

H

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

A



N

Speaker: Hon. Kathleen M. Casey

Hansard, Published by Order of the Legislature

Third Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly

Wednesday, 28 April 2010

MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS	1952
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS	1954
ALBERTON-ROSEVILLE (West Prince Mutual Aid Agreement)	1954
BELFAST-MURRAY RIVER (Opening of Spring Lobster Season)	1955
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Grade 5 ArtsSmarts)	1955
RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AS NOTICE	1956
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL (Impaired Driving-further)	1956
ORAL QUESTIONS	1956
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Stanley Bridge Resort-further)	1956
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Cost-Benefit Analysis re: TIR Sections in Tignish)	1958
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Stimulus Plan for Rural PEI)	1964
TRACADIE-HILLSBOROUGH PARK (Blooming Point Beach Parking Lot)	1965
CHARLOTTETOWN-SHERWOOD (School Adaptation)	1966
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Transplant Policy-further)	1967
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Adults in Custody)	1970
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Tabling of Study)	1971
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	1971
INNOVATION AND ADVANCED LEARNING (Advantage Communications Expands to Summerside)	1972
COMMUNITY SERVICES, SENIORS AND LABOUR (Day of Mourning)	1972
EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND ATTORNEY GENERAL (Math Assessments/Curriculum)	1973
HEALTH AND WELLNESS (Implementation of Phase I of Organized Stroke Care Model)	1974
COMMUNITY SERVICES, SENIORS AND LABOUR (Employment Standards Amendment Act)	1975
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	1976
ORDERS OF THE DAY (GOVERNMENT)	1976
ESTIMATES	1976
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL (further)	1977
ADJOURNED	2022

A

R

D

H

A

N

S

A

R

D

The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the public gallery today. I saw earlier that we have another cruise ship in the harbour, and probably some people are here from that cruise ship. I'd like to welcome them to Charlottetown, to Prince Edward Island, and to historic Province House, which is the Birthplace of Confederation. It's the birthplace of Canada.

I'd also like to say hello to all those watching on EastLink, channel 10. I know my grandmother, who I call Sittie, is home watching, and I'd very much like to say hello to her and let her know that I'm doing okay here even when the opposition is asking me tough questions all the time. She's a little worried about me. But I tell her that I'm making out okay.

Finally, I see a great volunteer from western Prince Edward Island who is here, and that's Wilbert Meggison, from Alberton. He has a lot to do with the rink up in that area. Actually, has a lot to do with any fundraiser that's going on up in that area. I'd very much like to welcome Wilbert to the Legislative Assembly this afternoon.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to rise and welcome all our guests to the gallery today. As the Premier mentioned, we do have a cruise ship in town, and I got to speak to some of the people that are here from Quebec and Quebec City. Welcome to the province.

I'd also like today to say hello to Mr. Dunn, who is the actual manager at our Morell Co-op. Faithfully he takes his lunch hour at this time every day to watch question period. I also want to say hello to my daughter Lydia who has to do his work while he's watching t.v.

Finally, I'd like to recognize today is the national mourning day because of injured workers.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

I welcome all guests to the gallery, especially an acknowledgment to Nancy Riley who is with us, who's a constituent of mine, who's a faithful watcher of the Legislative Assembly, but also a special hello to all my constituents in District 11 in Charlottetown-Parkdale who watch the proceedings daily. I hope we have a great discussion today.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Greenan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's indeed a pleasure to stand in the House

and say hello to the people in the gallery and all those who are watching on EastLink, especially those from Summerside-St. Eleanors. There are a group of seniors that live on Lefurkey Avenue and Linden Avenue in Summerside that I'd like to say hello to as well.

A special birthday greeting to a former minister of tourism in this Legislature. She was also a minister of labour and minister responsible for the status of women, and she was the Speaker. Today is Nancy Guptil's birthday. Happy birthday, Nancy.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Henderson: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, want to welcome those to the gallery, as well as Wilbert Meggison. Wilbert is a very good fundraiser for the riding of Alberton-Roseville. In fact, us in O'Leary-Inverness, we almost have to defend our borders from him, invading our territory and selling tickets.

Anyway, I want to also mention in the House here the sad news of the tragic explosion that occurred in West Devon. Pearl and Horace MacNevin had quite a surprise yesterday morning. They live on Moorshead Road in my riding, and here's wishing them, on behalf of the people of O'Leary-Inverness, as well as all those in the House, a very speedy recovery from their injuries, and hope that their lives get back to normal as soon as possible.

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, and as Minister of Tourism and Culture I'd like to say a special hello to those on the cruise ship *Costa Atlantica*. It's great to see you here today and I hope that you enjoy the proceedings.

I'd also like to say hello to my good friend Wilbert Meggison that's with us today, and to those at home watching on EastLink.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise in the House today, too, to welcome all those in the gallery, especially Wilbert. Wilbert is not just a member of my district, he's also the president of my District 26 Liberal Association. Wilbert works very hard for the party, and very hard for the people of this province, really, by making sure that we have a good government here in the province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Murphy: Wilbert sells a lot of tickets. I don't know if his wife, Bev, is with him there today or not, but if Bev is up there, I'd also like to greetings to her.

I'd also like to extend my greetings to the good people of Alberton-Roseville that might be watching via EastLink today, especially my mum and my mother-in-law, Leona and Arlene.

I wish everyone enjoys the proceedings today.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Sherry: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to rise today, as well, and welcome all our viewers in the gallery this afternoon.

Also to send a special hello out to all of those that attended the post-Budget breakfast this morning, and also those that attended the announcement with the hon. Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning in the city this morning. I can assure you after his visit to the city, it may be raining down here, but it's very sunny in Summerside.

Thank you

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like to rise today and welcome everyone to the gallery. A special welcome to Wilbert Meggison, (Indistinct) from the west.

I'd also like to say hello to everyone back home in the wonderful District of Evangeline-Miscouche.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

West Prince Mutual Aid agreement

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm pleased to rise today to recognize the dedicated group of volunteer firefighters in western PEI. The volunteer fire departments of Alberton, Lennox Island, Miminegash, Miscouche, O'Leary, Tignish, Tyne Valley, Wellington and West Point established the West Prince Mutual Aid agreement several years ago.

This agreement allows the fire departments to help each other with both equipment and personnel whenever needed, without charge. This has allowed residents in West Prince better fire protection, helping to reduce insurance rates.

The cooperation doesn't end there. Every three months the department comes together to discuss and share any new equipment that has been purchased. This allows each department to know the equipment available if and when it's needed.

Recently the benefits of this agreement was evident when these firemen were called into duty to help each other. The first was a house fire in Elmsdale and the second was the Evangeline rec centre in Wellington. Although the structures were lost, the surrounding buildings were saved from being destroyed. Without the mutual help of other departments, destruction could have been much worse.

One fire department may not be able to fight the fire as efficiently. Yesterday's explosion in West Devon was another good example of this cooperation. The mutual aid fire department sprang into action again.

According to media reports, these firefighters risked their lives to stabilize the house and rescue one of the occupants.

This group of dedicated men and women deserve our gratitude. When most others are running out of the building, they are the ones running in. The people of West Prince can feel safe knowing these fire departments will work together in any emergency.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River.

Opening of spring lobster season

Mr. McGeoghegan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm very pleased to rise today to recognize the start of the spring lobster fishing season this Friday, April 30th.

Six-hundred-sixty fishers in Area 24 on the north side of PEI and 410 fishers on the south side of PEI are preparing to set their traps this Friday, and the first catches will be seen on wharfs across PEI on Saturday.

I'm sure many homes will enjoy their traditional first feed of fresh lobster this weekend to celebrate Mother's Day. As we all know, there's nothing like that first feed of the best lobster in the world every spring. It is truly a distinct Island experience.

Each spring, fishers across PEI anxiously await the time when they can get their gear ready and once again hit the water. For many, fishing is in their blood and they know no other way of life. They take pride in what they do and are confident that the lobsters they're fishing are the best in the world.

This also means the fish plants across PEI are preparing for another busy season and plant workers are looking forward to starting another productive season. With no inventory in storage, demand higher than ever, and a number of new buyers and plants, this year's expectations are that the price will be up from last year.

I want to express my best wishes to all fishers for a safe season. It is my sincere hope that catches are great. Good fishing.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Grade 5 ArtsSmarts

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

On Monday of this week I was lucky enough to be able to attend a grade 5 class in Morell, with their teacher, Sheryll O'Hanley. What we were celebrating was actually their ArtsSmarts project. The students had worked under the direction of artist Chris Dan.

The students painted a wonderful mural and it demonstrated diversity, a little bit of history of the past and more so of the present. You see, some of these students originally were from St. Teresa's Consolidated, some from St. Peter's Consolidated, and now they all are joined in and go to school with the young people from Morell.

It was a wonderful day. We actually had Carrie St. Jean with us from the teachers' federation as well as Cecile Arsenault, the coordinator of ArtsSmarts for the province. It was emceed, the event, by Hannah Dunn,

and of course I got to see all the great young people from Morell and especially my good friend, Ally Ryan. It was a wonderful event.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Responses to Questions Taken As Notice

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

Impaired driving (further)

Mr. MacKinley: Yesterday in Question Period I was referring to a question on the impaired driving limits and I put in - I said, in my Question Period it says here: I think it's 24 hours.

Actually, it's seven days. I knew the 24 hours was for our younger people with no tolerance for alcohol. This was seven days. I believe BC, which I think in that list is at seventh place, and we're at third. They've come out and they suspend a person's license out there for three days if they blow between .05 and .08. So we're still well above them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Questions by Members

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

Stanley Bridge resort (further)

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

Question for the Minister of Health and Wellness. Yesterday you indicated you were going to bring information back. Did you bring any of that information back?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I returned to the office and I'm not privileged to release that information.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, I believe yesterday the minister did indicate that she was going to share with Islanders information.

I'm sure that there is information - faxes or whatever - and you did pretend yesterday you did not know anything about it, then you did indicate to the media 24 hours later that you did know something about it.

So, Madam Speaker, I'm asking the minister if she'd table that information.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Madam Speaker, I think it's important to clarify, because I think the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters is trying to make some statement that I don't feel is true in terms of yesterday's Hansard.

I was very clear that he stated a situation in regards to Canada Games last summer. This is a topic that is between the host society and between the private operator. I was very consistent with that in yesterday's Question Period. I did not deny that I didn't know of some type of situation, but I wasn't at privilege to disclose that information. The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters should realize that. As I urged yesterday to speak with the host society president, Mr. Joe Spriet.

Again, I want to share with this House that we were so proud of the success of the Canada Games in 2009. We had a great success that brought a tremendous amount of value to this province. Not only \$14 million worth of direct tax revenues, but it was a wonderful two weeks to showcase our beautiful province, Prince Edward Island, to our national stage. We should be so thankful that the host society did a great job doing that.

Thank you.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, a question to the minister.

Usually in a business transaction if there is a disagreement and its resolved it's usually paid out or whatever, but in this case there was a letter of confidentially agreement signed. That raises the question of why was that signed if this is a normal business transaction.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: But hon. member and, Madam Speaker, this is between the host society and the private operator.

It is not the provincial government. Yes, we were a funder, just like the federal government, just like other municipal levels of government, orders of government.

I would urge the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters to perhaps go back to his paperwork back when he was in government in 2006 when original accommodation facts were given out. He probably should have that information. Maybe he was part of that and he should go back to his facts.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, there is an issue here.

The minister does not want to reveal what happened. Mainly that's because she interfered in the process and/or she had her deputy interfere and instructed this to happen.

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, will you stand up - easy now, Premier, don't get touchy now.

Will you stand up now and say that you or your deputy did not interfere with this process?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Madam Speaker, I am very proud to be the minister of sport, responsible for sport, in this province and I am very proud that we were able to host the best Canada Games ever in the Province of Prince Edward Island, and the best in Canada.

I have nothing to hide, nothing to hide to Islanders. I was so pleased that the host society saw fit to see the North Shore as a location for the rowing, the kayaking. Those activities took place on the North Shore of Prince Edward Island. It's a shame that the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters is taking this approach. I am not -

Mr. Bagnall: Overstepping your (Indistinct).

Speaker: Order, please!

Ms. Bertram: No, there are no excuses in this, Madam Speaker, absolutely no excuses.

I am so proud of our Island. I'm so proud of the host society, I'm proud of the volunteers. This member should be very much happy with the results that we had last summer in this (Indistinct).

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Order, please!

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, another question to the same minister.

Minister, will you please stand up today and indicate to Islanders - you pretended yesterday you didn't know anything about it. You told the media then a few hours later you do and you were talking to them. So will you tell us whether you or your deputy interfered with this process and instructed that invoice to be paid?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Again, I have nothing to hide. There was no interference. The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters should realize that he should be putting these questions to the host society or the private operator. I am not at privilege to disclose that information. This is between the host society. So questions should be asked, if he has some, to the president of the host society.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, I guess if the minister has nothing to hide, then probably what we'll have to do is go to a standing committee and call all those affected in before a standing committee.

Cost-benefit analysis re: TIR sections in Tignish

My question now is to the minister of transportation. A little over a month ago you announced that you were going to move part of two sections of your department to the community of Tignish. I'm just wondering, minister, could you please table in the House today the cost-benefit analysis that you did on that move for this move to Tignish? Can you please table that information.

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

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: For a minister over there who ran the department like a runaway train, as they tell me - we are moving the paint shop to Tignish. Because what you got to remember, too, is up west from Summerside west all the work is pretty well being done by the private sector. This way we're going to have our own crews working out of Tignish doing the work. We can do it cheaper. I looked into it, we can do it cheaper than the private sector.

I know he's against Tignish. I know he tried to do some things in his own area by bringing in some business for his friends and they didn't even work.

Speaker: Thank you, minister.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Thank you, Madam

Speaker.

Question for the same minister. So, minister, are you telling Islanders today that you just woke up some morning and decided you were going to make this move without a cost-benefit analysis or some sort of an impact study? You just decided you were going to do that some morning.

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

Mr. M. Currie: The Speaker will only give me so long here to explain this to you because it takes a long time to get through to you.

Mr. Bagnall: Questioning the Speaker?

Premier Ghiz: No, he's just saying there's a limited time.

Mr. MacKinley: But the thing is, when we came in, for instance the school buses, weren't safe to be on the road. That goes back to not proper maintenance and proper rust checking, etc. I don't blame the staff because they were overcrowded here and they were overcrowded somewhere else. We had to look at making things into the future. We want this construction stuff to last longer.

I know it's 250,000 for a loader. Well, if you do a real overhaul maintenance after 10 years you can make that last another 15 years or so. You wouldn't understand that because they were all wore out from lack of maintenance.

So what we have done up in Tignish, we are putting a paint shop together, we're going to have a welding shop there. Then we're going to sandblast it. Then there's going to be the body shop and then the paint shop after that, and it's going to be done in an environmental friendly way and it's going to

be done safe for the people working there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, could you please tell us who in your department has been assigned or directed to do this cost-benefit analysis? Can you please tell us who's championing this move?

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

Mr. MacKinley: This is a government that was in before that never costed out anything. But they looked at who they could help on their own side, who was their own supporters and who they could help. They put millions of dollars on the back of taxpayers - on back of their own taxpayers' money in their own friends' pockets.

What we're doing is looking at a long-term strategy for the department of highways and transportation. Within the year 2014 this government garage I guess has got to be moved because the expansion is going so well under our government that we got to need that for more exhibition grounds, etc., more racetracks, whatever.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: I'm just telling you. So we're looking ahead, we're looking down the road. Not like you guys. You were out sailing like you lost your rudder or something.

Speaker: Thank you, minister.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, a question to the same minister.

Minister, could you please tell the House and Islanders when you sat down with the unions and the public service to advise them of this move and how it was going to affect the government workers financially and socially? You give me the dates.

Speaker: The hon. Minister -

Mr. MacKinley: I would say about four hours -

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

Mr. MacKinley: I would say four to five hours before the announcement was made up west.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, so you sat down with them four or five hours before you made this decision.

I thought you were away on vacation. So who did actually sit down the unions?

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

Mr. MacKinley: If you would have been an active minister, you would have known that the minister doesn't sit down. It's my deputy and my comptroller who would sit down with them and explain this. Yes, I was away in Florida with my wife on vacation at the particular time, but that doesn't mean I wasn't in touch with the Island. Because today they have phones and that.

But my deputy did the best he could and informed them, and his comptroller. That's what we did. There were so many phone

calls coming in from Tignish and that that we're finally going to do something up there.

Premier Ghiz: Finally!

Mr. MacKinley: If you go up there, I can count millions of dollars in wasted money all the way up. Go to that building you have up there with the glass on it and nobody in it. Remember (Indistinct) Bloomfield. Land Bloomfield. Oh, I just - I couldn't even - you don't even want to hear about it today.

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

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

I'm sure the minister does not want to hear about it because a lot of people are asking questions. I'm just wondering, minister: Did you think up this on your own or did you get a call from the Premier's office?

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

Mr. MacKinley: The Premier's office? No, I didn't get a call from the Premier's office. Because what our Premier does is want one Island, one community. He appoints people to Cabinet to follow the Cabinet's wishes. The Cabinet's wishes at the time was to make sure we spread some of this stuff out across the province to help out more than Cornwall and Charlottetown and Stratford or Summerside.

You weren't even too good for your own areas. It's lucky you even got elected down there because you didn't bring anything down there. I think two of them went broke that you did bring down there.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, I think everybody knows that the minister did not make the decision, that it was probably Geoff Townsend or Chris LeClair that made this decision.

An Hon. Member: Neil LeClair made it.

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, I'm just wondering if the minister could now tell us, out of the finance section that you're removing from Charlottetown to Tignish, have all those people decided that they're going to transfer to Tignish?

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

Mr. MacKinley: That is going through our HR people. Secondly, we're analyzing the situation because in finance it's one area that we're speeding up. We did have some problems with bills not being paid quickly enough. I believe we were trying to get a tractor from Kensington agricultural equipment centre through the snowmobile club and we were told that highway credit was no good with Ford credit or something, because we weren't paying our bills on a regular basis. That's because you guys were there.

As soon as I found that out - we're going to streamline that. We're going to make it work and make it work better, because we want to keep our credit up. We pay people within twelve days if we have to. What we've got to do is we're going to improve the system that was there.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, I'm not quite sure I followed what tractors had to do with the question that I asked.

I'll ask the minister again. Can you tell me

specifically how many people from the finance section have decided that they are going to transfer to Tignish?

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

Mr. MacKinley: Finance is mine. The director (Indistinct) finance my department.

Nobody has really told me. I deal with the HR people. Not so much like when you guys were there. You fired 800 people. Eight million dollars you paid, then you hired most of them back because you had to. If that's saving money to the taxpayers, I'm not going to take your economics and run this department.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, I'm sure, as most people in the gallery are also confused with the answers coming back from the minister.

But it's my understanding, minister, that most of those people or all of them are not going to transfer to Tignish. That decision has already been made. So in that case, will you call for competitions within the civil service first, or will they be open competitions?

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

Mr. MacKinley: Just goes to prove you, Madam Speaker, that the member must know more of what's going on -

Mr. M. Currie: Than you do.

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah. In that department, I guess you must have hired them or something for some reason. They must be of your faith or something. But you know

what, Madam Speaker?

My HR people have not informed me of anything. The former minister could be hallucinating or something here in the House, I'm not sure.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, there's another section in his department, under the maintenance section, which is spray-painting and sandblasting.

Can you tell me, minister, how many of those people are transferring to Tignish?

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

Mr. MacKinley: The building is not going to be built until sometime in the fall, in October. The HR people haven't informed me. There's a collective union agreement. We'll be working with the union, the collective agreement. We'll be looking to work as good as we can with these particular people.

If you would just listen, there's a lot of the private work that we did up west that's going to be done by civil service now, which means we need more workers. We also got to have equipment down here. Because when you're government was there you were letting everything fall apart. We've got to do a better job of this maintenance work, because there's painting, rust proofing, etc. That's what we're bringing in - preventative medicine is what it is.

Preventative medicine, preventative maintenance, whatever you want to call it. That's what makes the machinery last longer. I guess you delivered the oil, so you were wanting used oil, but when I was farming I had to make my equipment last as

long as it could, and that was good maintenance.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, you also have, under the collective agreement, rules and regulations to follow regarding the transferring of government employees. Can you please tell Islanders today, since you have somebody that did this cost analysis, how much all the mileage is going to cost for that one year for all these employees?

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

Mr. MacKinley: If I go by your finance and your figures and your information from finance, it won't cost us anything. You said nobody's going to move up.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, you indicated that most of these in the spray paint section are going to move. So how much is that going to cost to taxpayers?

Speaker: The hon. minister -

Mr. M. Currie: Travel time.

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

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) I haven't found out exactly how many people are going to move or not. All I know is we need more workers because we're doing more work and it's going to take more employees. I hope we hire a lot of people from Alberton, O'Leary, Tignish. I think it's time they got an opportunity to work for the government the same as anybody else.

We also, if you want to really go back to it, we also, in my negotiations, have purchased a former paint shop here in the province, in an industrial park. A shop that your department - or not you, it was I guess the former minister - the Taj Mahal - you spent millions fixing in up. I remember questioning it. Anyway, I purchased that building, put a deal together for \$92,000. We can use it for what we're using for, plus there's two bays back there that we're going to have a look at that we might be able to use to do small fender-benders, etc., here. That's what you call management of the department.

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

Mr. M. Currie: A question to the minister. Minister, you indicated that you were going to put this new sandblasting and paint shop in Tignish. Is it going to be inside the boundaries of the town of Tignish?

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

Mr. MacKinley: That's probably the best question. The question to that - the answer - if we went with the place we're looking at now that we want the answer would be no. But we're only a few feet from the boundaries of Tignish, so that'd be up to the residents of Tignish if they want to expand their boundaries and the people there.

Our direction from our department was to make sure it's away from houses and schools and that. We want it to be out by itself. We don't want the noise. If you look at Cornwall - Crapaud had a 5% noise level up there and they put a young Stewart fellow that was painting there and sandblasting, moved him right out of Crapaud and he had to go way back in the country and put a place up there. He's doing a great job. I've been in it. It's a real nice

shop. My deputy and I have both been there.

So, the question is, we want it kept away as far as we can from houses or anywhere that it's going to cause a noise inconvenience or anything, so we don't have to rebuild it and rebuild it.

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

Mr. M. Currie: So, minister, that's the very point I was asking. You're indicating it's going to benefit Tignish, but by the sound of you, with this new location you're going to pick, it's going to be outside the boundaries of Tignish. So is that going to benefit the town?

An Hon. Member: Absolutely.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

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

Mr. M. Currie: Where's it going? Bloomfield? (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: You know, it's no wonder when you were minister of development everything went bad here. I told you, it's about 500 feet, maybe 1,000 feet, outside the boundaries of Tignish. In that particular area there's no restaurants, there's no shops or anything, but if you go a kilometre down the road there's all kinds of restaurants and that in Tignish where they can eat and that, and different things they can go to.

See, what people do, they can move a kilometre or two, and it's right close to the boundary. Now, I'm not going to prejudge, maybe the minister of fisheries there would be more inclined to talk to the people in Tignish and the community of Tignish, whether they want to extend their boundaries. But I know one thing, talking to

our Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs, he has no problem approving if Tignish wants to extend their boundaries out 500 or 1,000 feet, providing it's not affecting anybody when we do it. But we can't prejudge what Tignish wants. But if I can go by the mayor, he wasn't too happy with the line of questioning, why everybody was against Tignish -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: - and now I'm assuming he won't be going to any more of your political meetings up there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

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

A question to the same minister. Minister, could you indicate to us how much you have budgeted for this new building and the land coss?

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

Mr. MacKinley: I would, just quick off my head, probably 800,000, probably about \$800,000 for land to build it. Roughly 600, 800. Whatever we're projecting, it would be about 20% cheaper than you guys could have done it.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, you also indicated, I think, in the media that you are going to lease some property or a space from Tignish Initiatives.

Can you tell me how much that lease is

going to cost?

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

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: I'll have to let the minister of fisheries try that one. What are we leasing up there?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) passing the buck.

Mr. MacKinley: I don't know. Look, I'll look into it and get back. But we are expanding so much in rural PEI I can't possibly - the deputy'll be here on the floor today, but I'm not familiar with leasing that particular piece.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) office space?

Mr. MacKinley: Oh, that's, oh, the office space.

An Hon. Member: The accounting department.

Mr. MacKinley: That's for the accounting department. Why didn't you say that? That's up where Gail Shea's office is, is it not?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, that's up where Gail Shea and them used to have their slush fund and everything. We're moving in the accounting department there to put jobs right downtown Tignish.

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

Stimulus plan for rural PEI

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, now you know why people get confused when they ask the minister any questions.

Minister, will you please step up today and admit that your government has failed in their economic policy for rural PEI and this is just another attempt to try to cover up for a failed economic stimulus package for rural PEI?

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

Mr. MacKinley: Madam Speaker, questions like that, when you look at it, his economic thing was give loans to I believe it was the Irvings, and that mill is closed now.

Give loans to somebody building furniture down there. I believe that place is not working. I could go on and on. What we are doing, we're putting businesses that are sure, we're trying to make as good as we can. We're paving roads all across the Island. Things are booming across the Island. If you go out, people are building. I (Indistinct) off-shore builders or permits are up something like 41% or something last year. Those are people that have had confidence in the province here under our leader, our Premier. Because let's face it, Stephen Harper? Our stimulus fund started here and they copied us. Exactly what they did. I give them credit for listening.

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

Blooming Point Beach parking lot

Mr. Watts: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question today is for the Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry. Nightmare in Blooming Point, that's the situation that has faced emergency response vehicles for the last number of years if

they're called to an emergency at Blooming Point Beach. Now, this is - cars are parked on both sides of the road, and the road is so narrow no vehicle can get through. Now, a parking lot would fix this up. But the reason a parking lot hasn't been built, is because it is an environmentally sensitive area.

My question to you, Mr. Minister, is: Has your department made a decision as to a location and construction of a parking lot at Blooming Point Beach?

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

Mr. Brown: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The hon. member is correct. There was a major problem at Blooming Point Beach with the parking. The emergency people, the emergency response teams out in that area, have indicated a number of times that they had a difficult time getting to the beach to rescue people that need rescuing.

I've got to commend the member for the area. He's been working on this file since he got elected, and trying to improve the area. A location has been selected for a parking lot. We've worked through the member there with TARRP, the Tracadie Area Residents for Resource Protection association, and the Island Nature Trust.

There's a lot of sensitive land around there, and we're committed to not building on sensitive land. I think the communities and the Island Nature Trust have come together, have selected a site for a parking lot. That will have to go through an EA, an environmental assessment, and hopefully that'll be done right away.

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

Mr. Watts: Yes, a supplementary question.

You indicated, Mr. Minister, that it will be done right away, or as soon as possible. How many vehicles will this parking lot accommodate?

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, I think the proposal is for about 120 cars to be located further up from the beach.

Right now they park right on the beach, or right on the sand dunes. We're not going to allow them in that sensitive area -

Premier Ghiz: Protecting the environment.

Mr. Brown: - Madam Speaker, it's protected under the natural protection act, and we're not going to touch that sensitive area.

We're working with the community. An environmental assessment has to be done first to ensure that nothing's being disturbed and it's constructed in an environmentally sensitive way, and that no harm has come to the habitat area that's in that area. So we're hoping it's to be done very quickly. But when you have all groups on side, you have the residents area community on side, and you have the Island Nature Trust on side, I expect quick evaluation of this project (Indistinct).

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

School adaptation

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question today is to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General.

Mr. Minister, during recent discussions with a parent group from the Sherwood Elementary School area there were some questions regarding about 70 new kindergarten students coming into the school, and adaptations that have to be done to the school to accommodate these new students. Can you explain what will have to happen at the school in order to accommodate these new kids?

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

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

Yes, the department is working closely with school boards all across Prince Edward Island. We are preparing to bring in approximately 1,400 five-year-olds into the public school system. We are on schedule and on target. We've recently purchased 51 new school buses to accommodate that transition. We've also, we're working closely now with the PEITF. We have ratified the 112 kindergarten teachers that will be brought into the system.

But in respect to the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood's question in respect to the needs at Sherwood Elementary School. Right now we have approximately 75 to 80 five-year-olds that will be coming into a school which is fairly congested. I know the school is working with the district to look at reconfiguring classroom space inside the building to accommodate the five-year-olds.

What will have to happen, there will be two second-hand mobiles that are presently used at Glen Stewart Elementary School that will be relocated next to Sherwood school to provide programming in the area of art and music and resource to accommodate the five-year-olds in the school. We're doing

everything we can to make sure that Sherwood school, like every other school in rural and areas of Prince Edward Island, is ready to embrace their five-year-olds, and we're looking forward to a positive transition. We're completing the early year evaluations this week, and the feedback has been very positive by parents and school teachers across the province, so we'll look forward to that work continuing.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

Mr. Mitchell: Yes. Question to the same minister.

Mr. Minister, do you know if the parents will be notified of the upcoming change through the school system in the near future?

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

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

Certainly one of the expectations I have in the department is to make sure that there's constant communication going out to the boards and the schools. The request for the additions to schools in the boards has come directly from the Eastern School District. We are on target. We're moving forward.

There has been some discussions, I believe, with parents in schools about what is exactly going to happen. I can't speak specifically about those discussions, but certainly we'll follow up to make sure that parents are very clear that we'll be using mobiles that were used at Glen Stewart to accommodate the art

and music programs next year for the 2010-2011 academic school year.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Transplant policy (further)

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

In the *Guardian* yesterday, Joanne Ings, the executive director from the PEI Lung Association, said she hand delivered a letter to the former minister of health on October 29th, 2009 asking for the province's financial support policy for lung transplant patients.

As you know, in this House I've asked the former minister and the present minister on a number of occasions what the government's policy is on this. Could the minister of health please update the House when this policy's going to be known to people?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I appreciate the Leader of the Opposition's question, and I did take note of Ms. Ings' letter to the editor yesterday. We have made contact with the association and we appreciate all the work that they do. I stand by the word that I've given this House that we are putting forward a policy and I would update the House that that will be probably coming within the next couple of weeks.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Madam Minister, yesterday I had another conversation with Melissa MacPhail. She's the young woman that's in Toronto and she's waiting every day to understand what the government's policy is.

She tells me that she heard from one of the minister's staff about a month ago telling her that financial help was on the way. Would the minister please tell us what was meant by those comments?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Like I've said to the House before, in matters of health issues I am not disclosing any information on privacy. Again, I reiterate to the Leader of the Opposition that we are committed to a policy and that it will be brought forth in the next couple of weeks.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the same minister, I hope this minister's not waiting for two more weeks when polling starts to announce the policy. Would the minister please tell the House what the policy's going to consist of?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

There is a process. We have a budget and that is why we have to wait. We have a budget approval process. The Leader of the Opposition should know that. We hope to be

through our budget and, again, we are hoping to be forthcoming with that information over the next couple of weeks.

Our government is very committed to new policies within our health care system and supporting individuals across PÉI and accessing services within our province. If they have to do out-of-province travel, we are following through with policies.

Again, I give my commitment to this House and to the Leader of the Opposition.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the health minister. Would you please call Melissa MacPhail directly and tell her that you are working on this policy? I spoke with her yesterday. She's getting sicker and sicker. I have her phone number. Would you commit to make a call to her and explain the process?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Again, I'm not going to speak on individual cases in the health care system. Again, we feel for any individual in our health care system going through any kind of health care issue, whether being cared for within our province or within the Atlantic region or outside the Atlantic region.

But let me reiterate, though, that we are committed to policies. Not only that. Within this Budget and our proposed budget, we are committing an additional \$2.2 million for out-of-province hospital care. That is a great

commitment. We think that is demonstrating that policy is forthcoming and very positive for health care in this province.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, last year this government had no problem getting wine experts and beer experts hired, no problem renovating liquor stores.

This has been going on since October of 2009. What is taking so long on this policy when it affects about three people over a 10-year period? What's the problem?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm very proud, as Minister of Health and Wellness, in the accomplishments of our government. My previous - the minister and for myself, in terms of our government in Health and Wellness.

Under the direction of our government and our Premier, we are making significant investments in health care. We've issued (Indistinct) \$24 million more to the health care budget, directly going to impact Islanders, whether it be ambulance and paramedicine.

We have increased drug expenditures in this province by 45% since this previous administration.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bertram: As well, Madam Speaker, we have increased funding to home care by 60%.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bertram: We have instituted blood glucose strips for Islanders. That is very important and critical to their care, Madam Speaker.

Our primary care networks and the accessibility to our Islanders, we are including another half million dollars towards that this year. The list goes on.

Again, I give my word to the Leader of the Opposition. We are working on this policy and it will be forthcoming within the next couple of weeks.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The question is: How could liquor stores get renovated, offices get renovated, our wine and beer expert get renovated? This is going on since October 29th. What is taking so long on a policy for three people over a 10-year period? To the health minister.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Madam Speaker, I think it's very important to reiterate that we are putting dollars and cents into the front line and to Islanders and their health care needs.

We are going to announce later today during this House an important announcement that's going to be taking place later on today that is demonstrating our government's policy and direction in terms of health care and accessibility here on Prince Edward Island.

We see the investment to our cancer treatment centre at the QEH. This year alone we are investing almost 900 additional thousand dollars for nine new positions at the cancer treatment centre.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bertram: A direct impact to Islanders, Madam Speaker, whether it be teleradiology - we're putting more money into that - whether it's in the West Prince, in terms of mental health an addictions and diabetes program, medical training, new specialists, physicians or even just look at the QEH and the redevelopment that's going on or our new manors that are going to be built in this province.

We are investing in our health care system here on Prince Edward Island. We are investing in Islanders and their health care needs across our province.

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 health minister, then. With this investment to Islanders, Melissa MacPhail is a single mom, she's sicker by the day, she's in Toronto. There's tremendous stress. Would you at least call her and explain to her where your priorities are in terms of how long this policy's taking place and when is she going to actually here the answer?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I cannot discuss, in terms of privacy issues within our health care system, and I hope all members of the House realize that, and I cannot discuss individual cases.

Again, I reiterate that our government is committed to health care in this province with an additional \$24 million in this Budget, over \$510 million going to health care in this province. Very significant. Again, Madam Speaker, we will bringing forth policy in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, it's obvious to see where this government's priorities are in terms of polling, glossy documents, a lot of talk but no real action or delivery when individuals are concerned.

Adults in custody

But we'll move to the Office of the Attorney General. Statistics Canada report that the average daily count of adults in custody on Prince Edward Island in 2008-2009 was 71 people in both facilities. Your report that you released indicated that the average daily counts was 94.69. Could you tell us which it is?

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

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

I can't speak specifically on numbers but will be very prepared to bring those numbers back to the House.

I've had the opportunity to tour facilities as

Attorney General and it's been very clear that our provincial facility here at Sleepy Hollow was built approximately 30 years ago and it was built to accommodate approximately 75 inmates. It's very clear today we've outgrown the facility and we're excited to be adding the new addition, the 48-bed unit at Sleepy Hollow, which will be opening in June.

Right now, the facility is under a tremendous amount of pressure. On weekends, we see in excess of over 120 to 105 inmates that are in that facility. So we're anxiously awaiting the opening of the facility. With the opening of the new facility, we'll be able to look at improving and enhancing and look at programming and transition opportunities for inmates to rehabilitate them and transition them back into the public life.

We are committed to modernization of the correctional facilities in the province. We are in discussions with the Atlantic Police Academy. We are working in discussions with other provinces in Atlantic Canada, working with the federal government, to look at ways that we can continue to modernize our facilities. We'll embrace those opportunities as they come forward.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Tabling of study

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the same minister. You mentioned the words corrections modernization program. Mr. Minister, your department had done a study. I understand that's the reason how

you rationalized the expansion at Sleepy Hollow and the work for Prince County. My question is when are you going to table that study to the House and when are you going to make that public?

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

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

Being in government over three years and I've had, as the Attorney General that three months, I've been in all our facilities and had some really frank discussions with the leadership in our facilities. I've been very impressed with the staff and the people who work in corrections in this province do a tremendous job under some very challenging circumstances.

Very impressed with the work that's being done in community and correctional services here in the province as we look at opportunities for youth at risk as they're working with the school systems on their (Indistinct) teams, as we look at opportunities to intervene early before youth get well entrenched in the correctional facilities.

We are committed to modernizing the facilities here on Prince Edward Island. I know I've had a tour in the facility in Summerside. The facilities are extremely outdated and have been ignored for a long time. Our province and our government are committed to a modernization, but I'll be more than welcome to bring information back and table that for the Leader of the Opposition.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Ministers

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

Advantage Communications Expands to Summerside

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Today I'd like to recognize a great entrepreneur who has built a booming business in the contact centre industry. Kent MacPhee is the president and CEO of Advantage Communications in Charlottetown. This morning, I was pleased to join Kent in Summerside to announce the opening of a contact centre that he expects to employ 100 people within a year's time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Campbell: This Island-based business has grown substantially over the past 12 years to include offices in Charlottetown, Souris and Dieppe, New Brunswick. This major expansion will create new opportunities for economic growth on Prince Edward Island. It will create jobs for people with experience in the contact centre industry and jobs for people interested in living and working in the Summerside area.

The spinoffs will be tremendous, not only for Summerside but the entire East Prince region and the entire province as well.

Our government is committed to working with industry to enhance economic development across our One Island Community. We are working together to create jobs. We are partnering with the City of Summerside's economic development office to attract new opportunities.

As clearly outlined in our government strategy, Island Prosperity-A Focus for

Change, we are focused on strengthening and diversifying our Island economy. We are investing in strategic sectors such as aerospace, bioscience, IT and renewable energy.

Our government also recognizes the importance in investing in business development initiatives across the province. Business leaders such as Kent MacPhee are driving business growth on Prince Edward Island. The fact that an Island-based company is growing makes this story even more exciting. It's clear that the company is committed to its workers on Prince Edward Island.

PEI is fortunate to have a strong, well-educated and dedicated workforce. People are this province's greatest asset.

Advantage Communications understands this and this company works hard not just to attract great people, but to keep them as well. We are very pleased to see this locally owned and operated company expanding across the province. The addition of these new jobs will provide an immediate economic boost in the Summerside area and the entire provincial economy.

It is our hope that today's announcement will lead to even more economic activity. I think with the hard work of people like Kent MacPhee and his staff that our government will continue to have success in bringing new jobs and industries to Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Day of Mourning

Ms. Sherry: Madam Speaker, I would like to rise in the House today to take a moment to recognize today, April 28, as the annual Day of Mourning.

Today is an opportunity to remember all men and women who were injured or killed at the workplace during a workplace injury.

The Day of Mourning originated in Canada in 1984 and is now observed in more than 100 countries world-wide. Its purpose is to acknowledge the serious injuries and deaths of workers and to honour their memory.

The provincial government, the PEI Federation of Labour and Workers Compensation Board are working together to raise awareness around the Day of Mourning to help Islanders reduce the occurrence of workplace injury.

It's important for us to recognize that the Prince Edward Island *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations exist to establish a minimum standard of health and safety in Island workplaces. The act is built on the Internal Responsibility System, where both workers and employers have a responsibility to keep the workplace safe.

The role of the Workers Compensation Board is to supplement the Internal Responsibility System by establishing and clarifying the responsibilities of all parties to support them in maintaining healthy, safe workplaces and to intervene when responsibilities are not carried out to the standards specified by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Today, on April 28th, I encourage government and all Islanders to show support for those who have been affected in some way by workplace injury. Let's recognize that prevention is the most effective way to minimize the overall emotional, physical and financial burden of

workplace injuries.

By working together to raise awareness that safety matters at work, we move closer to our goal of preventing workplace injury in Prince Edward Island. We urge workplaces to display this year's Day of Mourning poster available through the Workers Compensation Board and the PEI Federation of Labour.

Other suggested activities for joint health and safety committee members, workers and employers include lowering workplace flags at half-mast, observing a moment of silence and attending the provincial Day of Mourning ceremony which will be held this evening.

The PEI Federation of Labour invites all members of the public to attend the Day of Mourning ceremony at 7:00 p.m. this evening at Province House in Charlottetown, and I encourage all Islanders to attend.

I know that not everyone will be able to attend this evening's ceremony and as such, I would now like to ask everyone to please take a moment of silence to remember the victims of workplace injury and strengthen our resolve to improve workplace health and safety.

[There was a moment of silence]

Ms. Sherry: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Math Assessments/Curriculum

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform the House about some new initiatives happening in math classes across the province.

It is important for all Island students to develop the math skills and confidence needed to lead productive lives. Common assessments have brought Island teachers together to work towards the goal of improving student learning in mathematics.

I had the opportunity to hear from teachers about the impact these assessments have had on their teaching strategies and I was very pleased to hear how these assessments have sparked a change in how our teachers approach math.

The PEI provincial common assessments providing unique information that gives an overall picture of about how we are doing in math as a province. The results can guide planning and selection of appropriate teaching strategies. These assessments have engaged and energized both students and teachers, and now several schools across the province have launched action plans that work for their individual school to strengthen the quality of instruction in our class rooms.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and Dr. Tess Miller, from the Faculty of Education at the University of Prince Edward Island, analyzed the results of the grade 9 provincial mathematics common assessment to identify problem areas for students.

Dr. Miller presented her preliminary findings at the Mathematics and Assessment Seminar Series held recently at UPEI this month. Once her findings are complete she will work with staff at the department to provide teachers with a resource that will identify problem areas as well as provide teaching tips on how to overcome these areas.

Mathematical literacy is as important as reading and writing. Confidence in mathematics increases the chance of success

in today's world. Achieving mathematical literacy is a complex goal but we have a responsibility to strive toward this goal for each and every Island student to give them the same opportunities as other children in this country.

To further the goal of mathematical literacy, this year the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is implementing new English math curriculum in grades 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8 and new French math curriculum in grades 1 to 5 and grades 7 and 8. The cost for the resources and the training is approximately \$125,000 per grade level. Next year new curriculum will be implemented at grades 3, 5 and 9, with the cost staying at about the same.

In 2010-2011 the department will also be piloting new math curriculum for grades 5 and 10 in both academic and general courses.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Implementation of Phase I of Organized Stroke Care Model

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As Minister of Health and Wellness, I am pleased to report that government has taken a significant step forward in honouring its commitment to establishing an Organized Stroke Care model in Prince Edward Island with the implementation of the first phase of the three-phased model.

Organized Stroke Care will improve patient outcomes after a stroke. It promotes a coordinated approach with early assessment, mobilization and rehabilitation for every

patient who can benefit.

The first phase of the Organized Stroke Care model outlines the establishment of provincial level services over two years, 2009 -2011, and includes: creating and filling a provincial stroke care coordinator position; instituting an acute in-patient stroke unit and stroke rehabilitation unit at the QEH; and creating provincial secondary prevention services at Prince County Hospital. Earlier this year a provincial stroke care coordinator was hired and a provincial stroke steering committee was created.

The cornerstone of the Organized Stroke Care model is in-patient care, which includes management on an Acute Stroke Unit followed by intensive rehabilitation on a Stroke Rehabilitation Unit. Both of these units have been designated at the QEH as it is the provincial referral hospital and there is more timely access to specialized health care staff.

Working as an integrated health care system, we will ensure that stroke care is provided in a manner that is patient-oriented across a continuum of care to meet their specific needs. Last year our government committed in investing \$3 million over four years to implement an Organized Stroke Care model. Our government continues to demonstrate its commitment to our One Island Community and one health system by fulfilling that commitment today.

I want to thank the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Island EMS for their dedication to improving stroke care for Islanders and their families. I would also like to recognize the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Prince County Hospital Foundations for their fundraising and contributions toward the purchase of much-needed specialized stroke equipment. Stroke care will be provided through

collaborative care between health professionals with special interests and expertise in stroke care.

Planning is also well underway for the third element of this first phase of the model, creating provincial secondary stroke prevention services at PCH, which is expected to be up and running by this fall.

Phase two, the establishment of ambulatory stroke services, and phase three, the establishment of community re-integration services, will be implemented over the next two years.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death and the leading cause of disability. In PEI there are approximately 350 strokes annually. This equals about one stroke every day. Our government is committed to providing the necessary care and supports for victims of stroke and their families.

Thank you, Madame Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Employment Standards Amendment Act

Ms. Sherry: Madam Speaker, as minister responsible for labour I would like to update the House and all Islanders on measures associated with the variable minimum wage system.

As all members know, a committee of this Legislature recommended that government not proceed with the two tier minimum wage system. That recommendation followed a great deal of public input from Islanders, and I would like to thank of all those who shared their thoughts and input.

In fact, there were 139 individuals and

groups who provided direct advice to the committee. As a result, government will not proceed with the introduction of a variable wage system.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Sherry: Another recommendation from the standing committee was to strive to reach a minimum wage rate for Prince Edward Island that is equivalent to the rates of other Atlantic provinces.

I am pleased to say that we are progressively increasing the minimum wage rate in a phased approach, and that government is committed to moving toward a minimum wage rate of \$10 per hour.

On June 1st, 2010 there will be a 30 cent increase in the minimum wage rate to 8.70 per hour. October 1st, 2010 there will be a second increase to \$9.00 per hour. These increases will put us more in line with the Maritime provinces.

Again, I would like to thank the public for all of their input, and the standing committee for their work on this file.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

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

Mr. Campbell: Madam Speaker, by Command of her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table Annual Report for the PEI Lending Agency for the period ending March 31st 2009 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.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I beg leave to table a document. It's today's release from Statistics Canada. It's a document that indicates that PEI joins only the Yukon Territory as a province or territory that's shown positive real GDP growth in 2009. We also joined the Yukon Territory as the only province and territory who have shown positive real GDP growth in three consecutive years, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Campbell: 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.

Tabling of Documents

Reports by Committees

Introduction of Government Bills

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

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

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

I move, seconded by the hon. Government House Leader, that the 2nd order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 2, Consideration of the Estimates in Committee.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Government House Leader, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the grant of supply for Her Majesty.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

I'd call on the hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter to chair the Committee of the Whole House on supply.

Chair (Biggar): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to further consider the grant of supply to Her Majesty.

For our visitors that are with us in the gallery today, we have just presented our Budget to the Province of Prince Edward Island, and each minister must come before the Legislature to review their budget line by line, to have it passed. So we'll be proceeding with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

Members, we're on page 147. We were discussing the Confederation Trail maintenance. We had gone through all of that, but the amounts had not carried. I'll just draw your attention to that, and when we're ready to proceed.

Could you - yes, get the desk for the deputy.

Mr. MacKinley: All right, just before we start, yesterday the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters had questions about a contract with Dawson's up west. That's the same company, I believe, that you gave a million dollar contract to - same company, I checked into it. When you were minister of highways you gave them a million dollar contract. That was for four years.

Now, I would like bring on Gerry Moore. He's the CEO.

Chair: Permission to bring on guest?

Mr. MacKinley: Gerry Moore is the CEO. He was hired under the previous government to manage Island Waste Management. Doing an excellent job. Once you got the politics out of it out there we really came ahead.

Mr. M. Currie: You're not (Indistinct) card-carrying member for us or anything, are you?

Mr. MacKinley: I said he's doing an excellent job.

You had some questions about this contract that was negotiated. He's the chairman of the board. He's doing an excellent job. I think we can start by - if you have any questions on that contract with tires. Now, just before we start -

Mr. M. Currie: My first question -

Mr. MacKinley: I have one for you here.

Chair: One minute, hon. member -

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Chair: - the minister (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: I got pictures here of the Tory's way, and then I got the Liberal way. There's two differences. That's where you guys buried them and dug them up.

Chair: Are you tabling those?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, I'll table them. Tory way and the Liberal way. Here, there's more Tory way here, look. Miles and miles - the mess we had to clean up was unbelievable.

Chair: Are you ready to take questions now?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes.

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

Mr. MacKinley: Go right ahead.

Mr. M. Currie: A question to Mr. Moore. The minister indicated yesterday there was no need to go to public tender on roughly over \$3 million worth of taxpayers money.

Mr. MacKinley: I didn't say there was no need.

Mr. M. Currie: You -

Mr. MacKinley: No, you're putting words in my mouth.

Mr. M. Currie: My question is to the -

Mr. MacKinley: No, but you've got to keep it -

Mr. M. Currie: - Mr. Moore -

Mr. MacKinley: - you got to keep it -

Mr. M. Currie: You want to interfere or what do you want to do?

Mr. MacKinley: You've got to keep the

line straight.

Mr. M. Currie: No - well -

Mr. MacKinley: No, you can't put words in my mouth. I said that -

Mr. M. Currie: Nobody could put words in your mouth. That's for sure.

Mr. MacKinley: I said the board decided to go with not tendering it.

Mr. M. Currie: Usually chewing on your knuckles or something.

Mr. MacKinley: The board has made a decision. I backed the decision. Now I asked the question. There. Keep it straight, though. Don't try that Tory way.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, you can -

Mr. MacKinley: Your Tory way is over there in pictures.

Chair: - go ahead.

Mr. M. Currie: Gerry, the minister indicated here yesterday that they used over \$3 million of the taxpayers' money to hand deliver an account - a tender - no tender, I guess. No tender called. To follow through on this process. Why did your board decide not to do a tender?

Gerry Moore CEO: I guess I'll just look for clarification. A tender for what?

Mr. M. Currie: To grind up these tires.

Mr. MacKinley: Chopping tires up.

Mr. M. Currie: This is the project that's up west.

Mr. MacKinley: The Dawson tire

recycling.

Gerry Moore CEO: Oh, okay.

Mr. M. Currie: You mean you were brought in here and you didn't know -

Mr. MacKinley: No.

Mr. M. Currie: Why you were brought in?

Mr. MacKinley: No. Just can't come in, because he knows what's going on. We don't -

Chair: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Why won't you let him talk?

Mr. MacKinley: We don't try to convince our people. We've got good people working for us.

Mr. M. Currie: We'll get to that. We'll get to that. You just let him talk now. I've asked twice and nobody's spoken yet (Indistinct).

Chair: Mr. Moore.

Gerry Moore CEO: I guess, initially, we had tires that were being processed - loose tires that were being collected in the province. There are roughly 220,000 of those tires collected pretty much on an annual basis.

Mr. MacKinley: That's right.

Gerry Moore CEO: What we used to do with those tires is we would take them and have them trucked to off-Island processors. In my tenure - I guess I started in 2003 - it was initially hard to find anybody to process them. As a result, we got into a situation where we had to kind of stockpile some of the tires, but we did find -

Mr. MacKinley: Did you bury any of them in your stockpile?

Gerry Moore CEO: No. No, we didn't.

Mr. MacKinley: Just stockpiled them.

Gerry Moore CEO: Just stockpiled them.

Mr. MacKinley: How come they got buried?

Gerry Moore CEO: I guess, just going back to the question, I guess what happened is -

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah. Stick to the question.

Mr. MacKinley: All right.

Gerry Moore CEO: - no, but the tires in question, basically we used to process them, or collect them on-Island and send them off-Island for processing. They used to go to various locations.

Mr. M. Currie: Did you tender that process?

Gerry Moore CEO: No.

Mr. M. Currie: So you just had truckers -

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) was your government.

Mr. M. Currie: Are you going to let him talk or are you going to talk?

Mr. MacKinley: I can talk when I want to, I'm the minister, see? You ask the questions.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Mr. Moore, when you sent these tires to Quebec, did you tender that?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, to Quebec, yeah.

Gerry Moore CEO: What we did, there's two -

Mr. MacKinley: Under the Liberal administration. Let's go back (Indistinct) to the Tory (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: When you sent the tires to Quebec, did you tender that? See, this is Hansard. You got to answer so it's in the documentation. Did you tender that process?

Gerry Moore CEO: The process to ship all the tires off-Island?

Mr. M. Currie: To Quebec, yes.

Gerry Moore CEO: Yes, we did.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay, so how much was that tender?

Mr. MacKinley: These tires, these tires here, you tendered (Indistinct).

Gerry Moore CEO: What we did is initially we went to Treasury Board to seek funding to remove roughly 10,000 bales - of bale tires. The tender came in and we initially tendered for the tires to be loaded, transported and processed. The price come in at \$150 a ton. But there was one processor in Quebec who tendered a price for disposal of \$50 a ton. So I went back to Treasury Board, requesting Treasury Board to accept the low processing fee of \$50 a ton for Granutech in Plessisville, Quebec.

Then I also recommended, and it was approved by Treasury Board, that we re-tender the transportation of those tires from both the former Sleepy Hollow landfill and we had some at our East Prince Waste Management Facility.

When that tender came in, it came in at \$70

a ton, which basically saved us \$30 a ton. The estimated quantity was 10,000 tons but there was actually 12,000 tons with saving to the province of PEI, as a result of splitting that tender amount, to \$360,000.

Mr. MacKinley: That's a lot of money.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKinley: Now I got a question. Just one second. I got a question myself.

The previous government, when they were under the management of Gail Shea, and you had the tires -

Chair: You have a statement or a question?

Mr. MacKinley: No, I got a question.

Chair: Okay.

Mr. MacKinley: When you were moving the tires under the previous government, (Indistinct), was that tendered, the moving and the trucking?

Gerry Moore CEO: Again, we didn't have any markets for the tires. It was a time when there was actually no markets to take our tires at all. We worked hard to try to get a market for that and they actually were going into St. Lawrence (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Chair? Can I go back to my original question?

Mr. MacKinley: They were going to Quebec. Some of them were going to Quebec.

Mr. M. Currie: The minister interfered so I was still asking questions.

Mr. MacKinley: No, you can ask your questions, but I have a - all right, so they went to Quebec. Now when those truck tires

were transferred from PEI under the previous government, did you call for tenders on getting rid of those, on the trucking and getting them out of here?

Gerry Moore CEO: We did, yes.

Mr. MacKinley: And who won the tender there?

Gerry Moore CEO: I believe it was Green Gables trucking.

Mr. MacKinley: All right.

Chair: Okay, hon. minister.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters has a question and I have two other members waiting for questions.

Mr. M. Currie: Mr. Moore, if you followed Treasury Board guidelines for that process, why didn't you follow Treasury Board to tender for the grinding of the tires?

Gerry Moore CEO: Actually, I sent a recommendation in to Treasury Board. When we did receive the initial tendered documents for interested parties to remove all the bale tires, there was one Island firm who expressed an interest but they really weren't geared up to price at that time. However, they showed an interest in setting up a processing facility on PEI. I advised them that if they wanted to go back and do their numbers, tell me what the price would be, for them to do that. We would certainly entertain looking at that for the loose tires that were coming in on an annual basis.

They provided a price and the price that they had was within our budget of the \$4 levy collected on all the tires. At the time, it was less than what we were getting the processing to truck and to process them off-Island, so I basically recommended to Treasury Board that this processor be

allowed to set up. Because it would save the taxpayers of the province money and it would also generate employment on PEI to process those tires.

Mr. M. Currie: So anybody can come in tomorrow, if they go and lobby to you or the minister, and indicate that you have a budget to remove tires or to do something else within your department, and you can circumvent Treasury Board rules just by saying: I am within my budget -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: I have the floor, thank you.

Anyway, if I'm within budget - so anybody can walk into your department and say that and you can say: I'm going to go with that without going to tender.

Gerry Moore CEO: No.

Mr. M. Currie: That's in violation of the Treasury Board policy. It is so. The minister of finance knows that.

Chair: Let Mr. Moore answer.

Gerry Moore CEO: I went to Treasury Board. To tender this out on PEI, basically this proponent that came came with an idea that said: Listen, I'm going to put the capital investment to purchase equipment on PEI to process these tires. I said: Fine, if you can do that and you're competitive with the price that we have now, I will take it to Treasury Board and seek Treasury Board approval to do so, which I did, and I obtained the approval.

Mr. MacKinley: They obtained approval.

Chair: For clarification for the House, Mr. Moore is not with the department. He's with the commission.

Mr. MacKinley: No, he's with the corporation.

Mr. M. Currie: So what is your rationale for not tendering? How do you know that somebody else within Charlottetown or Kings County -

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) you guys had 10 years and this is all you did.

Mr. M. Currie: - somebody else in Prince County cannot go to tender for this and cannot provide this service -

Mr. MacKinley: Do you know what? This is what you did. You piled them up and you buried them.

Mr. M. Currie: Were you told by the minister to do this?

Gerry Moore CEO: No, basically - no, I wasn't. When we went through the initial process of trying to have the tires processed off-Island, the bale tires that we had, there was no on-Island interest expressed in doing anything with them in PEI other than the lone proponent that - and he admittedly wasn't geared up to, at the point in time, process those bale tires.

Mr. M. Currie: There's my point. How do you know there's not six other guys that can do the same thing, can go buy the same equipment and come in and give you a price? You had your members over there clapping, how you saved \$360,000 by tendering. Why didn't you tender this? It's a \$3 million gift.

Gerry Moore CEO: (Indistinct) -

Mr. MacKinley: Why (Indistinct) you set something up then and do it? You didn't have it done.

Chair: Is that a question to the minister?

Mr. M. Currie: Either one. Whoever wants to try and answer.

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) for 10 years and you spent millions burying tires and digging them up. We had to come in and clean up your mess. We took the politics out of Island Waste Management, we took (Indistinct) -

Mr. M. Currie: You just got yourself into a mess because you just gave a gift of \$3 million away without following Treasury Board policy.

Mr. MacKinley: No, they did. (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, you did.

Mr. MacKinley: Look at the pictures. (Indistinct) cleaned up.

Mr. M. Currie: Absolutely, Minister.

Chair: I'm going to go the Government House Leader.

Mr. M. Currie: Go ahead.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Madam Chair.

First of all, I'd like to commend Mr. Moore's department and the department of transportation and public works for taking the initiative to shred these tires. The pile of shredded tires looks a whole lot better than the pile of tires all over the place.

I understand you put some on a road, very close to Waste Watch on the (Indistinct) road. Maybe it's not a fair question to Mr. Moore, but maybe Minister MacKinley can answer how that's working out. That's one part of my question.

The other part is to you, Mr. Moore. I understand the Wellington site had a lot of baled tires and the Sleepy Hollow site had

baled and buried tires. Could you tell me if in fact they were buried why tires would have been buried in the past? Was there a reason for that?

Gerry Moore CEO: I guess the first part of your question I'll let the minister speak on that because I really wasn't involved with the actual use of the tires on the road. So I'll defer that to the minister or the deputy.

The second part of the question is there was - you know, going back years, there were tires put into the landfills and there were tires that actually used to be incinerated on PEI. However, today, or as the time passed, the environmental implications of doing that certainly was brought to everyone's attention. As a result the tires then were stockpiled only because there really wasn't any market for recycling that was readily and financially viable to Prince Edward Island to do that.

So the tires were baled in an effort to ease any environmental concerns with fires. A baled tire is a lot less fire hazard than loose tires. So the tires were baled, they were placed on top of the cells at the former Sleepy Hollow landfill, and also at our East Prince Waste Management Facility. They were basically just baled to hold them, I guess, until a viable and cost-effective way to dispose of them could be found.

Chair: Did you want to repeat your question regarding the first part, hon. member?

Mr. MacKinley: The first part, we'll answer that when Steve gets on the floor because that was done through the highways department -

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

Mr. Brown: A few years ago some of the bundled tires were taken down to Maclean's

Ready Mix, just outside of Montague, and they were encased in concrete and used for shore protection. They were used, I know, I looked along the Panmure Island Road, they seemed a very good project. MacLean's Ready Mix did an excellent job in casting these big blocks in order for shoreline protection. We have a big issue in the environment, with coastal erosion and things like that.

Would your Island Waste Management Corporation take a look at that again? Because I thought it was a good project. It brought jobs to PEI, it kept jobs in PEI, and got rid of tires and made a shoreline protection. Would you take a look at that project again and see if it's viable? Because I think it's a great idea that was done.

Mr. MacKinley: Do you remember what the cost was at that particular time a tire?
Mr. -

Gerry Moore CEO: Oh, no, I guess to answer -

Mr. MacKinley: Who paid the cost?

Gerry Moore CEO: - the minister, what the - I wasn't involved in that project. It wasn't in my tenure, but I did look at that, and really the cost associated with doing that is more expensive than typical rip-rap applications. You still have a tire encased in concrete that through time and erosion will eventually come out. So, I guess it was, in my view, looking at it - because I did look at it again, because anytime we could utilize this material on Island for some use would be a benefit. However, the cost associated with that and the long term environmental concerns compared to typical rip-rap applications, it was just more expensive to do so.

Mr. Brown: I don't know. I just saw the one along Panmure Island. Everybody

thought it was going to fall to pieces. It hasn't fallen to pieces yet. It's a good product. MacLean's Ready Mix, they're a good company. (Indistinct) great job.

Mr. MacKinley: But he's telling you it cost too much to do it. You're better off -

Mr. Brown: Well -

Mr. MacKinley: - just going with rip-rap.

Mr. Brown: If it's a little bit more cost but it's employing Islanders -

Mr. MacKinley: It's quite a bit more.

Mr. Brown: - I'd prefer that.

Mr. MacKinley: We are employing (Indistinct) now by chopping them up, and it's the best way to do it. It's the best way we've had in years.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: The question I had was - no, this contract is for three years?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct). That's good.

Mr. MacKinley: With the company?

Gerry Moore CEO: For Dawson? It's for six years.

Mr. MacKinley: Six years. How much is a year?

Gerry Moore CEO: It basically -

Mr. MacKinley: Two hundred thousand, so I hear.

Gerry Moore CEO: Two hundred - 2.15 - it's actually, today, it's 2.16 a pte or passenger tire equivalent.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes.

Chair: Okay -

Mr. MacKinley: Just wait now. We're not done with this. Now I want to ask another question. When we went out to tender here, how much did we save compared to what you were paying to get the truck? I know it was hard to find markets, but you must have had a rate that you were paying truckers for this Green Line or something to haul them off PEI. That's not when we were there. That was the previous government, was it not?

Gerry Moore CEO: Actually it was a combination of both governments at the time.

Mr. MacKinley: But who started it? Was it the previous?

Gerry Moore CEO: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: Did we save any money by going out to tender the way we did? Compared with - I thought we saved about close to a million dollars in freight and getting rid of them by putting it out to tender than we would have paid at the rate we were paying before. What was it?

Gerry Moore CEO: The price that we had prior, where we loaded the tires and transported them to Quebec -

Mr. MacKinley: Yes.

Gerry Moore CEO: - was very volatile because of the transportation costs, particularly as it relates to fuel surcharges. What we found was that as the price of diesel went up, our transportation cost would go up, and we paid as much as \$2.40 a passenger tire with the fuel surcharges -

Mr. MacKinley: To truck them, 2.40 a tire.

Gerry Moore CEO: - and we paid as high as that, and we got that down on the first year, it's now 2.16.

Mr. MacKinley: Two-sixteen. So we paid 2.40 just to truck them, plus how much did we pay to get rid of them up there?

Gerry Moore CEO: That 2.40 included the disposal and trucking.

Mr. MacKinley: Is that this group of tires here or the ones before that?

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Chair, could the minister (Indistinct)?

Gerry Moore CEO: No, that's the baled ones.

Chair: Hon. minister, hon. minister.

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct). What?

Chair: We'd like to proceed -

Mr. M. Currie: Usually you're briefed by your staff before you come in. You don't do it on the floor of the Legislature.

Mr. MacKinley: I can ask questions here, too.

Chair: Well -

Mr. MacKinley: Because I'm going back to see how poor a job you guys did.

Chair: Hon. minister, we have some questions for you, I believe.

Mr. MacKinley: All right.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, I do.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Mr. Moore, I've known you for a long time, and I know you're going to tell me the truth. Now, I'm going to ask you quite plainly.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Were you lobbied to give this account away?

Gerry Moore CEO: No, I definitely was not.

Mr. M. Currie: So nobody came to see you to do this business?

Gerry Moore CEO: Actually, Scott and Barry Dawson came to see me -

Mr. M. Currie: Well, that's lobbying.

Gerry Moore CEO: They just asked to see if they could have the business.

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah. And did you say we should go to tender?

Gerry Moore CEO: No. I basically asked them at the time, I said: What are you proposing to do to it? Like, what is your plan, and what is your price? I your price and plan meet with environmental approval and it's financially viable to the corporation, I'll have a serious look at it.

Mr. M. Currie: Did you have any conversations with the minister over this or the deputy?

Gerry Moore CEO: I probably did, yes, no question.

Mr. M. Currie: Did they suggest you should go ahead with it?

Gerry Moore CEO: No.

Mr. M. Currie: None, whatsoever?

Gerry Moore CEO: No.

Mr. M. Currie: So explain the process now. They came in and they presented their case. You went to Treasury Board with the figures they gave you?

Gerry Moore CEO: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: So instead of going to tender, that was the way you wanted to do it?

Gerry Moore CEO: I went to Treasury Board and said: Listen, we've already gone through a process that was relatively close to this process, it was actually about the same time, and we didn't have any other Island company come forward expressing any interest to do any processing on Island, other than this one company and they weren't really in a position to gear up that quick to process those tires. So they left it at that, and they said: Is it all right if we come back with another proposal to handle the annual inflow of tires on an annual basis? I said: By all means, if you can do it, and do it competitively, with what we're paying now, and environmentally the department of environment has no problems with it.

I think it was an excellent thing. The things are being processed, and employing people on the Island, and they're doing it at a price that is less than what we were doing it for before.

Mr. M. Currie: So if I come in -

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) -

Chair: Hon. minister.

Mr. M. Currie: - if I come in tomorrow and you're going to do a new cell in Wellington, and it's a million dollars, and you say it costs a million dollars to do a new cell, so if I go in and say: I want to do that for

999,090, you'll take that to Treasury Board for me and say: I want to give Mike Curry that job for doing that?

Gerry Moore CEO: Well, I mean, we do put cells -

Mr. M. Currie: Why not?

Mr. MacKinley: There's all kind of people that do it themselves.

Mr. M. Currie: Why not?

Mr. Greenan: (Indistinct).

Chair: We'll let Mr. Moore answer the question, please.

Mr. MacKinley: But if you come in and you're going to make fuel out of tires or something -

Mr. M. Currie: No, I'm not talking about fuel.

Mr. MacKinley: - that's added value, (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: I'm talking about process. I'm talking about process, if I come in and tell you -

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) process.

Mr. M. Currie: You say you have a budget for a million dollars for a cell and I can come in and say I can do it for 990, will you march down to Treasury Board and -

Mr. MacKinley: No.

Mr. M. Currie: - announce that you'd like for me to do that job?

Mr. MacKinley: No, because there's 16 companies that (Indistinct) PEI.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm not talking to you, I'm talking to Mr. Moore.

Gerry Moore CEO: No. I mean, we do tender -

Mr. M. Currie: Okay. You're going to tender for that.

Gerry Moore CEO: We tender for the cell construction. If there was somebody else that came forward -

Mr. M. Currie: Thank you.

Gerry Moore CEO: - with an idea to do tires we'd certainly entertain doing that. But I mean, I did go to Treasury Board, request Treasury Board approval on them, and said basically: This is an opportunity, they're going to set up, there was capital involved in this particular person purchasing this equipment, and the tires are being processed, and some of them I understand are being used in PEI.

Mr. M. Currie: Would you give us a copy of the contract?

Gerry Moore CEO: It's public information.

Mr. M. Currie: So you'll table a copy of that?

An Hon. Member: If he can.

Mr. M. Currie: What do you mean if he can?

Mr. MacKinley: If it's public information he'll table it.

Mr. M. Currie: Well, it's \$3 million. It is. (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: It's over six years.

Mr. M. Currie: Well, I know -

Mr. MacKinley: Six years. So how much is it worth?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, how much is that contract worth?

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) contract. It's 200,000 a year for six years is 1.2 million. Where do you get the 3 million? You're thinking in Tory terms.

Mr. M. Currie: You said yesterday -

Mr. MacKinley: You couldn't even pick up your contracts. It could be -

Mr. M. Currie: Just wait now. Let the member -

Mr. MacKinley: Get your calculator. Now, there's just one thing I do want to mention to you. Where the board - a concern the deputy and I had, the deputy and I had this one concern.

Mr. M. Currie: How much, Gerry?

Mr. MacKinley: Here's -

Mr. M. Currie: How much is the contract worth?

Mr. MacKinley: Over six years.

Gerry Moore CEO: Again, it's obviously a factor of the number of tires that come in.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, but roughly.

Gerry Moore CEO: But for the last fiscal period -

Mr. M. Currie: Two hundred and twenty a year, you said.

Gerry Moore CEO: - for the last fiscal,

ending March 31st, 2010, it was \$480,000.

An Hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. M. Currie: Multiplied by six.

Mr. MacKinley: By six. Two point four.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Two eight.

Mr. Brown: That's an old (Indistinct) over there.

Mr. M. Currie: Two eight. So you'll bring in a copy of that contract.

Mr. MacKinley: If he can.

Mr. M. Currie: No.

Mr. MacKinley: One concern we had -

Mr. M. Currie: He said he could.

Mr. MacKinley: He didn't say he could, he said, if he can do it he will.

Another one is here is we had one concern, the deputy and I, and only one concern that we mentioned to Gerry and we told him to tell the board. We were getting rid of the tires, so there was a chance this had to work, so we left that up to the board to decide whether it'd work or not. Because if we stopped going to a company in Quebec we mightn't be able to get back into that market, and that was a risk that the board took on whether you can get back into the market or not.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir had a question.

Mr. Bagnall: It's to Gerry.

Chair: For Mr. Moore?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Gerry, I apologize, I wasn't in earlier on some of this conversation. Obviously it wasn't tendered. Why wasn't it tendered?

Gerry Moore CEO: Again, we went through -

Mr. MacKinley: We did all that.

Gerry Moore CEO: We did go through a tender process for removing about 10 times the volume of what we have coming in annually, that we stockpiled. In that process, we actually received 11 interested parties in the response to that. There wasn't anybody from PEI that expressed any interest in doing the processing in PEI other than one proponent, which was H.I. Construction, or D.T.R. At that time they weren't prepared to gear up to have that done in the time frame that we needed it done in.

So they said: Listen, is it all right if we come back? We were thinking about this. We think we have an opportunity here. We'd like to look at doing this processing on PEI.

My response was: Listen, if you're competitive, I will take it through Treasury Board and seek approval to do that.

Chair: We did spend about 15 minutes speaking on that. Maybe if you have (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: I'll ask the minister.

Chair: I'm just saying, hon. member, we spent 15 minutes -

Mr. MacKinley: Are you challenging the Chair?

Mr. Bagnall: I haven't asked any questions.

Mr. MacKinley: Are you challenging the

Chair?

Chair: Excuse me. Hon. members, we spent 15 minutes answering those exact questions.

An Hon. Member: Yeah.

Chair: Your member there can certainly brief you on them. We would like to get to some more questions that have not already been asked.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm not as comfortable with the answers.

Chair: Hon. member, if -

Mr. Bagnall: So you're cutting us off?

Chair: I'm just saying those questions were already asked.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. Well, not to me.

Chair: I'm not (Indistinct) -

Mr. MacKinley: You're just running the clock.

Chair: I'm just wondering why you weren't - why you didn't ask them. But they were asked.

Mr. MacKinley: He never thought about it.

Mr. Bagnall: And I'm not familiar with the answers, so I'm going to ask them again.

Chair: Well, I -

Mr. MacKinley: Could you imagine? Golly.

Mr. Bagnall: He didn't answer (Indistinct) -

Mr. MacKinley: You're going to ask me on the floor of the House.

Mr. Bagnall: - my understanding.

Mr. MacKinley: You can ask me on the floor of the House.

Ms. Dunsford: Are you challenging the Chair?

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah. You're challenging the Chair.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm not challenging the Chair.

Chair: I'm just saying - hon. member -

Mr. Bagnall: She's challenging us.

Mr. MacKinley: No, you're challenging the Chair.

Chair: Excuse me.

Hon. member, we did - at times - it's not that everybody's not able to ask questions. That question has been asked. We are not going to spend the same amount of time being repetitious in those questions because they have already been asked by another member.

Mr. MacKinley: Of your side.

Mr. Bagnall: And he never got an answer.

Chair: Yes, he did.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, he did.

Mr. Bagnall: Not according to what I'm hearing.

Chair: Well, is there something else, moving on to another section -

Mr. Bagnall: Then I'll have another question here, then.

Chair: Let's give you another question and

see if it hasn't been asked.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. MacKinley: All right.

Mr. Bagnall: Of this \$3 million contract, it's based over six years.

Gerry Moore CEO: Six years.

Mr. MacKinley: Six years.

Mr. Bagnall: What's the breakdown per year?

Mr. MacKinley: Four hundred and some thousand.

Gerry Moore CEO: It basically started out - I shall give it to you here - it started out at 2.10 PTE - and the PTE is the per tire equivalent. The per tire equivalent, for the record I guess, is equal to ten kgs. You weigh the tires and you divide by 10 kg and that gives you the average tire being 10 kgs.

Year one of the contract it was 2.10. Year two of the contract it was 2.13. Year three it's 2.16. Year four it's 2.20. Year five it's 2.25, and year six is 2.29, which basically is about an increase of 3% a year for the contract.

Mr. Bagnall: Based on what? The increase is based on what?

Gerry Moore CEO: The increase -

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah.

Gerry Moore CEO: - basically - it's based on the increase per year over the six-year term, which is basically a 3% increase. Because his cost incurred, generally speaking, will probably be less in year one than it would be in year six. So his proposal was that: Here's my price and here's the

price increase over the six-year term. So there is an increased price each year for the six years.

Mr. Bagnall: How far are we into this contract?

Gerry Moore CEO: It was signed in October of 2008, so 2009 - it will be entering the third year on October 2010.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, the budgets were - what were the actuals on the first two years?

Gerry Moore CEO: The first full fiscal year we had - I gave you that number - it's 480,000. The subsequent year it wasn't a full year because it started in 2008 -

Mr. Bagnall: And what was that?

Gerry Moore CEO: That was one hundred sixty thousand nine hundred seven sixty-three.

Mr. Bagnall: For how many months in that year?

Gerry Moore CEO: It started in October of 2008.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, it's in -

Gerry Moore CEO: So the first fiscal year would have ended on March 31st, 2009. The subsequent would have started on April 1st, 2009 and just ended on March 31st, 2010. Our fiscal year is concurrent with the province.

Mr. Bagnall: So why did we under budget so badly?

Gerry Moore CEO: Pardon?

Mr. Bagnall: Why have we underbudgeted so badly?

Gerry Moore CEO: I don't believe we've under budgeted.

Mr. Bagnall: Well, you said it was 200 and some thousand for the second year, and the actual cost was 480.

Gerry Moore CEO: I don't believe I said that. I think you may be referring to the amount of tires that we take in on an annual basis. It's around 220,000 tires.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Gerry Moore CEO: And if you multiply that to 120,000 by the 2.13 or the 2.16, it gets you your 480.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, okay. I thought you were talking dollars before. You were talking tires.

Gerry Moore CEO: No, the volume of tires, I'm sorry.

Mr. Bagnall: All right. Sorry about that.

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah.

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

Mr. M. Currie: I'm sure in this contract that you're probably going to bring in, Gerry, there will be stipulations in regard to the environment. Is he allowed to have a certain amount of inventory of loose tires plus the ground tires? Are they to be stored in the dyked off areas? What happens if he -

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) expect to know things.

Mr. M. Currie: - ceases to do business? Who picks up the tab? Did he provide a bond or anything? Could you give me some details on this? You never made a public announcement on a \$3 million contract.

There must be something written down there.

Gerry Moore CEO: The contract does outlay it, and if I'm not mistaken, I think the contract was actually part of our submission to Island Regulatory Appeals Commission on our rates, so I think it is available for people to see if they wanted to -

Mr. MacKinley: Oh yeah. We had our pictures taken up there. It's just that you guys are too lazy to drive up west.

Mr. M. Currie: You didn't announce \$3 millions untendered contract.

Mr. MacKinley: You're too lazy to drive up west. That's the problem.

Chair: Okay. Hon. member -

Mr. M. Currie: Was there -

Mr. MacKinley: You don't want to see anything go up west.

Mr. M. Currie: - so did the department of environment, did they rubber-stamp this project?

Gerry Moore CEO: I wouldn't say they rubber-stamped it. They put in conditions and Island Waste Management, myself included, and our board, certainly had some concerns that we didn't want to see anyone on PEI getting to a point where storing of tires or processing the tires in any way would have any environmental concerns.

The proponent did receive a permit from the department of environment, and he has to comply with that permit. The permit outlines what he can do, how much he can have, when he has to shred and the volumes that he's allowed to store on-site. As far as I know, he's lived up to those conditions. If he doesn't, we even have a provision in our

contract that if he doesn't comply with those conditions, then our contract with him can be cancelled null and void.

Mr. M. Currie: Is there anything in the contract with the Alberton fire department regarding the storage of foam to put out a fire if there is a fire lit?

Gerry Moore CEO: I know the Alberton fire department are certainly aware of where the tires are stored, and have physically seen where the tires are stored. To my understanding, they don't have any concern beyond what they would normally have concern with, with any material of that sort.

Mr. M. Currie: They don't have any foam? Is that what you mean - to put out the fire if there is a fire?

Mr. MacKinley: I wouldn't know.

Gerry Moore CEO: I would assume they would have foam, but I don't know.

Mr. M. Currie: Enough to cover the inventory that's there?

Gerry Moore CEO: I assume so, but I don't know.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Nothing further.

Chair: Sorry, okay.

Any further questions for Mr. Moore?

An Hon. Member: No. Carried.

Chair: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Moore.

Mr. MacKinley: All right. Thank you, Mr. Moore.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) - send us a copy then?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes. If we can. If we legally can.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) - table that IRAC (Indistinct) -

Mr. MacKinley: The contract was tabled in IRAC?

Gerry Moore CEO: I think it was in our application to IRAC.

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, it probably was.

Chair: Okay.

Mr. MacKinley: Anyway, if we can legally take it back to you we will. You know we will. We will.

Chair: Thank you very much, Mr. Moore, for your presentation.

Gerry Moore CEO: Yeah.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Brown: It's a good idea (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: I don't care. It costs too much money to do it. You want to fund the extra cost we'll look at it.

Mr. Brown: We'll take a look at it, sure.

Mr. MacKinley: You've got money in environment, but we don't.

Chair: Hon. members, page 147. Confederation Trail Maintenance.

Mr. MacKinley: Could I have my deputy on?

Chair: Permission to bring deputy MacLean

on?

We had read all of that. We were just finishing up on the discussion.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) pave all the trails.

Chair: Oh, yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: For fixed wheels.

Mr. MacKinley: Have you got the information on tenders on those tires?

Chair: Questions for the minister -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Tender on the tires?

Mr. MacKinley: We put them out for tender for haul or something

Chair: - or the deputy?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yeah, that's that.

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Chair, there were a couple of sections that weren't carried.

Chair: Yes, they were, hon. member.

Mr. MacKinley: Anyway. What questions have you got?

Mr. M. Currie: I'm just wondering -

Chair: They were carried, but I think they were going to bring some information back.

Mr. M. Currie: No, they weren't carried.

Chair: Yes, they were.

Mr. MacKinley: You can ask some questions.

Mr. M. Currie: No, director's office was not carried and registration and safety wasn't carried.

Chair: Yes, hon. member, they were carried.

Mr. M. Currie: They were?

Chair: By the House, yes.

Mr. MacKinley: But we can answer questions on it because -

Mr. M. Currie: But if you guys are just going to ram stuff through here, that's not been the process here.

Mr. MacKinley: Go ahead.

Mr. M. Currie: No, but I mean we have it marked where they're not carried.

Chair: Well, they are carried.

Mr. MacKinley: Listen, it doesn't really matter. What we'll do is we'll carry them again if you want to. But the question is, is this: Ask your questions instead of over there mumbling and going on. You're embarrassed over having to get work done.

Mr. M. Currie: Ramming it through.

Chair: (Indistinct) that question and ask a question, hon. member?

Mr. Bagnall: If you're going to carry a section without us allowing to -

Mr. MacKinley: We told you, you could ask questions.

Mr. Bagnall: If you're going to do that, then there is not much use of being in this process.

Mr. MacKinley: I'm going to table this.

This is the highway safety commercial officers. There are 312 -

Mr. Bagnall: If that's the way you want to handle it.

Mr. MacKinley: Will you get some order there?

Three-hundred and twelve tickets, the fine was \$54,294. Could you table that and give them a copy? Another question was our-of-province travel, travel and training, finance and human resources, I'll table that. That was Bob Clow, Andrew Sprague, you can table that for the gentlemen. Here is another one, executive travel is Steve's office, Valerie Acorn travel, Steve MacLean. The amounts are here. I'll give you that to table it. Now let's ask some questions and stop wasting our time here. Let's get going.

Chair: Are there some other questions you had on there, hon. member?

Mr. Bagnall: You don't carry sections without (Indistinct).

Mr. Gallant: Excuse me, Madam Chair, where are we at?

Chair: There was some follow up questions we went back to under the director's office. So we just had those tabled. We are now back on Confederation Trail, page 147.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you.

Chair: Any questions, hon. member? You had some discussion going on there.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah. What I also got here.

The other day the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters asked load and

transport and disposal of baled tires, Island Waste Management Corporation.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: You did. Well, I'm going to table it anyway. Somebody did. You can table that. Explains the whole thing out.

Chair: Total Highway Maintenance Operations: 47,341,100.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Going on, hon. members, to Public Works and Planning.

Public Works Operations - Administration. "Appropriations provided for division staffing, materials and travel for administrative, supervisory and trades staff in building maintenance and accommodations." Administration: 13,200. Materials, Supplies and Services: 253,900. Professional and Contract Services: 2,240,900. Salaries: 881,900. Travel and Training: 36,200. Total Public Works Operations - Administration: 3,426,100.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Materials, supplies and services for that section, according to your book here there is 253,900, and what you gave us was 8,000. Why the difference?

Mr. MacKinley: What are you on, Public Works and Administration?

Chair: Public Works Operations - Administration.

Mr. MacKinley: All right.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's the total for that account.

Mr. Bagnall: You've got budgeted 253,900.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's right.

Mr. Bagnall: And you're showing me 8,000.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Where is the rest of it?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The rest of it was not spent.

Mr. Bagnall: You didn't spend any of that last year?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Same scenario as we discussed yesterday.

Mr. Bagnall: That was your slush fund that you had 253,000 there?

Mr. MacKinley: We didn't spend it. Couldn't have been a slush fund.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It's the same situation, yes.

Mr. Bagnall: What?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It's a case of the account allowed for 271,800, the actual spend was 8,322.

Mr. MacKinley: Like, we just don't go out and spend money to spend money. That's why I give (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Are you budgeting - why did you budget for it this year again, the same amount, if you only spent \$8,000 last year?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It's primarily for repairs and maintenance.

Mr. MacKinley: We don't know what is going to come up.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It does tend to vary from year to year.

Mr. Bagnall: So what do you do with that money?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The answer to that question would be the same answer I gave you yesterday. There are 1,700 accounts in total. Some will always be either over or under.

Mr. Bagnall: But you can't take money from this section anywhere else, so what do you do with that money?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: At the end of the day the department was about \$960,000 over at forecast, which is a mix of this kind of situation, and there are some other accounts like we discussed yesterday on sand and salt which were over.

The job of the department, from a fiscal standpoint, is to make sure that we come as close to balancing the overs with the unders, and this would be an under to help with the overs.

Mr. Bagnall: So you actually are putting money in there that you know you're not going to spend.

Mr. MacKinley: We don't know we're not going to spend it.

Mr. Bagnall: And you put it in there so you can drive it around, or put it wherever you want, and -

Mr. Sheridan: How long were you minister of your department?

Mr. MacKinley: So you can project what's going to happen all summer in our furnaces and our heating systems, whether we get Hurricane Juan or whatever (Indistinct) -

Mr. Bagnall: It seems like you're putting a pretty good slush fund together, minister.

Mr. MacKinley: You are so smart you should be above us all. I can't believe it.

Chair: Any other questions on that?

Mr. MacKinley: The only thing you ever did was pick a few golf balls up off the -

Mr. Bagnall: Do you mind putting your shoes on? Your feet smell.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacKinley: You shouldn't be smelling them over there.

Chair: Maybe you better put them on.

Ms. Dunsford: That's what you got? That's all you (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: I can't understand why you would be budgeting - your projections show that you're only spending \$8,000 and now you're budgeting 239 again.

Mr. MacKinley: What happened was when you were a minister in agriculture -

Mr. Bagnall: I'm not a minister, I'm asking you what happened in here.

Mr. MacKinley: No, but you were. You guys put your budget in and whatever was left over it all went on a bunch of travel. We are managing our department the best we possibly can and that's why we're able to get up 4.9% of this total budget back for health and education and we're managing the best we can.

Nobody can spend anything unless they go through the deputy minister or somebody. We got very tight controls. I'm not saying something is not going to get away on us.

But we don't know, something could happen to a building. We might have an emergency and have to fix it now.

Mr. Bagnall: Why don't you just put out your slush fund so you can go out and spend this money wherever you want? This is what this is, minister. You're hiding money that you know you're not going to spend so you can take it and use it somewhere else. Be honest with the people.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, do you have a question?

Mr. M. Currie: Is the difference between the 8,000 - and I think you explained yesterday there is a cut off. So between that cut off and the end of the fiscal year, which is March 31st, are you saying those invoices haven't been applied to this section?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: What I'm saying, picking up from yesterday's discussion, the budget was 271, the management in charge of that budget at third quarter reported that they would spend all of it. See, the forecast is still set at 271. During our budget deliberation for this year it's been reduced marginally to 253, when in preparation for today when we pulled off the information from the financial systems to provide you with the detail on materials, supplies and services, it's \$8,000.

Mr. M. Currie: So that's all the section spent. So the remainder of that money will be sent back to the minister of finance?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It's an accounting process but we have here an example of an account that is significantly underspent. We have other accounts that are just in the reverse situation. At the end of the day, when you look at all of the accounts at forecast time, we were 960,000 over budget. I hope that because of these sorts of situations that 960,000 will come down

much closer to zero.

Mr. MacKinley: Now if you look at it another way, let's - the Cabinet shuffle. Let's say these Cabinet ministers decided to go to new offices -

Mr. M. Currie: I'd say you're due for one.

Mr. MacKinley: And if they went to new offices, a lot of Cabinet believe, you know, I'll stay in office (Indistinct). So we didn't have to do any remodelling or nothing so that saved us quite a bit of money there. It's better management.

I believe the minister of education (Indistinct) education stayed where he was. I stand to be corrected. I believe the minister of finance stayed where he was.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Hon. member, just to help perhaps bring it full circle. This is the discretionary fund that the public works and repair maintenance and all that facilities would have.

The manager, in February, would not say: You know what, I'm only looking at about \$8,000 worth of expenses. I think I'll forecast \$8,000 and report to provincial treasurer that the department will not need the balance. The manager chose to report at third quarter that they still wanted to hold onto the appropriation in the event that it was needed, at the cut off point for final fiscal year end. It turned out that they did not.

That is why I hope to say I'll (Indistinct) at third quarter, we reported \$960,000 budget. These and perhaps several other accounts. Managers being managers, they hold on to their money in case it's needed right to the very end to some degree despite the fact that we asked them to update things as accurately as possible. It's just general nature in my experience. So there's a bit of

this sort of situation.

Mr. M. Currie: Is there not a Treasury Board policy that you cannot shift from one section to the other anything greater than 25,000?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: In this particular case there was no money moved.

Mr. M. Currie: It's still there? Between eight and 253, that money's still there?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: We did not, and perhaps this is the essence of the question around slush. This money was not spent on something else.

Mr. M. Currie: I didn't mention slush. I just asked -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It was not transferred somewhere.

Mr. M. Currie: So it's still there?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It was never spent by our department so it exists where it exists in the first place.

Mr. M. Currie: But you mentioned earlier that you can balance off other parts of the department but Treasury Board policy says you have to go to Treasury Board and ask for section to section over greater than 25,000. You follow that policy?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: Oh, yes.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It doesn't mean that we don't report at third quarter that we're going to be overspent on sand and salt, as we discussed yesterday.

Mr. M. Currie: We understand that. But to balance that account, if there was extra

money here, you'd go to Treasury Board and say that I have X amount of dollars surplus in this section, I want to transfer it over -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The provincial treasury, in my nine years at this work, has never asked us to actually transfer the unders and the overs and do some sort of a balancing exercise.

Mr. M. Currie: There is policy.

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

Mr. Sheridan: There's policy taking it outside of expenditures in this sort and moving it over to staffing expenditures for instance. The limit is the \$100,000 mark. But that has to be outside the different regions inside his department. So all the different divisions can do that. You can't move it over from program spending over to labour spending.

Mr. M. Currie: Can you tell me, then, how much you have in this section for the schools that you closed? The eight schools? Where's that budget?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It's in here somewhere.

Chair: Is it under this section, deputy?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I would have to look at the professional services.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm waiting for them to answer.

Chair: I think they're looking up.

Mr. M. Currie: That's fine.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I think we will get to it as we work our way

through. Perhaps we'll do it that way and if we get to the end and we haven't covered it, it's in here somewhere.

Mr. M. Currie: So is this the section, then, where you hired the individuals to do the work? Was that a public - was that advertised, those jobs? I think every one of them was around driving signs for the Liberal party on lawns the last election. So I'm just wondering, were they advertised?

Mr. Campbell: Not much uptake at \$150 a week.

Mr. M. Currie: But that's not the point. Nobody else had a chance at these jobs.

Mr. MacKinley: What job are you talking about?

Mr. M. Currie: You hired a bunch of people to go around, check these schools that you closed, and you're paying them whatever, \$150 a week, but was that advertised, those jobs?

Mr. MacKinley: I would doubt it. They'd look for somebody - I believe the commissioner here is right across from the school - \$125 -

Mr. M. Currie: Why wouldn't you advertise it? How come they all seem to be poll chairmen or whatever for your party?

Mr. MacKinley: I wouldn't know. You might know -

Mr. M. Currie: You wouldn't know?

Mr. MacKinley: You don't have too many people -

Mr. M. Currie: I know that two of them are driving signs in the lawns.

Mr. MacKinley: I know G & P Trucking

and all them used to be on your side but now they're not any more. A lot of people switch once the government switches.

Mr. M. Currie: So is there any reason why you didn't advertise or somebody called you and told you to give them the names?

Mr. MacKinley: We don't advertise for \$125 a week jobs -

Mr. M. Currie: Okay, so that's how you're going to do it.

Mr. MacKinley: I'll give you the list. I have it back here.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, so I'm back to the 147, I'm back to the 253,900, Mr. Deputy, and you only spent \$8,3000.

Mr. MacKinley: What do you want us to do? Spend a whole bunch of money? Waste it? We run a good (Indistinct) ship.

Mr. Bagnall: That was for last year's budget. What did you do with that money, minister?

Mr. MacKinley: That 8,000?

Mr. Bagnall: No, where did the 247,000 extra go?

Mr. MacKinley: Where did that go, deputy?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: We didn't actually have 271,000. We have an account that we have authority to spend up to. We only went to 8,000. We never actually took possession of any cash, per se.

Mr. MacKinley: That's probably where our finance minister took the deficit down by 30

million. Is that correct? That would be some of our share to take the deficit down.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: I guess, deputy, I can't understand. You have a history of not spending that money there but yet you keep putting it in there. Why do you keep putting it in when you know it's not there? Is that to pad your budget so you'll have it for other places?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It's there for the purpose that it's intended.

Mr. Bagnall: But you're not using it and you have never used it. So why are you putting it there?

Mr. MacKinley: No, I wouldn't say that. We have used it. I would think.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I did not say we've never used it. I said we did not use it in fiscal year 2009-2010.

Mr. Bagnall: You didn't use it the year before either because I asked you the same question last year.

Mr. MacKinley: You're talking about 50 TPW buildings containing 100,000 square feet of space. The staff are responsible for negotiations of these (Indistinct) 330 square feet of rental space, etc., and we can look after that.

We got some staff, I'll tell you that. We do a lot of work internally with our staff. They're very creative. They can do electrical. They can carpentry work. We are running things to the best. There's 50 employees including part and full-time people assigned to these operations.

So if they have 253,050, buildings, I'll tell

you one thing. I wouldn't talk about it too loud because I could lose my staff because one of these guys that are running an apartment building might want those people if they can run a budget like that.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: For the scale and scope of the facilities that we're responsible for, that's not an unreasonable sum. But we are not going to spend it just to keep it in budget.

Mr. MacKinley: No, not like the way the previous government spent to keep it in budget. Our staff is directed. If you don't need it, don't spend it. If you can fix it, fix it. That's the way we run a business.

Mr. M. Currie: Like you did with the tires.

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, (Indistinct) all right. You guys buried them for years.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, professional and contract services then. This is a good one -

Chair: Page 147.

Mr. Bagnall: - 2,240,000.

Mr. MacKinley: Where's that at?

Mr. Bagnall: Where's that spent?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's the contract with the PEI Energy Systems.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Who has that contract?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: PEI Energy Systems.

Mr. MacKinley: PEI Energy Systems.

Mr. Bagnall: You have a copy of the contract?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Not with us here today, no.

Mr. Bagnall: Can you table it?

Mr. MacKinley: I don't see why not. When you were government in Cabinet, you must have had in yours, too?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: As the hon. member may recall, it's a contract that's been in place for many years and will continue on for many years.

Mr. MacKinley: He wouldn't know that. He wasn't in Cabinet long enough to know that.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah, I'd like to see a copy of it.

Mr. MacKinley: He spent all the time at golf course.

Mr. Bagnall: You want to make a note of that or do we got to remind you?

Mr. MacKinley: No, it's just locked in our minds. We'll get it for you.

Mr. Bagnall: That's what I'm afraid of. That's why I'm getting (Indistinct) down there.

Mr. MacKinley: Oh no, you don't have to write it down, we'll get it for you.

Chair: Further question, members?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah.

Chair: Okay, we have one member waiting for questions.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh no, go ahead.

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

Mr. M. Currie: The high school in Montague, does it have energy efficient lights? Deputy?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I don't know the answer to that, hon. member.

Mr. M. Currie: Does it have low-flush toilets?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I don't know the answer to that either.

Mr. M. Currie: It was referred to by the Premier in here that it was the most modern facility in North America.

An Hon. Member: State-of-the-art.

Mr. M. Currie: State-of-the-art square box, and we want to know - it was told that it was energy efficient lighting, there was low-flush toilets. It was a green building. Can you bring that information back? That would be under this section.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It's part of the capital budget, it's not part of this section.

Mr. M. Currie: Foster would look after this.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The operating costs would be with the school board.

Mr. M. Currie: I was also wondering, when you're doing the landscaping there was a request made from the contractor to take the trees from Orwell Corner through Gary Schneider who has natural trees and it was circumvented by your department and you bought the trees, seconds from Ontario, from a nursery. I'm just wondering why you

wouldn't use Gary Schneider's trees from - did you not think they were better than - not as good as the ones from Ontario?

Mr. MacKinley: We have to look at the price. I don't know. We'll find out for you.

Mr. M. Currie: You'll bring that information back?

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, we'll bring that back. I sort of remember something about the trees. We'll bring that back in. We'll bring the lighting. I'd say the lighting would be under standards for schools so children can see and that. But Foster Millar -

Mr. M. Currie: Your Premier stood up and he made a statement that it's all talked over there that this was the most modern school -

Mr. MacKinley: It is.

Mr. M. Currie: - building of education in North America.

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, well you'll be eating your words because -

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) if it's the best building in Montague.

Mr. MacKinley: You're going to praise us. You're just mad because you didn't (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: No.

Chair: Deputy MacLean has a response (Indistinct).

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Hon. member, just for the sake of priority, there is nothing in this budget that we're here today to seek approval for that relates to buying trees or anything to do with the state-of-the-art school in Montague. There is nothing in this budget at all.

Mr. MacKinley: But I'll find out about the information -

Mr. M. Currie: Your section looks - Foster Millar looks after all the capital projects.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's right.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: The Premier of this province indicated that this was the most modern facility designed and built in North America.

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: No, I'm asking questions. Foster looks after this. Surely he put low-flush toilets in, he put low-e windows, he did the energy saving lights, all of that was put in there. (Indistinct) -

Mr. MacKinley: It's set up by the planning committee, Foster heads up the planning committee.

Mr. M. Currie: Did you put in any of the touchless doors Ray Brow was selling? Did you put any of them in there?

Mr. MacKinley: No, we don't have Ray Browns toilets in.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, you got Ray Browns -.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, question under this section.

Mr. Bagnall: The 881,000, how many staff do you have in there?

Mr. MacKinley: Eight-hundred and eighty-one thousand where? All right, we have Kent Smith - nine, I stand to be corrected, fifty employees it said. Approximately 50 employees are in that, including nine main people and including full and part-time.

Approximately 50 employees.

Mr. Bagnall: So you're paying them less than \$20,000 a year?

Mr. MacKinley: No, this is full-time and part-time. Part-time depends on how long they're there.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, how many full-time staff do you have?

Mr. MacKinley: We would have - I don't know, how many would we have? We got nine managers, assistant managers, technicians, general managers. How many full time? We'll find out for you.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Those are all full-time. We'll have to check and see if there is more than those involved.

Mr. Bagnall: So how many do you have?

Mr. MacKinley: There is possibly 50 employees including full- and part-time.

Mr. Bagnall: I asked how many full-time employees.

Mr. MacKinley: We don't know for sure. We'll find out for you.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Steve, you indicated yesterday that you couldn't recall or didn't remember any particular incidents regarding a contractor and your staff that supposedly came forward with indications that one contractor was supposed to be charging for a large number of pieces of equipment and they weren't being used on the job site. You had 24 hours to recall or talk to your staff. Did you remember anything about that?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I did

talk to some staff, not all staff. Still not certain what the hon. member is referring to.

Mr. M. Currie: No staff came to you indicating that there are invoices coming in that are way overcharged by contractors and they're concerned over it? So you never had anybody come forward?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Nothing specific that comes to mind. The nature of our business contracting and contract administrative and contract management, it's not uncommon for engineers and contractors to (Indistinct) all over invoices or the amount of work actually required to do a piece of work. That sort of comes with the nature of our work. But beyond the routine sort of back and forth between project administration and contractors, I can't recall anything. If the hon. member could be really specific, it might trigger something. But there is a lot of issues to manage in our department in the run of a day or a week.

Mr. M. Currie: So there was no staff member refused to sign invoices in your department for any of the contractors?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Not that I can think of.

Mr. MacKinley: Let's put it another way. Let's say they did. What happens then? I don't know. Like, what happens if they refuse to sign?

Mr. M. Currie: No, that's fine. Okay.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I'm not saying that it did or didn't happen. I'm saying that I can't here today recall any specific example. If the hon. member could be very specific I could give a better answer perhaps.

Mr. M. Currie: If I was specific then would

you answer it?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: You would? We'll be here tomorrow, so we'll bring some stuff back tomorrow, probably.

Chair: Anything further on this section? Are you ready to carry this section?

Mr. MacKinley: Just a second now. I looked into it today, there was probably somebody cutting grass and they wouldn't pay them for a couple of trips or something. The guy never got paid, he was complaining over that. The only thing I can figure out.

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

Mr. M. Currie: There is a question now I have. If you do a tender, and I think you did, for Corran Ban -

Mr. MacKinley: Tender for what?

Mr. M. Currie: For dredging or whatever. When that tender came in, do you accept the tender?

Mr. MacKinley: In that case the first time we tendered it there was no tenders came in. The second time we tendered it there was only one tender came in and our staff negotiated with Jerry MacKinnon and they came to a mutual agreement, I guess. I'm not sure if we were talking about it earlier.

Mr. M. Currie: Why wouldn't you accept the tender?

Mr. MacKinley: If you can get it cheaper, why wouldn't you get it cheaper?

Mr. M. Currie: What's the purpose of tendering, then?

Mr. MacKinley: What's the purpose of it? Doesn't mean higher or lower is necessarily accepted.

Mr. M. Currie: So that's what you're going to do with all tenders from now on? Negotiate after you do a tender?

Mr. MacKinley: If we can get a few bucks off we will. Why not, what's the matter with saving money? I don't know why you think you got to put money in everybody's back pocket. We're here to look after the taxpayers of PEI.

Mr. M. Currie: So all the asphalt contracts and all the road jobs you're going to tender this year, after the tenders come in you're going to negotiate with the low bidder for a better price?

Mr. MacKinley: A lot of the tenders are coming below our expectation costs. What we have, we have our engineers decide what the cost should be. That particular case came in more than we thought our cost was. But when you go to these highway tenders that we got out good and early, which you people didn't do, you give people time. They're coming in 7 or 8% below our estimated costs, I would say.

In that case, like the bypass out here, Island Coastal got it. Robert Duffy was within less than 11,000 on a \$5 million or something, Duffy probably lost it by probably \$11,000. So when you get people bidding that close, and then there was Matheson & MacMillan Ltd. or whatever out there, was within \$10,000 of it. So when you get the tender, depends on the tenders and how they look. But if we can save a few bucks we're going to do it.

Chair: Any further questions on that section?

Mr. MacKinley: Easiest thing you ever did.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. MacKinley: If you're writing cheques, negotiate them down.

Mr. Bagnall: Maybe I'm in the wrong spot here. Material and maintenance, building maintenance, Direct Building Maintenance, that's the next section is it?

Chair: Yes, hon. member, it is.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Direct Building Maintenance.
 "Appropriations provided for regular maintenance, janitorial services, power, heat, and water to provincial government buildings." Administration: 1,209,600. Equipment: 22,700. Materials, Supplies and Services: 3,830,000. Professional and Contract Services: 1,095,200. Salaries: 1,589,300. Travel and Training: 2,400. Total Direct Building Maintenance: 7,749,200.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, question.

Mr. Bagnall: One point two million for administration. What's included in that? That seems high for a section.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Office supplies, telephone, office rent. The majority of that is for property tax.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Property tax.

Mr. Bagnall: Property tax?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: You pay property tax? On what?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Municipal property tax.

Mr. Bagnall: Government pays property taxes?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes. Like, to the city.

Mr. Bagnall: Just a municipal share?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes. We wouldn't be paying it back to ourselves. Did you pay it back to yourselves? No.

Mr. Bagnall: So how much is the property tax, deputy?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: There's 1,127,000 of that is property tax.

Mr. Bagnall: That goes to the city of Charlottetown?

Some Hon. Members: Wherever (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: Summerside, Charlottetown, Montague or somewhere. Wherever we have a government building.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: There's a million square feet in total, about 50 properties, and there would be taxes responsible to the department.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Materials and supplies, and I see Irving Energy Distribution and Marketing. You've got to service a propane furnace, \$470,000. Can you explain that one to me?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Irving. Are you on the handout sheet?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. Page two.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Irving Energy Distribution and Marketing. Service propane furnace, \$470,000. No, I can't explain that one to you.

Mr. MacKinley: We'll find that information and get back.

Mr. Bagnall: Just seems like a lot for servicing a furnace.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It could be. It seems to me, too, hon. member. I will double check, it looks like it might be a clerical error.

Mr. MacKinley: I found one clerical error already here (Indistinct) throne speech.

Mr. Bagnall: I see that Confederation Centre of the Arts that we're paying the heat for \$53,000. How come is that?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Pardon me? What was your question?

Mr. Bagnall: The Confederation Centre of the Arts, I see that we're paying \$53,000. Why?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Because we have been doing that for many years, and as the member to the left has answered, it's the provincial library.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Palmer Enterprises. Building repairs. No. PEI Energy Systems, heat, \$451,000.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: What is that? How is that?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I might

need to confirm it, but I suspect it's the demand charge above and beyond the annual charge with PEI Energy Systems. When furnace oil is required, when waste is not available. They use waste and then they use wood and then they use furnace oil, and the users, the facilities that we get district heat from, we'd have sort of a two-tiered payment. We'd have the flat rate that we're obligated to - and then during peak periods we have to pay when they don't have enough waste.

Mr. Bagnall: There's a McGuirk Bros Construction Ltd. for building repair. What building was that and was it tendered?

Mr. MacKinley: How much was it?

Mr. Bagnall: Fifty-three thousand.

Mr. MacKinley: I imagine it would be tendered, because we tender every - we even tendered windows going into government, a \$1,500 window and make them tender it because they can save a couple of hundred bucks.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: We'd have to double check.

Mr. MacKinley: We'll double check and -

Mr. Bagnall: Will you bring that information back?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, we'll bring it back.

Chair: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: There's more. You're going to bring back the one on the heat?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes. We've got to check it out.

Mr. Bagnall: Info back?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: You're going to bring back the one on the furnace?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes.

Mr. MacKinley: The furnace, yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Why are we paying the city of Summerside 159,000 for electricity? Can you explain that one to me?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Where are you?

Mr. Bagnall: That's page four.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Electricity?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: They have their own power utility. They supply electricity within the city, so that would be for facilities which are serviced by their utility, I expect, but I would have to double check with staff.

Mr. Bagnall: You'll bring that back, too, then?

Chair: Anything further, hon. member?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, there were a couple of other here. I'm just trying to find them. I had them marked.

Chair: Okay.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes. It's just the power.

Mr. Bagnall: There's also - okay, Mr. Minister, we're into the same thing again. In that there's \$126,000 that you're budgeting (Indistinct) that you didn't spend.

Mr. MacKinley: You'll have to ask him.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. MacKinley: You can ask the deputy. He'll find it.

Chair: Is there a question on a particular (Indistinct), hon. member?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, he's asking -

Mr. Bagnall: Why the difference? Again. I mean, it seems like it's every single line there minister, or deputy, that you're padding it here.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Hon. member -

Mr. MacKinley: We're not padding it. We didn't spend it, so we saved it. We're under astute management.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: With the exception of a few accounts like grants, where you know exactly what the cheque is going to be, but, accounts like this, which are the result of many transactions, you have an estimate and it's almost certain that the actual will be different than the estimate. It could be either over or under. In this case it was under.

Mr. MacKinley: I get involved if it's over. Then they're called in to be questioned. As long as they're under - where do you think we're getting all this money to pave all these roads?

Chair: Anything further on that section?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, there's more. I'm into professional services here now.

Chair: Okay. Professional and contract services.

Mr. Bagnall: There's another section again, minister. How much did you not spend in this section that you budgeted for again?

Mr. MacKinley: We'll be back tomorrow. We're not coming tomorrow night (Indistinct). What have we got here?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Six hundred and thirty-four thousand.

Mr. MacKinley: Which one is it?

Chair: Is there a particular -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Six hundred and thirty-four thousand. The total is at the bottom of your page.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm looking at 892 here that you spent, and 634 is in the previous -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Okay. You're (Indistinct) section. It's 202,000.

Mr. Bagnall: So there's 634 there you didn't spend, and now you've got another 202,000 here you didn't spend, and you go back to the other section, it seems like it's every single section. I mean, why are you over budgeting? Is that how the provincial treasurer can bring that his numbers are less, because you're overstating every department here?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Our actuals at forecast were \$960,000 in excess of what the appropriation was. That's what we reported at third quarter. Because of a number of these cases, I suspect we'll be down closer to being on budget, but it's not a large difference either way -

Mr. Bagnall: We've just -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It's the result of some accounts being over and some being under.

Mr. Bagnall: In the last two sections, we've just come over \$2 million that you haven't spent.

Mr. MacKinley: That's good.

Mr. Bagnall: More than that.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: In the previous two sections we had some that were in the other direction.

Mr. MacKinley: What you have to remember is, we give 4. I think 9% of our budget, didn't we cut it by 4.9%? Or 4%? Our total budget was cut this year. Our operating, or capital, budget stayed around the same, and that's good management. We watch everything. I don't know why you want us to spend.

Chair: Hon. members, I'm just going to take a brief, short break here and give way to the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River for recognition.

Mr. McGeoghegan: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I'd just like to recognize Vimy Gregory, a good constituent of mine, from Murray River.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Chair: I guess the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters has a question.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, where do you have the propane furnaces?

Mr. MacKinley: We're going to have to look for them.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: We discussed that.

An Hon. Member: Oh.

Mr. MacKinley: We're going out to look for them.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) bring us back the information (Indistinct) on them?

Chair: We already discussed that.

Anything further?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. Office and supplies there.

Chair: Office and supplies.

Mr. Bagnall: Office building rental. There's another amount of money you haven't spent. How much is there that you haven't spent in that section?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I'm sorry, where are we at in the -

Mr. Bagnall: We're still in the same section.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Are we still on the -

An Hon. Member: Direct Building Maintenance.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Direct building maintenance.

Chair: You're looking under materials, supplies and services, hon. member, in that section?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Chair: Okay. And it was -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: What page are we on there?

Chair: We're on page 148.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The last point that I thought we were at was professional services and Direct Building Maintenance. Is that where we're at?

Mr. Bagnall: That's all right. We'll leave that one.

The salaries are 1.58 million. How many full-time staff you got in that section?

Mr. MacKinley: What one is he at here?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Full-time -

Chair: He's just asking about this right now.

Mr. MacKinley: All right. Direct Building Maintenance.

Chair: Salaries. He's asking about salaries.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: There are 50 in total -

Mr. MacKinley: Yes.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: - full-time and part-time. I don't have the split between full and part.

Mr. Bagnall: Would you bring me back that split?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: We can bring you back the split.

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah. We already mentioned that before we'd bring that back.

Mr. Bagnall: Not in that section.

Mr. MacKinley: I think it's the same bunch though, isn't it?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: No. It's another section.

Mr. Bagnall: It's a different section.

Mr. MacKinley: All right.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Is this the section where you hired Mike Quinn?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: We didn't hire Mike Quinn, I don't believe.

Mr. M. Currie: I thought I saw Foster on talking about -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yeah. He's managing him, but -

Mr. M. Currie: Who hired Mike Quinn? The Premier's office?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's where we met with him, yes.

Mr. MacKinley: Not sure. We'll find that out for you.

Mr. M. Currie: Wait now. So the Premier's office hired Mike Quinn.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: We met at the Premier's office. I met in the Premier's office with Mike Quinn and the Clerk and we talked about this facility, we talked about the provincial complex, we talked about all the other facilities, the work that had been done to date, and we decided to proceed with the work.

Mr. M. Currie: Was that an open competition for that?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: No.

Mr. M. Currie: No?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: No.

Mr. M. Currie: It was just awarded?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: No, we are contracting with Mr. Quinn directly.

Mr. M. Currie: Do you have a contract, or the Premier's office does?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: We don't have a contract. I'm not -

Mr. M. Currie: He has a contract with somebody in government?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I don't know if he has a contract, to be honest with you.

Mr. M. Currie: Who pays him?

Mr. MacKinley: We'll find out.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yeah.

Mr. MacKinley: We don't know.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I expect, at the end of the day, we may end up paying him. I'm not sure. It's not a large sum. It's just something that I'll sort out -

Mr. M. Currie: That's not the point. One hundred and twenty dollars a week is not a large sum as long as you do it openly, like the Premier promised he was going to have no patronage and all that, but most of the ones that were hired for the schools were driving Liberal signs in the lawns. I call that patronage.

Mr. MacKinley: They were smart if they're doing that.

Mr. M. Currie: I can call that patronage.

Mr. MacKinley: I bet 85% of the people that will be hired are driving Liberal signs in the lawns.

Chair: We're going to move onto the next section, hon. member.

Mr. M. Currie: No. Wait. We're not done on this one here.

Chair: You've got more questions?

Mr. M. Currie: So, is Mr. Quinn -

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

Mr. M. Currie: - looking after this building, you say?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Mr. Quinn is doing the work that Foster outlined in his interview. He's looking at the work that we've done previously. He's met with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly here, and staff, met with officials at Parks Canada. He will be meeting with representatives from our sister provinces to find out what sort of measures are in place in their administrative complexes and their legislature and their offices around the legislature, and looking to see what we might apply and what the options might be here for consideration.

As well, we're doing the previous work, and there have been a couple of large studies that are done. So we're taking another look at it.

Mr. MacKinley: See, if you look at it this way -

Mr. M. Currie: Did you say there were large -

Mr. MacKinley: - let's look at it this way.

Mr. M. Currie: - there were studies done for security for these buildings?

Mr. MacKinley: Just wait now. Listen. There was one time - there was a bomb that went off outside this House.

Mr. M. Currie: I wasn't here then yet.

Mr. MacKinley: No, I know you weren't here then. But since then we're looking at security. There are some members - some member was charged with assault out in the entrance coming in here -

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Mr. MacKinley: - and had to go to court.

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Mr. MacKinley: When you get members being charged with assault, it's time we tightened up the security here. Because people are coming here and they expect to walk in and out -

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Mr. MacKinley: - without a member attacking them.

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Mr. MacKinley: That's one of the reasons we got Mr. Quinn in. He's city police, he's well-experienced, he's retired -

Mr. M. Currie: He should have been brought in by the Legislative Assembly, not by the Premier's office.

Mr. MacKinley: We're doing the whole thing, though.

Premier Ghiz: The whole buildings down there. You guys are -

Mr. MacKinley: All the buildings -

Mr. M. Currie: No, no, no.

Mr. MacKinley: - you wouldn't understand.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) personal bodyguard for the Premier.

Mr. MacKinley: No, you wouldn't understand.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, that's all he is.

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct) all the politics you want (Indistinct) government are not that secure (Indistinct) employees (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: Mr. Quinn is the guy that caught the person -

Mr. M. Currie: Should have advertised it.

Mr. MacKinley: Mr. Quinn's the cop that caught the bomber, too. He's one of the people that was right involved in that.

An Hon. Member: Yes, he did.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, he did. He's very highly qualified.

Mr. M. Currie: He might catch you on these tenders, too.

Mr. MacKinley: He's very highly qualified. If you've got members of this Legislative Assembly attacking people in the street, innocent people -

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Mr. MacKinley: - bystanders -

Mr. M. Currie: Your party poll chairman.

Mr. MacKinley: - and charged with assault.

Mr. M. Currie: Your poll chairman from Souris.

Chair: Okay, hon. members.

Any questions under this section further for today?

Mr. M. Currie: No, the contract is going to be brought back, right?

Chair: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: You said you were going to bring back the contract. We'll hold this then.

Chair: We're going to move to the next section.

Mr. Bagnall: There are pieces of information that -

Premier Ghiz: That person is one of your main - your Leader of the Opposition's main advisors.

Mr. MacKinley: Oh yeah. One of your top advisors.

Chair: Hon. members, we're moving to the next section. Accommodations -

Mr. MacKinley: I guess maybe he's going to support the wrong member for the leadership of your party.

Chair: We are moving to the next section, members. We will carry this at a further date.

Mr. MacKinley: No, we'll carry that later.

Chair: Accommodations.

Mr. MacKinley: Just keep your tempers controlled over there.

Chair: "Appropriations provided for lease and rental costs, janitorial services, power, heat and water costs for leased accommodations." Administration: 7,494,200. Materials, Supplies and Services: 293,800. Professional and Contract Services: 268,700. Salaries: 61,300. Total Accommodations: 8,118,000.

Questions, anyone, on this section?

Mr. M. Currie: Is this the section where -

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

Mr. M. Currie: - where you got to close schools under?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: This is the -

Mr. M. Currie: You said to ask when we got down -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: This is the section that relates to the leased space.

Mr. M. Currie: So this isn't where the closed schools are?

An Hon. Member: No.

Mr. M. Currie: So minister, we talked today about - and you certainly were unaware that was a Tignish initiative. Can you tell me how much that lease is?

Mr. MacKinley: No, but I will find out. Maybe my deputy knows it.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: At Tignish Initiatives?

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: We've not entered into a lease at this point in time.

We've been up and looked at the space. It'll probably be in the vicinity of \$30,000.

Mr. MacKinley: When you asked me that question, I didn't understand your - you must have been disturbed - I just didn't understand the words that were coming out.

Chair: Any other questions?

Mr. MacKinley: Once I found out what it was.

Mr. M. Currie: I know you didn't understand. Because you know nothing about the file.

Mr. MacKinley: I knew we were leasing space up there. I know where Gail Shea's office is, and I know where the minister of fisheries office is up there. I've been up there quite a few times.

Chair: Questions?

Mr. M. Currie: Professional contract services. I just have professional services, 340. So you went over your budget in this one? You've got showing 340 - professional services - and you've only got a 268 budget?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Can we wait until the Member from Montague-Kilmuir returns for this one, please?

Mr. MacKinley: No.

Chair: No, it's okay, hon. -

Mr. MacKinley: No, we can't wait for him.

Chair: - we don't have to wait, we can answer the question.

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah. No, we don't have to wait. Explain that to him.

Mr. M. Currie: How many corps of

commissionaires do you have? You've got 188,000?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The commissionaires, individuals?

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I don't know the answer to that.

Mr. M. Currie: You don't pay for the ones over here, do you?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I don't think so, but I would have to double check that.

Mr. MacKinley: Is this what - commissionaires, 201,000 -

Mr. M. Currie: Could you -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: One eighty-eight was the actual.

Mr. M. Currie: Is this -

Mr. MacKinley: And we spent 201?

Mr. M. Currie: Is this -

Mr. MacKinley: We didn't - the commissionaires -

Mr. M. Currie: I see you have here Kings County Medical Centre. Is that renovations for the emergency room down in Kings County hospital? You announced it a year ago that you were going to redo that. Is that the renovations? You were going to open that up again, someday?

Premier Ghiz: It is open.

An Hon. Member: It is open.

Mr. M. Currie: Six hours a day.

Premier Ghiz: No it's not. Really? Okay. Yeah. Well, that's your line, then.

Mr. M. Currie: Eight hours a day or ten hours.

Chair: Question?

Premier Ghiz: Really? Look, you don't know what you're talking about.

Mr. MacKinley: No, I know.

Chair: Question, hon. member -

Mr. MacKinley: Ever since he's -

Mr. M. Currie: The 34,000, is that for renovations to the Kings County emergency room?

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah. How is that everybody in North America is suing you? We get all your lawsuits (Indistinct).

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I believe it's a medical centre. Doctor (Indistinct) -

Chair: Did you hear that, hon. member?

Mr. M. Currie: No, I'm sorry. I didn't.

Chair: Deputy, would you like to read -

Mr. M. Currie: Nobody's listening to him anyway.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I'm not 100% certain, hon. member, but I think it's for the clinic.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Chair: Anything further?

Mr. M. Currie: Are there any future leases that you're - besides the one in Tignish that you're in negotiations with at the present

time for something that -

Mr. MacKinley: No, the Tignish one, other than where the staff are going to be - I think we're going to build and own that building.

Mr. M. Currie: Is -

Mr. MacKinley: The plan right now - if you checked with Foster Millar, he wants to build it and own it. I talked to him.

Mr. M. Currie: Mr. Millar wants to build a building and own it?

Mr. MacKinley: Well, the province owns it - yeah - the taxpayers.

Mr. M. Currie: Instead of leasing it from Tignish Initiatives.

An Hon. Member: No, the (Indistinct) -

Mr. MacKinley: No. No, the paint shop, I'm talking about.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, the paint shop.

Mr. MacKinley: Oh no, the office space, we're going to lease from them, yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Are there any other leases that you're in negotiations with now for property and - nothing in your district or anything you know?

Mr. MacKinley: No. Everything's full in our district since we got lights in there. There's nothing left.

Mr. M. Currie: No other leases, then, across PEI?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Not that I'm aware of, but -

Mr. M. Currie: What about the Rollo Bay school? Have you got a lease there for the -

are you doing anything, lease with the people that have that school? It's through this section. Is there an RFP out?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes. As the member may recall, this is the account that provides the leases for all departments of government so I'm not aware of anything that may be happening at the staff level where other department may have needs, but at this point in time, no. The only one that I'm aware of is the Tignish Initiatives.

Mr. M. Currie: What about the government garage? It was indicated here that there are some steps being take to maybe find another home for that. Are you looking at a possibility of design work for another garage?

Mr. MacKinley: Not yet. We're not at that stage.

Mr. M. Currie: Are you going to join the school bus depot in Kings County with the department of highways garage in Dundas?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's definitely something that's on our list of things to think about and plan for in the future, along with the Charlottetown garage. We have some very basic concept plans for if there was a point in time where the property on Park Street was disposed of or converted to some other use and that operation had to be relocated, what would we need? It's in the vicinity of around 20 acres. Foster and his staff have done some planning on some very basic layouts but nothing beyond that.

Mr. M. Currie: Would you use the same template that you used for Summerside?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It would be a little different.

Mr. M. Currie: You don't like that one

there? Or bigger?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: It would probably be a little bigger.

Mr. MacKinley: Make it bigger if we want to get more modern with hoists for the big trucks.

Mr. M. Currie: Do you think it'd be -

Mr. MacKinley: In all fairness to Summerside, I was in there. We're trying to work something. But those great big trucks, they don't even have a hoist to put them up and they're crawling underneath them. Today, you want to be able to hoist them up and work (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: The big trucks? You lift them?

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, the big trucks. I go into garages and that and they're going under them on one of them squeegee boards or something. Really, they should be hoisted up. Proper hoists for the big trucks. We got school buses hoisted in there and stuff like that.

Another thing with the paint shop, Bridgetown I think is down your way. We're even looking at a possibility - we're not sure - because we're going to do paint work down here and some body work. We're even looking at maybe putting a bay on down there. We're not sure yet. That's the Bridgetown garage there, adding on to it.

Mr. M. Currie: So is the school bus depot that's there now - are you thinking of putting that in Souris?

Mr. MacKinley: I don't think so. I don't know.

Mr. M. Currie: I heard the member from Souris. He missed out on the fisheries

building, though. I just wondered.

Chair: Anything under this section for questions?

Mr. MacKinley: No, I don't know. How much have you got there in Bridgetown?

Mr. M. Currie: There's lots of land there.

Mr. MacKinley: So I think if you get the government garage, I think it would be more economical just to put your -

Mr. M. Currie: Well, now you're starting to make sense. It took you all afternoon to finally start to make sense.

Mr. MacKinley: But I'm just saying the Bridgetown's there, so if you're going to move the school bus in you'd move it into another bay or something. There's some bays at Bridgetown, I would think, rather than - you want to consolidate this as much as you can.

Chair: Any further questions?

Mr. M. Currie: One Island Community.

Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Planning and Building Construction.
"Appropriations provided for staff and related services in providing planning and building construction services to departmental operations". Administration: 31,400. Materials, Supplies and Services: 6,500. Professional and Contract Services: 123,100. Salaries: 966,700. Travel and Training: 55,800. Total Planning and Building Construction: 1,183,500.

Question, hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, as you indicated when this section was started, when we get down to the end you're going to be able to tell me where in this section the money is allocated for the schools that you closed so cold-heartedly last year.

Premier Ghiz: To help out some people.

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah, you're doing a great job.

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: All you're doing is spending money on the schools. You're not putting it into curriculum.

Chair: Questions?

Mr. MacKinley: So what do you want to know about the schools?

Mr. M. Currie: You guys indicated that there was a budget set aside for these schools.

Mr. MacKinley: I think I got it over here.

Mr. M. Currie: A-ha!

Mr. MacKinley: I gave it to you the other day.

Mr. M. Currie: We uncovered it.

Chair: We'll just give the minister a moment.

Mr. MacKinley: I gave him a copy the other day.

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

Mr. MacKinley: I'm pretty sure I did.

Mr. M. Currie: No.

Mr. MacKinley: I gave you \$125 a day for the people working who was working there.

Mr. M. Currie: You gave me that. All right. Those are your poll chairmen.

Mr. MacKinley: Whatever. You know we got an awful pile of people poll chairing for us now.

Mr. M. Currie: They did a good job driving stakes in the ground with Liberal signs on them.

Chair: So would you like to clarify specifically, hon. member?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes. The deputy and the minister are indicating that as we got to the end of this section they were -

Mr. MacKinley: All right. Foster Millar. Here's in his surplus goals. Grants available to assist communities or non-profit groups. Summaries of the grants available to assist communities or non-profit groups taking over surplus goals. The grants was intended to offset the operating cost for heat, electricity, snow removal and minor repairs for two years based on the history (Indistinct) operation costs.

So that's what. We're giving more money to our communities.

Chair: Are you tabling that?

Mr. MacKinley: I'll table it when I'm done reading it.

Now, grants available. Grand Tracadie, 36,800's available to do them over two years.

Mr. M. Currie: Who's that for?

Mr. MacKinley: Grand Tracadie.

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah, they should be happy.

Mr. MacKinley: St. Peter's, 91,600. They're not happy. They wanted 130,000. Dundas, 82,800. Are you in Dundas?

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Mr. MacKinley: Eastern Kings, 98,000; St. Teresa's, 52,000; Rollo Bay, 79,200; Fortune is assigned to the French school board; Tracadie Cross, retained for government use and that's where we're using it.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm missing - after St. Teresa's, minister, could you please tell the next one? I'm missing it.

Mr. MacKinley: Rollo Bay.

Chair: He's going to table them.

Mr. M. Currie: Seventy-nine-two-thousand -

Mr. MacKinley: I'll table them if they ask me. They got to ask me. You only table stuff if they ask you.

Mr. M. Currie: Rollo Bay and the other one was -

Mr. MacKinley: Fortune. It's assigned to the French school board.

Mr. M. Currie: So the eastern school board would pick up all the expenses for that?

Mr. MacKinley: I don't see anything from us here. Tracadie Cross is retained for government use and that's the minister's -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Is that the operating -

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That would be connected to what is currently in place for operating costs for those schools. Somewhere in that package of materials, supplies and services and professional services, there's a list for picking up the tab for the *Guardian*, the 120 a week. We've been doing that. I just can't find it. I saw it yesterday.

Mr. M. Currie: So this here is a half a million dollars roughly that you're talking about. Where on this -

Mr. MacKinley: Going into rural communities in the province of PEI to help out rural communities.

Mr. M. Currie: You done a great job of rural communities. Closed the schools and not one of you would have the bravery to go out and face the people.

Mr. MacKinley: You know what?

Mr. M. Currie: You closed those schools. Not one of you -

Mr. MacKinley: If you hadn't wasted so many millions of dollars when you were minister of development -

Mr. M. Currie: Premier ducked and hid -

Mr. MacKinley: - and you would have found jobs down there -

Mr. M. Currie: The former minister ducked and hid and watched -

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct).

Chair: Question.

Mr. MacKinley: You're the one that closed the schools.

Chair: Question.

Mr. M. Currie: I just want to know, minister, in this section that you have for \$1.2 million, you have roughly \$500,000 allocated for operating expenses. Where is that in this budget right here in this line?

Mr. MacKinley: I'll have to go to my deputy for that one.

Mr. M. Currie: That's what I understood that you said.

Mr. MacKinley: There it is there.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: There's two costs that we've been talking about in relation to the schools. There's the cost of doing the daily checks. Our department has been picking up that cost.

The RFP with the communities and the community groups, subsequently that allows for the funding for them to operate it, is connected to the funding that the board and/or the department of education would have had to operate it when it was a school. So it's not in our budget.

Mr. M. Currie: Foster's out negotiating with these communities offering money but who's - it's not coming out of your department?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: No.

Mr. M. Currie: Whose department?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: In the first instance it would have been monies that would have been in the department of education and subsequently the board's department. Where the Treasury Board has asked for that to be located in the current budget I'm not sure, but it's not in ours.

Mr. M. Currie: But the Eastern School Board has passed a resolution, a motion, last September declaring these surplus. So

they're no longer responsible for them. So they're not paying the bills, the department of education is paying the bills?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: As far as I know.

Mr. M. Currie: See, this money was supposed to go when Sandy MacDonald stood up in front of all those angry parents and students and indicated that this money was going to be saved and it was going to provide an enhanced curriculum for all those children now that are going to be herded into these other schools.

Mr. Greenan: They're there now.

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Chairman, I fail to see that that was delivered. So -

Mr. MacKinley: It's going to be delivered because once the communities take over these schools, from then on it's a savings. Our children are getting a good education. If you hadn't wasted so much money when you were the minister of development -

Mr. M. Currie: We're going to get to those questions, we're going to get to those questions.

Mr. MacKinley: - because you forced the people out of rural PEI. They had to come to this area for jobs.

Chair: The deputy has said -

Mr. MacKinley: Your stuff all went down the tubes.

Chair: - this is not within the department of transportation, hon. member. Perhaps -

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah, he said it was. This section for the schools was here and I'm just trying to identify - so the schools today, would they be under self-insurance risk

under your government? Like when they're in with the Eastern School Board I think they're separate. They're not responsible for them because they passed that motion. So does self-insurance risk cover the insurance on these, under buildings and maintenance?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Are you asking me, hon. member?

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I'm not sure how the schools are insured.

Chair: Hon. member, some of these questions are for the minister of education, I believe.

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, but the minister of education wouldn't know how they were insured either. We'll find that out for you.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: My understanding is self-insurance provides insurance for the boards, but I'm not an authority on that because we have no involvement.

Mr. M. Currie: Now, Foster is doing the negotiations on these schools. Have you passed on with money - has Eastern Kings accepted your offer?

Mr. MacKinley: I'm not sure. I could find out. I don't know.

Mr. M. Currie: Has Rollo Bay -

Mr. MacKinley: The only phone call I got was St. Peters and they said they wanted more money and we got no more money.

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah, you're trying to do a deal there for Jeremy. Has Rollo Bay -

Mr. MacKinley: No, it was MacAulay, actually, Jimmy MacAulay.

Mr. M. Currie: No, Jeremy Lewis, you're trying to find a job for him. Does Rollo Bay, have they accepted the offer?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Has St. Theresa accepted their offer? Anybody want to answer it? Anybody over there? Hello, hello.

Mr. MacKinley: Who is the member looking after St. Theresa?

Mr. M. Currie: You're the minister responsible.

Chair: Hon. members, this does not have anything to do with this section of the budget.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes it does. Foster Millar is in charge of these schools and the deputy and the minister told me before they finish this section they would answer these questions.

Mr. MacKinley: Yeah, we'll answer them, we'll find out.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Just for clarification, I was trying to find where we were paying \$120 a week. It's in here somewhere in the long list of materials, supplies and services or financial services. I just can't find it today. I looked at it yesterday. But in terms of the grants that are being offered to the community groups or the community themselves, that's not in here.

Mr. M. Currie: Foster Millar is your employee and he's negotiating -

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes he is.

Mr. M. Currie: - in these communities.

Mr. MacKinley: We'll get you the information back. It's just a matter of asking him.

Mr. M. Currie: So none of these communities have accepted the offer that you have laid at their feet?

Mr. MacKinley: We're not sure, I'll find out.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Yes, there has been three accepted.

Mr. MacKinley: Just a minute now.

Mr. M. Currie: If nobody has accepted - Grand Tracadie did, but you're going to turn that into a group home or something, I think it was. Deputy, what will you do with the buildings if nobody accepts them? Will you demolish these buildings?

Mr. MacKinley: We'll sell them. Yeah, we'll figure it out. That (Indistinct) PC party (Indistinct) everybody in one room.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: They would become a surplus building like any other building.

Mr. M. Currie: You would put them up for public tender?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's an option, yes. If we could hold onto them there's - probably to tender.

Mr. M. Currie: You're going to go back to tendering again?

Mr. MacKinley: We don't know what we'll do.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh.

Mr. MacKinley: All right, listen to this now.

Mr. M. Currie: That's right, we know you don't know what you're doing. I know you don't know what you're doing.

Mr. MacKinley: The Fortune school has been assigned to the French Language Board, Tracadie Cross is being retained for a youth risk facility. Proposals for the surplus schools, Grand Tracadie, Dundas, St. Peters, Eastern Kings, have been received from communities. The proposals are under review. So those schools have got a proposal in from the community. That's Foster Millar talking.

Mr. M. Currie: It's my understanding that all communities have refused the offer from your department, from Foster?

Mr. MacKinley: I'll have to find out.

Mr. M. Currie: The youth facility that you turned - you took over the one for Grand Tracadie, is it? You took over that facility. You're going to make it a youth facility. Which one is that?

Mr. MacKinley: You'll have to talk to the minister responsible for that.

Mr. M. Currie: Is there a budget set?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: That's Tracadie Cross School.

Mr. M. Currie: Tracadie Cross? Okay.

Mr. MacKinley: We're not going to turn it in. Okay.

Mr. M. Currie: So is there a budget set up to do the work for that? Is Foster doing that?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: The conversion of that property to the other use would be an initiative of the department of social services.

Mr. M. Currie: They would go through you, though?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: Foster (Indistinct) provide some engineering advice, but the funding for the work itself, no.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay. Has Foster done the engineering on the new use facility for Grand Tracadie?

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: For Tracadie Cross.

Mr. M. Currie: Tracadie Cross. I'm sorry.

Steve MacLean Deputy Minister: I don't know to what extent he's helped them. So I don't know the answer to that question for sure.

Mr. M. Currie: You could bring that information back?

Mr. MacKinley: Mr. Critic over there, if the communities aren't interested in these schools, then we'll go to the local non-profit groups, and they are (Indistinct) and see if they are interested in it. That will be the next step if they're not interested in it.

Mr. M. Currie: I call the hour.

Chair: Hon. members, the hour has been called.

Mr. Minister.

Mr. MacKinley: Thank you.

Premier Ghiz: Carry the whole thing.

Mr. M. Currie: We made great progress today.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, it's good.

Madam Chair, I move that the Speaker take the chair and that the Chair report progress and beg leave to sit again.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Madam Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having under consideration the grant of supply to Her Majesty, I beg leave to report that the committee has made some progress and begs leave to sit again. 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 Stratford-Kinlock, that this House adjourn until tomorrow, Thursday, at 2:00.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The Legislature adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, at 2:00 p.m.