home, especially from Tignish-Palmer Road.

I want to mention Dr. Bob Morrison. He is a fine gentleman, and certainly the first year I was in the Department of Agriculture he was a director and assistant deputy and he taught me the ropes. The hon. member across is right, he is a fine and knowledgeable gentleman, and he must have been to keep

that fellow out of trouble. So, nice to see you here Bob, and hope to chat with you a little later.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Watts: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, would like to rise and welcome everybody to the gallery. I see Wilf Richards there, Eddie Lund, and welcome to the members of the Island Party. Also I want to make mention, as the Premier did, the farmers and the fishermen who are - today is a real nice day, the weather has finally cleared up, and they're all getting ready on the land and all the fishermen are working on their traps. I might add that they are in anticipation of a much better price for lobsters than they got last year. So that sounds really good, sounds very positive.

A special hello, of course, to everybody out in District 8, and even a much more, I guess, special hello to my wife, Margie. I just want to say hello to Margie because while I was laid up at home she was very attentive and looked after me very well, even though Margie herself is in much worse condition than I am. She is now awaiting word to go to Halifax to have back surgery, so I hope that happens sooner than later.

So with that, I want to thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier.

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, I, too, would like to rise and welcome everyone in

the gallery.

Certainly Bob Morrison, he used to be in the Department of Agriculture, and I guess he probably left when I came, so I don't know if there's a coincidence or not -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Webster: - but anyway, I want to acknowledge his great work as well that he did when he was there. He was highly spoken of.

We need to acknowledge the great weather we have now, and tillers of the land will be out shortly. The other great celebration we have this week is National Soil Conservation Week across Canada, which is quite unique. It's important to recognize the resources that we have laying under our feet.

I want to acknowledge all the folks that can't get out and watch the proceedings on a daily basis and really enjoy it, and all those out on EastLink as well. I wish them a great day.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors.

Mr. Greenan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, would like to welcome all the people that are in the gallery, those who are regular visitors, and those who are visiting for the first time.

Also, the people who are watching on EastLink and via the Internet, and especially the good citizens of Summerside-St. Eleanors.

I want to remind everybody in the House and the viewing public of the open house tonight at Holland College on early

childhood educators. Our future teachers are giving an open house tonight from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and hope to see everyone there.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Hon. members, I would also like you to welcome my friend Akeem Olanipekun, who is originally from Nigeria. He's a graduate of the UPEI School of Business in 2009. This is the first time he's been here to watch the proceedings, and we hope you enjoy the afternoon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

West Prince Islanders volleyball team

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the recent visit to Cuba by the West Prince Islanders boys' volleyball team. The team travelled to Cuba over the March break. The boys, along with chaperones Peter and Corina Bolo, spent a week in Cuba as part of the Canada-Cuba sports and cultural festivals program.

Each team member was paired with a member of an elite Cuban provincial youth volleyball team, and practised together daily. A guide and translator helped the youth overcome the English-Spanish language barrier, and by the end of the week many special friendships were forged.

The Cuban elite sports system differs from the North American model, as students in elementary schools are identified early based on body size, skill and athletics. They

attend sports schools and train six days a week. The West Prince Islanders played mixed matches with the Cubans, and despite the height difference, played very well and were not out of place at all.

This group of young Islanders were terrific ambassadors for their province and their country. They left a positive impression with everyone they met. West Prince and Prince Edward Island should be proud.

In closing, I would like to say well done to the members and chaperones of the West Prince Islanders boys' volleyball team. They were great ambassadors for Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

Recognition of Dave and Faye Wakelin

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Today I step out of the confines of my own district to recognize some special people and the special event that occurred in my native community of Fort Augustus this past weekend.

Some 300-plus residents and former residents came together to celebrate and pay tribute to retiring store owners Dave and Faye Wakelin. On March 31st of this year, after providing 22 years of dedicated service to the community, the Wakelin family made the difficult decision to close the doors of the family operated gas and grocery store, and officially begin their retirement years.

Representatives from area service group after service group gave touching testimony as to Dave's contribution to every

community cause. Many also remembered Dave's special connection with the community youngsters who usually left the store with more candy treats than they actually had money for.

As part of the evening's agenda, a special recognition of families of former owners was held. My mother, Agnes, was proud to be part of this, as my family were owners during the 1960s and 1970s. Local historian Anna Duffy spoke of the 130-year history of the store and just how much this shop meant to the community over its long existence.

As a final part of the evening, local business man and unofficial comedian Keith Good organized a skit, which portrayed a very humorous discussion of the Sunday morning coffee club, which would meet reverently every Sunday to discuss community happenings and apparently, occasionally, to discuss provincial politics.

In closing, I know both Dave and Faye are watching on EastLink and I would like to wish them many happy years of retirement. I expect travel will fill a lot of your days in the future, and I am sure their presence in the store will be forever missed.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Recognition of Kevin Stonefield

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm thrilled to rise today to recognize Kevin Stonefield. I am pleased to announce that Kevin, from Montague Intermediate School, was recently named one of Canada's best school principals. Kevin is one of just 32 principals recognized nationwide. The

esteemed award was given by a non-profit organization called The Learning Partnership.

In his 25 years of service on PEI, Kevin has worked in a number of schools, including Souris Regional High School, Georgetown Elementary, the Prince Street Elementary, and now being recognized for his work as principal of Montague Intermediate.

No one knows better than our party how important the education of our youth is. Mr. Stonefield is a tremendous asset to Prince Edward Island. We are so lucky to have an immensely talented, educated man, like Kevin, teaching our children. With that said, I extend congratulations to all the teaching staff on PEI for their continued hard work.

I ask all members of the House to join me in congratulating Mr. Kevin Stonefield. I know that his dedication and his smiling face is an inspiration to all of us.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you. Another great graduate from St. Francis Xavier University.

An Hon. Member: Yes. UPEI (Indistinct).

Responses to Questions Taken As Notice

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

Number of people hired to look after closed schools (future)

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, the former minister of development and highways asked me: Grand Tracadie school, 36,800, grant to go with it; St. Peter's, 91,600; Dundas, 82,800; Eastern Kings, 98,000; St. Teresa's, 52,000; Rollo Bay, 79,200.

Fortune is assigned to the French school board. Traffic costs is retained by government. The custodians or the people looking after them: Grand Tracadie, Brenda Skerry; Dundas is Todd MacLeod; Tracadie Cross is Marge Fitzpatrick, who's well known to us in here; St. Teresa's is David Trainor; St. Peter's is Jeremy Lewis; Eastern Kings, Gary MacDonald. They're paid \$120 per week for the services of looking after them. I won't get into the details.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Questions by Members

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

Two-tier residential rate

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

A few days ago, the Premiers mentioned or made a statement that the reason for lifting of the two-tier residential rate was caused by the previous government. Mr. Premier, could you please indicate or show documentation where you got that information from?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I'm pretty sure that comes from the *Renewable Energy Act* that was passed in this Legislature back in 2004 which at that time was looking for us to reduce down our energy consumption in the province. Within that legislation was eliminating two tiers so that we'd use less energy.

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

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

Surely the Premier of the province will not stand up and make a false statement. So I have the *Renewable Energy Act* here. I'm just wondering if you could point out what section that indicated changes were being made by the previous government.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

It's not explicit within the legislation. It talks about demand side management. If you ask Maritime Electric, that was their signal to initiate eliminating the two-tier in the province.

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

Mr. M. Currie: So, Madam Speaker, the Premier actually - you made a false statement, so would you stand up and indicate that statement that you made the other day was not correct?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: No, not at all, Madam Speaker.

If the hon. member wants to talk to Maritime Electric, it was that legislation that initiated the process to eliminate the two-tier.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, but the Premier did indicate in his statement the other day that this was initiated by the previous government, so I'm wondering if you have any letters, correspondence, or

where you can show me in the act that makes reference to the previous government.

You put all the blame on the previous government. I just want you, now, to prove it. That's what Islanders want to hear from you, the truth.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I didn't put all the blame on the previous government. The hon. member knows that. What we did was we stood up in this Legislature. The hon. minister of agriculture, myself, the previous government, Maritime Electric - it was a matter of looking at the two-tier and realizing that agriculture was a part of that two-tier.

If you ask Maritime Electric, it was the *Renewable Energy Act* in 2004 that initiated the process to eliminate the two-tier.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, in the Hansard the Premier specifically identified the previous government as the reason for removing of the two-tier and he did not want the blame to go on his own government or his own minister.

Mr. Premier, could you please tell me when you were made aware that your government was making these changes to IRAC to remove this two-tier? Could you tell me when you were made aware by your minister?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much,

Madam Speaker.

I do not have the specific date. I know that on a Friday evening the minister informed me that this was initiated, and by the Tuesday or Wednesday of the next week, we had the problem solved, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. M. Currie: I don't think you have the problem solved, Mr. Premier, because those changes you've made are going to cost millions of dollars to our small business people and our agricultural community.

So, on what Wednesday and Friday - was that in December of 2008? Was that when this happened?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: No, Madam Speaker, it was a few months ago.

We have corrected the problem, and if we have to come in with legislation that will eliminate the agriculture sector in this province from that, we will do that.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Question for the minister of energy. Minister when you came to this department were you made aware of these changes to the two-tier rate system by your government?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Mr. Brown: No, Madam Speaker, I wasn't made aware of it.

I was made aware of it when the minister of agriculture and the Federation of Agriculture

called and said that the final 2000 block was being implemented April 1st of this year and that it's going to affect the agriculture community. We went back to the manual, and it was small clause in the rate hearings that said farmers are included in the residential area.

All along the discussions were around residential rates. Residential, that's all anybody ever talked about when it came to the two-bloc system. Every place in Canada and in North America are looking at eliminating the second bloc because we have to encourage people to reduce power usage, especially on the residential side.

For every kilowatt or megawatt of power we go over, millions of dollars have to be spent on setting up that power supply. So that's why it was always discussed - residential rate. Then when the farm community came to us and said: This is going to affect us, the Premier order letters to be written to IRAC to cancel that order and to reestablish - we're in hearings right now, Madam Speaker, over this same issue.

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

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

So a question to the minister of energy. When you went to the department, your deputy and your department lawyer did not advise you of the letters that they already made and the applications they made to remove this rate? They already removed two steps. So you were not made aware of that when you went to department?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, like I said to the previous minister, he's correct.

I wasn't made aware of it because it kept saying residential rate. It didn't say - and the order doesn't say - residential and farm rate. It says residential rate. It's an oversight we saw. Maybe IRAC should have saw it. Maybe Maritime Electric should have told us. Everybody assumed residential rate.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Well, Madam Speaker, the minister's wrong because it's my understanding that Maritime Electric did show you guys the application they were making, and which was the easy way out was just to remove that bloc instead of finding other ways to provide efficiencies for the ratepayers in this province.

You're indicating that you did not know until about a month ago that these rate changes were taking place?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

That is absolutely correct. Once the minister of agriculture saw that agriculture was going to be included in the residential rate structure he brought it to my attention. I immediately called in the minister of energy. We called in Maritime Electric. Maritime Electric did not inform us either. I let it be known to Maritime Electric that I was not happy that they did not let me know that, or our government.

In fact, after a little more research we discovered exactly how much it would affect agriculture and that's why our government worked diligently over a 48-hour period to make sure that agriculture was not included in that for the April 1st change. If, in fact, it does go ahead in the future our government will be introducing

legislation in this Legislature to make sure that the agriculture industry is exempted.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, the Premier still will not accept responsibility for the position you have taken.

You're blaming Maritime Electric now and you're disappointed they did not call you, but you had a minister that was actually applying for this rate change. Are you telling me now that you have a rogue minister that does this on his own and he's not going to respond to you? He doesn't contact you or Cabinet on these changes?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The former minister went over this the other day. Myself and the minister of agriculture and the minister of energy have all accepted responsibility. At the end of the day we're the ones who have to accept responsibility. That's why we made sure that over that 48-hour period, after us finding out, we made sure that this did not go through. That's what responsible governments do. When they find a problem, Madam Speaker, they correct it and that's what our government did.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, it seems with this government when you have a problem you get rewarded or promoted.

Whether it's Brooke MacMillan or it's Sandy MacDonald that messed up our

school system or it's the minister that failed to bid on the transmission capacity, announced a billion dollar wind dream, and now he's doing these applications to IRAC to increase the rates to farmers that's going to cost us millions, and you promote him to deputy minister. So is that what you do with your people?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Deputy Premier.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The hon. member knows full well that it was the *Renewable Energy Act* that came in in 2004 that initiated this process. I sat on the floor of the Legislature at that time. He was a minister at the time. At no point did he point out or ask any questions with regards to who this would affect, the *Renewable Energy Act*. At that time the experts would have known that it would have affected the agriculture industry.

Our government, once we found out exactly that it was going to affect the agriculture industry - thanks to the minister of agriculture in this province who approached me on it - we made sure that we dealt with it in a timely manner and those changes never went ahead and we protected the agriculture industry in this province.

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

Mr. M. Currie: See, Madam Speaker, that's what's wrong with the Premier.

He's already made two changes. You've already made two applications to make the changes and you deny it, and you blame it on the previous government. It's your

government that made the applications.

What's troublesome to the agricultural community and a lot of people out there is we have a half-hearted apology indicating: I was unaware of the reference, I was unaware of the impact this would make on the business community. What happened this morning is another letter surfaced which in December 2007, it clearly indicates that the province wants to move ahead with this two-tier rate and remove it.

So, Premier, will you stand up now and take responsibility and will you do something with your minister?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Absolutely, Madam Speaker.

Thank you very much to the Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier of this province -

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Premier Ghiz: - for pointing out that the agricultural industry was involved in this two-tier and for making sure that he brought it to Cabinet's attention so that we were able to stop it from going ahead to make sure that the agriculture industry was protected in this province.

I thank the hon. minister of agriculture for being a great minister.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, with this government, when you make mess-ups you get rewarded and promoted.

This letter clearly indicates that you started and initiated this process. Why won't you

take responsibility for it? You say the minister made you aware of it. There are two letters in two years went to IRAC to raise the rates and you think now you want to pat him on the back for taking credit.

You raised the rates in this province by 42% in three years and now you're going to raise the rates again to farmers. When are you going to start standing up and provide some leadership and remove this minister?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The former minister of agriculture knows full well that the information he is coming forward with is not correct. We indicated all along that everyone was unaware that agriculture was included in this two-tier structure. We thought that there was an exemption for agriculture. When we found out that there was not, we corrected the problem.

If you look at the long-term reason why we had higher electricity rates in this province, it has to do with the former minister and his government that were in power for 11 years. They got rid of New Brunswick plus 10 and promised Islanders electricity rates will go down by getting rid of this. What happened? Electricity rates went up. Then they came and they said they were going to buy natural gas from Deep Panuke and lower down electricity rates. We're still waiting for that natural gas. That was a pipe dream.

Then they said Meteor Creek was going to solve all our problems, we got natural gas here on Prince Edward Island. What happened there? There was no gas down there. In fact, it was nothing but a sham, that the former minister was taken advantage of in this province, like many other times.

What our government's doing, we're working constructively by sitting down with other power distributors around eastern Canada and trying to find a way to lower down electricity rates in this province for Islanders.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, there is a Premier that's going to go down in history as the only Premier that ever raised the rates 42% in two years, that will be your legacy.

The province is supportive of the elimination of the declining bloc rate structure. That's your letter, you wrote that. Why don't you take responsibility for it instead of doing these half-hearted apologies? Deal with the issue. You knew about it and you let your minister away with it.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Absolutely, he's right. We did know about it. We did not know that agriculture was a part of that.

In many other jurisdictions across Canada agriculture is exempted from that. They have their own exemption. As soon as we found out that there was not an exemption in place for the farmers we made sure that we protected the farmers in this province. If we have to come forward with legislation to make sure they're exempted in the future, we will do that.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, the

Premier has already allowed two blocs to be removed.

Are you going to reimburse for that, to the ratepayers in this province?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

What the hon. member doesn't realize is that this comes from the *Renewable Energy Act*. What this is trying to do is to get all Islanders to use less energy. The refund that he's indicating is already passed on to the rate payers in the lower categories. So that's already taking place.

The former minister of energy and development and the former minister of development and technology should perhaps go back and review his notes when the *Renewable Energy Act* was brought forward and he might have a better understanding of what he's talking about, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) it's terrible.

Health PEI assets

Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, my first question is to the minister of health today.

Minister, last week you informed the province that Health PEI board was operational. You announced the 11 members. Can you table for us the complete inventory of assets that would have been transferred to Health PEI?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Under the legislation that was put forward during the last sitting of the Legislature for Health PEI, I will not transfer a responsibility until I feel that at that time they are ready to do that. There is a transition, obviously, with the new chair of the board and the new board members. So until they're prepared - and I foresee that in the next month to two months - that we will see the transfer of operations within health being transferred over.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the same minister. At the time that the transfer happens, will you make that information public, Madam Minister?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I probably will be very clear to the public when I do come on the floor with the budget, the new budget that will be presented. Very similar to the old budget that's been presented for health in the past. Very open, very transparent, and it's very much so the operations of health that will be transferred over to Health PEI.

But again, the Leader of the Opposition and any members in the opposition or members of this House will have an opportunity to ask questions during budget estimates.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the same minister. It's your intention to have all the assets transferred to Health PEI before the House closes? Is that correct?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Madam Speaker, again, I don't know how long the House will sit.

But I want to know for sure that the transition period has happened, that I feel as minister that our board, our chair, our CEO are comfortable with the transition and have had time to meet. Obviously, just like as a new minister of health, I had to have a transition time to learn the portfolio and get used to the files.

Madam Leader of the Opposition, certainly we will give due process, but it'll be in the short term obviously, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Health PEI hiring process

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the health minister. Madam Minister, Keith Dewar is the acting CEO of Health PEI. How long have you asked Mr. Dewar to stay on and when will the health board making this position permanent, and what will the hiring process be?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Madam Speaker, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, the *Health Services Act* was tabled in this Legislature and was passed and has been given Royal Assent.

Under that legislation, the governance model is part of that and also the CEO appointment. The first CEO is being appointed by government. But now we have a board in place. After time passes, our next CEO will be appointed by a board but now it will be appointed by government.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Same minister. So does this mean Mr. Dewar's position is then permanent? He is the CEO of the health board.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Work of Nova Scotia consultant

To the same health minister. Madam Minister, we understand your department is doing some more work with consultants in the health field. Could you explain to the House what work the Nova Scotia consultant is doing?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm pleased to let the House know that the Department of Health and Wellness has undertaken a whole scope of consultation, whether it's been internal within the department or consultants that have been used in the past relative to the Corpus Sanchez Report back in 2008 that looked

over the entire health care system. We're using that as the template for now and for the future of health care delivery in the province.

One of the biggest pieces right now is the physician service work that's being done by the Hay Group and that report, we're awaiting that. I don't know if that's what the Leader of the Opposition is alluding to, but that's probably one of the biggest research projects that are undergoing right now.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Would the health minister please table the contract given to this company as well as the terms of reference and the cost of that piece of work?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I will go back to the department and anything that I can provide back to the House, I will.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Work of Alberta consultant

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

There's also another piece of work being done in health. We understand it's with a contract with a consultant firm from Alberta. Would the minister expand on this work?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: I'll just ask the Leader of the Opposition if she can allude further into her question to give more detail of what in particular she's looking for.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, last year in this health department there was actually - for consulting fees to the tune of \$495,000, and another one of \$799,000.

These are important dollars that could be used in front line delivery service. So my question to the minister is: What is this consultant from Alberta doing, and could you table the terms of reference, the contract, and the cost?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Madam Speaker, again, there are many pieces of work that are being done with the department of health.

I will certainly take the leader's question under advisement, go back to the department. I'm unsure of different locations of all our consultants, but again, there is work that's being done internally within our department.

Our government has undertaken the Corpus Sanchez report. We have evaluated and looked across the system. We have done a healthy aging strategy. We have looked at surgery practices across the province. We're looking at the primary care networks in this province. We're looking at physician services across this province and how health care can be better delivered across this province in a fully integrated one Island

health care system.

So hon. Leader of the Opposition, I will go back to the department and fulfill as much as I can with your request, but again, you must understand, there is a lot of good work that's being done to obviously improve the front line.

Madam Speaker, thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

We understand that in one month this firm from Alberta was paid \$38,000. At the same time, last week I asked the health minister to report to the House what the department was doing in the area of assistance for people requiring transplants. What I got back from the department was:

The Department of Health and Wellness is working on a program to meet the needs of Islanders in need of transplant services off the Island. Our government is currently looking at priorities for spending in the coming year, and we're hopeful that the program will move forward.

Well, that's an awful lot of money in consultant services. We have one woman in Ontario, in Toronto, requiring a lung transplant because she needs to live.

Transplant policy

My question to the health minister: When are we going to see in the House - when is the public going to see? - actually a policy for the - over 10 years three people that required this transplant? When are we going to see action?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As I shared last week or two weeks ago in this House, I will not disclose information on individual cases. But, it is the time of budget and we are looking at programs across our department. Like I have previously told the Leader of the Opposition, we will be taking that under consideration for this budget process. We feel for families across Prince Edward Island that are being challenged in health care outside of our province. But, hon. Leader of the Opposition, it has been taken under advisement and we are working within our budget.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the minister of finance, then. Mr. Minister, you guys were able to find dollars for expansion for city schools. You were able to find dollars for liquor stores. You were able to find money for wine experts. Here are three people over 10 years - no names associated - that really need to have dollars for life-threatening reasons. Will there be dollars in the budget and are you working with the health minister to ensure Islanders with health needs are actually put first for a chance?

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

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

I'm very happy to stand on the record of what this government has done with regards to funding health care here on Prince Edward Island. Our record is very fine in the way that we have advanced Islanders' needs for many years. As the Leader of the Opposition spoke about, 10 years of total disregard for Islanders and their health care needs. She spoke volumes in that one sentence. As you know, it was her administration that did exactly that, did not answer any of Islanders' needs with regards to health care.

We've come forward, and with our Corpus Sanchez plan in place we have put millions of dollars more toward Islanders' needs and will continue to look at exactly what the priorities are inside health care. We'll take all of our lead from the professionals that lead that cause. We will not make it political.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Transfer of tax room

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question is also to the hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs. Commissioner Thompson, in his report on land and local governance, recommended the provincial government consult with municipalities on a process to implement transfer of tax room. Can you provide an update on what is being done to respond to this recommendation?

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

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you very much,

Madam Speaker.

Yes, I would very much like to update the House as to what's taking place with the commissioners report. As you know, it was tabled in December, and we overall have accepted the recommendations that the commissioner put forward. We said that we would go through them one by one.

What the hon. member is asking about is the actual sharing of tax room with municipalities here in Prince Edward Island. It is a very complicated system that we have to review. There are a number of models right across the great Canadian country, and we're going to look at that. What we did was started with a meeting with the mayors of the four largest municipalities, along with the president of the federation of Prince Edward Island municipalities.

I met with them I think it was on March the 23rd. We have made a point that we will reconvene every quarter to review what our working committee is going to work at each and every month. We have named those folks from each of those municipalities, and one from the next size municipality down. That working group of our senior officials, both provincially and municipally, will meet once a month to look at all different models, to bring all the different instances to the table.

What's very complicated in this is when we trade off tax dollars there has to be costs picked up by the municipalities, and that is going to be on the table as we start to negotiate. Very complicated, it'll take quite a long time, but I'd like to thank the mayors of these municipalities, along with the president of the federation of municipalities, for their great cooperation. I would expect that we'll make some great inroads here very soon.

Thank you very much.

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

New municipalities act

Mr. Dumville: Supplementary question, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Minister, the commission also recommended that the provincial government consult with the federation of municipalities, the cities of Charlottetown and Summerside, and the towns of Stratford and Cornwall, on a potential new municipalities act, that would enable the municipalities to be more accountable and responsive to the residents they serve. What is being done in this area?

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

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

At the same meeting that I talked about convening on or about March 23rd with those mayors and the president of the federation, we also talked about the *Municipalities Act*. They have great interest as well in providing the very best service they can for their constituents. So we have offered to do the same thing, put a working committee forward. Along the same lines, they will continue to meet monthly. We'll review it quarterly. They know it's an 18- to 24-month process just as the first tax sharing room is.

But the greatest thing that they brought forward to that meeting was that they said very clearly that this government is the most municipal-friendly government that they've seen in the past 40 years, and they point very clearly to fully funding equalization, giving back the GST clawback that the previous administration did, and making monthly payments instead of quarterly

payments. The three greatest pieces that the municipalities could ever ask for.

They said that they're very excited about having the opportunity to sit with provincial government and make these decisions on both the *Municipalities Act* and with regard to tax sharing.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

Kildare bridge

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question is to the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. A while ago, earlier this year, there was a request for proposals issued from your department regarding the Kildare bridge, locally known as the Gillian bridge on Route 12 in Kildare. I'm just wondering if you could offer the House a time frame or timeline on when that big bridge might be replaced?

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

Mr. MacKinley: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

What we have is a bridge that has been neglected for a number of years under the previous government. I need \$22 million this year to replace the bridges. I only got \$11 million in my capital budget so I'm short about \$11 million.

But the bridge you talk about there, yeah, it's going to be replaced, probably in August. We have to put out tenders, probably go out in June, and they should be started. It'll be shut down for about four months. We're going to have a detour. The

price is about \$2.5 million. Also, in my own area, we've got the West River, the causeway, one section of it has to be replaced. There's all kinds of bridge work to be done here in the province. It was left in an awful mess.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, good minister.

Earlier, the Montrose bridge, when that one was replaced, there was an information session held for the public to inform them about what was being planned and that. Would there be such a session held again prior to the replacement of this structure?

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

Mr. MacKinley: That would be left up to the member in the area that's elected, if he wants one or not. Or her, him or her.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

Mr. Murphy: Yes, the member would like to have a public information session.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Budget funds for Alzheimer Society

Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Minister, last year you received \$613 million from the federal government. My question to the finance minister: Will there be dollars available for Alzheimer Society of Prince Edward Island in this week's budget?

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

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

We have worked very collaboratively with our federal partners over the last year and a half when this economy, as well as every economy across the world, needed to have stimulus. What the hon. Leader of the Opposition is referring to is the number of dollars that have flowed from the federal government that were there to partner with our dollars to make sure that our economy boosted along, did not go into an actual recession. There's no question about that. We have partnered greatly on it.

As to what's in Friday's budget, Madam Speaker, we only have two more sleeps.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, to the same minister.

PEI, like other places in Canada, the incidence of dementia, the incidence of Alzheimer's, is continuing to rise. We pointed out the issues in the fall session. At that time the former minister of health was going to try and do something. All winter long the families, the people that suffer from this illness, the caregivers, this is a really important issue. We're still disappointed why you could renovate liquor stores and couldn't do this work last year. Will there be, finally, \$30,000 for the Alzheimer Society of Prince Edward Island?

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

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

There are a number of priorities within health care. You've seen our numbers balloon with regard to health care here in Prince Edward Island during our three budgets that we've put forward. It has been clearly the priority of this Premier and this government to ensure that Islanders get the very best health care there is possible.

What we do is we don't make political decisions on this side of the floor. We work on facts. We get all of our information from the professionals that know the very best use of our health care dollars. That's what we'll continue to do. We are looking at each and every ask right across Prince Edward Island.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Allocation of funds

Leader of the Opposition: To the finance minister. You had no problem renovating liquor stores. You had no problem doing expansions of city schools. My question to you, too, Mr. Minister, is: When are you going to actually take the politics out of your decision and give some money to lung transplant people, to people that need organ transplants, to people that are desperate in the area of dementia, in Alzheimer's? Will there be money in the budget?

It's not about two sleeps. It's been three years since you've been in government, you've had more money than any other government in the entire history, probably, of the province -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) Queen

Elizabeth Hospital (Indistinct).

Leader of the Opposition: You continue to spend. When are you going to put money where the resources really should be, Mr. Finance Minister?

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

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

The dollars that we have spent in health care are very clearly laid out in our past budgets. They're spent on priority areas that the professionals that are inside the department are putting forward as to what we need to invest in.

Again, there has been dollars spent. We make sure that all of the dollars - we look at just in drug programs alone, we introduced 20 new drugs last year. In the last three years of the previous administration they had seven new drugs in three years, and last year alone we brought in 20 new drugs, 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.

This government's been in government for three years, \$1.3 million in consultants in health alone, but we'll go to the Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour.

Change to dental policy

To the social services minister. Will there be a change in policy for social service clients

and seniors who cannot get services when they need to get fillings in their teeth and the province does not pay for that service? Will we expect a policy change here?

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

Ms. Sherry: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

In response to the question by the Leader of the Opposition, all of the issues that you have mentioned are very important to our seniors, and two days away from budget day all those things are being considered and put forward from our department.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you. To the health minister, then: Are you helping support the Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour to have dollars put in budgets for seniors and for social service clients that require fillings?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

We value the dental program here in the Province of Prince Edward Island. I did a statement here last week where we have the best dental program in this country. We provide services to children under the age of 18 in Prince Edward Island, and since the early 1980s that has been viewed as a leader in Canada.

Mr. MacKinley: Your government cut it out years ago.

Ms. Bertram: This previous government, what they took away from that dental

program our government, Madam Speaker, continues to be supportive of it.

I would urge the hon. Leader of the Opposition, it is budget time, hon. Leader, we are fighting on this side of the House for all our programs across government, and we will be on the floor to debate our budgets. I am pleased with the leadership of our Premier and the budget process under the leadership of our treasurer.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Blood work at Ellis Brother mall

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Then we look forward to having dollars in social services' budgets for fillings, as well as for seniors. But to the health minister, a question.

Madam Minister, this week we received a call from a gentleman who is a client of the diabetes centre out at the Ellis Brothers mall, and what he was telling us is the fact that you used to be able to get blood work done out here to keep his diabetes in control. As of last Friday, April 16th, you cut out that service. Why?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

That service was not cut out. Under the diabetes program, which has different locations across Prince Edward Island, which are located in Souris, Montague, Charlottetown, Summerside and the newly

opened program in O'Leary, they are all continuing to provide service. There was a duplication of service within Charlottetown. The QEH continues to do this.

Because of numbers, because the previous program that was referred to by the Leader of the Opposition was only being accessed twice per - being able to be twice a month, the services are continuing to be offered at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and all other areas of the province continue to have access.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) rural PEI.

Ms. Bertram: The program that's being offered in the hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness's district is being well received in the community, Madam Speaker.

We are reaching rural communities with services across PEI.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Funding to get to blood work sites

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the same health minister, then. Madam Minister, will there be dollars then available for seniors who require these services to get transportation to reach these facilities? With the Ellis Brothers shopping centre it's been a real convenient location for many people in Sherwood, Parkdale, around Charlottetown, and it was a way that they could actually walk there. So will there be dollars available to help seniors get to these other areas for this blood work?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: (Indistinct), Madam Speaker.

Again, the service is being offered in Charlottetown. The individual patient, whether senior, whether middle-aged person, what have you, still has accessibility in Charlottetown, Souris, Montague, Charlottetown, Summerside and O'Leary. The service continues, and we continue to offer a valued service.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Family physicians

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The last several weeks there's been all kinds of people protesting for health services in the public and in the media. My question to the health minister. One of the families, while they were in the hospital, was a person that didn't have a family physician. When will government be living up to their promise of one physician for every Islander that actually needs a family physician?

Speaker: Sorry, hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I find it absolutely amazing how the Leader of the Opposition can ask these questions when she knows full well the amount of support that our government has provided for health care since we've come to power. Whether or not we're talking about a \$3 million new budget for the Office of Recruitment and Retention, the new family medicine residency program that will help provide a family doctor for every Islander that the previous government said: No, we couldn't do, but we've done it. We've

increased the physician complement. We've also introduced the accelerated nursing program at the University of Prince Edward Island. We've also implemented a \$2 million wait time strategy. Colorectal screening program, mammography screening program, Tyne Valley Health Centre, palliative home care drug program, eliminated air ambulance fees for out-of-province transfers, 11 million to the QEH foundation.

You might wonder why we're able to do all this. Well, Madam Speaker, I'll tell you why.

When we came to power, we didn't fire 800 people at a cost of millions of dollars, like the previous government did. We were able to take millions of dollars and put it into health care. We didn't go out and spend millions of dollars and build a golf course, we took that money and we put it into health care.

Our government will continue to make sure that health care is the number one priority for this government as long as we have the privilege of remaining in power.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Ministers

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

National Volunteer Week

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This past Sunday was the official kick-off to National Volunteer Week in Canada. This week gives us an occasion to both recognize the work done by volunteers and to get involved in charitable work ourselves.

Volunteers are selfless in their actions, noble in their intentions and they enrich the lives of people who they may never meet.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the thousands of Islanders who mentor our children and youth, comfort the sick and lonely, clean up and beautify our communities and respond to emergencies and fundraise and support our charities.

As Minister of Health and Wellness on Prince Edward Island, I especially want to share how our health care system benefits from volunteerism. Such fundamental organizations include the local hospital foundations, auxiliaries and volunteers of all our hospitals and manors, the Red Cross and family service organizations.

The volunteers at our hospitals and manors across PEI complement the professional staff by enhancing services to the people we serve. Volunteers are a central part of our hospital's health care team. The individuals provide a valuable link between the community and the hospital.

The QEH has over 500 dedicated volunteers under the leadership of our volunteer coordinator, Jill Richardson. Last night was the QEH annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Many men and women were recognized for their dedication and contributions to the hospital.

Two women in particular who deserve acknowledgment are Kaye MacLeod and Shirley McGinn. These two outstanding Islanders have each contributed 6,000 hours of volunteer service at the QEH, and last evening they were presented with their 6,000-hour volunteer pin. Six thousand hours, what an amazing contribution. That is equivalent to over 250 days or almost eight and a half months of around the clock volunteering. What an amazing accomplishment. I want to personally thank

Kaye and Shirley and all our health care volunteers, and many others that were awarded last night pins of recognition.

Volunteers contribute in a variety of areas in PEI hospitals and manors, from greeting patients and visitors at the information desk to providing hair and beauty treatments to reading a newspaper or a book to a patient, providing pastoral care, or just being a supportive and happy face to welcome and spend time with residents and patients.

Volunteers are a valuable resource and a significant factor in the hospital's ability to provide high quality care to patients. This is also true with our hospital foundation volunteers who commit countless hours in fundraising activities to help ensure our facilities have the most up-to-date equipment.

Every year, the hospital foundations across the Island organize a variety of fundraising events to help purchase equipment for their local hospitals. These events include the Nearly New Shop and the annual pancake breakfast put on by the Kings County Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Each year the Prince County Hospital Foundation organizes their Lights for Life Campaign which would not be possible without volunteers.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Foundation holds a number of very important fundraising events throughout the year as well, from the annual Friends for Life campaign and the QEH 21-Hour Equipment Drive.

As well, from the hon. minister of innovation, the Souris Hospital Foundation, Community Health Foundation, volunteers of the Stewart Memorial Hospital, Western Hospital Foundation, and the West Hospital Auxiliary all organize community events

and fundraisers that help provide equipment to their local hospitals.

I had the opportunity on Monday to go to West Prince to tour our hospitals and to meet with the MLAs in the region with the staff from Alberton and O'Leary and Tyne Valley, to meet with the foundations and groups in those areas. You could certainly see it in the eyes, the love that these people have for their facilities and their commitment to volunteerism in their communities in the West Prince region.

On behalf of our Department of Health and Wellness I want to take the opportunity to recognize today - and we do involve the sporting organizations within our department as well - but for sure I want to recognize all volunteers across Prince Edward Island for what they do for our community, what they do for people. Whether they're the older part of our population, the younger of our population, they play a very integral role in our One Island Community.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale for recognition.

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like to recognize David Ford, a former member of this Legislature, who's a good friend and a member of District 15. It's good to see you here today, Dave, and hope you enjoy the proceedings.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Chef Allan Williams

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning, I'm very pleased to be able to tell this House about one of our college instructors who has been recognized as a leader among his peers.

Chef Allan Williams, who works as a research and development chef at the Culinary Institute of Canada, was recently named Atlantic Canadian Chef of the Year during the Canadian Culinary Federation's Atlantic conference held right here in Charlottetown.

For years, the Culinary Institute of Canada has been a landmark for both Canadian chefs and the hospitality industry, and this latest honour will just add to the school's already great reputation.

Chef Allan works in the research arm of the Canada's Smartest Kitchen project. Canada's Smartest Kitchen facilitates collaborative work between chefs, scientists and industry to cater to these changing tastes and capitalize on the \$60 billion annual market in processed food.

As part of Chef Allan's work, he promotes Island food products and Island food producers. We have some really great farmers and fishermen producing Island food and it is amazing to see what a real artist like Chef Allan Williams can do when he puts imagination to use with some of our great Island food.

I think our Island food industry and our hospitality industry as well are very fortunate to be able to benefit from the expertise and the hard work of a craftsperson like Chef Allan Williams.

The next challenge ahead for Chef Allan is the selection of the Canadian Chef of the

Year award. We certainly wish him best in that competition.

I think we can all agree that Chef Allan Williams is a true asset for this province and a great role model for the chefs in training at the Culinary Institute of Canada.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Tourism and Culture.

Cruise Ships

Mr. Vessey: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to rise today to welcome our first cruise ship into the Charlottetown harbour -

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Vessey: - the *Costa Atlantica*, carrying 2,680 passengers. The ship docked at 7:30 a.m. this morning.

Two thousand and nine saw a record number of cruise ships and passengers visiting Charlottetown. Between May 17th to November 3rd, Charlottetown welcomed over 62,000 cruise ship passengers.

The cruise ship sector is a key contributor to the overall tourism industry during the softer tourism period. Visitors who arrive by cruise ship will typically spend the day shopping, sightseeing and dining.

The 2010 cruise season will run from April 21st to October 27th. This year we are pleased to celebrate a few first ever milestones. Today's arrival is the earliest in the season we've had a cruise ship come into our harbour. In 2010 we will see an increase in the number of cruises that will

dock in our port, an approximate 23% increase over 2009. Our season will run longer than it has in previous years. Forty-four ships with 73,000 passengers are scheduled to arrive, and it's estimated they will spend over \$5 million.

Holland America's *Maasdam* will make its 100th visit to Charlottetown on June 23rd. Princess Cruises will return to Charlottetown with our largest ship of the year, the *Crown Princess*, carrying 3,100 passengers. On September 28th we'll be pleased to welcome three ships, all scheduled to arrive on the same day.

Our partners at Tourism Charlottetown are to be commended for all their hard work in helping to grow this important sector.

I look forward to the upcoming season and encourage Islanders to welcome cruise ship passengers when they see them visiting our Island over the next six months.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier.

National Soil Conservation Week

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, the week of April 19th to the 25th has been designated National Soil Conservation Week in Canada.

The designation is aimed at raising awareness of the importance of soil, our most important natural resource to the lives of all Canadians.

Prince Edward Island is vitally dependent on our soils. Our soils produce a bounty of products from the land and create our pastoral landscapes. Ensuring the quality of

our soil remains for present and future generations is a priority of all Islanders. The agriculture industry is the largest user of the soil resources in this province. That is why the agriculture industry has a special responsibility to protect and enhance the quality of our soil resources. The health of the industry is dependent on the health of our soils.

There is an old saying: If you look after the land, the land will look after you.

Producers in this province have made significant investments in protecting and enhancing our soil resources through improved agronomic practices, including longer rotations, nutrient management planning, creating buffer zones, taking sloped land out of row crop production, establishing hedgerows, reducing the use of pesticides, implementing strip cropping, building terraces and other conservation practices. Prince Edward Islands producers are leading the way in the stewardship of the land.

The provincial government is committed to supporting producers implement on-farm conservation projects. Through the Canada-Prince Edward Island Agricultural Stewardship Program, financial and technical support is available for a wide range of soil conservation projects.

In addition, the Alternative Land Use Services program rewards landowners for the environmental benefits they provide to all society.

National Soil Conservation Week is an appropriate time to recognize the efforts of those producers who have made an outstanding contribution to soil conservation in their operations.

During its recent annual conference, the Prince Edward Island Soil and Crop

Improvement Association presented its soil conservation awards of the year. The recipients of the cash crop award were Arthur, Brian and Donald Cousins of Baltic. The livestock award was presented to Glenn Campbell and Ronda Bellefontaine of Graham's Road.

This year as well, the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture presented the prestigious Hon. Gilbert R. Clements Award for excellence in environmental farm planning to Trent and Blair Caseley of Spring Valley Farms. These operations have demonstrated the many positive benefits of soil conservation as part of a sustainable agriculture industry.

I ask all the members in the Legislature to join me in congratulating the award winners and wishing them continued success.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

GeoSurf

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

A very promising small business expanded into the KenNet Building in Kensington recently with funding from Innovation PEI. Mike and Julie Taylor's company, GeoSurf, makes web-based software that provides their clients with geographical information. Their clients are mostly oil and gas companies, but GeoSurf also serves municipal governments.

The Taylors have four employees working for them and they plan to hire another this coming year. This company's growth is an excellent example of the boost the Island

Prosperity Strategy is giving the IT sector.

IT jobs appeal to our younger generation, and it is important that we support the growth of an industry that employs young Islanders who want to live and work here on PEI. For the PEI economy to be innovative, it is vital that we keep up with the changes in today's global economy. A strong IT industry is one of the key ways we can tap into national and international markets.

Because of government's investment in infrastructure, a small IT business like Geosurf can set up in any part of our Island that it chooses.

I would like to recognize the Taylors for their initiative. Small businesses like GeoSurf help create jobs for skilled Islanders who would like to stay in our province. I hope that the Taylors continue to do business on Prince Edward Island for many years to come and I wish them all success.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

EYE Assessments

Mr. D. Currie: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm pleased to stand in the House today to inform the members about a new universal screening tool that is being used for the first time in Island schools this year. The tool will help identify kindergarten students who may require some supports when they enter the school system this fall.

Students entering kindergarten next fall are

in schools across the province this week and next week to undergo Early Years Evaluation sessions. The aim of this evaluation is to assess a child before they enter kindergarten so we have an early indication of whether or not a child may have literacy challenges. It will also help to indicate and assist us in providing advice to parents. A positive vehicle for school and parent engagement for new families as they enter the public school system.

The ability to read is a fundamental skill for a child's success at school and ultimately for their long-term health and well-being. The Early Years Evaluation has two components, the direct assessment and the teacher assessment. The first component is in progress across the province and is administered to all children before kindergarten. The second is done twice during the school year and is administered by the students's kindergarten teacher.

I was fortunate enough to see the first component in action this morning at Glen Stewart Elementary School. This assessment is done by a team of retired and substitute primary school teachers who are doing wonderful work with these young children.

The Early Years Evaluation assessment provides class level reports and can be used to help teachers plan their instruction. Reports can also be generated at a very high level to assess the needs of the kindergarten population at a class, school, district or provincial level. These reports will help teachers and administrators identify where resources are required.

We know that literacy skills are linked to future success at school and the later a child is identified as needing support, the more difficult it is to catch up. This tool will allow us to reach students who need resources, individual educational plans and supports. This is why it is important to ensure the

needs of Island children are identified as early as possible through tools like the Early Years Evaluation in schools and communities all across our province.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

By leave of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table orders required to section 5 of the *Public Departments Act* since the First Session and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Reports by Committees

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Ms. Dunsford: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As chair of the Standing Committee on Education and Innovation I beg leave to introduce the report of the said committee and I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader that the same be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Ms. Dunsford: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that the report of the committee be

adopted.

This report covers activities of your committee during the Third Session of the 63rd General Assembly, and by adoption of this report your committee is requesting permission to meet beyond prorogation of the Third Session.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Introduction of Government Bills

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

Mr. MacKinley: Madam Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a Bill to be intituled *Highway Traffic (Excessive Speed Stunt and Racing) Amendment Act*, and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *Highway Traffic (Excessive Speed, Stunt and Racing) Amendment Act*, Bill No. 43, read a first time.

Mr. MacKinley: Basically, what this is doing is if you're going to be going over 60 kilometres, and the speed limit is, say, 90 kilometres, and you're doing 60 kilometres over that, it's going to give the power to the RCMP or the city police to impound the car. It's going to be considered racing or stunt driving. It's going to raise fines from I believe \$5.00 to \$10.00 for excessive speeds. It's a good piece of legislation.

There's also fines being raised if you're 50 kilometres over the posted speed limit. Some other provinces and Ontario have done it. It should make our roads safer.

Speaker: Thank you.

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

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the School Act*, and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the School Act*, Bill No. 44, read a first time.

Speaker: Minister, a brief explanation.

Mr. D. Currie: These are the changes that will need to be made to bring our five-year-olds into the public schools system, the amendments to be made.

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. Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour, that the 13th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act (No. 2)*, Bill No. 37, 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 Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act (No. 2)*, Bill No. 37, read a second time.

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 Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour, 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 Kellys Cross-Cumberland to chair the Committee of the Whole House.

Ms. Sherry: This is your inaugural time.

Chair (Docherty): It is.

Ms. Sherry: So you got to put the hat on.

Mr. Bagnall: Hat on for your first time in the chair.

Chair: Only for you.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: 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 Teachers' Superannuation Act (No. 2)*.

Mr. M. Currie: Excuse me. We don't have a quorum in the House. So do you want to shut her down, or - there aren't enough members in the House.

Ms. Sherry: One, two three, four, six, seven, eight, nine, 10.

Mr. M. Currie: You don't have 10.

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: No you don't.

Ms. Sherry: You're outside the rail.

Mr. M. Currie: Sitting inside the rail there aren't 10 members.

Ms. Sherry: You've got to be inside the rails (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: You miss us?

Mr. M. Currie: No, but we take our work seriously over here.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Ms. Sherry: May I ask permission, then, Madam Chair, to bring on Terry Hogan from the department of finance?

An Hon. Member: Yes. Agreed.

Chair: So granted.

Mr. Bagnall: What number bill are we?

Chair: Number 37.

Mr. Bagnall: Thirty-seven. Thank you.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act (No. 2).*

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

1. Section 1 of the *Teachers' Superannuation Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. T-1 is amended

(a) by the addition of the following after clause (d):

(d.01) "instructional personnel" means instructional personnel as defined in clause 1(n) of the *School Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. S-2.1;

Mr. Bagnall: Question.

Chair: Certainly.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct). What was - I know this has been added to the clause. What was in front of it?

Terry Hogan Manager: It's actually just inserting a clause into the definitions, and because it's in alphabetical order it's just moving it in between the two other definitions that have to be -

Mr. Bagnall: So it's not added to anything?

Terry Hogan Manager: Pardon?

Mr. Bagnall: It's not an add-on, then?

Terry Hogan Manager: It's going to come into play in a definition change in the

member, and it's just clarifying that instructional personnel is actually defined in the *School Act*. We reference it in the act but it never had been tied back to the *School Act*

Mr. Bagnall: So this is going to be in the definitions as - okay. Thanks.

Chair: Okay?

(b) in clause (d.1),

(i) by the repeal of subclauses (i.1) and (ii) and the substitution of the following:

(i.1) a person who

(A) is an employee of a school board and is designated as a member of its instructional personnel or supervisory personnel under the *School Act*, and

(B) is not a member under the *Civil Service Superannuation Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C-9,

(ii) a teacher who

(A) is employed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in the supervision of teaching or other service, and

(B) is not a member under the *Civil Service Superannuation Act*,

(ii) in the words following paragraph (C), by the deletion of the words "or temporary";

(c) by the addition of the following after clause (h.1):

(h.2) "supervisory personnel" means supervisory personnel as defined in clause 1(aa) of the *School Act*;

(d) in clause (I), by the deletion of the words "R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. S-2.1".

Mr. Bagnall: Question.

Chair: Yes, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, back to subsection (i.1) and (ii), you're repealing them. What are you repealing there?

Terry Hogan Manager: The main change there is there are two things that - the reference was made in the existing legislation, prior to the amendment, to instructional personnel. So that's why we added in the definition of instructional personnel. We've also added reference to the definition of supervisory personnel.

Basically it was a hole or an oversight in the legislation. Because in the pension plan already there are a number of people who aren't in the classroom and they're supervisory in nature, i.e., consultants in the board office or in the department as well as school board employees. So it's really to capture the fact they aren't all teachers. Some are actually supervisors.

Mr. Bagnall: I understand that part, but what did you take out? You repeal subsection (i.1), so what did you take out of there?

Terry Hogan Manager: We repealed the two existing definitions and we're replacing them with pretty well the exact same definition with the clarity that we're being specific about instructional and supervisory.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Now I understand. Good. The second thing is the deletion of the word temporary in the number (ii) part.

Terry Hogan Manager: When we looked at the *School Act*, where we looked for our direction when we're talking with how teachers or supervisory personnel are hired, the act has no definition of temporary, so we

have a definition or a reference to temporary that's not reflected in the *School Act*. So we're taking that out because it's not a term that they use.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. It says it's not a member under the civil service superannuation - so what are they a member under, then?

Terry Hogan Manager: It's a fact that in the school board there are some employees who are members of the teachers' pension plan and there's a handful that are also members of the civil service pension plan. So we just have to make sure that when we're describing the people that we're targeting in that employer, it's not the people that are already covered by the civil service plan.

Mr. Bagnall: Explain why they'd have two pensions there for them, then.

Terry Hogan Manager: There was a group of excluded employees in the school board that were never allowed in the teachers' plan. They were in the education - sorry, the non-instructional pension plan. They were transferred over to civil a few years ago.

All those plans were offered the option to come into the civil plan. The CUPE group decided not to and the excluded accepted the government's offer of the day -

Mr. Bagnall: So what are they under? What is their pension under then if they're not -

Terry Hogan Manager: I'm sorry. I'm not sure which group you're referring to.

Mr. Bagnall: Well, the ones that refused to come in to the super -

Terry Hogan Manager: They stayed in the non-instructional pension plan.

Mr. Bagnall: So non-instructional means what?

Terry Hogan Manager: Bus drivers, EAs, secretarial.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Sorry, the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Is the pension plan fully funded now, Terry?

Terry Hogan Manager: No, it's not. As of last evaluation of the teachers - I'm trying to remember off the top of my head - it's around 80% funded. That was a funding that was done as of July of 2008 so obviously there's been a lot of market turmoil since then. We're not due for another evaluation until July of 2011.

Mr. M. Currie: But there was a large pot of money put in every year because it was a large unfunded liability to the province years ago -

Terry Hogan Manager: There's a -

Mr. M. Currie: Teachers' pension was ignored. A contribution by government.

Terry Hogan Manager: There is special payments going out in funds.

Mr. M. Currie: Every year. They're still maintaining that?

Terry Hogan Manager: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: The substitute teachers, when they come in and teach and they get paid, do they, because this is a defined plane, make pension contributions that stay (Indistinct)? Why not?

Terry Hogan Manager: That goes back to

that term. That definition that we amended referenced substitute or temporary and basically those are two types of employment situations where you can be hired and it doesn't affect your pension if you're drawing a pension. Or if you're hired, you do not participate in a pension plan being a casual employee. Casual employees don't join the plan because they've got no long-term attachment to the employer.

Mr. M. Currie: I understand that. But the fact is that they can go in and do the work, in some cases, in some pensions, they do make a contribution and then those that are permanent benefit from it but because they're allowed to go inside their gate. Do you know what I mean? I think that would certainly help.

So the pension - substitute teachers don't pay anything into the pension plan but they do receive the same pay, even better pay I think, than teachers?

Terry Hogan Manager: I must admit I'm not familiar with the pay scales. That would be under the *School Act*.

Mr. M. Currie: The kindergarten teachers that are coming in, will they pay into the pension plan?

Terry Hogan Manager: If they're named. I understand they are. If they're named as teachers under the instructional personnel, they will be covered and come into the plan.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay, thank you.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock wants a moment of recognition.

Ms. Dunsford: Thank you, Madam Chair.

A few people have come into the gallery

since we began the Committee of the Whole House. I'd just like to recognize His Worship Mayor Kevin Jenkins of Stratford. Welcome to the Chamber, Kevin.

As well, we see two familiar faces here visiting from Ottawa, Monsieur Guy Gallant and Jamie MacPhail. Good to see you guys here. Hope you enjoy Committee of the Whole.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Chair: I will take a moment as well.

Sitting with His Worship Kevin Jenkins is also a member from tourism, and Vicki, we welcome you here today. I understand you'll be acting for the director for tourism while he's absent. So welcome.

2. Section 14 of the Act is amended by the addition of the following after subsection (1.1):

(1.2) Subject to subsection (5) and the maximum contribution limits imposed under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada), the amount of a member's contribution to the Fund each calendar year, in respect to service credited to the member under this Act on or after January 1, 2011, is

(a) seven and three-tenths per cent of that part of the member's salary up to the amount of the "Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings" as defined in the *Canada Pension Plan Act*; and

(b) nine per cent of that part of the member's salary that exceeds the amount of the "Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings" as defined in the *Canada Pension Plan Act*.

Shall it carry?

Question from hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Terry, that seven and three tenths per cent is what? Who pays in?

Terry Hogan Manager: This is what the members pay in and the employer matches dollar for dollar.

Mr. Bagnall: So there's 14% paid in a year?

Terry Hogan Manager: No, they pay in 7.3% on the first \$47,000. They pay in 9% on earnings above \$47,000.

Mr. Bagnall: That's matched both times?

Terry Hogan Manager: Yes.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

3. Subsection 20(1) and (2) of the Act are repealed and the following substituted:

20. (1) Where a person receiving a pension under this Act is re-employed in the province and the person becomes a member again during that re-employment, the person ceases to be entitled to the pension and the payment of the pension to the person shall be suspended as of the date the person becomes a member.

(2) A person referred to in subsection (1) continues to be disentitled to a pension as long as the person is re-employed in the province and the person is a member again, and on the date the re-employment of the person ends, the person is eligible for

(a) a pension recalculated taking into account the salary received by the person and the additional pensionable service rendered by the person for which contributions were made during the period of re-employment; or

(b) a pension at the level formerly paid to the person prior to the date the person was re-employed in the province,

whichever is greater.

Shall it carry?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Terry, in the pension part of it, if I'm a civil servant and I start drawing my pension and I want to go back to work after, I have to stop drawing my pension?

Terry Hogan Manager: Depends on the nature of the re-employment. You're hired in a permanent position, yes. You're hired in a non-permanent, no.

Mr. Bagnall: So if I'm hired under a contract, no?

Terry Hogan Manager: Contract's can be assigned to -

Mr. Bagnall: Casual?

Terry Hogan Manager: You would not have to suspend your pension, hired as a casual.

The nuance is if you're hired as a permanent employee that requires you to start to contribute again to the pension plan, and you can't contribute and earn pension while earning a salary.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Shall it carry? Carried.

Ms. Sherry: I move the title.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act (No. 2).*

Shall it carry? Carried.

Ms. Sherry: 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.

Ms. Sherry: Madam Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and the Chair report the bill agreed to without amendment.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Madam Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of a Whole House having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act (No. 2)*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning.

Mr. Campbell: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, that the 15th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 15, *An Act to Amend the Apprenticeship and Trades Qualification Act*, Bill No. 39, ordered for second reading.

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

Mr. Campbell: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Apprenticeship and Trades Qualification Act*, Bill No. 39, read a second time.

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

Mr. Campbell: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, 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 Charlottetown-Sherwood to chair the Committee of the Whole House.

Chair (Mitchell): 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 Apprenticeship and Trades Qualification Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

An Hon. Member: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

An Hon. Member: Agreed.

Mr. Campbell: Could I have permission to take my staff person on the floor?

Chair: Permission to bring staff onto the floor?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Section 1-

Mr. M. Currie: For the Hansard, could the minister please introduce his -

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely.

Mr. M. Currie: Trusted (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: I'd like to welcome Susan LeFort, who is our manager of apprenticeship, trades and training.

Mr. M. Currie: Good.

An Hon. Member: Great job.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely.

Chair: Okay.

1. Section 1 of the *Apprenticeship and Trades Qualification Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. A-15.1 is amended

(a) by the repeal of clauses (a) and (b) and the substitution of the following:

(a) "apprentice" means a person who has entered into a registered apprenticeship agreement with an employer;

(b) "apprenticeship agreement" means an agreement between a person and an employer in which

(i) the person undertakes to learn the designated trade specified in the agreement through apprenticeship training, and

(ii) the employer undertakes to employ the person and provide the person with practical training and the opportunity to obtain technical training in the designated trade specified in the agreement;

(b.1) “apprenticeship plan” means a plan of apprenticeship training established by the Board under section 4.4 that leads to a certificate of qualification in a designated trade, and includes a youth apprenticeship plan;

(b.2) “apprenticeship training” means practical training and technical training in a designated trade;

(b) by the repeal of clauses (d), (e) and (f) and the substitution of the following:

(d) “certificate of qualification” means a certificate of qualification in a designated trade issued under the regulations;

Leader of the Opposition: Question.

Chair: Question, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Maybe the minister would like to just give us an overview of what actually - groups are covered under apprenticeship. As well as the trades, does it include things as jewellers etc.?

Mr. Campbell: No. We have 52?

Susan LeFort Manager: Fifty-three.

Mr. Campbell: Fifty-three apprenticeable trades in the province. I believe there are four that are not covered under Red Seal. I have a list of them here.

Leader of the Opposition: Sure. Which four?

Mr. Campbell: The four that are not under Red Seal are -

Susan LeFort Manager: Small equipment mechanic, farm technician, service station mechanic, and the last one is motor vehicle

transmission mechanic.

Leader of the Opposition: Are the trades - a jeweller - under apprenticeship?

Mr. Campbell: A jeweller?

Leader of the Opposition: You know, a jeweller that actually buys gems and cuts them etc. It's a very highly skilled field.

Susan LeFort Manager: Yeah. Jeweller is not covered under the apprenticeable trades. No.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay. If somebody wanted to get that under the trades, can you describe the process?

Susan LeFort Manager: There's a process for designating a trade provincially. There is a process for nationally.

Leader of the Opposition: The provincial one.

Susan LeFort Manager: Provincially, if a group of industry people put a request in, there is a certification process that they would apply to and they would apply to the board, and put towards a group - there is actually a criteria here that is a policy that we have that has guidelines for designation of a trade. And within -

Leader of the Opposition: Could I have a copy of that?

Susan LeFort Manager: Sure.

Mr. Campbell: Sure.

Leader of the Opposition: If a group of people go to you, like a number of jeweller organizations, could it start the process there, if someone was interested in becoming a trained jeweller? From the perspectives of the employee, is there a

process there that they can go?

Susan LeFort Manager: Generally it's certification and training, so in order to have that application move forward, it has to be not just one specific person in one specific trade. In order to have training incorporated into that plan, which would be pretty expensive, it would have to be an industry-led - that has quite a bit of support behind that.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters I believe has a question.

Mr. M. Currie: Could you explain the youth apprenticeship plan? I'm interested in that.

Susan LeFort Manager: The youth apprenticeship plan, we have a coordinator who works in conjunction with the department of education and the department of innovation and that coordinator goes into all of the different schools making presentations and making youth aware of the opportunities of trade choices for careers.

That person would be specific to working with youth under the age of 16. They would sign up an agreement, and if a person went through a program in a secondary institution and they engage in paid work with an employer, they would create an agreement with the parent and also with the employer and the student, so it's a three-way agreement.

Mr. M. Currie: They would obtain credits toward a Red Seal?

Susan LeFort Manager: They would obtain credits toward a Red Seal -

Mr. M. Currie: At the age of 16 you can start.

Susan LeFort Manager: What happens is if they have paid employment, that's the factor that creates you into an apprenticeship agreement. So if they have started work at 16, they entered into employment with a company, those hours that they can be working towards - if they meet all the requirements of a Red Seal and that certification - yes.

There is a cap of 33% of hours that can be theoretical within an entire apprenticeship training agreement.

Mr. M. Currie: But, first of all, they would learn basic 101 carpentry out of Souris High, and then they'd go out into the field, and that's where he'd start obtaining credits in paid form.

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely. There has to be a certified agreement between an employer who has hired him in his field of study. It's typically to deal with students enrolled in secondary.

Mr. M. Currie: If I understand you, you need 2,000 hours?

Susan LeFort Manager: Each trade is different.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Susan LeFort Manager: For their certification some are 6,000 hours, some are 8,000 hours. There is a cap on it so that you can't have all of your training be in theoretical. There has to be practical, and that's the component that generally happens within a workplace.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition, further questions.

Leader of the Opposition: The position that you mentioned for this person that coordinates these plans, who's in that role

right now?

Susan LeFort Manager: Paula MacKay is a youth coordinator.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay.

Chair: Okay?

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Chair: We'll carry on then, with section d, I'm unsure if I read it.

(d) "certificate of qualification" means a certificate of qualification in a designated trade issued under the regulations;

(e) "compulsory certified trade" means a designated trade that is designated as a compulsory certified trade under the regulations;

(f) "designated trade" means a trade that is designated as a designated trade by an order made by the Minister pursuant to section 4.2;

(c) in clause (g), by the deletion of the words "approved by the Board to enter into an apprenticeship agreement" and the substitution of the words "that employs persons in a designated trade";

(d) in clause (h), by the addition of the words "of qualification," after the words "a certificate";

(e) by the addition of the following after clause (j):

(j.1) "practical training" means training in which an apprentice works on a job site, in accordance with the regulations, learning the skills of a designated trade;

(j.2) "registered apprenticeship agreement" means an apprenticeship agreement that is

registered with the Manager under subsection 5(1.3);

(f) by the repeal of clause (k) and the substitution of the following:

(k) "technical training" means training in which an apprentice receives formal instruction in a designated trade, including theoretical aspects of the designated trade, that is designed to supplement the skills acquired by an apprentice by means of practical training;

(g) by the addition of the following after clause (l):

(l.1) "trade advisory committee" means a trade advisory committee established under subsection 4.3(1);

Leader of the Opposition: Question.

Chair: Question, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: In a number of our high schools, especially Colonel Gray and Charlottetown Rural, we have a number of immigrant students. If they were involved in any type of apprenticeship training in their home country, what's the process for them here? If, again, their language skills may not be up to par -

Mr. Campbell: Do you mean with respect to transferability of -

Leader of the Opposition: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: I guess that goes back to probably foreign credential recognition.

Leader of the Opposition: Sure. But in this case, because they're students, right?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah. They would be able to participate the same as any Canadian

citizen. If they're enrolled in a school here and -

Leader of the Opposition: Do we have any of the immigrant students involved in apprenticeship training?

Susan LeFort Manager: None that I'm aware of.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay. Any of the refugee children, do you know?

Susan LeFort Manager: None that I'm aware of.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay. Thank you.

Chair: (1.1) "trade advisory committee" means a trade advisory committee established under subsection 4.3(1);

(h) in clause (m), by the deletion of the period and the substitution of a semicolon; and

(I) by the addition of the following after clause (m);

(n) "youth apprenticeship plan" means a plan of apprenticeship training for a person who is at least 16 years of age, is enrolled in a secondary education program and is a party to a registered apprenticeship agreement with an employer.

Shall it carry? Carried

2. Subsection 3(2) of the Act is repealed and the following substituted:

(2) The Manager shall, in accordance with this Act and the regulations,

(a) register apprentices and journey persons;

(b) register apprenticeship agreements and

the transfer, cancellation, termination and completion of registered apprenticeship agreements;

(c) maintain and promote interest in the role of apprenticeship;

(d) plan and administer apprenticeship plans in a designated trade;

(e) conduct studies or investigations of trades and of the requirements for the supply and training of persons in respect of trades, and collaborate with appropriate authorities in carrying out such studies and investigations;

(f) provide such information to the Minister or the Board as the Minister or Board, as the case may be, requires;

(g) conduct such investigations as the Manager considers necessary, or as the Minister or the Board directs, to ensure compliance with this Act and the regulations;

(h) monitor the training of apprentices and conduct such inspections of facilities used for apprenticeship training as the Manager considers necessary;

(i) submit an annual report to the Minister with respect to the performance of his or her duties; and

(j) perform the functions assigned to the Manager by the regulations or by the Minister.

Shall it carry?

Mr. M. Currie: Questions.

Chair: Question.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Of the 53 trades that are registered with Red Seal, do we have harmonized agreements with all other provinces?

Mr. Campbell: First of all, we don't have 53 trades that are Red Sealed.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh.

Mr. Campbell: We have 49.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, 49? Okay.

Susan LeFort Manager: Harmonized for the 49, yes.

Mr. Campbell: We do have a harmonized agreement on the 49, yes.

Mr. M. Currie: With all other provinces. So they do have mobility, anywhere they want to go?

Mr. Campbell: Yes. I guess that's the nature of why we have a Red Seal program is to allow exactly for that.

Mr. M. Currie: Facilities, it says here, used for apprenticeship training. Who will inspect that?

Mr. Campbell: It's under the duties of the manager. This is outlined under the duties of the manager.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay. Do all unions recognize our apprenticeship on PEI?

Susan LeFort Manager: I believe so.

Mr. M. Currie: They do? Did you say? All unions?

Susan LeFort Manager: All unions recognize -

Mr. M. Currie: Do they allow

apprenticeship individuals to go in and work?

Mr. Campbell: Do you mean Red Sealed?

Mr. M. Currie: To gain. You just have your introduction into the trade.

Mr. Campbell: I guess that would be an employer's choice whether to accept apprentices or not. We can't dictate that they have to accept apprentices.

Mr. M. Currie: In some cases, if you bring these people in, some of them say that you're taking work away from unionized workers. So I'm just wondering, do all unions accept the apprenticeship introduction into their business on PEI?

Susan LeFort Manager: We have good relationship with the unions.

Mr. M. Currie: You should be a politician. You didn't answer the question.

Mr. Campbell: It comes down to their choice -

Mr. M. Currie: I understand that, but are there any companies on PEI that refuse to accept apprenticeship students into their work force at the present time? Are you aware of any?

Susan LeFort Manager: Not that I'm aware of.

Mr. M. Currie: Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition?

Leader of the Opposition: No.

Chair: Okay.

Section 2.

Shall it carry? Carried.

3. Section 4 of the Act is amended

(a) by the repeal of clause (2)(c) and the substitution of the following:

(c) one person representing a post-secondary apprenticeship training provider;

(b) by the addition of the following after subsection (10):

(11) The Board shall hold a minimum of three meetings in each calendar year and may hold special meetings when considered necessary by the chairperson.

4. The Act is amended by the addition of the following after section 4:

4.1. The Board

(a) shall advise the Minister in matters relating to the suitability of the provincial apprenticeship training and certification system as a means to meet the labour market needs of the province.

(b) may recommend to the Minister the designation of trades for apprenticeship and certification;

(c) may, subject to the approval of the Minister, enter into agreements with any organization or government for the purpose of facilitating, providing or managing apprenticeship training; and

(d) shall perform the functions assigned to the Board by the regulations or by the Minister.

4.2 Where the Board recommends to the Minister that a trade is appropriate for apprenticeship and the issuance of certificates of qualification, the Minister may, by order published in the Gazette,

designate the trade to be a designated trade.

4.3 (1) The Board may establish, in consultation with the Manager, a trade advisory committee for a designated trade or for two or more designated trades that are related.

(2) The Board shall appoint at least four persons as members of a trade advisory committee, of whom

(a) at least two persons are journeypersons representative of the views of employees; and

(b) at least two persons are representative of the views of employers.

(3) The Board shall appoint a person other than a person referred to in subsection (2) as the chairperson of a trade advisory committee.

(4) A member of a trade advisory committee shall be appointed for a three-year term and may be reappointed.

(5) A trade advisory committee shall perform the functions assigned to the trade advisory committee by the regulations or by the Board.

4.4 The Board shall, in consultation with the appropriate trade advisory committee, establish an apprenticeship plan for every designated trade.

Shall it carry?

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) question. Who sits on the board now?

Mr. Campbell: Actually, there are nine members on the board. We do have a vacancy right now.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm sorry. I can't hear you.

Mr. Campbell: Sorry. There's nine members in total.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: We do have one vacancy right now. Right now, from the employers' side, we have Jack MacDonald from Queens County, we have Leo Gaudet from West Prince, and there is a vacancy. On the employees' side we have Leo MacDonald from Queens, John Kamphuis from Queens, and Michael MacLean from Kings. From Holland College we have Kent Sheen, one member at large, who's William Bishop from Prince County, and one chairperson, Paul Gallant, from Prince County.

Mr. M. Currie: So you only have one person on from Kings County?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, and a vacancy.

Mr. M. Currie: And a vacancy?

Mr. Campbell: We have one vacancy.

Mr. M. Currie: I'll leave it to you to fill that.

Thank you.

Carried.

Chair: Section 3. I missed to carry that.

Section 3. Shall it carry as well?

An Hon. Member: You're a good man for the job.

Chair: No.

5. Section 5 of the Act is amended

(a) by the addition of the following after subsection (1);

(1.1) A person who wishes to obtain a certificate of qualification in a designated trade and an employer who wishes to employ the person as an apprentice to learn the designated trade shall enter into an apprenticeship agreement.

(1.2).

Question from the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: How long is that for?

Mr. Campbell: How long is what for? Sorry.

Mr. Bagnall: The agreement.

Susan LeFort Manager: The agreement is for the length of the apprenticeship, and it could be three years for one, four years for another. It could run into five years if somebody doesn't have engagement of full-time work.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Susan LeFort Manager: So the agreement is the duration of the apprenticeship.

Mr. Bagnall: So when they work for somebody, is there a work schedule or are there guidelines that they have to follow?

Susan LeFort Manager: There is a scope of the trade, that when they're first engaged into the agreement the apprenticeship training officer goes out and speaks with the employer, and they sign an agreement, and within that, it has the scope of the trade. So if you're working in a shop, it would have a general basis of that trade.

Mr. Bagnall: So, basically if he's a welder or an electrician, he's got to be doing that type of work?

Susan LeFort Manager: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Okay?

5 (1.2) An apprenticeship agreement is invalid and has no effect under this Act or the regulations unless it is registered with the manager under subsection (1.3).

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Explain that a little bit.

Chair: Question from the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Explain that one a little bit there, minister.

Susan LeFort Manager: The apprenticeship agreement has to be registered with the manager in order to meet the minor needs. So you have to -

Mr. Bagnall: The manager is who? What manager? The manager of -

Susan LeFort Manager: The manager of apprenticeship.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Susan LeFort Manager: The manager of apprenticeship.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So who is that?

Susan LeFort Manager: Myself.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Good. And your name is?

Susan LeFort Manager: Sue LeFort.

Mr. Bagnall: Sue McCourt?

Susan LeFort Manager: Sue LeFort.

Mr. Bagnall: LeFort. Okay. So they have to meet the employer or the employee or both?

Susan LeFort Manager: Both. The employer, the employee and myself sign a legal document that's their apprenticeship agreement. If it's registered and not signed, then it's not registered.

Mr. Bagnall: And that could be three, four or five.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: The minimum is what?

Susan LeFort Manager: The minimum of time?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah, for apprenticeship.

Susan LeFort Manager: Three years.

Mr. Bagnall: Three years. So it could be anywhere from three to five, depending on - and if they're full time, it's shorter?

Susan LeFort Manager: No, it depends on the trades. Some trades are 8,000 hours, some are 6,000 hours. It all depends on the trade itself.

Mr. Bagnall: So if an employee works 60 hours a week while he's there, does he get credit for 60 hours every week?

Susan LeFort Manager: Absolutely.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, good.

Chair: (1.3) Subject to subsection (2), the Manager shall, on application by the parties to an apprenticeship agreement, register the apprenticeship agreement if the Manager is of the opinion that

(a) the apprenticeship agreement and the apprenticeship training to be provided under the apprenticeship agreement comply with this Act, the regulations and the apprenticeship plan for the designated trade specified in the apprenticeship agreement; and

(b) the parties to the apprenticeship agreement will carry out their respective responsibilities under the agreement.

(b) in subsection (2), by the deletion of the words “may refuse to register or assign any agreement” and the substitution of the words “may refuse to register any apprenticeship agreement”;

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: So why is this put in, minister?

Mr. Campbell: It’s just more or less to clarify the definition of the agreement itself.

Mr. Bagnall: But it says you have the right to refuse. So what would cause the right to refuse?

Mr. Campbell: In the original act - we’re deleting the words “may refuse to register or assign any agreement” and substituting with “may refuse to register any apprenticeship agreement”. We don’t assign agreements.

Mr. Bagnall: So why would you have them refuse to register? What would cause you to refuse to register someone?

Susan LeFort Manager: That’s in a different one. But if I refuse to register as if that person is going to be working in construction, when they go to the place of work they’re not doing construction work. That could be the only opportunity that I would think that would be refusing to register if they’re not doing the trade.

Mr. Bagnall: So you’ve never refused anybody?

Susan LeFort Manager: Never.

Mr. Campbell: You’d have to be basically outside the spirit of the agreement.

Mr. Bagnall: And not doing what they were suppose to.

Mr. Campbell: Yes, exactly.

Chair: (c) in subsection (3), by the deletion of the words “An agreement” and the substitution of the words “A registered apprenticeship agreement”;

(d) in subsections (4) and (5), by the deletion of the words “an agreement” and the substitution of the words “a registered apprenticeship agreement”;

(e) in subsection (6), by the deletion of the words “an apprentice may for good cause and by consent of the parties be assigned” and the substitution of the words “a registered apprenticeship agreement may for good cause and by consent of the parties be transferred”;

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Explain that one.

Mr. Campbell: It goes back to my previous comment, hon. member.

Mr. Bagnall: Would that be to a different company if he changed employees?

Mr. Campbell: No, not necessarily. It speaks to the fact that we don’t assign apprentices. We transfer apprentices. We don’t have the jurisdiction to say: You have to go. We can’t assign them to a place -

Mr. Bagnall: Let’s say I am a student and

I'm working for you and we don't get along, or whatever.

Mr. Campbell: I can't imagine that.

Mr. Bagnall: I can. So I start working for the other member here. Can I get transferred, or how does that work? He will take me on as an apprentice.

Mr. Campbell: That's a transfer, yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So we have to sign a different agreement. But will my time count from the other one?

Susan LeFort Manager: Actually, the wording is changing from - because we don't do assignments, we transfer, and that's the intent here. You're transferred from one to the next, same agreement. You're transferring the agreement and we have a form that you fill out that shows it is a transfer.

Mr. Campbell: And you would receive credit for your -

Susan LeFort Manager: Absolutely.

Mr. Campbell: You would receive credit for your hours - applied for the transfer.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, good.

Chair: (f) in subsection (7), by the addition of the word "apprenticeship" before the word "agreement"; and

(g) in subsection (8), by the addition of the word "apprenticeship" before the word "agreements".

Shall it carry? Carried.

6. Subsection 6(1) of the Act is amended by the deletion of the words "an assignment, cancellation, termination or completion of

an agreement, either party to the agreement" and the substitution of the words "a transfer, cancellation, termination or completion of a registered apprenticeship agreement, either party to the registered apprenticeship agreement".

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Give me an example of that.

Mr. Campbell: All it is is again changing the terminology, moving away from assignment and adding transfer. It's the same, basically, clarity in the wording as we talked about in the section above.

Mr. Bagnall: So it's the same thing as what we just talked about a minute ago?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, it's just we don't assign, we transfer. The original act, that's the only difference.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters with a question.

Mr. M. Currie: How many Red Seals would you sign in a year, Sue?

Susan LeFort Manager: Red Seals, about 175 in this last year - 192, actually, sorry.

Mr. M. Currie: One hundred and ninety-two?

Susan LeFort Manager: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm sure you have a requirement out there or survey done, like: What's the need as people retire as businesses require more? What is the need? Is it greater than the 192?

Susan LeFort Manager: I'm not certain the specific - the 192 and, say, 212 would meet

our need. But there certainly is showing a need that as the economy recovers this will be a considerable impact with people retiring. I don't have a number that would say. The 192 certificates of qualification issued, we also have apprentices coming in in the front end of that. Right now as it levels out, who leaves and who enters seems to be parallel. But going forward in the years to come I'm not certain if we'll have that.

Mr. M. Currie: I watched on t.v. the other night where Maritime Electric, they took 10 young individuals because of some of the people that are there are getting older and gray hair like the fellow sitting next to you there.

Anyway, they're leaving. Has the government got any kind of plan to partner with the private sector to identify what's coming and maybe convince some people that there is jobs at Maritime Electric, whether a lineman or electrician or whether it's in some of the other trades. Do you have an inventory now how many is going to retire from the shipyard in Georgetown, how many is going to retire from the aerospace, and then try and convince -

Mr. Campbell: We do work with the private sector to do labour market analysis. I wouldn't say specifically, say how many does Maritime Electric specifically need. But we do do a labour market analysis and talk to employers as to what their succession plan is, the demographic of their work force, and try and understand exactly that.

What Sue mentioned is we're at a point in time right now where probably we may be just barely meeting our needs. I would guess that the requirement and the Red Seals that we're putting out are -

Mr. M. Currie: It's going to go a lot higher.

Mr. Campbell: - close but it's going - yeah, it's going to go higher and we're going to have some shortages, there's no question.

Mr. M. Currie: So how are you going to address that? Are you going to go into the high schools and try and cherry pick more students to be introduced to the trades?

Mr. Campbell: I don't know if cherry pick is the phrase. But I do understand what you mean. Certainly in my discussions with -

Mr. M. Currie: Trades are well paying jobs.

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely. In my discussions with Holland College and some of the other private trainers, I have shared that too, that I would like to see them - I look back to when I was in high school and you have this career day. The geography has changed a lot since then, the labour market need has changed a lot since then. I do encourage our current providers to get in to our schools. To get into our schools at a young age too.

When I was there we received that in grade 12. I think we need to be doing that earlier and getting students into our trades programs if they express an interest and getting them on a career path a little bit earlier by showing them that yes, that need is there, there is opportunity and it's a good opportunity, it's a (Indistinct) opportunity.

Mr. M. Currie: There is a fair portion or a large portion of our population of students that are extremely good with their hands, they're extremely smart, but they become bored with some of the academics and the day-to-day -

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely.

Mr. Campbell: - activity of what takes place in schools, because they have other

interests and that's not available for them and they do leave the schools. I got that message very strongly from teachers in Westisle and other areas in a previous life.

But the other question I have is I think that if there's more of an aggressive move to try and attract them to it, I think you can capture them before they leave the public system and vacate for labour jobs. They'd be a lot more of a contributor to our economy if they are a skilled trade. Especially if you're scouting to bring companies to the province.

Mr. Campbell: Yes, I know I think that's absolutely right. It's a great (Indistinct) -

Mr. M. Currie: I always thought you should never give a license in the province until you got to grade 12. Anyway, I don't know, that's just a thought of mine.

The equipment that's in place across PEI in our schools, is it up to grade, Sue?

Susan LeFort Manager: I've seen some great initiatives. I've been touring around the different schools. They have a new initiative that's being piloted through Three Oaks and it's using career academies that's being launched this fall as a pilot. I toured their welding department there and I thought it was very good equipment. I found there's always room for improvement. But the programs that are being launched around the different schools certainly are planting a seed of career exploration, if nothing else. That's a big important factor.

Mr. M. Currie: The CNC, like the machinists side of it, is there good equipment in our Holland College that is up-to-date state-of-the-art technology?

Susan LeFort Manager: Since the hosting of the 2009 Skills Competition that we hosted in May last year the college through

different initiatives have acquired brand new CNC lathes and milling machines and -

Mr. M. Currie: The ones that were out of West Royalty, then? You got that equipment?

Susan LeFort Manager: Yes, that equipment. There was a lathe and a mill that was - it's into the Holland College. Supporting the machinist program now is incorporating not only a couple of older machines. Now they have brand new state-of-the-art technology that people are training on.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm pretty sure that none of the schools have laser cutters.

Susan LeFort Manager: I'm not certain of that.

Mr. M. Currie: There are some on the Island, though, there are in the private sector.

Susan LeFort Manager: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Do you take any of your students out to introduce them to that type of technology in computer driven machines?

Susan LeFort Manager: Through ourselves, through the apprenticeship division, we wouldn't have a portion of that, but I know that the K-12 system, they'd be aware of the different companies on the Island.

Mr. M. Currie: Would that be a possibility that you'd allow them to introduce them to that type of equipment?

Susan LeFort Manager: Absolutely.

Mr. M. Currie: To the private sector?

Mr. Campbell: I think that's something that

we need to do in collaboration with our K-12 sector too, is to have that - you know, kind of knock down the silo approach there and work together as a (Indistinct) -

Mr. M. Currie: Just one more, then. The reason I ask that is there are some companies that would probably have a need for it but if they partnered with the government - we probably can't afford it and we can only use it at certain times, but if we allow Holland College to bring students in so much and they can use it, we will gain that type of technology in this province through those types of partnerships.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, and I think that you can go beyond that and even look at some of our private sector companies. Let's pick one, Vector Aerospace, for example. If we took the opportunity to make sure that we get our high school students even if we can - I'm not saying the Vector Aerospace has to open the doors to the high school students. I'm just using it as an example. If we could give a little bit more exposure to our students as to what is out there.

If you're from the eastern part of the province, you may not have as good an understanding or maybe a very limited understanding of what actually happens at Slemon Park and what kind of opportunities are available there. I think that's something that we need to really focus on to make sure that it's education people as to what those opportunities are and what type of training you need in order to be able to meet.

Susan LeFort Manager: The apprenticeship division does sit on different sector councils and the one on aerospace, specifically. They have a test drive apprenticeship and test drive aerospace. Through that collaboration, the nine different aerospace companies have a relationship through the sector council, through the different groups, to have

actually what you're talking about. So certainly there are relationships that are being created that would build upon that.

Chair: The hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors with a question.

Mr. Greenan: Thank you.

I must commend the Member from Montague-Kilmuir for asking some very interesting questions because he took all of mine, but I would like to add that both the public school system and Holland College are doing an excellent job of preparing young people for the future and a lot of work is being done at high schools.

Intermediate school prepare the students to look at careers earlier and to get involved in co-op programs and the trades. So I do think we're headed in the right direction and I'm sure that the number of Red Seals that'll be issued in the years to come will increase. Just an observation.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Sue, coming from the private sector, I'm sure you know that all companies want the students to be revenue generating, employee ready on the floor the moment they come. How much can you train to get them there? They'd rather not have them, but we'd like to have them, but we need to have the certification and all that stuff. You heard the story. I know what the stories are.

Susan LeFort Manager: That's where apprenticeship works. The whole intention of it is to mentor alongside someone and the benefits you get back from the apprenticeship, that's a value back and that's a key. If you have somebody working alongside and mentoring them, that's where you're going to get it. If you have the

foundation of a pre-employment program, all the better. Absolutely worth its weight in gold. When you have training from a qualified instructor and then benchmark that with signing up for apprenticeship, I got to tell you, it's a winning situation.

Mr. M. Currie: You ran a very successful operation in West Royalty. Coming from the female side, I'm sure you're going to put a push on for more females in the skilled trades.

Susan LeFort Manager: Absolutely, that was one of - I liked it. It served me well. I'm a Red Seal machinist by trade and I trained here on Prince Edward Island as a machinist and welder. So I've walked the walk and worked my way through in managing a facility and endorsing that same thing.

I find women in trades in our specific shop were increased, but there's a program called Trade HERizons that just does that. Part of our work was bringing that to pass. Right now we have 11 women that are exploring trades that weren't exploring them 15 weeks ago. So I hope to have an impact.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Chair: If there are no further questions?

Shall it carry? Carried.

7. (1) Subsection 7(1) of the Act is repealed and the following substituted:

7. (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations designating a designated trade as a compulsory certified trade.

(2) Subsection 7(2) of the Act is amended

(a) by the addition of the words "as a compulsory certified trade" after the words "certification of a trade"; and

(b) by the deletion of the words "prescribed by the regulations" and the substitution of the words "approved by the minister".

Question, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: You're taking it out of the regulations and you're putting everything in the minister's hands. So are there going to be regulations?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: It says you're deleting the words "prescribed by the regulations". So what you're saying is you're deleting the regulations but now it's going to be approved by the minister. So can you explain that to me?

Susan LeFort Manager: Actually, this was within already. The only changes are "compulsory certified". Previously, you had certified trade and when you go across Canada their acts show compulsory or compulsory certified. So if a person looked at a certified trade or designated trade, there was confusion what compulsory meant. So the only change in here is adding the word compulsory ahead of it. The intention and where it actually laid in the act is the same.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah, but it says deletion of the words as "prescribed in regulations". Okay?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So that means what we're talking about is prescribed in the regulations. Now you're deleting that and you're substituting that with "approved by the Minister".

Susan LeFort Manager: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So what are you actually

deleting in that and what, now, will the minister be approving?

Susan LeFort Manager: It had in the words as “prescribed by the regulations” and the substitution of “approved by the Minister”.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah, that’s where I’m asking a question. Is there just part of it that you’re going to be taking out of the regulations and now you’re going to (Indistinct) the minister or are you taking all the regulations out?

Mr. Campbell: Hon. member, that’s a reflection of the fact that -

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Campbell: We did a lot of consultation and review of legislation from other jurisdictions. Typically the certification of a trade is not something - in PEI, it can’t be approved by Executive Council. So it then falls back to the minister’s responsibility on the advice of the board on certification of a trade, that’s it’s published in the Gazette, it’s gazetted, and the whole nine yards -

Mr. Bagnall: But it was always in regulations.

Mr. Campbell: All we’re doing is strengthening -

Mr. Bagnall: So if you’re taking it out of the regulations and you’re putting it in the minister’s hands, then why would you be taking out the regulations in this? If you had regulations regulating the act, why would you be taking the regulations out and putting it in the hands of the minister?

Mr. Campbell: Under the regulations there were no forms for application, so it’s basically for certification they were applying directly to the minister. It’s just basically transferred from the regs to the legislation to

strengthen it and clarify it.

Mr. Bagnall: So you’re not cancelling all the regulations?

Mr. Campbell: No.

Susan LeFort Manager: No.

Mr. Bagnall: So what regulation are you actually cancelling? What part of the regulations are you cancelling? What does -

Mr. Campbell: Just the form prescribed by the regulations.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Campbell: There was actually no form. It says here by deletion of the words “prescribed by the regulations,” and now it’s the substitution of the words “approved by the Minister.” There was no form actually prescribed by the regulations, so it’s just clarity. It’s taking them from the regulations, bringing it into legislation just for clarification. It doesn’t really change anything.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, now, and I can understand that. But why wouldn’t you have it added to the regulations rather than taking it out, then? If there was no form, why wouldn’t you put the form -

Mr. Campbell: Why would you not want -

Mr. Bagnall: - in the regulations and leave it there? Because the regulations follow the act? Right now you’re taking that out and you’re putting it in the approval of the minister.

Mr. Campbell: As opposed to -

Mr. Bagnall: So why wouldn’t you leave it the regulations? Why would you have to take it out. If you’re going to add, which you

say you are, why couldn't it just be added to the regulations?

Mr. Campbell: Could you explain why you would rather see it in the regulations as opposed to legislation?

Mr. Bagnall: Well, usually, any bill you'd have the regulations follow the act.

Mr. Campbell: Yes, correct.

Mr. Bagnall: It was in the regulations before, except that part wasn't there. Why wouldn't you just add it to the regulations and move on? Then it wouldn't even have to be in the act.

Mr. Campbell: It was already in the existing act. The amendment is only to clarify and change the wording.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. If you're happy with it, I'm not going to -

Mr. Campbell: I'm happy.

Mr. Bagnall: - but it just seems that - you know, it was in regulations before, and now you're taking it out and putting it under powers of the minister.

Mr. Campbell: It was in the act before and all we're doing is changing the wording, "compulsory certified trade."

Mr. Bagnall: It said before - but it was in the act before, but "prescribed by regulations." Now it's being changed as "approved by the Minister," so that's quite a difference. The minister has (Indistinct) to do this rather than being in regulation and legislated. Now you're taking it out of the legislation and you're putting it in the hands of the minister. Correct?

Mr. Campbell: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, I'm not going to hold you up any more than that. It seems that, to me, it's taken out of the regulations and it's taken out of the legislative part of it, and it's putting it in the hands of the minister rather than leaving it in the legislative part of it. I don't know why you would want to make that change, and why you'd put everything on the hands of the minister. But if you feel it's going to work better and you want to improve everything, then -

Chair: You're comfortable to carry on, hon. member?

Mr. Campbell: Again, it really doesn't change anything that was -

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Okay. We'll carry on with section 7(3).

(3) Subsection 7(3) of the Act is amended

(a) by the addition of the word "compulsory" before the words "certified trade", wherever they occur;

(b) by the deletion of the word "declaration" and the substitution of the word "designation"; and

(c) by the deletion of the words "the trade" and the substitution of the words "the compulsory certified trade".

(4) Subsection 7(4) of the Act is repealed and the following is substituted:

4. A person who, immediately before the date this subsection comes into force, holds a permit in respect of a certified trade issued under subsection (3) as it read immediately before the coming into force of this subsection, is deemed, on the designation of that certified trade as a compulsory certified

trade, to hold a permit in respect of that compulsory certified trade issued under subsection (3) until such time as he or she elects to abandon the trade.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Chair: A question, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Is that just changing it from a compulsory certified trade to - or what does that?

Mr. Campbell: It's to capture that group of people who may be in the trade now.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Campbell: It's to capture the group of people who may be in the trade now. For lack of better terms, it's like grandfathering. You change the wording - it's so it doesn't affect the people who are in the trade now. Just because the amendment to the legislation, the wording is different, so people who are currently in the trade, although subject to the legislation, are not adversely affected by changes in wording. It's like grandfathering the people that are in it.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So you're deleting - what was in what you deleted?

Mr. Campbell: What was there was: persons holding permits referred to in subsection 3 who meet the requirements established by the trade may sit the examination for a certificate. Then, we didn't actually delete from that section, we added to that section - or advised that - amended that whole section.

Mr. Bagnall: It says you repealed section 7(4).

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So that means that you've taken it all out.

Mr. Campbell: Yes, and put -

Susan LeFort Manager: All of that - what he just read.

Mr. Campbell: We repealed that, and I can read you the whole section 7(4). It's there. It's in the new act. You want to know what we repealed persons holding permits?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah. What did you take out, I guess.

Mr. Campbell: Persons holding permits referred to in subsection 3 who meet the requirements established by the trade may sit the examination for a certificate.

All it is is to better define the process. We repealed that and expanded for clarity.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Okay, hon. member?

Okay, 7(5).

(5) Subsection 7(5) of the Act is amended

(a) in the words preceding clause (a), by the deletion of the words "declares under subsection (1) that a designated trade is a certified trade, from the date of that declaration" and the substitution of the words "designates a designated trade as a compulsory certified trade in the regulations made under subsection (1), from the date of the designation";

(b) by the repeal of clause (a);

(c) by the repeal of clauses (b) and (c) and the substitution of the following:

(b) no person shall engage in a compulsory

certified trade unless the person holds a certificate of qualification, or is an apprentice, in the compulsory certified trade; and

(c) no person shall employ another person in a compulsory certified trade unless the person employed holds a certificate of qualification, or is an apprentice, in the compulsory certified trade.

(d) by the repeal of clause (d).

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Chair: Question, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: So that just means that they have to have the certification, but they can also, if they're in training, still use it. Is that right?

Susan LeFort Manager: As long as they're signed up as a registered apprentice.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Campbell: Yes. As long as they're signed up as a registered apprentice and (Indistinct) registered with the manager.

Mr. Bagnall: So they have to be signed up by both and once they're -

Susan LeFort Manager: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Okay.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Section 8.

8. Section 9 of the Act is amended

(a) by the deletion of the words "any

provision of this Act or the regulations, or an order or directive of the Board" and the substitution of the words "clause 7(5)(b) or (c)"; and

(b) by the deletion of the words "\$1,000" and the substitution of the words "\$5,000".

Shall it carry?

Mr. Bagnall: No, no.

Chair: Question, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Why are you (Indistinct)?

Mr. Campbell: Why? Because it's like anything else. The old act was dated, and what may serve as a deterrent in - when was this act last amended?

Susan LeFort Manager: Nineteen Ninety-five.

Mr. Campbell: The act was last amended in 1995. This is 15 years later. It's just a reflection of time. You know, \$1,000 in 1995 might have been seen as adequate. It's 15 years later.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Give me an example of where a fine would take place, and why somebody would be fined.

Susan LeFort Manager: If somebody was fraudulently using a certification of qualification and working in a field that's compulsory and it was detected that they had falsified a record, that would go to court and there would be a fine. In other jurisdictions it ran from \$250 to \$25,000. The norm was five to twenty-five, as a deterrent.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, so who gets fined? The person that's working?

Mr. Campbell: The person who has misrepresented their certification.

Susan LeFort Manager: It's fraud.

Mr. Campbell: Basically the person who's working, I guess.

Mr. Bagnall: Has that happened here? Have we had that ever happen?

Susan LeFort Manager: I'm not aware of it here. In other provinces, yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So what you're saying is someone could take my Red Seal and go to Alberta. If I'm a carpenter, or a half-assed carpenter - whatever - and someone has a Red Seal and they go out to Alberta and work and use that - is that what we're talking about?

Susan LeFort Manager: Yeah. Absolutely.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Okay, hon. member?

Shall it carry? Carried.

9. Section 10 of the Act is amended

(a) in clause,

(i) by the deletion of the words "prescribing the form of apprenticeship agreements," and the substitution of the words "respecting the contents of registered apprenticeship agreements and", and

(ii) by the deletion of the words "parties to apprenticeship agreements" and the substitution of the words "parties to registered apprenticeship agreements";

(b) -

Mr. Bagnall: Parties are what (Indistinct).

Chair: Question, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: What are parties considered here? In number (ii) there, minister, it says "parties to apprenticeship agreements" and "parties to registered". Who are the parties that we're talking about in that one?

Mr. Campbell: It would be the employer, the employee or apprentice, and the manager.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Campbell: The part (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Fine. No, that's fine.

Chair: (b) by the addition of the following after clause (a):

(a.1) respecting the tasks, activities and functions that are included in a designated trade;

(a.2) respecting the procedures and requirements for an application for registration of an apprenticeship agreement and the information, evidence and supporting material that must be included with an application;

(a.3) respecting the requirements that must be met for registration of an apprenticeship agreement, including the eligibility requirements for the parties to the agreement, and for the transfer, cancellation, termination or completion of a registered apprenticeship agreement;

(a.4) respecting the registration of apprentices and journey persons;

(a.5) designating designated trades as compulsory certified trades;

(a.6) respecting the tasks, activities and

functions that are included in a compulsory certified trade;

(a.7) respecting certificates of qualification and establishing additional types of certificates that may be issued;

(a.8) establishing endorsements that may be issued, including providing for different types of endorsements;

(a.9) respecting the requirements for the issuance or renewal of each type of certificate or endorsement, including the examinations to be written by an applicant for a certificate or endorsement;

(a.10) respecting the procedures and requirements for an application for issuance or renewal of each type of certificate or endorsement, and the information, evidence and supporting material that must be included with an application;

(c) -

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) question before you move on.

Chair: Question from the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: In (a.2), supporting material. What do you mean by “and supporting material”? Would that be your grades, your school stuff?

Susan LeFort Manager: Birth certificate, proving that you’re at least 16 years of age. That’s supporting material.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Down in (a.8), different types of endorsements. What do you mean by the different types of endorsements?

Susan LeFort Manager: They call it a specialty trade endorsement. It is a journeyman level in a specialty area. For

example, if you’re an automotive service tech and you have air brakes. That would be an endorsement.

Mr. Bagnall: Say that again, I -

Susan LeFort Manager: Okay. It’s a portion of a trade. If there’s a specialty area in a trade. So if you were an automotive service tech, and you had a course -

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Susan LeFort Manager: - in brakes, there’d be an air brakes endorsement that you were certified to a certain level.

Mr. Bagnall: But just on that level.

Mr. Campbell: It’s like an attachment. You hear people talking about certified -

Mr. Bagnall: So, could not be a mechanic but you could be an air brake (Indistinct), right? Go ahead.

Susan LeFort Manager: They have to correlate.

Chair: (c) in clause (b), by the deletion of the words “prescribing the terms and conditions upon which certificates” and the substitution of the words “respecting the circumstances in which, and the terms and conditions upon which, each type of certificate or endorsement”;

(d) by the addition of the following after clause (b):

Mr. Bagnall: This is the same -

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Was this back to the same (c) clause here? The conditions upon which a certificate is issued? So you can give out

partial certificates in (Indistinct) ? Is that what you're telling us in this section?

Mr. Campbell: Can you repeat the question, please, hon. member?

Susan LeFort Manager: I don't know what you asked, sorry.

Mr. Bagnall: You're saying in here prescribing conditions of endorsement, and you said that before, in the previous section, that if you can do partial certificates, because you say you can do an air brake, for instance, on brakes, but if you don't have your full mechanic's license, but if you're qualified in part of it, then you can give out partial certificates for different department, or different -

Susan LeFort Manager: No, that was - there is a -

Mr. Bagnall: I can't hear because the minister over there is -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Susan LeFort Manager: There are different certificates, but there's not a partial certificate. You can have an endorsement, an addition to your -

Mr. Bagnall: I can't hear a word.

Chair: Hon. members.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Susan LeFort Manager: There's not a partial certificate. There's an endorsement, an addition. So if you have certification as an automotive service tech, you could - you can have endorsement of another, additional, but you can't have just the air brakes and consider that you have a certificate of qualification.

Mr. Bagnall: So what do you mean by prescribing the terms and conditions of certificates?

Susan LeFort Manager: That's the terms and conditions of a certificate. You would have to write the exam, attain 70%. I think it goes to when you're achieving your certificate, what is outlined in that. There's a certificate of apprenticeship that you have to have the training portion of it, you have to have your block exams, and you have to have your final exam. Then you could achieve that certificate.

Mr. Bagnall: But you can't get the certificate until you do it all?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Susan LeFort Manager: Pardon me?

Mr. Bagnall: You can't get the certificate until you achieve them all?

Susan LeFort Manager: Correct.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Okay, hon. member?

(b.1) respecting training standards and certification for trades designated by the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship, including the issuance of Red Seals and the recognition of Red Seals issued by other provinces under the Interprovincial Standards (Red Seal) Program;

(b.2) respecting the granting of credits toward a term of apprenticeship, including providing for the establishment of guidelines by the Board for the granting of credits toward a term of apprenticeship;

(e) - question, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: What we're into here is a national program?

Mr. Campbell: Red Seal? Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: The exams that are being written by Prince Edward Island apprentices are the same exams that are being written Canada-wide?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So there's a standardized curriculum that that goes through?

Susan LeFort Manager: There's - no. The testing is standardized.

Mr. Campbell: The curriculum would be -

Susan LeFort Manager: Jurisdiction.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Why wouldn't it be the same? Why wouldn't it be a national curriculum dealing with that if they're writing a national exam? Rather than a -

Susan LeFort Manager: Training institutions are jurisdictional.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Susan LeFort Manager: There is a guideline to follow so that you would be successful across Canada that they're creating through the Canadian Councils Director of Apprenticeship, called a - it's a program guide for each trade. That, if you follow that core competency, will allow you to be successful at the exam. That is taken into consideration when they're working through ourselves, with Holland College, we would work through that core competency to be included in their curriculum.

Mr. Bagnall: It seems funny that if you've

got a national program where you write a national exam that you don't have a national curriculum so everyone would be teaching, or each province would be getting the exact same program. So how can we judge our individuals that they are getting the proper training with the same level as someone in BC or here if there are different curriculums provincially?

Mr. Campbell: I guess although the training provided is jurisdictional, they would be very well aware of the requirements of Red Seal certification. So I'm sure that while we don't have a standard curriculum, I would imagine that a lot of the programs are actually very similar across the country. There's just not something that -

Mr. Bagnall: You imagine, but you really don't know.

Mr. Campbell: Well, how do you measure it? You measure it with a test, it's a standardized test, right? So, it's the responsibility, I guess, of the training provider to make sure that their program meets the requirements that would ensure success in the test and allow for certification.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

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

Mr. M. Currie: When the private sector introduces - you have acquired the LMDA funding, and you now have that pot of money. I'm glad it's in the province, to be honest, because it was just too much of a wrestling match with the feds over how to be dealing with it.

When new equipment comes into the province - if a company was to upgrade their equipment - usually there is a training program that comes with it to adapt to the

new equipment. Does your program - that money now that you have, can you assist skills people that if an aerospace company or whatever wants six weeks to go down maybe to look at the equipment and then come back, you can reimburse somebody for that or compensate a company to bring us into the new age of technology?

Mr. Campbell: I'm not sure on the travel side. I don't know that the travel itself is covered. With respect to that, we do have a section on workplace training where we can go right into the workplace and provide that assistance.

Mr. M. Currie: So you can compensate for four or five weeks for downtime to get up to speed?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, absolutely. There are some great companies on PEI that are taking advantage of that and it's good to see.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) is that advertised that you can get (Indistinct)?

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely, yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: On the new government website?

Mr. Campbell: On the Skills PEI one.

Mr. M. Currie: Or the build PEI one?

Mr. Campbell: Skills PEI.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, Skills PEI.

Chair: Continue.

(e) by the repeal of clause (d) and the substitution of the following:

(d) respecting fees to be paid for examinations, the issuance or renewal of certificates or endorsements, the registration of apprenticeship agreements, the registration of apprentices or journeypersons or the issuance of any document, including penalties for late payment;

Question, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Are you expecting fees to be paid for examinations? Why are we charging people for examinations?

Mr. Campbell: It's been standard practice while you folks were in (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: I'm not worrying about that, but why are we charging - I don't care who was charging, but why are we charging people that are going to school to write an exam? That's the question.

Mr. Campbell: It only applies to the final exam, not the block exams along the way.

Mr. Bagnall: How much is it?

Susan LeFort Manager: On Prince Edward Island it's the lean \$50.

Mr. Bagnall: We charge somebody \$50 to write.

Susan LeFort Manager: In Nova Scotia it's 600.

Mr. Bagnall: We're getting a deal here.

Mr. Campbell: While we looked at the practices of other jurisdictions, we didn't necessarily mirror their costs, obviously. It's very common in other jurisdictions (Indistinct). I understand your point, it's a good point.

Mr. Bagnall: We're trying to get people to

(Indistinct) and to improve themselves, go to school and spend the time and their own money to go there, and then we turn around and charge them to write an exam.

Mr. Campbell: It's a good point and maybe it's something that we need to take a look at. But of course you have to look at what's happening in other jurisdictions as well. They would all come here to take the training and we don't have the capacity. If you made too much of a -

Mr. Bagnall: Maybe we'd get more of them to stay because we're running short of people right now. So minister, that might be a ploy to get people to come here.

Mr. Campbell: Could be. Good point.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters with a question.

Mr. M. Currie: How could you quantify if there was - we're talking about new entrants, new immigrants, whatever, new citizens coming to our province. How do you quantify if they came in from China that they have a welding certificate? Do you take their certificate and then check with China?

Susan LeFort Manager: We have a process that we follow. There is an examination officer and he does that. He does prior learning and recognition and there are competencies and there's - if you can't get a hold of an employer because of certain circumstances in the country you've left, there can be where you declare what you've had and it'll be notarized. So there is lots of different methods to allow for this.

Mr. M. Currie: And do you retest?

Susan LeFort Manager: It depends on the person's circumstances.

Mr. M. Currie: There are two sides to an

apprenticeship, the theory and the practical. Do you accept anybody, do you grandfather anybody in, with a test? Do we accept that, that somebody worked in the field at Burke's welding for 10 years as a welder, he understands the whole process, can you make him a Red Seal by testing him or giving him an oral test and then a practical?

Susan LeFort Manager: Most trades don't have a practical test. Welding and hair styling do, all the rest do not. So there'd be a process to follow for each trade. Each person, it would really depend upon their credentials they brought with them and how they correlated with Canada's. The scope of the trade would be the biggest component.

Chair: (f) in clause (I), by the addition of the word "additional" before the word "responsibilities";

(g) in clause (j), by the addition of the word "additional" before the word "functions";

(h) by the repeal of clause (l) and the substitution of the following:

(l) respecting the functions of a trade advisory committee;

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: What was there before? You repealed clause (l), what did you repeal? Is it just a word change or what is it?

Mr. Campbell: So we repealed (l) which was generally for the administration of this act and substituted it with a completely different item.

Chair: Which I haven't read yet.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: What was that again?

Mr. Campbell: We repealed section (l) in the original act which stated generally for the better administration of this act.

Chair: (l) by addition of the following after clause (l):

(m) respecting apprenticeship plans, including the contents, standards and administration of apprenticeship plans, the eligibility requirements for apprentices and employers, the responsibilities of apprentices and employers, the practical training and technical training of apprentices, the probationary periods required of apprentices, the supervision of apprentices and the length of apprenticeship plans;

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Who makes that?

Mr. Campbell: Pardon me?

Mr. Bagnall: The apprenticeship plan. The administration of an apprenticeship plan. Is that done by you as the director?

Mr. Campbell: No, the board and the Trade Advisory Committee.

Mr. Bagnall: So is that plan - would that be a plan that I would be on if I was going for my Red Seal, working with a company? Is that what you're talking about there?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Susan LeFort Manager: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: So that would be made by the board?

Mr. Campbell: The board in conjunction with the trade advisory committee which is -

Mr. Bagnall: Who is the trade advisory

committee?

Mr. Campbell: It depends on the trade (Indistinct). Subject matter experts, like people who work in the field.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: (n) respecting the establishment of joint trade advisory committees, including the membership, management and functions of joint trade advisory committees;

(o) respecting the conduct of investigations by the Manager for the purposes of ensuring compliance with this Act and the regulations, including the powers and duties of the Manager and other persons in respect of investigations.

(p) respecting the monitoring of apprenticeship training and the entry and inspection of apprenticeship training facilities by the Manager, including the powers and duties of the Manager and other persons in respect of inspections.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: So, am I reading this right, that once as an employer I take on an apprentice that someone is going to come and inspect my facility?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: What happens if you're not happy with the facility when you come, after you've been approved?

Susan LeFort Manager: You are. It's a fine line.

Mr. Campbell: Yes. You'd be asked to comply. I guess if it was blatant and serious enough and there wasn't compliance it would be a violation of the agreement.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, and what happens then?

Susan LeFort Manager: That's when you go into my ability to refuse an agreement and end it. It would have to be of extreme measures to get to that. The training officers that go and make site visits, they're looking at -

Mr. Bagnall: Who does that inspection? You?

Susan LeFort Manager: We have two training officers that visit apprentices on all areas of the Island, year-round. If they have any concerns it goes to myself, and yes, I step in.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, a question.

Mr. M. Currie: Sue, could you provide me with a list of the 49 trades?

Susan LeFort Manager: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Is bricklaying still a trade in this province?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Susan LeFort Manager: Correct.

Mr. M. Currie: Stonemason?

Susan LeFort Manager: Correct. Bricklaying.

Mr. M. Currie: Bricklaying and stonemason are the same? One and the same?

Susan LeFort Manager: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: And they're taught at

Holland College?

Susan LeFort Manager: They are block released on - they have done it on Prince Edward Island, yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Block release is not -

Susan LeFort Manager: They have done it -

Mr. M. Currie: - so the trades not taught here.

Susan LeFort Manager: For bricklaying, they have special circumstances. They had a program offered through Holland College. They've had block release in Prince Edward Island when the number were large enough to allow. If not, we have a relationship with New Brunswick where they've been sent there.

Mr. M. Currie: We send our students to New Brunswick to learn the trade?

Susan LeFort Manager: For block release training, if there aren't enough components, yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh dear. So where does Holland College teach bricklaying? In Summerside?

Susan LeFort Manager: I'm not certain where they teach it.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Chair: Okay?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, with a question.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) 47. Are they all being taught here on the Island?

Susan LeFort Manager: No. There are 53

designated trades, and there are 16 of them that we are offering training on Prince Edward Island. We offer block release training to apprentices on many of them, and we offer certification only. For example, they have a new Red Seal designated trade of landscape gardener, and on Prince Edward Island right now we would have access to certification only, at this time. There would have to be a number of industry requesting support to have training in that.

Mr. Bagnall: Block release is what?

Susan LeFort Manager: Block release is the theoretical training that is annually done with each trade. So you have an 8,000 hour trade, and once a year for eight weeks you attend theoretical training.

Mr. M. Currie: You go back into the school for -

Susan LeFort Manager: Correct

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: But if you're not teaching it here, what happens? Where do they go?

Susan LeFort Manager: We would have a seat covered for them in New Brunswick where they would attend their training there. On very low use trades, where we only have one or two people on the Island, those are the considerations we make so that they can continue their apprenticeship path.

Mr. Bagnall: So are there any areas where they can't take this block training?

Susan LeFort Manager: There would be trades that we don't actively participate in on Prince Edward Island. Tile setter would be one that would be certification only. There's such a range - glazier is another one - there would have to be a demand for

something more than certification.

Mr. Bagnall: So if we have an individual that's trying to get into those trades, what do they do?

Susan LeFort Manager: They can work within the trade, and at the end of - they can challenge and receive certification as a challenger. You don't have your theoretical annual training, but you would receive mentoring on site with your employer, and at the end of - if a trade is a four-year trade, at the end of five years you can challenge to write your Red Seal. There is a mechanism that you must have a certain amount of hours in that trade and you can write that exam. That would give you certification at that level, but there's no training attached to it.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So it can be for somebody that doesn't have the schooling part of it but does the practical, can apply -

Susan LeFort Manager: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: - for their trade.

Chair: Okay.

(q) providing that the contravention of any specified provision of the regulations constitutes an offence and providing the penalties or range of penalties that apply in respect of such an offence;

(r) providing for any transitional matters the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary or advisable to facilitate the implementation of this Act;

(s) defining any word or expression used but not defined in this Act;

(t) further defining any word or expression defined in this Act; and

(u) respecting such other matters as the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary to give effect to the purposes of this Act.

(j) by renumbering it as subsection 10(1);

(k) by the addition of the following after the subsection (1):

(2) A regulation made under subsection (1), or any provision of a regulation made under subsection (1), may apply to a designated trade or a compulsory certified trade, to a group of designated trades or compulsory certified trades, or to all designated trades or compulsory certified trades.

Shall it carry?

The hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors.

Mr. Greenan: I'd just like to clarify a point I made earlier. I attributed some good questions from one member. Those good questions came from the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Chair: Section 10.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: The rest of it we're happy with so we have no problem with the rest.

Chair: Shall the bill carry? Carried.

Mr. M. Currie: I would like to indicate that I'm very pleased with the new hire. She'll do a fantastic job.

Mr. Campbell: I move the title.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Apprenticeship and Trades Qualifications Act.*

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Campbell: 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.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, that this House adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Have a good evening.

The Legislature adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, at 2:00 p.m.