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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



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Speaker: Hon. Kathleen M. Casey

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The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker (Biggar): The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the gallery. I can't see everyone, but I thought I saw the Speaker's husband come in, Dale. I'd like to very much welcome Dale to the Legislative Assembly today. And to all those watching on EastLink channel 10, I hope everyone's having a very healthy day.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd also like to rise and welcome everyone to the gallery here today. Also, I'd like to welcome everyone watching on EastLink, the proceedings.

Today, watching on EastLink, hopefully there's a gentleman in my district just celebrating a birthday. I won't mention the age, but Lewis McCarron, a great party supporter and a great worker in District 3.

Also, another gentleman from my district, Dale Murchison. He was a great employee of provincial government for a great number of years. He worked at the Brudenell golf course, managing the course and the greens, and he always kept it in top-notch shape. He's taking a different career move now. He started up his own little business now that

he's retired from government and he's got greens keepers lawn care service. He's out working, doing a great job with his new business and promoting it. It's great to see that people, even though they're retired from government, they still want to work and earn a living.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

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

I want to welcome everyone in the gallery. See some of the regulars there, Wes and Eddie. I want to welcome Dale as well. Great to see you here. I want to welcome all those who are watching on cable vision.

Two ladies I want to say a special welcome too as well. My mom, Mary McIsaac at the Park West Lodge, and a great lady, too, that's from my district out in Keppoch, Blanche MacAleer, who's recovering from a fall. I hope she recovers very quickly. She has a son that actually served in this House, Wes, a good fellow as well.

A glorious day as the Habs won last night. Eight more wins and we have the cup.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I, too, would like to welcome everyone to the gallery and say a special hello. Hello to Dale and Karen up there. Nice to see you here. I'd also like to say hello to a very special friend of mine, Cedric Gallant, who

wouldn't answer my call last night after the Habs won. I'd like to congratulate them. I, as well as many Islanders, were quite happy to see the Habs win. Go Habs, go.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

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

I want to welcome everyone to the public gallery here as well.

I'd like, at this time, to offer my sympathies and pay respects to the family of Mel MacPhee, who passed away in Souris. Mel would be widely recognized, probably by a lot of people in this Legislature, as one of the most successful and compassionate businessman, not only in the east end, but province-wide. To Mel's wife, Camilla and all their family, I just want to pass on respects myself, personally, and from all members of this Legislature.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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. All the regulars. Dale. As well, I want to recognize a constituent, Harvey Collicutt. Any time he comes down to visit his son or daughter in Charlottetown he drops into the Legislature. So I want to welcome him as well.

Also, I want to pass on best wishes and a speedy recovery to one of my constituents, Winburn Harris. He's been feeling a little bit under the weather in the last while. So we wish him - I hear he's back home and hopefully he gets back on track very quickly.

Thank you.

Speaker: Before we move on, I would like to also welcome my husband, Dale, to the gallery and my sister, Karen Dymont, from Summerside. She's a great supporter of mine.

Say hello to all of you and welcome all of you to the gallery today, and to all those who are watching at home, wish you to have a good day.

Statements by Members

Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mike MacKinnon, distance runner

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize a Miscouche native, Mike MacKinnon, and his many accolades in distance running and his efforts to help preserve the environment.

Mike MacKinnon is a hobby runner. He runs the occasional marathon, but he doesn't set weekly targets, stick to strict diets or worry about personal best performances. He won the Prince Edward Island Marathon in 2008, and just recently set a new course record in the Clark's Toyota 5-Mile Run.

Madam Speaker, and fellow members, there are many days that Mike MacKinnon, an automotive teacher at Three Oaks Senior High School in Summerside, either cycles or

runs to and from school, a 20-kilometre round trip. He will only drive on days when the outdoor temperature dips below minus 15 degrees Celsius.

Of all the ways to get around, riding a velomobile is not one that would readily come to mind. A velomobile is also known as a bicycle car, and is built for aerodynamic advantage, and protected from weather and collision. Mike MacKinnon is putting the finishing touches on his covered in, pedal-powered bike. He hopes to have it on the road in June.

Mike MacKinnon is conscious about his personal impact on the environment and saving energy has become a goal of the MacKinnon family. Their current home is equipped with many environmentally friendly devices. They have managed to lower their domestic energy consumption by 40%.

An Hon. Member: Great.

Mr. Gallant: They even mow their lawn with a real mower.

In closing, I would like us to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of Miscouche resident Mike MacKinnon and his family.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Recognition of Hansard

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of the Hansard office staff.

On February the 26th, 1996, Hansard PEI began its operations, allowing Prince Edward Island to be on par with other legislatures across Canada, and allowing all Islanders a chance to know what issues are being debated in the House by their representative each session. Not only does the Hansard office provide documentation for House proceedings, it also provides committee indexes for all standing committee proceedings.

Its hard-working staff transcribes the daily proceedings during the fall and spring sessions. They must be miracle workers to decipher some of the heated debates during Question Period. It must be quite a challenge with some of our colourful, excitable members - not mentioning any names.

The staff works hard to ensure the House proceedings are readily available to the public, allowing all Islanders the access to daily business of our government.

You can access the Hansard by visiting the government website and using the quick link to Hansard. There you will find an electronic copy of the daily debates.

I would like to formally recognize the Hansard staff: Manager Jeff Bursey, Assistant Manager Linda Henry, Aimée Belmore, Cheryl Connell and Barbara O'Hare. Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Nearly New Store

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It is my pleasure to inform the House that the Nearly New Shop in Montague recently received some renovations and new paint. The Nearly New Shop offers used and sometimes new clothing, household articles, and books. All those items have been donated graciously from within the community. The Nearly New Shop does great work for our community.

Apart from selling very reasonably priced wares, Nearly New Shop gives back to its community. The money that they raise goes to buying equipment and supplies for the Kings County Memorial Hospital and the Riverview Manor. The money that they raise goes a long way. For example, I'm pleased to announce that the Ladies Auxiliary, which work at the Nearly New Shop, is making a \$20,000 to buy some new X-ray equipment in the Montague area. It's great that this is happening.

I can't stress enough how important the work of the Nearly New Shop is to Montague. This is the shop that exists by, for and with the community. It's just one example of the great work done in my riding by volunteers.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Responses to Questions Taken As Notice

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

Compensation for growers (further)

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, in response to the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, for yesterday's questions, this information came to me this morning from Mike Delaney, general manager of the PEI Grain Elevators Corporation.

I want to table this information, but I'd like to give a brief update. All producers were invited to submit a written individualized request with supporting documentation to support their claim. There is a number of steps required to insure that this takes place, and the commitment to deal with applications on a case by case basis is adhered to.

The directors, management and staff have been busy since January trying to ensure that the entire process of dealing with producers regarding milling wheat toxins had been dealt with professionally and in a fair and transparent manner.

There were nine applications received since January 2010. Seven had crop insurance, two did not.

Once this analysis is completed, the board will be in a position to review all information relevant to claims submissions.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I'll table five copies.

Questions by Members

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

Wind energy RFP

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

My first question today is for the minister of energy. Minister, when you announced your 10-point plan for wind energy development a couple of years ago the process was that there were to be two envelopes for evaluating the RFP. It's my understanding that Maritime Electric was to do the technical side of it. Is that correct?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of

Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Mr. Brown: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Maritime Electric was to look at (Indistinct) transmission, how much would transmission cost, how much would it cost to integrate that power into their system.

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

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

It seems that that process has somehow changed. It's my understanding that you have allowed complete control of this RFP process to be taken over by Maritime Electric. Is that true?

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, that is absolutely incorrect.

I will read from the wind plan: Through the PEI Energy Corporation, which will be supported by an independent fairness auditor - we appointed an independent fairness auditor to be our representative on that board. That independent fairness auditor would look at all the pricing and look at all the information that comes in through Maritime Electric for our benefit, for the residents of Prince Edward Island. That person would then come back and say if it's a good deal or not.

That auditor has recommended to us the same as what Maritime Electric has recommended to us: to go back to the bidders and see if we can get a better price.

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

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

Minister, are you indicating to us, to Islanders, that you are the driving force behind this 10-point plan for energy security and independence in this province? You are the driving force?

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, as I said yesterday in this House, electricity and power is a big game.

Prince Edward Island, as the Premier has indicated, is a little player in this big game. We're not Hydro Québec, we're not hydro Ontario, we are the smallest player in the game. We have to participate in the process, we have to have our numbers together. If an opening comes along and an opportunity comes along, we're going to be ready to take advantage of that opportunity. That's my job and that's this government's job, and you know what? Opportunities are out there now, and we've got our eye on the ball and we're not going to take it off until we get a better deal for the province.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, I think with comments made the other day by the minister in regards to the RFP process, he was indicating that Maritime Electric is in complete control of this process and this is your government initiative.

So I'm wondering: Why did you give complete control of this RFP process, of a government initiative for wind energy, security and independence in this province, over to Maritime Electric?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of

Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, we didn't give it to Maritime Electric.

We are a partner with Maritime Electric, and we're also working with the City of Summerside. I'm proud to say I'm working with the City of Summerside in this effort. When I go out to meet with them I get, every time from the mayor, saying this is the first time we've seen the energy minister for a long time in this province.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Brown: We've been left out of the energy field for a long time.

An Hon. Member: Dear, dear.

Mr. Brown: So they're quite impressed. I'm quite impressed by them because we've learned a lot from their expertise, and I want to thank the City of Summerside, Terry Murphy and the mayor, for their participating and their input into our plans here.

Because they do have a utility of their own. They're an equal player, I consider them, in the Province of Prince Edward Island here, and they've given us invaluable information to go forward in this thing, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, I'm just wondering why, when you own the PEI Energy Corporation, why you did not use the expertise of these qualified individuals that work there, and with the wind test site in North Cape, why you did not use their expertise to evaluate the RFP process in the best interest of the ratepayers of this province.

You used Maritime Electric.

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, as I've said, we've used Maritime Electric.

They are the distributor in PEI. They have the monopoly in PEI. Their job is to make the price as low as possible for Islanders. Naturally, they've been doing it for us since 1923, I understand. Why wouldn't I go to them? They're the ones that are going to have to deliver this power to the consumer. Why wouldn't I go to them first? They've been in the business for many years. They know the market, and that's why I went to them.

But we've hired an independent fairness auditor to make sure that that auditor looks out for the best interests of Islanders. That auditor is working with the department of energy. Through our independent auditor we're working with Maritime Electric, with the City of Summerside, to get the best deal we can for Islanders, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, I can't understand why the minister does not value the expertise and the quality and the qualifications of these individuals like Carl Brothers and Wayne MacQuarrie.

I mean, they built two wind farms on this province already. They have a profit. I'm wondering if you can tell me which wind farm Maritime Electric built on this province that they have the right to evaluate these processes. Tell me which one.

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, the two wind farms on PEI - and I give the member credit, I'm going to give him a lot of credit here, Madam Speaker.

He deserves it. He was the one who put the first wind farm up in Prince Edward Island and it's been a great investment for Islanders. Okay? But he probably went and worked with Maritime Electric in this to see how that could be integrated into the system. We are working with our staff and with Maritime Electric, with the Wind Energy Institute of Canada. We are working with the wind institute right now in order for them to put nine megawatts of additional wind power on the grid. Maritime Electric has the grid. We have to work with that partner in order to get the best price for Islanders, Madam Speaker.

Thank you.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, I believe the minister has - he's not in control of this process, he's not in control of this file, because he gave up all of that to Maritime Electric, and I don't think he's looking after the best interest of Islanders, he's looking after the shareholders of Maritime Electric.

So I'm just disappointed that you didn't use people like Wayne MacQuarrie and Carl Brothers, and other people in the industry, to evaluate this process in the best interest of Islanders. I'm just wondering why you feel they're not qualified to evaluate this process.

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, we are involved, and anyone that knows me knows I'd be involved.

As for being a friend of Maritime Electric, I guess anyone in this building could call over there and they would say that: He's been one of the toughest ministers ever to be the minister of energy. He puts us on the spot each and every day. I do put them on the spot each and every day, and they deserve to be put on the spot each and every day, because the former minister's right, they represent their shareholders. I represent, through the Premier's appointment, the people of Prince Edward Island. I don't mind them getting a fair rate of return, but I want Islanders to have the best deal Islanders can get, Madam Speaker, and I (Indistinct).

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

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

Minister, I'm saying that you're not in control of this file. Because I received a letter this morning from Maritime Electric indicating - and very adamant - that you are not in control and that they're apologizing for your comments in the media in the last few days. So I'm asking: Are you in charge of this file or is Maritime Electric in charge of that file? Because this letter says that they are in charge.

Some Hon. Members: Let's see it!

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

Mr. Brown: (Indistinct) in trouble, you know. I know he's got the letter. I know he's got all the information from the bidders, Madam Speaker, and that's okay.

What I said out in this House the other day is quite clear. I want the best deal for

Islanders.

I, and this government, want the best deal for Islanders. It's all about lower power rates, or stabilized power rates. Power rates are an economic driver, and I'm going to make sure that our businesses also have the best power rates, because with higher power rates we're only going to lose jobs, and that's not going to happen under my watch, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, if he was in charge of the file he would ensure that the right people are evaluating the process to not undermine the government policy and initiative that you put in place, which is the 10-point plan, for energy security and independence in this province.

You have not done that. You have vacated and skirted your responsibilities by giving it to Maritime Electric.

So what I want to know is that what they're indicating in this letter is that you have meddled in their affairs and they want you to stay out of their business. They're in charge of this file. Do you agree with that?

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

Mr. Brown: Absolutely not, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, what they're indicating in this letter is that the minister is meddling and interfering in their

business and that it's jeopardizing a \$300 million project for construction in this province.

So I want to know: Minister, is Maritime Electric in charge of your initiative?

An Hon. Member: No.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Yes they are, they're saying it in the letter.

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

Mr. Brown: No, they're not, Madam Speaker.

They're in charge of evaluating the wind, the tender. They're in charge of that. They're in charge to see if they can get the best price. They can come back to me and say: This is the price we're getting. I said: No, if it's not competitive, we don't want it. We're not just going to build wind farms here. Ontario and a couple of other provinces are starting to experience higher power rates because of some of the renewable energy initiatives. We're not going to do that. We believe in renewable energies and we will get to our targets. But it's all about being competitive and we are going to be competitive, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, we're after building two wind farms on this province already, and we know the cost for wind and we know what we sell it for. I know what the price is.

Minister, what I want to know now is what benchmark price you have set that is going

to encourage developers to come here?

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, negotiations are going on everywhere.

This is for the best interest of Islanders. I'd appreciate if the opposition would give us a little bit of time here to let those negotiations go.

What the former minister wants me to do today is start negotiating on the floor of the Legislature. That's what he wants to do, okay? I'm not going to negotiate a power deal on the floor of this Legislature. I'm going to let the process go in its place. It's going to be finally reviewed by the Cabinet, and if it's a good deal for Islanders, a good deal for Island businesses, it will be accepted. That is the primary objective here, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, I guess what this letter indicates is that you already breached the confidentiality of the RFP process and they're indicating that they do not want you to meddle in it any more.

So will you guarantee the developers that you're not going to meddle or interfere in this RFP process any more, because Maritime Electric's in charge of it?

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

Premier Ghiz: We make the final call.

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, did I breach any -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Brown: Did I breach any confidentiality, Madam Speaker?

All I told the reporters outside this Legislature, and in this Legislature, was that our government-owned wind farms produce power at around 7.5 cents. That wasn't the benchmark. I just made a comment that we produce power at 7.5 cents. Now if the developers want to take that as that's our benchmark, they can do that. But I can tell you, prices are fluctuating. Gas in the United States is getting cheaper. The competitive market is getting better for us.

Our primary objective here is, and always will be, better rates, stabilized rates, better rates for our businesses, which means economic development, which means jobs, which means more money into the provincial coffers to go back to health and education as the Premier has indicated time and time again, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, you indicated that you're not going to interfere and meddle in this process any more. Now these developers have invested almost a year of their time, they got hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in it, and they just feel that you have interfered in the process and you breached the confidentiality.

So will you ensure these developers that you're not going to interfere any more in this process?

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, I haven't interfered in the process.

What I said outside of the Legislature was quite clear. We can produce energy at 7.5 cents. That wind farm was developed in 2000. The former minister should know because he developed (Indistinct). At that time turbines were running, what?, around a million dollars? Turbines now are \$2.5 million.

So what I said was that is the energy coming off those public systems right now. Prices have fluctuated, inflation has come into play. That's why I said - we produce it at that rate. I left the door open to inflation, cost differences that were occurring, competition that's occurring. There are a hundred other factors involved here.

So for a developer to phone up this member to say: He breached confidentiality by saying that the public wind farms produce power at 7.5 cents, I can't understand why any wind developer would say that. It's the public record.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, would you indicate to Islanders what was the average price that Maritime Electric paid per kilowatt last year in this province?

Is that the benchmark you're going to use?

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

Mr. Brown: I stand to be corrected, but in their current rate hearings I think they're running around 130 million for their cost of power.

It's pretty hard to determine what Maritime Electric is paying for its power because when the previous government changed the

power act they put the Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism in, which is called ECAM. What that does, Maritime Electric can then now produce its statements based on the Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism. Islanders cannot see on the financial statements - and that's why I've asked Maritime Electric to look at this - what is the true cost of power on Prince Edward Island? What is the true selling price on the Island?

That's why I've asked Maritime Electric to put that on their bill from now on in order for all Islanders to see it, instead of just seeing the Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism there.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, the question I asked the minister was: What does the average price per kilowatt that Maritime Electric paid last year in this province?

Is that the benchmark price?

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, I stand to be corrected.

I'm sure it's about 14 cents at some point in time because our power rates are not fixed to New Brunswick rates any more, as they were. One time we could go to New Brunswick power rates and say: That's what it is, add 10%, and that's what PEI is. Since the changes to the act in 2004 - which I tried to tell the government of the day, and the opposition tried to tell the government and the lone Leader of the Opposition before that tried to tell the government - that this was going to cost ratepayers a substantial amount of money. They didn't listen.

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Brown: That's when they should have listened because we had our homework done. We told them there was going to be a 40% increase in power rates. They had a news conference, discredited us and told the people of Prince Edward Island that power rates were going to be lower. We tried and tried to tell them hundreds of times when we were in opposition. They wouldn't listen. If they would have listened, we would have lower power rates today on Prince Edward Island.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, what the minister is trying to tell Islanders, I guess, is that he thinks he's in control, but Maritime Electric is indicating with this letter that they are in control and they trust that the minister will not meddle or interfere with the confidentiality of this process any more, because they are in complete control.

So, minister, I'm disappointed that you have an initiative, a 10-point plan for energy security and independence, and you're not following it. I'm just wondering when you're going to take control of this process and the 10-point plan. When?

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, when are we going to take control?

When we got elected we took control of the electric file right off the bat. We went out right away and did an energy plan for Prince Edward Island. We did a wind energy plan. But you know what? The most important thing about this government, and about myself as an energy minister, is if the economy changes or the atmosphere

changes or the prices change, why would I stick to a plan if things are changing? Okay?

This plan was put in place. The principles of the plan are being followed. The principles of the plan are simple. Renewable energy for Prince Edward Island at a cost effective rate for Islanders.

We could go out and sign up all kinds of deals, look good, do good things politically, but would it be good for Islanders? No, it wouldn't. Islanders are ahead in this game and they'll continue to be the prime objective here, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, what this minister is proud of in his last three years is that he's driven the price of electricity up for Islanders by 42%, so that's something to be proud of.

I guess what I want to know, minister, is in this 10-point plan you say you're going to drive the government initiative. This is your policy. But what you have done is skirted your responsibility by giving all of the control over to Maritime Electric and I'm disappointed that you did that, minister. I'm just wondering when you're going to take control of this file.

Are you going to take control of this RFP process? Because you do have the expertise in the PEI Energy Corporation with Carl Brothers, all those fellows. Why don't you get them to look after it?

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

Mr. Brown: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I want to say to the member, we do have good people at the department of energy. We do have good people at the wind institute. We are using these people as much as possible and we will continue to use them. They are a valuable resource to us and they've got tons of good information.

We've also went out and hired the former New Brunswick system operator in order to look at this. What better person could we have got, Bill Marshall, in order to take a look at this?

As for the 40% increase in power rates, I'll tell you where it came from. Any Islander can go to the Hansard and look at it: 2004, when we got off NB plus 10, that's when the wheels fell off her, that's when the windmill blades fell off it and that's when power rates started to increase for Islanders, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Build PEI signs (further)

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I want to thank the minister of transportation, yesterday, for putting his spin on costs related to signs before Question Period yesterday. But he didn't bring back the information that we had asked for or what we were looking for.

So I'm going to back to the Premier because the Premier's the one that made the commitment. Premier, you told me you were going to find the costs of print, radio and advertisement ads. Have you done this, Premier?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

We've got individuals working on that now. What I can assure the member is this, that project signs are actually mandatory under federal-provincial agreements on infrastructure programs at every approved project signs. Not putting up signs at projects is not an option. It's a requirement and the cost of doing business with our federal funding partner.

This is the interesting part here, because the hon. member has a very short-term memory, obviously. We thought that all along. This is now the case, and was the case, through all of the last 25-plus years. With the opposition having been in government they should have known this. It's really quite a shame that the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir is trying to forget the past, Madam Speaker.

But the facts of the matter are that this a federal-provincial agreement.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Premier - and I loved how you indicated that when I was asking you the questions, and I quote: The cost for the ads, you said, was priceless. That taxpayers would be paying the cost for your ads and your newspaper articles and your email or your website. You said that cost was priceless, that the taxpayers would be using their hard-earned money to pay for that advertising.

Premier, why would you say that, and why would you think it is priceless to use the taxpayers' money?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The same reason why I think the Legislative Management Committee, when we came into power, increased their office budget by \$25,000, so that they can go out there and do their work. It's important, as government officials, that we're able to do that.

Perhaps, if he disagrees, he can take his opposition budget and give it back to the provincial coffers and we'll find somewhere else to put it.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: So, what are you saying, Premier? Trying to blackmail us into stop asking these questions -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bagnall: - so that - or you're going to take our funding away from us in the opposition office? It looks like that's what he's trying to do, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Speaker: Order, please! Order, please!

Mr. Bagnall: You stated before, Premier, that there was no Cabinet ministers in any of your ads. Do you still stand by that statement?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: I don't think I said I stated no names or pictures. What I said was that there's no pictures on the signs that are out there across Prince Edward Island. Of course, there's the names of the ministers that are responsible for the departments, but

there's no pictures put on the signs.

Like I indicated to the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, this is part of a federal-provincial agreement. Perhaps the hon. member doesn't think that we should be doing renovations at the QEH. Perhaps he doesn't think that we should be building a new high school in Montague. Perhaps he thinks that we shouldn't be fixing up the bridge in Montague. Perhaps he thinks that we shouldn't be putting the new government department in Montague.

If he doesn't think that, we'll take down all the signs tomorrow and then we'll take everything and we'll put it up in Tignish. If that's exactly how he feels, Madam Speaker, well, that's what we can do for him.

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

HYPE program

Mr. Greenan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question today is for the Attorney General. There's a program running in cooperation with provincial community and correction services and the John Howard Society, with some funding provided through federal sources, called HYPE.

This program, I believe, has had a good success rate in keeping our youth out of the criminal justice system. Can the minister let the House know if this program is expected to continue?

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

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

As the Attorney General, I have strong

belief in supporting youth at risk in this province. The HYPE program is the Health Youth Potential Explored program. It is a program that is funded by Justice Canada and is administered through the Community and Correctional Services program inside my Office of the Attorney General, in conjunction with the John Howard Society.

They've had tremendous success with the program. There's approximately 17 to 20 students that are in the program, that are deemed as high-risk and referred through various youth agencies.

The program, right now, is under review and my department is working with Justice Canada to continue to look at funding arrangements, as funding will expire in the fall of 2010.

As the minister, I'm advocating with the federal government to continue to support these programs to make sure that we provide opportunities and alternatives for youth that have experienced some time in the system and will allow them to redefine themselves and to engage and be more productive citizens in our communities.

I know that the member from, Charlottetown, District 12, Minister Brown and I have worked closely with the Murphy group to make investments in programming to keep kids off the streets and be productive in their communities.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

Partnering in Go! PEI

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question is for the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness. I was very happy with

the announcement this week on the Go! PEI initiative.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Murphy: I've had inquiries from communities in my district wondering how they go about becoming a partner in this initiative. Can the minister tell the House what communities need to do to become a partner in this initiative?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I thank the hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville for his question. It is very exciting, as I had in a minister's statement this week, that we did initiate Go! PEI this week. We do have 15 community partners that have signed on as initial partners. Certainly if there are communities like in your community, hon. member, or others in the Island community, they can contact Recreation PEI or they can go online to www.gopei.ca.

I encourage every Islander, including all of us in this House too, to go and make a pledge and take the first step to this wonderful pledge and to get active and eat healthy in this coming year.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

Mr. Murphy: Is there a cost to communities to partake in this initiative?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

There has been programs over the years looking at active living and healthier lifestyles, but it's been more of a provincial focus. We're taking a unique approach to this. We want communities to show us and demonstrate what they want, as a community, to look at the inter-generational approach, to see what population needs are there, and certainly that they can apply. They have to sign an MOU as a community, obviously, to show ownership to the project.

We have invested, as a province, approximately \$140,000 into this project. It is co-sponsored by the Public Health Agency of Canada. It's through the sport bilateral program. It's all being paid for by the Province of Prince Edward Island and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Build PEI signs (further)

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Premier, when I did ask you the question the other day we weren't talking about signs. We were talking about t.v. ads, and you said that none of your ministers or any of your Cabinet were in any of your ads in the province. Do you still stand by that statement?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

It depends exactly on what the ads are. I was pointing out that the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, his department does a lot of public safety announcements and he's not in the commercials.

I can also indicate that I did a Christmas commercial myself and, of course, I was in the Christmas commercial, the same as the former premier, Pat Binns - I think you probably remember him - was in the commercials as well.

So we follow guidelines, Madam Speaker, and make sure that we're using the tax dollars to the best of our abilities.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Premier did stand up and say that they weren't used. I remember seeing the minister of health in an add, who was on TV all prettied up there doing the Anne of Green Gables. Talking about the history of the Acadians. Do you remember that ad?

An Hon. Member: That's very inappropriate.

An Hon. Member: Give it to him.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: I thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The hundredth anniversary was obviously a big event. I think there was a poll done across Prince Edward Island, and we polled Islanders and asked them whether or not they wanted the Member from Montague-Kilmuir or the minister of health in the ads, and it came back 99% that they wanted the minister of health.

Some Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

An Hon. Member: Apology.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) one per cent?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Government advertising

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, to the Premier again.

Mr. Premier, we talked about your propaganda advertising here last week. Now, I opened up my tax bill, and I look in the tax bill where you're charging taxes to us. Everybody hates to pay taxes, but we do. But on the back of your tax bill they got another propaganda sheet telling about all the things that you're saving taxpayers.

At the same time you're sending out a tax bill to Prince Edward Island, charging them property tax, and you're putting out a propaganda sheet trying to tell them all the things you're saving.

How much did you pay for this brochure that you put in the tax bills? It's a shame.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

If you want to talk shameful, saying that the 100th anniversary of Anne of Green Gables is propaganda, that's shameful. If you want to talk about shameful, talking about the 250th anniversary of the deportation of the Acadians here in Prince Edward Island, saying that that's propaganda - that's shameful.

When it comes to the tax bills that go out, we're very fortunate in this province now that back in 2007 a Liberal government was elected that, after years of gouging Islanders

with huge increases in their property tax bills, we were able to implement a property tax freeze in this province. Not for a three-year period, but for, in fact, a four-year period. We were also able to reduce taxes, whether or not we're talking about the gas tax by 4.4 cents a litre, and we're very proud of those initiatives.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Premier, this was another slap in the face to Islanders and taxpayers in this province. You put out a glossy partisan flyer with their tax bill, on their tax bill. Then you expect the government and the people to pay for your fancy flyer that you put in on there bragging about your accomplishments in government. Another partisan thing.

Are you not embarrassed that you would put this out on your flyer? On the tax bill?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I haven't seen the flyer yet. I'll have to talk to the provincial treasurer. Because I opened up my tax bill the other day and I didn't see it in there. It's important, obviously, to let Islanders know exactly what is happening with their taxes in this province.

Because if you remember, going back - this is the spring session, I believe - going back to the fall session of the Legislature, when we implemented changes to property taxes in this province, that the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir made sure that he did his best to mislead Islanders with respect to what was happening with their property

taxes in this province. It created quite an uproar.

So perhaps if the Member from Montague-Kilmuir would get his facts a little more straight we wouldn't be in a position where we'd have to continuously educate Islanders on the misleadings of the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, the facts are (Indistinct).

This has nothing to do with property taxes. This is showing the accomplishments that this government is doing at taxpayers' dollars. We're talking about property tax bills going out with propaganda added to them.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!.

Mr. Bagnall: Premier, taxpayers want to know how much you are spending on these ridiculous ads. Will you put an ad in the paper with your face on it, above your one big red line of Island community, Island future, and tell taxpayers how much money you are spending and wasting on these ridiculous partisan ads you're putting out?

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Premier Ghiz: Obviously, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir doesn't read the ads enough, Madam Speaker.

Because it's One Island Community, One Island Future, because that's what we believe in in this province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Premier Ghiz: I'm glad that the hon.

Member from Montague-Kilmuir is starting to realize they are accomplishments, Madam Speaker, but they're accomplishments for the people of Prince Edward Island.

They deserve to know that no longer is there a Conservative government in power in this province putting up their property tax bills by 7, 8, 9% a year -

An Hon. Member: Shame, shame!

Premier Ghiz: - year after year. In fact, there was a new government that came in that froze property taxes in this province over a four-year period. That's important knowledge for people to have.

They also need to recognize where there are other tax breaks that they're able to look for. We've also been able to increase the basic personal exemption in this province that has provided huge tax decreases for everyone in this province. I think it's very important that we go and do that.

The hon. member talks about propaganda, Madam Speaker, we talk about facts.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The facts speak for themselves. If you check the flyer that comes out with your tax bill, it is a partisan propaganda sheet that they've added to it.

Changes to PEI Grain Elevators Corporation

My next question will be to the minister of agriculture. Minister, I understand that there have been changes made recently to the PEI Grain Elevators Corporation board. Can you tell us who was replaced on that board?

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

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, the chairperson and one other individual - time expired.

They were there for two full terms, two three year terms, a total of six years. It's against the law, against the regulation of the *Grain Elevators Corporation Act*, to sit any longer than six years or two terms. We've appointed two new individuals in their places, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, could you tell us who you reappointed, or who you appointed to those positions?

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

Mr. Webster: Dave Thompson has been appointed as chair, and the other individual - I'll have to bring the name back. I'm not positive of that individual.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the minister of agriculture. I know he finally - he got part of it right. The second member was Tracey MacEwen. Is that right, minister? Minister, is that the same Tracey MacEwen that worked with the minister of finance when he was working at the Credit Union?

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

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, Tracey MacEwen is unknown to me.

We do go through a process and -

Mr. MacKinley: You're against women on the board, are you?

Mr. Webster: - the recommendation came forward that she would be a great individual. She was authorized by me to sit on that board for a three-year term.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Is this the same Tracey MacEwen that you appointed to the Social Assistance Appeal Board, too?

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

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, that person - individual - is unknown to me, I can't say for sure, but I can find that information and bring it back.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, to the same minister.

Do you know what area of the province these two individuals are from?

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

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, Mr. Thompson is, I believe, from the Charlottetown or surrounding areas, and Tracey - I don't know where the other member is, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you.

Mr. Minister, why would you take two people off the board from West Prince and not replace anybody back to West Prince?

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

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, there is one more position that's going to be available, or expires rather, in, I believe, September or October, and in the next 30 to 60 days we'll be appointing a person from the western area to sit on that grain elevators board, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, final question.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Speaker: Final question.

Mr. Bagnall: Final question?

Minister, don't you feel it's important, when you're taking people off the board - the grain elevators board - that you keep people from all over the province on it, rather than segregating the west like you have done on this? Minister, you did the same thing when you were minister of environment. You turned around and took them off the western part of there and eliminated them from the board at the time, too.

So minister, why would you do this? Why are you segregating against western PEI? What have you got against West Prince that you're taking everybody off the board in West Prince? What's your problem with West Prince, Mr. Minister?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Actually, it's about time, after 11 years of neglect, that West Prince started to get their fair share. If we just start moving up in the East Prince area - in your area, Madam Speaker, with the new Tyne Valley Health Centre that went in there. We just go up and we look at renovations that have been made in many areas in the O'Leary community. A new Holland College centre that's going in in the Alberton area, a new government department that's move up in the Tignish area. Our government has been all about West Prince, and we're going to continue to do it.

The former government was going to close down two main hospitals in the O'Leary and the Alberton area. We said: No, we don't believe that. We're not going to take two and give them one. We're going to make sure that West Prince gets what they deserve, unlike what the former government did.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Ministers

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

Voices and Faces Project

Ms. Sherry: Madam Speaker, I am pleased to speak about a national project that is making its way to Prince Edward Island today that will shed light on sexual violence.

This evening at the Trinity United Church in Summerside, Making a Difference-Canada, in partnership with representatives of the Provincial Child Sexual Abuse Advisory Committee and the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre, will be holding the first of three Canadian presentations of the Voices and Faces Project on Prince Edward Island, which will feature the stories of sexual assault survivors from across the country.

There are only three presentations of this project across the country and I am pleased that Prince Edward Island has been selected as one of the three sites.

The Voice and Faces Project is a national documentary project created to give voice and face to survivors of sexual violence, offering a sense of solidarity to those who have lived through sexual assaults and abuse while raising awareness of how this human rights and public health issue impacts victims, families and communities.

As minister responsible for children, women, men, seniors and people with disabilities, I am particularly aware of the impact of sexual violence on Islanders, young and old, female and male, from urban and rural communities and across all income levels.

The Voices and Faces Project is intended to bring awareness to the diversity of people who have been affected by sexual violence in hopes that their wisdom will bring hope to other survivors.

Anne K. Rem, cofounder of this Canadian outreach project, will be presenting the presentation of True Stories of Hope and Healing this evening at the Trinity United Church in Summerside beginning at 7:00 p.m. Her presentation will feature the photographs and stories of the survivors she has met and spoken with.

This project is important because it gives survivors a chance to share their stories and to show how they have found the strength and courage to move forward with the help of family, friends and their community.

Also, as part of the project, Canadian survivors of sexual violence are being interviewed and their stories will be included in future presentations of The Voices and Faces Project. I am pleased to

say that survivors from Prince Edward Island are participating in this project.

A Prince Edward Island man has been interviewed so that his story will be featured on, The Voices and Faces Project. This is an important opportunity to acknowledge the impact of sexual violence on men and boys.

I am also pleased to say that the local group, SAGE, is also being featured in the project. SAGE is a community grassroots volunteer organization committed to educating and empowering communities to prevent child sexual abuse. SAGE is an example of how survivors can come together to support one another.

Following the presentation this evening there will be a panel discussion lead by Anne Ream and featuring: Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson; Sigrid Rolfe, coordinator of the PEI Rape and Sexual Assault Centre; Janet Goldblatt, a Canadian sexual assault survivor; and a local representative of SAGE.

Tomorrow there will be an advocacy group workshop for professionals who work in the field to discuss ways to encourage a more empathetic view towards survivors of sexual violence. This is a moving presentation and one that will hopefully shed light on sexual violence and the stories of survivors.

It will also help us move in a positive direction where we can give a voice and face to those who have been affected by sexual violence. These true stories of survivors bring hope and wisdom to others.

Once again, the presentation and panel discussion will be held this evening at 7:00 p.m at the Trinity United Church in Summerside. The event is free of charge and refreshments will be provided. I encourage all to attend.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Yesterday was Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Awareness Day. May 12th was chosen as the date as it coincides with the birthdate of Florence Nightingale who became chronically ill in her mid-thirties with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and who was often bedridden for the last 50 years of her life. This day has been set aside by over 450 support groups from across Canada to create greater awareness among the public, doctors and educators about two illnesses affecting many thousands of Canadians.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome is a real and severe disease which impairs its victims in their ability to work. It takes perfectly healthy people and makes it difficult for them to function at all. Patients have severe and debilitating fatigue and pain.

Fibromyalgia has similar symptoms, including fatigue, headaches, memory and concentration problems, sleep disturbances and pain. However, patients have an amplification of pain in the muscles and tendons accompanied by severe sleep disturbances.

Spreading awareness of these two conditions is important. This year marks the 14th anniversary of Awareness Day in Canada. Each year continues to grow as more and more groups around the world recognize and celebrate it.

Many Canadians are affected by these

diseases, for which there is not yet an effective treatment. I hope that ongoing research will continue to unravel these difficult and perplexing diseases.

Today I want to commend the National Action Network and the many volunteers in self-help and mutual aid groups here in PEI and across Canada. These individuals provide information, advice and reassurance to those afflicted by these syndromes.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

Reports by Committees

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park - I beg leave to introduce a report of the committee on Public Accounts.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park that the report of the committee be adopted.

This report carries activities of your committee since it last reported to this House, and by receipt of adoption of this report your committee requests permission to meet following prorogation of the Third Session of the 63rd General Assembly.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Introduction of Government Bills

Motions Other Than Government

Orders Other Than Government

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, that the 13th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 13, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, Bill No. 101, ordered for second reading.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, Bill No. 101, read a second time.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, I move that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness,

would you please chair the committee?

Chair (Henderson): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*.

Does the House grant permission for the member to have his assistant come on the floor of the Legislature?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: I'd ask him to come forward.

I'd like to ask the promoter to commence with a general statement of the bill's intent.

Mr. Bagnall: The intent of the bill is to take out the clause where there was two-tier minimum wage and to bring in changes to fix one minimum wage for all employees.

Chair: Is it the pleasure of the House to read the bill line by line?

Mr. Bagnall: No, I guess not.

Chair: Okay. Do we have any questions?

Any discussion on the bill?

Shall it carry?

Premier Ghiz: No.

Mr. Bagnall: Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and the Chair report the bill not recommended.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Madam Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone

through the said bill and does not recommend same to the Legislative Assembly. I move the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: Can I have a standing vote on that? (Indistinct).

Speaker: A standing vote has been called, hon. members.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please ring the bill.

[The bells were rung]

Speaker: Hon. member of the opposition, are you ready for -

An Hon. Member: We're ready.

Speaker: Hon. members, you have heard the report of the committee.

All those voting in favour of the report please rise.

Clerk: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness, the hon. Minister of Environment Energy and Forestry, the hon. Premier, the hon. Government House Leader, the hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General, the hon. Member from Kellys Cross-Cumberland, the hon. Minister of Tourism and Culture, the hon. Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development, the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier, the hon. Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour, the hon. Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning, the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock, the hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville, the hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness, the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, the hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford, the hon. Member

from Summerside-St. Eleanors and the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

Speaker: All those voting against the report please rise.

Clerk: The hon. Opposition House Leader and the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Speaker: Hon. members, the majority has it, and the report is adopted.

Thank you.

The hon. Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development for recognition of guests.

Mr. LeClair: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's great to rise here and see some members up in the gallery who just arrived here shortly. The grandmother of Wayne Thibodeau is up there, Mary Ann Gallant, and I hear that she was 91 years old yesterday.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. LeClair: Also with her are her daughters Mabel Thibodeau, who is Wayne's mother, Gerry Gallant, Eileen Kinch, and Bev - I think - yeah, I see them all up there - Bev McKay. So, great to see you here, and a happy birthday. It's great to see everybody from the west and formerly from the west.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Motions Other Than Government

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Opposition calls Motion No. 67.

Speaker: Motion No. 67.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Motion No. 67.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, moves, seconded by the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, the following motion:

WHEREAS farmers and agri-food producers are an integral part of our communities, providing employment and economic spinoffs that benefit all of Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS the agriculture industry is in the midst of a major crisis which requires strong leadership through immediate relief and a long-term vision;

AND WHEREAS the current government administration's policy has been to consistently ignore the plight of the province's agriculture industry and rural Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS the demise of our rural economy will impact all Islanders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Prince Edward Island recognize the agriculture industry's long-standing vital contributions to the province, and commit to providing immediate leadership to address the crises in the various agriculture sectors, for both our current and future generations.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir to open debate on the motion.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's a great privilege to rise today and speak to this opposition motion. It's a support of the agricultural industry in this province. Many of our rural communities out there are struggling today because of the struggle that's going on with the agricultural community.

It gives me a great privilege to get up in this House today and speak to this motion. I'm not falling all apart. There we go. Anyway, it's great that we can get up and talk about the rural communities on Prince Edward Island and the problems and the challenges that are facing our agricultural industry. They're experiencing many problems and many challenges. They're facing these challenges at a time when the global economy remains shaky and no one knows where it's all going to end or when it's going to end for the agricultural industry.

This is a time when Islanders need to be reassured that their government is there to help them. They're not assured of that situation. They are not assured that the government is going to help them here because they seem to think, agricultural industry out there, that this government has abandoned them. Abandoned them to the fact that they're not there to help the agricultural industry. They're saying that if the agricultural industry was in the City of Charlottetown or Summerside that they'd get all the support they needed but it's in rural PEI so they're not getting that help.

But I fear this is not the case. It's not the case. The federal government has been helping the agricultural industry in this province and they have been putting programs into (Indistinct). The federal program has been putting a lot of money into the agricultural industry but the provincial government has taken on itself not to support the agricultural industry.

They're taking it on itself: try to get rid of as much of the agricultural industry as they possibly can.

At a time when our hog farmers needed help to make the transition into developing of new markets and new products, this administration came into power. The first week in power they had a report done. The report came back to show them how to shut down the hog industry. So they took that report, looked at it and said: Okay. They went out and they closed down the hog industry in this province. Made a decision, boom!, to put a hundred people out of jobs at the hog plant, put a lot of farmers out of business because they had nowhere to sell. We lost 70% of our hog industry here in the province because of it.

Because why? This government decided that they were going to abandon the agricultural industry in this province and not help it. That's what they've done. This administration promised them support. They allowed these producers to go out and invest in new equipment and new facilities. Then they pulled the feet out from underneath them. The government led them on. They dangled the carrot in front of them and then they took it away and they shut down the hog plant, which had approximately - I'm pretty sure - around 100 employees there.

Good paying jobs that were living in Charlottetown and rural areas all across the province and took those jobs away from them overnight, just the snap of a finger. You may as well say they fired a hundred people by closing down the plant. That's what this government did. They closed it down and we lost a hundred employees. Right overnight. Just like that. Good paying jobs.

This government -

Premier Ghiz: I met with them on the 23rd

of December. You -

Mr. Bagnall: This government shut the doors before they even had a chance to make this plant profitable and they know it. They went in and shut down this plant before they had a chance to even make it profitable. In doing so, Madam Speaker, they destroyed the vital component of the ability of rural PEI to make a living.

They destroyed our hog industry so that hog farmers, although they were having a hard time - no question - but there were changes being made there. They were changing to a natural product. They were changing to organic and omega. They were going natural omega and organic. They were building up markets. They were building up product designs. They were doing this.

But this Premier sitting across here walked in here and said: How do I shut this thing down right quick? So he got the report done, got the report in his hand and he shut down the hog industry. He did it. The Premier did it. He closed it down. This new company was working, trying their very best to make this profitable.

Mr. Greenan: And how much money did they put into it? (Indistinct), right.

Mr. Bagnall: There's a member from Summerside talking, Madam Speaker, against the farming industry in this province.

I can't believe that he would be there talking against them. He's talking about - close the farmer down, is what he's saying here. Close the farmer down. Well, they are doing that. That's exactly what this government is doing. They're closing the farmer down.

Mr. M. Currie: Closed all (Indistinct), they closed all the schools.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. This government never

gave our producers a chance. They never gave them a chance to survive here. They wanted to shut them down right away and they did that. Madam Speaker, it's a shame.

Even that glossy document, the Island prosperity plan -

An Hon. Member: Great document.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bagnall: The prosperity plan, Madam Speaker, barely mentions any of the primary industries in this province.

It indicated that there was a future for our hog industry and our beef industry. They were essential and they are essential to the growth of our province. That's what this report say. What do they do? They shut them down. They don't want them to be there for the future growth of the provincial economy. No, they want to shut it down and that's what they did.

How about the government misses its own message. They really had a chance here but they missed it. They missed the chance to help the primary industry in this province. Rather than help it, they went against it.

Now our beef industry is threatened. Every week more and more farmers are giving up the fight. Their creditors are at the door and their farms are going on the auction blocks. Why? Because this government will not help the beef industry. They're prepared to put some money into the beef plant but they're not prepared to help the industry at all. Not at all. Our beef industry is literally vanishing from this province also.

When we lose our agriculture - we've lost our hog industry right now. Our beef industry is in crisis. Our rural communities are in crisis because the government has shut down the agricultural industry in this

province.

We're getting declining population levels in rural PEI. We're getting skyrocketing electricity costs to the farming industry - 42% this government has raised power rates in the last two years, 42% this government raised them. They can make all the things that they want.

The facts came to the floor of the House this afternoon. Maritime Electric is running the minister. That came out today. You know what? When the minister spoke up to make a few announcements, he got his fingers slapped by Maritime Electric. They sent out a nasty letter to him, telling him: No, you're not allowed to say anything. Yes, they did. That's a shame.

We're getting closure to local businesses in rural PEI. A lot of these little corner stores and little businesses in rural PEI, they all had an agricultural component to them. Those were the people that supported them. But as businesses are closing down, they're moving to urban PEI or their jobs have taken them away from rural PEI so these stores are closing down. That's because this government's got no help or no feelings for rural PEI. They've abandoned them. Completely abandoned rural PEI.

The near collapse of our agriculture (Indistinct) sector, this is a big issue here in the province. I really don't know how much more rural Prince Edward Islanders can take. For the life of me, I can't imagine why this government is so determined to ignore the plea of our farmers and our rural business owners. Every minister of rural development made no apologies for refusing - refused to attend May Rally Day here, held in the province, May 1st, back in 2008. They didn't show up. They didn't come. I can't believe it.

The very purpose of the May Day rally was

to raise awareness to the crisis that was going in rural PEI. It's about more of the crisis in agriculture. But what happened? Didn't show up. They weren't there. Ministers stayed away, didn't want to take the flack because they knew they would take flack on the issue.

In a press conference in spring of 2008, together with my colleagues in opposition, we proposed a number of concrete solutions to help the agriculture industry in this province. We asked to forgive property tax. Would mean three to \$5 million cash in the farmers' hands. Has government followed through on this implement of tax forgiveness? No. They didn't do anything, and it's two years ago now. Nothing's been done.

Opposition members stated: For farmers to qualify they would need to have an environmental plan in place which utilizes environmental standard practices. Such a practice would be mandated, ground over - cover over cover crops. So we asked for these environmental things to be put in, we asked for ground cover over cover to be put in, and to be tilled, to protect the topsoil. This was part of what we were saying you would need for farmers in order to qualify for getting a tax break, and some tax relief from the government.

We asked government to provide a rebate of 3 cents a litre on diesel fuel for their farm equipment. They're in a real stringent times, they're in crisis times. We asked for a rebate to help these farmers on their diesel fuel. It would cost approximately a million dollars with the amount that's going to farmers and everything. But they didn't do anything. They turned their back on them again.

We asked for a moratorium on all farm foreclosures for a period of two years. What happened? They didn't. Nothing. They wouldn't even look at it to try to help the

industry out.

We asked government to defer principle payments on all farm-related loans for a period of two years, making interest payments only. They wouldn't do that.

Government established a position within the Department of Agriculture. We asked government to establish a position in the Department of Agriculture to set up a Buy PEI farm program. So they set up a Buy PEI product and they don't even use it to sell for institutions here in the province. They don't help. They haven't done it for the hospitals yet. They've talked about it. But they've been talking about it for three years. Nothing's been done. We've said we were going to do it for the jails. Nothing's been done. We said we're going to do it for schools, and other areas. Nothing's been done. Nothing.

This program would make -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: - PEI in the brands and clearly identify the customers that they're Island products.

Oh, there's the Premier again, saying he can't do it. I mean, he's got the can't do mentality of this government. Every time he opens his mouth: I can't do it. Because that's rural PEI he's saying I can't do it for. One of his members wanted to bring a bill to the floor, Madam Speaker, one of his own members came to him with a bill saying: I want you to put (Indistinct) price so that our lobster fishermen will get a fair price here. So what did he do? He slapped him on the fingers and sent him away.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Can't do that. I can't do it. He's a can't do premier.

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, we wanted to establish a program, and it cost government about 500,000 on made in PEI.

I'm ashamed to say it, that they haven't done anything on that program yet. Islanders deserve better. Government should have implemented some of these measures to help them.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) something.

Mr. Bagnall: They did nothing. Nothing. Did nothing to help the agricultural industry here in this province.

Government provides transition funding that would put cash in the farmers' hands through a cash rebate. We've asked for a cash rebate here of \$100 an acre to grow renewable energy crops. We wanted to grow renewable energy crops here in this province and make some green energy. We asked that they put a rebate of \$100 an acre in to help the farmers. What happened? Nothing. Didn't do anything. Didn't do anything.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) 11 years.

Mr. Bagnall: Didn't do - there's the minister that says I can't do over there, can't do. That's a new name for you, Premier. A can't do premier. You can't do it for rural PEI, but you can do it for everybody else and all your friends. But you can't help the farmers, no.

Islanders deserve to know to what extent the government follow through in any measurements for agriculture. Well, they're not doing anything. If I had to have a list in front of me what they're doing, it would be a blank page, right here, what they've done for the agriculture industry. Nothing. Nothing. A blank page is what they've done for the agricultural industry.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Now, Madam Speaker, we'll get through here today, and when I sit down I'm sure the Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier will get up because I probably rattled some feathers all right, but he's going to get up and tell us about all of the programs that they're doing, but he won't tell you that every program is a federal program.

An Hon. Member: No.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. That's what he's doing.

An Hon. Member: Gail Shea.

Mr. Bagnall: Gail Shea bringing all the money to PEI here to help the agricultural industry.

This minister could have shown some leadership and put a \$10 million fund in place to help the agriculture industry in this province where it was needed for the help. For the beef industry. For the pork industry. For areas that were in trouble. But what did he do? He said: I can't do that. But if it was for the potato industry he'd do it. Yes, yes, he would.

Anyway, the opposition members have been working with the agricultural industry, trying to find some concrete solutions. We gave those concrete solutions to the government, and they didn't act on one of them. Every idea that we brought forward came from the agricultural industry in what could be used to help them survive. The got the silent treatment, just like they did on May Day when they were in here they got the silent treatment. Meanwhile, this administration is whistling and twiddling their thumbs, completely out to lunch on all the important issues of the agricultural community. They just don't know. That's not too bad, but I'm really disappointed in

the agricultural members of this House because they haven't stood up and supported the agricultural industry.

I would go one step farther. There is one member that has been very vocal for the agricultural industry in this province, and there's one member only, and that's the member from Vernon River. I have to say that he's been a great advocate of the agricultural industry in this province, but he's not getting any support either. No support whatsoever from the government. I feel sorry for him. I know he's a great guy. He works hard. He's trying to help the agricultural industry, but he's the only one, and the other 22 are voting him down every time he opens his mouth, so it's tough for him. It's really tough for him.

I have to say, the member from Vernon River, he's the chair of our agriculture committee. It has been one of the best committees that this government has put together since it's been brought in. He has been around the province, we've gone to farmers, we've listened to farmers -

An Hon. Member: You (Indistinct), too.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. We've had members, we've had organizations and groups we've met with. The agriculture committee under the member from Vernon River is doing what it's supposed to do, but the only problem is he's fighting an uphill battle because the government won't do anything that he's asked them to do. Reports I think just go up on the desk, up on the shelf, and collect dust in the minister of agriculture's office because nothing's happening.

Islanders will recall the day when governments supported the hog and beef industry in this province. What happened? As you know, that's gone away. That's a shame.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, the beef plant, yes.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: It started under our government and it's followed under this government. There's not a question at all about the beef plant.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: The beef plant has had financial difficulties since the day it was put there, and it still does. There's no question about that.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Well, Madam Speaker -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Speaker: (Indistinct) hon. Member.

An Hon. Member: Friend of the farmer.

Mr. Bagnall: Anyway, Madam Speaker, I'm not going to criticize farmers. If you want to, you can, hon. minister.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: If you want to attack farmers, then that's fine, you go ahead.

An Hon. Member: Friend of the farmer (Indistinct).

Speaker: Continue on with your motion, hon. member.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Greenan: City boys, friend of the farmer.

An Hon. Member: Friend of the farmer.

Mr. Bagnall: Well, yes, there's two of them. There's one behind me and one in front of me and they're both condemning -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: - farmers in this province, and I can't believe it.

The government was very silent when they came in. When they came in here they were very silent. It took the undercover of the dust to find a report that they got done, and it was the Hedley report. They went out and hired a hatchet report, is what they did. They said to this Hedley report: Go out and find a way that we can shut down the beef industry in this province, and the pork industry in this province, and not only find a way - tell us how to do it.

Anybody across PEI should read the Hedley report that this government had done, because that's exactly how they closed the beef plant, the same way - or the pork plant. It's the same way they told them to. If you read what's going on with the beef plant, read the Hedley report and you'll see what's going to happen there very shortly.

It continues on as to shut down - how to shut down and how to keep it shut - not only shut it down, but make sure once you shut it down that you keep it shut. So what did they do? They shut down the hog plant. They turned around and sold the building for little or nothing to a friend of the minister of transportation.

An Hon. Member: No.

Mr. Bagnall: He put a business in there. So they had it shut down. They had it sold before anything could happen, and it's very disappointing to see that.

There are three years in this government mandate, and we see the whole hog industry on the verge of extinction, and the beef producers, they're on the verge of extinction.

Ms. Sherry: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: The minister from Summerside there seems to be having a hard time.

Ms. Sherry: Work, work, work.

Mr. Bagnall: I hope she's going to get up and speak to it, because she's talking enough now.

The Premier talks about all the great contributions that the farm industry is doing to the GDP of the province. He talks about all the funds coming in from it. That has dwindled, and it is going to continue to dwindle under this government, because the Premier is shut down, he's the shut down Premier. It's tough. The clock is ticking on the agricultural industry. It really is.

Just in the last year since this government's come in to (Indistinct), we've lost 75% of our hog producers on PEI. Seventy-five per cent. This is unacceptable. The time for this government is now. They need to step to the plate and help the agricultural industry in this province. They'll say they have, but they haven't taken any provincial dollars and put it into it. The budget hasn't changed. It's the same figures as before. So they're not giving any funds to the agricultural industry to help.

All they're doing is getting more federal dollars and they're trying to put that out in safety programs, but it's federal dollars that are coming in. We still are putting our same amount of dollars in, but we haven't done anything to help the industry. We've put it into the safety program. Beef farmers have had a hard time ever. Beef farmers have had

a hard time producing because most of them didn't qualify for these programs. The hog industry had a hard time qualifying for these programs. But the potato industry - they reap benefits from these safety net programs.

These producers are committed, and they are dedicated people who made the decision years ago to work in the agricultural industry, to invest in the agricultural industry, and they get 100% into what they're doing. They deserve 100% support from government too - and they need it - but they're not getting it, not at all.

The Hedley report shows that this government wanted to cut and slash rather than help with support on an ongoing basis. We need a fund put in place for this province, on a yearly basis, to the agricultural budget, to be put in place for years when the beef industry and the pork industry, or the blueberry industry or the cranberry industry - these industries are struggling.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: We didn't get that fund. They didn't get something put in place there, not at all. It's a shame. It's a shame that we have to put up with that type of going on. I really get a charge out of members sitting here that never get up and speak, but then they keep saying: Oh, the member's going on and on and on here. But yet -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: - but yet they won't get up and speak themselves. They do more talking and bickering across the House. If they'd get up and speak to a motion it would be great.

An Hon. Member: You'd have to sit down first.

Mr. Bagnall: But they never do, no, no. They'd sooner mumble under the breaths and hide because they know they're not doing anything.

Speaker: Continue on with your motion.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah. Farm credit corporation closures, they're going up. They are going up, and why wouldn't they? Because the agricultural industry is struggling. I look at -

Ms. Sherry: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: I'm sure that the minister of social development will be getting up here very shortly and speaking because she's talked more than I -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: - she's talked more than I have for the last half hour here. I have a hard time keeping on track because she keeps interrupting. I know she's very touchy, and she should be, because she knows her government didn't do anything.

Speaker: Just continue on your - hon. member.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Then we've got the wanna-be minister over there in the corner.

Speaker: Hon. member.

Mr. Bagnall: She never stops chirping since she got passed over from Cabinet the last time.

Speaker: Stick to the motion, please, hon. member.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay Madam Speaker, I will.

We have a crisis in the agricultural industry.

It keeps going. It's not getting any better. I'm talking to farmers out there. Last year a lot of farmers grew some more grains and wheats and barleys, and they got a pretty good price last year, but that price is down. They're not going to get the same dollars they got last year for it again. As a matter of fact, we've got some farmers that have the claims in with the minister and the department, and they can't even get paid for them when the provincial treasurer promised them, faithfully, that he was going to pay for these claims. Now, because the provincial treasurer made the promise, the agricultural minister won't own up to them.

It makes it tough for farmers out there. They take the government at their word. He's told them that they put in claims and they will get paid. Well, they haven't gotten paid and they're still waiting for their money. No sir, but when you ask the minister about that, what he tells you is: That's the grain markets board - the grain elevators corporation - they didn't make the promise.

The minister's department made the promise. The minister made the promise to pay these farmers. Then, what does he try to do? Hide behind the grain elevators. Say it's them, and they're doing it. He gets up in the House and gives us a fancy statement today that the grain elevators are looking after it. It's over a year. These farmers are trying to put in their crops and they still haven't gotten any compensation.

There are farmers that had insurance that are going to get some money. Thank goodness they had insurance, because this minister wouldn't give them anything if they hadn't have. That's a shame, because when a government makes a commitment to farmers, and they make a commitment out there that they are going to do this, they should do it. They shouldn't try to hide behind a corporation and try to find a way that they don't have to make them pay the

commitment. That's what's happened.

Two years ago there were 6,550 beef producers in this province. One year ago, that number has decline to 450. It's anticipated that another 50 producers will be gone out of business since the time that this was written. Farm groups have been warning this government for the past three years that farmers were carrying the highest debt load in the country. They are being hit hard by increases to fuel and also the minister of environment's high electricity costs.

He increased that rate 40% in one year.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) gouging.

Mr. Bagnall: Then he laughs about it.

Mr. Brown: I'm not laughing. (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: He should be down on his hands and knees crawling to Maritime Electric and begging them to drop the rates down, instead of agreeing with them. But, as we got uncovered today, Maritime Electric is running the department of energy and they slapped the minister's fingers in making comments in the first place. It's terrible what is happening out there.

With the loss of our beef and hog industries in the province all Island farmers will suffer. They will no longer be able to use the organic manure that is being used now. They won't be able to use - they'll have to use chemical fertilizers all the time, and chemical fertilizers, as the minister of environment says, is harmful to the soil.

So when you lose your agriculture industry you lose all kinds of different areas of soil management that goes into it here with the manure and management program. But the Premier doesn't seem to care. He doesn't care that we're losing farming communities

across the province, he doesn't care that it's going to destroy rural PEI. We're already hearing that feedlots in the western end of the province have been forced to close their doors, and a good many of them. We're hearing almost weekly that beef producers like Dundas Farms had to sell off all their beef cattle. The ripple effect will be felt all across this province, and especially rural PEI.

I was talking to a veterinarian the other day who has a nice business in Montague. I asked him, how is this affecting you, the hog industry. He said: Very simple. When I started my practice a number of years ago I had 28 producers. Today I have 2. So you can imagine how that's affected his business. Drastically. He's only one veterinarian in this province. There are many veterinarians in rural PEI that this has had a drastic effect on their business.

If you talk to the feed businesses across the province, they'll tell you that closing down the hog industry and no help for the beef industry is hurting their feed business. They're struggling to - they're carrying major debt load because the farmers are having a hard time paying their bills. They're trying to help the agriculture industry as much as they can.

The member from Tignish there, he was a former minister of agriculture. But actually he was the minister that closed down the hog industry in this province. He sure did. He closed it down and then - there is a Mr. LeClair in Tignish that's not very happy with him because his pork industry is pretty well gone.

Speaker: Move on.

Mr. Bagnall: It's not going to help him out too much, I wouldn't think.

The ripple effects, as I said before, come all

the way across this province. I have farmers telling me that they've never seen the industry in such chaos. Never. You know, between the two ministers sitting together there, not much wonder we're having a hard time with the agriculture industry. Because one minister keeps telling the other how I closed it down and how you should close it down. Then they're back and forth trading notes how they're going to do it. They do a good job over there. I have to admit their collaboration is working good. One is going to close down -

Speaker: Move on, hon. member.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm still on the motion. One is going to close down the beef industry and the other is going to close down the pork industry. They got a tag-team match going over there to see who can do the best job on it.

Island farmers have asked government to allow them to use marked fuel in their farm trucks and to be allowed to register their half-ton truck with a farm plate if they're going to be using it in the agriculture industry. This government refuses. They will not do it and will not let them. This would be a nice saving to each farmer across the province to help them as much as they possibly can. It's a shame that government has refused to implement any of these programs.

The commission on the future of agriculture and agriculture food was released back in January of 2009. Actually, it was just another glossy document that pointed out that the industry was in trouble. Well, everybody knows that the industry was in trouble. That's why we asked for the report. To come back and say the industry's in trouble - but the report gave 14 recommendations for immediate and long-term action, as well as a plan for their implementation.

The recommendations included measures to help make the sector more sustaining and financially viable. It also established an implementation committee to help make the recommendations a reality, made up of producers, provincial and federal representatives. There is a variety of recommendations that talk about niche markets, specialty markets, investments, etc., but over the past couple of years we've seen where government has actually pulled the plug, where the industry, especially the hog sector, was in transition into the new marketplace.

Then they turn around and sold FoodTrust to the minister and his family. The problem being is they took away the areas where we could work new niche markets. They did that. That's a shame. They went against their own report is what they did. They got the report and they went against the recommendations. The commission made a promise to save the industry. With the coalition that is embarked by producers and stakeholders following. So this is a plan if they had to try to save the industry from stakeholders and producers. All signs pointed to organic value-added products as a way to go into the viable future.

But the industry is so scared of this government that they're not even taking advantage of the programs that are there now because they know this government will shut them down as soon as they get them in trouble with finances to move over. They've shut down everything that they've put their hands on, and that's why we're having a hard time right now to get farmers to pick up on the agriculture community, like the organic (Indistinct). Farmers are scared to now because they know the government pulled the plug on the last company that tried to do something with organics.

Even amalgamated dairies is so -

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct) don't need any government money.

Mr. Bagnall: - they're so scared of this government that they closed down the organic part of it. They stopped doing the cheese. Do you know why, Madam Speaker?

Because they were so scared that this government would come in and pull their loans and shut them down. That's why they were - and that's what this government has done, is shut down. Not much wonder we can't get anybody - or a hard time getting people to move into the -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Speaker: Hon. members, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir has the floor.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I see the wanna-be minister is still chirping over there. But anyway, that's fine. It's time for action. Too many reports have been produced for agriculture.

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct) 2007 you got kicked out. Action.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Continue on, hon. member, you have the floor.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) facts straight before you make a comment (Indistinct).

Speaker: You have the floor.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) the government must help farmers (Indistinct).

Premier Ghiz: Basically, you had no comeback. (Indistinct) figured out a comeback (Indistinct).

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Yet another report, Madam Speaker, the government's -

Speaker: Keep it down just a little, members.

Mr. Bagnall: - glossy rural action plan was summed up by a local when he said: Long-winded remake of previous announcements with no clear vision for the future. That's what his action plan was. Can you imagine that?

Madam Speaker, I am very proud of the farmers across this province. I have so much respect and so much admiration for these farmers that are still farming today and are still trying to make a living in this province. I know they are so disgusted, and so hard, and every time they pick up the paper where they see that their taxpayers' money's been spent on glossy papers and propaganda advertisements, but they have a real hard time digesting their food, I tell you, at suppertime.

The quality of our local grown beef and hogs is second to none. We grow the finest beef and the finest pork anywhere in the world. We have the best breeding that you can possibly get in the hog sector here. Our genetics are excellent. We had been marketing genetics and it's good. It's great. But that's only part of an industry. We have to work at finding other ways to help these industries.

We look at our other farmers across the province like fruit growers and farmers that produce - they produce high quality products. Our apple farms produce tremendous product. Our blueberries are excellent. But we're into this point now where the blueberry producers are down to about 30 or 35 cents a pound and it's getting to be non-profitable for them. The price is

getting so they won't be able to pay back their loans because they don't have enough money coming in with the low price.

This government turned around and they wrote off - and I got no problem with that - the cranberry farms.

An Hon Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: The previous minister of agriculture is standing over there roaring, but he didn't do a thing when he was in our agricultural industry. If he had done something, we'd still have our pork industry here. He closed it down. I would think that he would want to be quiet because he's the author of closing down the hog industry in this province. He sure is.

Currently, Madam Speaker, our dairy in this province is doing quite well. Our marketing board - it's worked amazingly well for our agricultural industry in this province, and the commodity boards were great for our province.

We look at that. You wonder sometimes. It's too bad we hadn't taken everything through a marketing board for all our agricultural industries because it's been successful. Our egg producers and our hen producers or poultry producers across this province have done well. Anything with commodity is doing quite well in this province. Because a minister and their staff can't shut them down, and I guess that's the reason, because they would be gone if it wasn't for that. If we want not only to maintain but to grow our industry, specific decisions have to be made in order to make it go.

Can you imagine, can agriculture programs be available to support Island farmers in the move from commodity markets to niche markets and to value-added markets? Now, there have been some programs there and I have to thank the federal government for

(Indistinct) with money for this. But you know what? Farmers started to pick up on these programs, and what's happened? They've been watching what's happening to the other industry. They're scared to reinvest into going into other markets because they're scared they're going to get the feet kicked out from under them again.

Can the provincial government provide dollars to add farmers who are willing to shift towards low input, natural and organic farm products, in order to take advantage of the opportunity? They're using the program. They have programs there - not being taken up, but there are things we're talking about in their glossy photo - that's the way we should go. Organics has gone from a 1.5 million down to - now, I think they're down to 700,000. So they've cut that in half.

Will the provincial government hold agriculture land banks until farmers and other organic farmers utilize the land, prevent huge corporations from taking advantage of farmers in our economic plight to stay alive. They set up a land bank in this province so that firms like large corporations can't come in and buy up their land and not give them a chance to get back into the industry. I think that's a good program. I think that would be a good program to do.

There are other opportunities with agriculture and agri-foods to establish a summer of excellence of organic farms. We should have that. But we had FoodTrust and what happened? It got sold again. So that took away a tool that we had.

Can the province work in a partnership with the federal farm centre here in Charlottetown to set up some test products and test markets and test crops that we can use that may make agriculture more valuable? They could if they tried, but they haven't.

The opportunity will be available from the market place with the expansion of the Halifax Gateway project. We can tap into that but nothing's happening.

Is there an opportunity for the provincial government to invest in a new model for agriculture in this province? There definitely is. I have to give the company from Kensington - I think it's natural harvest. I think that's the company name. They're trying to expand into new markets there in the province and they're doing a good job.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, they have a company there now that's -

Mr. Greenan: They did a great job.

Mr. Brown: Great speech.

Premier Ghiz: Peter Llewellyn write this speech?

Mr. Bagnall: You know, Madam Speaker, I'm just surprised that the minister of health hasn't got the cut flowers on her desk rather than her office, that's all.

Speaker: Continue, hon. member.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bagnall: Is there an opportunity for this province to negotiate with the Government of Canada to implement an innovation program? Can they innovate and support their conversions of Island farmers in this province to a commodity? They got to change from a commodity to some innovations in the crops that we're going to be growing.

Crambe is a crop that this Nature's Harvest, I think it is, out of Kensington, is carrying. This crambe crop, I think they're growing

about 2,000 acres this year. I think that's the number. I could be wrong on that. In their plan they expect to be to 20,000 acres of this crop. It's a crop where you can make a few dollars on it and you can make some money.

Ms. Sherry: Can do.

Mr. Bagnall: That's great. We need new crops and new areas where farmers can produce in this province. Matter of fact, the government has supplied some money for their expansion, Madam Speaker, which I congratulate them for it in that. That was one of the few things that they've actually done in the industry.

The Prince Edward Island agricultural industry has the opportunity to provide solutions not only on the farm, but in the overall general health of the industry. Has government considered putting a small team together to work with the bio-sector cluster? Our farmers are looking for a new model of agriculture to identify the necessary supports and resources to make this happen. I don't think that's been done.

What will this province look like in 2018 if they continue to close down the agricultural industry like it is today? What will rural PEI look like if they don't do anything about the agricultural industry in this province? In 2010, what is the present government plan in its vision for the agricultural industry? There's been no plan. There's been nothing done by the department.

You know, I was minister. Before I left, I had a five-year strategy for agriculture done and a report all ready to go out, and what happened? The minister shelved it. Wouldn't even send it out because it came from our government. But we had a five-year plan in place. We had, where the agriculture -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: We had a five-year plan in place, Madam Speaker.

You know what? The minister at the time shelved it. He wouldn't even table it. Wouldn't even do anything with it. But the industry worked with the department to put the program together. That's why they wouldn't do anything with it because they were going to shut down the hog industry and this would go directly against any plans that we had.

Mr. Brown: Getting the notes sent in. Rates are going down. (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Getting emails from farmers saying that I'm right. They're very disappointed in this government, I'll tell you. Which sector of the agriculture industry will be next if they close down, Madam Speaker?

We just got word that McCain's are making major cuts. We got word last winter that Cavendish were doing cutbacks and this government stepped to the plate and helped Cavendish Farms with money. They couldn't help the farmers, but they helped Cavendish Farms for two or three weeks. It's disappointing.

It's clear to Islanders that this government has been shutting down. It shut down the hog industry, it's not doing anything with the beef sector in this province. Whether it be potatoes, beef, organic crops or harness racing, the government is not there. For the past number of years the agriculture industry representatives have recognized that Prince Edward Island agriculture could not successfully complete or profit in the present commodity-based world market. That's been a fact that we can't survive and we can't make a go in the commodity market here in this province. It's just unheard of to do it.

You're right, there is the odd year that the potato farmer will get good prices and they'll make some money and they'll be able to hang on for another couple of years until it comes again. But the commodity market has just not been cutting it across the province, not in the beef industry, not in the pork industry, actually not in the cranberry industry because of their struggle. They'll have to write off their loans. Not in the blueberry industry, the prices have gone down now so it's hard for them to survive. This has all been happening under this government and there hasn't been any help for them at all. It's finding it difficult.

You have to change. The previous government, when we were there, we were trying to make changes in the agriculture. We were trying to move away from the commodity-based markets. We were trying to move to organic, we were trying to move to natural and omega products. But what happened? We know what happened to that. This government came in, hired the Hedley firm to do a report for them and came back and closed everything down. That's what they did.

Some of those solutions, finding niche markets and differential products, would have helped this province. The pork industry, if they were growing natural pork, omega pork or whatever, they were getting a larger price for their product. They were getting more money. There was a potential to make more dollars. Was it enough? It's never enough. But we were trying to help these industries.

What are we going to do if McCain's come in and pull out their plants? We lose acreage. What happens if the dollar rate continues to climb the way it is and the export market for these companies continues to rise and hurt the industry, the commodity market basis? What are we going to do? We're going to have a hard time, but there is

no plan in place to deal with anything that may come down the road and there may be something in place. If there is a plan it's a federal plan. It's the federal Minister Ritz that is doing the work for the agriculture here. Because there has been nothing new here.

I went through the budget the other day and there was no new products. There was no new programs there. The same. Twenty-seven percent of his agriculture goes to salaries alone. Can you imagine if you could take that 27% and put it into product? But we can't do that, we know that. But he's got to get more money for his department and to take what they're giving him is not good enough. There has to be more money for the agriculture industry.

They're running deficit budgets now and it's going to be hard to do. But it's going to be harder to do if we don't have an agriculture industry in this province. Because one of the most revenue generators for the province is the agriculture, fisheries and tourism. You take away those three sectors, where is the money going to come from? Taxes. I know the provincial treasurer would love to put more taxes on. So that's an areas where you can increase the revenues, but that's about it.

We're in trouble here in Prince Edward Island and we'll continue to be in trouble if we don't have a sustainable agriculture industry in the province, if we don't have a sustainable fishery industry in the province or if we don't have a sustainable tourism industry in the province. We're going to be in trouble. But every single one of these areas are in dire straits.

When we're talking about programs it's pretty difficult and it's tough to survive in the industry when there is nothing other than federal programs happening. I realize that we have to put some money into our safety

net programs, which is a 60-40% funding agreement. But those are federal programs that we buy into and we put dollars into those programs. But that's not what I'm talking about. Those programs we are participating in. We are participating in the federal programs, but we need some programs of our own for the farming industry here and we're not getting them. We're not getting them at all.

Organic foods is a \$15 billion industry worldwide. It's one of the fastest growing consumer markets in the world today. But the organic meat industry remains undeveloped. Well, why? It's because they closed it down here. Industrial industry representatives who endorse the vision recognize the possibilities of Island agriculture to move to new agriculture models supported by niche markets.

The industry is looking to go this way. Is niche markets the answer for all agriculture? No, it isn't. But it's there for a few and there are a number of producers with a niche market that can make a living at it and make a nice living.

Historically, agriculture has required and received support and programs from government. A policy for our safe food. I have to commend the federal government for the (Indistinct).

Prince Edward Island agricultural industry does not function in isolation. We are also home to Prince Edward Island BioAlliance, which is a cluster of individuals and organizations dedicated to building the bioscience based economy sector of this province. This is another step that would and could help. We're hoping it will develop into more dollars and more money for the agriculture industry. The emphasis is on collaborative initiatives in research, business, education and supporting infrastructure.

So, those are the things that we need to grow in this province. PEI bioscience cluster is viewed as the leading centre for bio-activities based research, product development, commercialization for human, animal, fish health and nutrition.

I have to say that that has been one of the most successful developments and promotions that this province has helped with this sector. It's supplied much employment and it's also supplying food health and stuff for our province, and they are to be commended. They're doing a fantastic job. They have great scientists and great workers out there working on this sector, and I have to admit that there is quite a role here to play for our agriculture industry and they are doing that.

There is a role for agriculture with a continuation of our present farmer producers working in differentiated niche markets. There is a role there that we can use with these farmers and there is a good area where we can tap into.

Right now, there is a growing public awareness that most of our hog and beef products consumed by Islanders are imported from countries like Brazil, Chile, Russia and New Zealand. That's the beef we're eating coming out of Sobeys, and its coming out of Superstores here in the province. They do have one little section, about two feet wide, in each of their stores, for Island beef, but they don't carry all the products. They carry maybe one or two products in that section and that's it, so that they can say that we actually have Island beef products in their store.

It's not government's fault on that, because government has asked them and departments have asked them to display and promote our Island products. It's price. They can buy beef from New Zealand, or Chile, or Brazil cheaper than they can buy it from our beef

plant in Borden, and that's the hard part. It's so discouraging for someone that that's the actual case across this province. I talked to a company that sells hamburger. They buy the meat in cans and bring it in, like a product. They tell me that they pay 90 cents for beef from New Zealand landed in their shop and it costs \$1.20 or \$1.30 from the beef plant for the same thing. Then we wonder why we're not getting enough of our own product.

Our farmers aren't getting paid for their beef. They're losing money almost every time they sell an animal. Our beef plant's not making money, because we're losing \$200,000 a month. So they're not making money. I don't know the answer. I wish I did, because there are a lot of farmers that are looking for someone to give them some guidance here in how to be profitable.

I give the minister credit. He has been trying to make the beef plant profitable. He has been working with the federal government. He has been working with the Maritime provinces here to fund to try to make these plants profitable. I give him credit, because I was trying to do the same thing when I was there. Regardless of how much money we get, we have to try to make this industry profitable, and how we're going to do that, I don't know.

When I was minister they told me at the beef plant that we had to get up to 500 animals to get profitability. So we got up to 500 animals. There was no profit. As a matter of fact, the losses were bigger. Then we got to 550 animals and they told us that's what we needed to make it profitable. We were paying 500, \$400,000 a month trying to pay the losses. I know now they're down to 200-some animals, I think, a week - 250 maybe, or 200, somewhere in that vicinity - and they're losing \$200,000. So, when we look at it in proportion, it's the same losses, they're just doing less animals.

But they're still not profitable, and I don't know how we're - I know they've hired a new manager, a great young gentleman, a young man, all kinds of agricultural background and good marketing ability, and I wish him all the best, because he's going to have his hands full.

It's the first time we've had an agricultural person in there, that is coming in, that has a business degree and is trained in that type of work. I'm looking for great things from him. I think Mike Nabuurs will do a great job up there. If there is any chance of anybody turning that plant around, I'm sure that young gentleman will do it. He's a hard worker, energetic, and very knowledgeable about the agricultural industry in the province. I have no doubt that he will do a great job in his new position. He's left the federation of agriculture to take on that position. I wish him all the best. I know he's got a hard job ahead of him, but I'm sure if anybody can turn that plant around and make it profitable, he will be able to.

It has been very clear that labelling that indicates products have been produced from the region or Canada - consumers would make an informed choice. We're talking about the labelling of products. We're working on that. I think that would maybe help our local products across the - saying on the label where these are produced. It show that our health standards for our agriculture here in Prince Edward Island and Canada are the highest in the world. I wish that we were on a level playing field with each country, because the health standards in other countries aren't up to par or aren't up to the same standards as we have.

Take the beef industry, the beef coming into the province. Our beef producers and our product goes through so many tests before they're able to be marketed and sold. But beef coming in from other countries, they have three or four tests and that's it. They

don't go through the stringent testing that we do here for our own producers.

We're putting our producers at a disadvantage because of the high standards that Canada demands of their food products. I don't disagree with that, but I'm saying that anything being imported into Canada should have the same standards as our agricultural products have. We would see a difference in our agricultural community. Worldwide, food safety is always on. Food security is major across the country. We are doing our job in Canada, and in the province, and we're moving forward with those things, but it's awful discouraging for farmers when they know that the products can be brought in at a cheaper price than what they're going for because they don't have to hit the same standards. That's quite an area where we have look at.

Opposition wants to work with government to find solutions. There's no question, we will work with the government. We will do anything we can to help. There is a lot of work that has to be done, and I, as a minister of agriculture before, there are demands and there are a lot of things that you can't do that you want to be able to do. You're limited on funds and what you can do. But we have to change what we are doing. We just can't go in and say: I had 30 million in agriculture last year, I want \$30 million this year. There comes a time when you're going to say: Listen, if we're going to make the agricultural community vibrant and healthy again in this province, we're going to have to put some of our own provincial money into it. Maybe we have to set up a fund - 10 million maybe, or 15 million, whatever it costs out to - to help sectors that are in trouble so that they can make a living until the prices come back so that they can survive.

I know that there are all kinds of members that want to speak to this motion, and there

are all kinds of agricultural people on this floor of the Legislature. I know that they'll want to - the couple of agricultural minister and his previous minister before him - they'll all want to get up and speak to this motion, because they know the importance of what agriculture is to this province. They know that if the agricultural industry in PEI collapses, so will government. They know that. They know that, and that's why it's very important that a new plan and a new direction be put into place to support the agricultural industry in this province. I look forward to hearing remarks from anyone else.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters to second the motion.

Mr. Brown: Here we'll get the facts now. We'll get the facts.

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah, they're coming.

Madam Speaker, I, too, am pleased to rise to support this motion for the agricultural industry.

I think they certainly are struggling out there today with the situation that is before them.

I always thought, and I always perceived, that this province was the vegetable garden of Atlantic Canada and that it should be probably diversified more than concentrating on just one crop such as potatoes. I always thought in some other areas of Canada or even in the United States farmers would have at least eight or nine different agents knocking on their door, wanting to grow corn for ethanol, wanting to grow barley for malt, they want to grow wheat, soybean for human consumption and for oil, canola for the same, for its oil and human and medicinal needs, and they also grow potatoes for French fries and potatoes

for chips.

One that I thought, and I know the government turned it down, and I don't know if it was given a fair enough shot, was sugar beets for sugar, not for ethanol. Sugar today is at its highest price in probably over 30 years, and it's kind of an easy one to grow, from my understanding. It's one that they just grow, they harvest it, and leave it in big piles and then they haul it in afterwards, but the farmers seem to like it because it's not one that requires a lot of maintenance or whatever. Those are areas that I think we probably should have spent some more time supporting the industry and encouraging farmers to diversify and get into other areas.

Because there's one thing about a farmer that I've always experienced, not only in the private sector business but in government, is that they're never looking to make that million dollars. They're not looking for that big handout, they just want to make a living, support their family and be good stewards of the land. That's almost every farmer I've ever met, that's all they ever wanted. They are distinct individuals and I have a lot of respect for them for how they go out and make an investment based on the fact that sometimes it's a crisis situation in another area of Canada or the United States that really allows them to benefit from their crop. For these individuals to go in and put everything on the line almost every year, their farms and their homes and their land for operating capital, based on the fact that they can go out and grow another crop and maybe do it better, or invest in new technology, new machinery, they are a group that I have a lot of respect for.

I think, as was mentioned earlier, our Easter beef is probably as good as we can get anywhere, and I think that there was a group that came in here - as a matter of fact, I was there with the minister of agriculture - from

Japan that did come in and wanted to look at other possibilities. I thought it's only fair that if they came all the way to here that they should have turned around and sent a delegation back to Japan and explored and looked at what ways they grow, what genetics they're using for beef, and how they slaughter their animals and market it and whatever. It's another way of looking at it.

But I don't think that was done, and I think that if a large company comes up and wants to demonstrate interest and invest in the province's beef industry, they should have explored the options and went back and talked to them to see if there were any opportunities. Or, maybe if there wasn't, they might see something else that would benefit the beef industry in the province.

I know we've moved into blueberries over the last number of years, and we've also moved into cranberries, and certainly I think that's one that has some potential.

But the organic one is one that I do believe that the consuming public out there today is extremely conscious of what they eat, and what goes into the food, and there's traceability sides to it that people want to know how far back, what's in the land, what's spread on the land, how it's grown, how it's harvested, are they using food grade hydraulic oil, everything, if there's ruptures, so all of that is important. I think it's one that we should focus on.

I mentioned the other night when the minister was on the floor, regarding the Macphail Homestead, that there should be dollars in his budget - and I know that he's not utilizing all of his organic money - he should partner with the friends at Macphail and do a proposal that at least the property, in partnership with the people, and the minister now use it as his showcase for organics and start new products that are not

in competition with those that are already doing organic products in the thing.

He's going to accomplish two things, I think. You look after and preserve a step back in time property that's probably virgin in regards to no chemicals on the land that's there. I think he'd have three years of - you don't have to step right into it. This is another way of introducing another new crop in here that's organic. I think it would - not only does it do for introducing new crops, but it's also something for tourism that can be promoted, that we're using a showcase farm with history behind it. I think that would be an excellent move.

I do hope that they support the member from Vernon River on these proposals and move forward with something like that. Because if you're not using all the money and you do have a proposal that will accommodate - because these volunteers are struggling somewhat and getting burnt out in trying to come up with ideas. They love the property and what's there, and they do not want to be going to government begging all the time for a few extra funds to cover over any expenditures that they cannot look after. So I think the minister could make it a showcase for his department and for his government and for the industry, and especially in organics, and introduce them.

Being in the private sector for a long time, I always understood that the rural parts of Prince Edward Island generate and bring to this province roughly between at least 75 or 80% of the new money that's generated outside of our city limits. If you look at what agriculture brings in in new money, our fisheries, our tourism is almost all in rural Prince Edward Island, and our manufacturing and processing. So that's new money that's in rural PEI. The farming side of it, the agriculture industry, is a major component of that money that comes in here every year.

Yes, sometimes you have cycles and you have parts of the farming community that will have a crop that maybe does not work, but when you average it all out and you look at the spinoff - which is usually four to one, or whatever - it pays off. That is the investment. Some people just say it's black and white. If you lose money this year, you're out, you're gone. But in certain sectors, when you look at all of agriculture, it's government's role to ensure that our economy keeps going.

Some parts of that, in the farming side of it, do have their ups and downs and they have cycles, just the same as you would in shipbuilding or even in the car industry in Ontario. It has its highs and lows and the Government of Ontario, and the federal government, stepped in with armloads of money to support the industry and maintain the jobs.

I think that's what the farming industry is. They're not asking for or begging for money. Sometimes they're looking to partner with a government that has a vision to bring them to a new height in their economy, and they're a willing partner because they will table at any given time their lifelong commitment of investment into a property and into infrastructure. It takes a lot for people to step up to the plate and sign on the line all and everything they own in support of the livelihood of their family and the industry they're in. I have a lot of respect for people that do that.

As a development minister in a previous life, I had a lot of people that came in that had a million dollar idea, and they wanted the million dollars to do it all, and you were to give it to them. The farming community is not like that. They just want to be treated fairly. They do want to see support from government in cross-border compliances, traceability, marketing, and yes, we do have problems sometimes in regards to

transportation and other issues with fuel, but we have to work together and get through all of those issues to ensure that the farming community is strong and vibrant in this province.

I do hope that government supports this motion. It's one that is just asking for them to look at other areas of helping our farming community. We see large pieces of infrastructure across PEI now that are vacant with the collapse of the hog industry, or the shut down of it. I don't know exactly if government gave it enough time to carry it through to see if you could go from a commodity side of it into a niche market and bring that side of it out. That's behind us now, I guess. I know a large investment was made over the years into genetics and to see that we have a disease-free herd and reduce the reliance on antibiotics to keep a herd safe. It was also for the breeding purposes, and now we see the results of that. You can't do that in a year, to remove a herd and bring in new genetics, new blood and start breeding again and disinfect your barns.

The steps that are being taken now versus what I have seen in other countries around the world in my travels was that our barns that are here, and the way the farming community protects the disease-free status that we hold - and genetics is probably the best in the world. I think that's one side of - when you take an industry, you go to your genetics and besides just using it for meat, you're supporting the breeding side as an area to garner further revenue.

The other side, I guess, is that the harness racing industry is part of the farming community. When you talk about genetics and the support that's needed there, it's got the infrastructure in place now. It took years to rebuild the infrastructure that's in place, whether it be Summerside and here at the Charlottetown driving park, I might add.

Mr. Brown: Great spot. (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: It's still referred to as the Charlottetown driving park by everybody. But anyway, the investment -

An Hon. Member: One Island Community.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) Red Shores -

Premier Ghiz: One Island Community.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, you caught on. You finally caught on. It's still the Charlottetown driving park and it's still the Summerside raceway in the minds of a lot of people, not only in this province, but across Atlantic Canada and across Canada. They could never understand the rationale behind changing names that had a history as they did, but the minister of finance will not table any of the studies they did. It's disappointing that he hides and ducks behind all that.

Anyway, it's an industry that I certainly enjoy. I think the farming side of that - the member there is the only one I ever see at the racetrack from Charlottetown. He stops out every now and then, and I think there's one more here. One more there - yes and we see the Premier there once a year. He goes for Old Home Week. They saw what leadership sometimes does by a commitment by a government to support an industry. When you do that, then they in turn say: There's a long-term commitment here, so they make the commitments.

There have been farms bought. There has been a lot of new genetics coming into the province in regards to the horse industry. Not only in the dam side, but also on the stallion side. We did have a noted breeder of the horse industry from North America here not too long ago, and he spoke of probably the best investments you could make now with the infrastructure that you have in place

is in the dam side of it. Not only do we want to see that the harness racing industry is viable, but we want to see that the genetics are good, so when you do have the sales, it does - that people come from all over the place and support it.

You saw what happens in genetics. We saw a cow that was sold here not long ago, that eventually could be traced back to Prince Edward Island. It was sold for almost a millions dollars, or over a million dollars -

An Hon. Member: One point two.

Mr. M. Currie: - \$1.2 million. We just saw where good genetics, quite recently, have brought people from Russia to buy our genetics here in the pork industry. We see people that come here all the time to buy our genetics, not only from Atlantic Canada and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, our harness racing horses, but they also buy those stake horses that have been successful in Prince Edward Island. Now, a lot of them are up country racing in North America.

So the genetics are improving in Prince Edward Island - the harness racing industry. I'm glad to be a supporter of the agricultural industry, also the harness racing industry. I think that what it does, especially the harness racing industry for agricultural, but another component is what it does for tourism.

Not only are beautiful fields out there, they're picturesque, and a lot of people spend a lot of time taking pictures of the landscape in Prince Edward Island, the green fields when they grow. That's part of our tourism product. That's what agriculture, I guess - it's kind of the part that farmers do not benefit from, but all of PEI does, and our economy does. Because of the way they maintain their farms, the colours that are in the fields when our crops are growing, and all the animals that are there.

The harness racing industry brings a large amount of money to this province in the tourism. You can take the lobster carnival race that's held in Summerside as a start. What it does to that area of the province, it's surprising the amount.

I know, that the Canada Games did bring some tourism product dollars to Prince Edward Island last year, but it was the harness racing industry that capped the season for tourism. If you look at all the stake races that are held, and the weekend races that are held across PEI, whether in Summerside or the Charlottetown race track, look at the people that travel across the ferry and the bridge to bring horses in here to race and compete in the stake races, they bring a large amount of money to the tourism market. That's where - I think sometimes - governments do not look outside of just the industry. It's what it brings besides that. The rooms in and around Charlottetown and outside of Charlottetown - hotel rooms - are booked because of the stake races.

Old Home Week is 10 days of probably the highest amount of money generated in this province from tourism, and it's because of the harness racing industry, where all of our fellow Islanders come home for the holidays. The people I meet, a lot of them that come from Cape Breton, they book their vacation on the fact that they can take their kids over here to go to Andrew's hockey school in the morning, and they can go to the races in the afternoon and the evening, and that's their vacation. They book for two weeks and that's all because of the fantastic harness racing industry that we have here. The quality of the training and - that is a good job.

I'm glad to hear now that there is a new manager appointed for the Charlottetown driving park. He certainly appears, on the surface, to have all kinds of experience. I wish him all the luck. It's one that I think

has to be marketed a lot better. We have to see some more value in it for the harness racing industry. I think that they'll start on that process.

I know in other areas of the country, in the marketing side of it, what they do is they take the phone book every day and they go and they call companies to invite them to come to the racetrack, enjoy the dining, enjoy the race, and then they book one, two or three tables for all your staff. There's no fee. People show them how to introduce them to the bet. So if they bring in 30 or 40 people, and at the end of the day, if they have five or 10 that come back, then they've won. You've got to keep doing that. You've got to promote your product all the time. They use the harness drivers and the trainers a lot more in the promotion of their industry in other parts of North America.

We're recognized as the Kentucky of Canada and it's a fantastic name. I think, from being in Kentucky and being in New Jersey, and Ontario and Quebec, and seeing what other people invest into it, they are really jealous of what we have here. The fact that we have a beautiful infrastructure in place. We have a great group of people that invest a lot of time into the industry for the betterment of the agricultural industry in this province.

We have the vet college out there that offers a lot of quality individuals. They train a lot of people. It's recognized probably all over the world. The closest one to it is Saint-Hyacinthe's in Quebec. I've been in it, and this one here is leaps and bounds ahead of the infrastructure that's in place in Saint-Hyacinthe, not only from Wade and company, but they did do a lot to promote the facility in support of the industry. They did a fantastic job.

We brought in, years ago - and he came here - Dr. Hernick, and he was the one that

actually, in my mind, brought the driving force behind the genetic movement in the hog industry, and he works out there. He sold the fact not only to the government, but to the school, but to the industry. The industry are the ones that saw the benefits of good genetics. He's been the champion on that file and he's done a fantastic job. I hope that he moves us even further ahead in good genetics.

When you talk about the genetics of the horse industry there are all kinds of breeders that are around here. You have Blaine MacPherson that's into the horse industry. You have Wally Wood. Wally Wood is another breeder that does a fantastic job out here. He understands genetics, and he follows it very closely. There are some breeders up west. There is Marvyn Webster in your end of the Island, that is - not only you can see horses racing in Prince Edward Island, but all over Atlantic Canada. Not only is he a good potato grower, he's also a horseman, and he does a great job. I'm not sure if he's related to the minister of agriculture, but he does have a similar name. Marvyn does a good job with his horses, and you have the MacDougalls up there. You have other people that -

An Hon. Member: Carl.

Mr. Bagnall: - Carl, and the Willis' in O'Leary have invested, over the years, massive amounts of money into the harness racing industry. Big supporters of the agricultural community. Not only were they - have a good a good eye for picking genetics out. They always stepped up to the plate and bought the best. They also were excellent trainers in bringing their animals to the racetrack and providing good entertainment for the industry. I was always an admirer of the Willis' out of O'Leary for their horsemanship.

Not only in O'Leary, but we have a lot of

people across Prince Edward Island, in rural Prince Edward Island, that are extremely good horsemen. A lot of them have gone on to other parts of Canada to ply their trade that they learned here in this province. They are leaders now, not only as trainers, but as drivers in other parts of Canada. You have young Robert Shepherd, who had a terrible spill there a little while ago. His father taught him well - Harold - and he does a fantastic job up country. You have John MacDonald - he's Toby's son - he's doing fantastic in Ottawa. He's at least - almost every night he races, has two or three winners. He is definitely leading the track in Ottawa and he does a great job.

We have the Andrews in Winsloe. Brian and his brother have been big investors in not only property and infrastructure, but they brought a lot of good genetics into this province. They have two branches: they have one in Winsloe, Prince Edward Island, and they have another one in Alberta. They have bought a lot of good dams and introduced them to this province. They've also bought a lot of good stallions and breed to a lot of good stallions.

In support of the industry - and I think what a lot of them see and understand is their investment is multiplied out further into other areas. You just see what's happening. Chucky just announced - opening a big store on Riverside Drive. I'm not sure if Chucky's a supporter of ours, but it shows when government leads sometimes, and steps out front to support an industry, that others will follow. The spinoff comes from it.

It's good to see that these people will step up and make an investment. I think I just heard last week that Greenhawk is another company that's moving into Prince Edward Island. I think they're going onto the Kensington Road with a similar type operation, where they supply harness racing equipment, supplies, blankets, and

harnesses. I'm not sure if they do feed. But they're making a move from Ontario into this province mainly because of what they see in the harness racing industry in this province.

We are disappointed, I guess, in some ways, that New Brunswick did indicate they were going to build a new racetrack. The Premier over there has flip-flopped on his decision. There's no such racetrack as we see today, neither in drawings or any indication from them that they're going to support their harness racing industry. That is important for our industry, that we can not only race here, but we can leapfrog into New Brunswick and race and beat and take the purse money home here.

Nova Scotia is experiencing some sort of a downfall also. There have been no real investments made at the Truro racetrack. There have been some upgrades to the Cape Breton facility in Sydney, and the one in Inverness. They are in Sydney, and Inverness, and Antigonish, and Truro and Halifax area. They are big supporters of the racing industry in this province. They come here in droves to not only bet on our races but to keep our hotels filled and to support the industry, buy our horses.

We now see that infrastructure in other parts of Prince Edward Island has been developed with the harness racing industry in regards to the investment made at Crapaud. They have a beautiful facility up there now. That was made over the last number of years, but that is dedicated, community-minded people that see an opportunity to have infrastructure. They invest in the equestrian side and they invest in the harness racing side, and offer their facilities and lease it out and do a fantastic job to pay for infrastructure for a small rural community. Crapaud does a fantastic job and they're to be complimented on the work that they do and the activities they put on in support of

the agricultural community. They do a flower show up there also.

I see it's 5:00 p.m., so I'll call the hour and resume this at some other day.

Speaker: The hour has been called.

We'll recess till 7:00 p.m. this evening.

The Legislature recessed until 7:00 p.m.

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier, 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 Innovation and Advanced Learning.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the grant of supply to Her Majesty.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Call on the hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford to chair the Committee of Supply.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Premier, do you have somebody to come on?

Premier Ghiz: No, I'm okay. Unless you ask me something I don't know anything about.

Mr. M. Currie: You might as well bring them on because (Indistinct).

Premier Ghiz: I just have one copy there of some handout stuff if you guys want that. You can share it over there.

Chair: Top of page 66.

Mr. M. Currie: Agreed.

Chair: Do you have any questions before we start, or should we start reading at the top of page 66?

Mr. Bagnall: What page are we starting on?

Chair: Page 66. Starting at the top of 66.

Mr. Bagnall: He'd like to bring his assistant on with him?

Mr. M. Currie: No, he refused.

Premier Ghiz: If I need somebody after I'll get them.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Premier Ghiz: I'm okay for now. Thanks, though.

Mr. Bagnall: You're sure now?

Premier Ghiz: You can help me.

Chair: Top of page 66.

Premier's Office. "Appropriations provided for the operation of an office to support the Premier in carrying out responsibilities as leader of Government and as President of the Executive Council. Employees provide program and policy advice, administrative support and organization, and liaise with the public and the media." Administration: 32,500. Equipment: 3,500. Materials, Supplies and Services: 6,500. Salaries: 707,200. Travel and Training: 41,800. Total Premier's Office: 791,500.

Any questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Where is purchased services and salaries and breakdown of who works for you and stuff?

Premier Ghiz: You're getting that right there, it's coming. I just tabled it.

Mr. Bagnall: If you want us to ask questions here (Indistinct).

Premier Ghiz: I'll list them off. So in the office is: Chris LeClair is chief of staff, Geoff Townsend, Tex MacDonald.

Mr. Bagnall: What's Geoff Townsend?

Premier Ghiz: What's that?

Mr. Bagnall: What's Geoff Townsend?

Premier Ghiz: Geoff Townsend is director of communications and legislative affairs.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon, say that again?

Premier Ghiz: Director of communications and legislative affairs.

Mr. Bagnall: Director of communications. Okay.

Premier Ghiz: Tex MacDonald.

Mr. Bagnall: Tex MacDonald?

Premier Ghiz: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: He's the guy that ran for us?

Premier Ghiz: Yeah. That just shows how open I am.

Mr. Bagnall: I don't know, maybe he flip-flopped or something, but I don't know. What does he do?

Premier Ghiz: He is my special assistant.

Mr. Bagnall: Special assistant, so what's he do?

Premier Ghiz: A little bit of everything.

Mr. Bagnall: Is he the guy that brings in all of the people to work in your office for you?

Premier Ghiz: To work in my office? No, Chris would do the hiring in my office.

Mr. Bagnall: Chris does your hiring?

Premier Ghiz: In my office, yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So what do you do?

Premier Ghiz: What do I do?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah.

Premier Ghiz: I have to answer your questions.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, no, but - so who else is there besides those three?

Premier Ghiz: Danny Walker.

Mr. Bagnall: Danny Walker works in your office?

Premier Ghiz: You send everybody down to his office after they come in and see you.

Mr. Bagnall: I know, I have to do that. I have to admit that.

Premier Ghiz: So he works for you too, I think.

Mr. Bagnall: You know what? Maybe he does. So he's out of your office?

Premier Ghiz: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: Why is he out of your office? No disrespect.

Premier Ghiz: Because we have some unheld ridings still in the eastern part of the province and I've got a special assistant for that area.

Mr. Bagnall: What for, though?

Premier Ghiz: What for? To help out.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) EDA jobs and all that kind of stuff?

Premier Ghiz: To do good things for the people of the province of PEI.

Mr. Bagnall: You know, Premier, I did that for ten and a half years before. I mean, I could have still done it for you.

Premier Ghiz: I want somebody there to help you, too. If you're looking for a job after, maybe I'll consider - maybe Danny'll get elected next time and I'll hire you.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, I see. I noticed you're hiring a lot of Tories, which is good. Because I noticed you had to hire Pat Mella to fix up your mess in kindergarten.

Premier Ghiz: Yeah. Well, actually she started everything, so she did a very good job at it.

Mr. Bagnall: She did a great job on it, didn't she?

Premier Ghiz: Yeah, absolutely.

Mr. Bagnall: I have to say, Danny does a pretty good job too. I get along pretty good with him.

Premier Ghiz: I know, you send him lots of work. You keep him busy down there.

Mr. Bagnall: As much as I possibly can. I don't know how many I'm getting on, but I'm sending a lot.

Premier Ghiz: There you go. That's good.

Chair: Further question on this section?

Mr. Bagnall: You know, Premier, I know you've hired Danny down there to do the work for you, and it's great, he's doing a good job. But listen, if you're going to put him there to do the job, will you at least give him some resources so he can hire some people?

Premier Ghiz: Okay, so should I give him some more office budget? Look at that, he's (Indistinct) you more than me now.

Mr. Bagnall: I can understand why, Premier. You're pretty stingy to him in rural PEI there.

Premier Ghiz: There you go.

Mr. Bagnall: Premier, no disrespect, he ran out of EDA in January. So there was January, February and March until the budget came down where he couldn't supply anybody any work. That's the time of year -

Premier Ghiz: We just put some more money into it.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah, but Premier, that's the time of year that it's most important to get because everybody's unemployment is run out and there is two or three months there where they're looking to get the work.

So, Premier, you say you've increased that budget \$2 million?

Premier Ghiz: I'll take it under advisement on putting more money into it. How does that sound?

Mr. Bagnall: Have you put more money in the budget?

Premier Ghiz: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: How much?

Premier Ghiz: I'm not exactly sure.

Mr. Bagnall: Three hundred thousand, I think it is.

Premier Ghiz: Fisheries and rural development.

Mr. Bagnall: But that's to cover the rate increase, that doesn't cover to get anybody extra to work?

Premier Ghiz: Very good, you're quick.

Mr. Bagnall: Of course. I've been around a long time.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Scott Linkletter work under your office?

Premier Ghiz: No, Scott is Lucy Maud Trust. We went up to present to Jim

Prentice, so we covered off his trip to go up to do the presentation since he's involved in the presentation, to try to get them to help maybe turn it into a park and get some federal government money.

Mr. M. Currie: Which park?

Premier Ghiz: The property out in Anne's Land there.

Mr. M. Currie: So he owns that?

Premier Ghiz: No, there is a board. Marion Reid is on the board, it's the Lucy Maud Trust.

Mr. M. Currie: This isn't the family people, they're the MacDonalDs that own it.

Premier Ghiz: No, I think there are seven parcels there, if you know the area. Do you know the area?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Premier Ghiz: Yeah, there are seven parcels. One of them, the family that owns the corner one, from England, is going to sell their parcel of land. So they're in a bit of a hurry to see if we can help out or if the feds can help out. So Jim Prentice has an interest in parks and it's very close to the National Park, so went up to make a presentation to Parks Canada, the minister, to see if we could convince him to help us turn it into a national park.

Mr. M. Currie: Who's looking after the Lucy Maud agreement between the province and the family?

Premier Ghiz: And the family? I think that falls under innovation.

Mr. M. Currie: There was a lot of legal fees involved with the family at one time.

Premier Ghiz: Yeah, things seem to be going well now.

Mr. M. Currie: Smoothing out all right?

Premier Ghiz: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: There must be more than four names with a 700,000 -

Premier Ghiz: That work in my office? Yeah. Brenda Kelly.

Mr. M. Currie: Who?

Premier Ghiz: Brenda Kelly, she's my kind of personal administrative assistant. I think she worked for you guys too, at one point. Virginia Flood, Heather Jones, Melissa Paquet.

Mr. Bagnall: From where?

Premier Ghiz: Sherwood.

Mr. Bagnall: What does she do?

Premier Ghiz: She does administrative work. And Tara Arsenault.

Mr. M. Currie: Where's Rory and them? They're over in Executive Council?

Premier Ghiz: They're over in Executive Council.

Mr. M. Currie: So that's the next one, okay.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Who are you travelling and training, then, if there's only those people? Who's doing the training, and what training are you doing?

Premier Ghiz: What's that?

Mr. Bagnall: What training are you doing?

Premier Ghiz: Training for those individuals? Could be anything ranging from French Language Training, computer training, to a whole bunch of different things.

Mr. Bagnall: For 41,000?

Premier Ghiz: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: So what's the travel costs, then? If the training was 41, no travel?

Premier Ghiz: The travel would be for different travel of the staff.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Premier Ghiz: You got a list there, the travel.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Was Erin Mitchell still with you guys last August? I thought she -

Premier Ghiz: She left in September.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Premier's Office: 791,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Executive Council Office. Executive Council Office/Corporate Policy and Planning. "Appropriations provided for the operation of the Office of the Clerk of the Executive Council (responsible for the administration of Cabinet processes and management of Cabinet records), the Policy

Board (responsible for the oversight of major policy and program issues, as well as strategic processes), and the Operations Committee (responsible for coordinating the legislative development process, land use and ownership issues and providing direction regarding implementation of the Rural Action Plan).” Administration: 37,500. Equipment: 5,500. Materials, Supplies and Services: 6,500. Professional and Contract Services: 115,000. Salaries: 1,583,200. Travel and Training: 45,600. Total Executive Council Office: 1,793,300.

Questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: One hundred and fifteen thousand, professional and contract services. Who’d you contract that out to?

Premier Ghiz: Professional and contract services, just give me one second. You probably have a list of it there but I’ll -

Mr. Bagnall: No, we don’t. It just says that with no explanation why.

Premier Ghiz: I will go over it for you. Just give me two seconds.

Chair: Maybe, while he’s looking that up, I’m going to do a few introductions here for a second.

From neighbours of mine out of District 7, actually, Jim and Pam Dunn, Mary Murnaghan and Rita Aylward. (Indistinct), Danny MacGregor. I’ll let the Premier introduce the other - his district (Indistinct). They’re all intermingled here. It’s a great crowd.

Premier Ghiz: Okay, so this is where -

Chair: Joe Aylward -

Premier Ghiz: He’s hiding in the back.

Chair: Sorry. Had to mix in with the others. Good. Anyway, welcome.

Premier Ghiz: This is where the kindergarten commissioner’s paid out of. This is where my bodyguard is paid out of.

Mr. M. Currie: Personal bodyguard.

Premier Ghiz: Personal bodyguard, as you like to call him.

Mr. Bagnall: So what does he do for you?

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: What does your personal bodyguard do for you?

Premier Ghiz: I don’t have a personal bodyguard. That’s your joke that I’m just going along with.

Mr. Bagnall: What security does he do for you, then? Because he’s got a security contract.

Premier Ghiz: Yeah, he’s looking at the security, basically, of all the government buildings in the province. As you know, we’re very much probably behind the times, in terms of where we are in terms of security for our employees. If you try to go to the DVA building or the other federal government building here in Charlottetown, you can’t even get into the buildings without going through security. Ours, you can still walk into. He’s going to do an analysis to try and find what is the best compromise in Prince Edward Island.

I don’t think we need to be - this is just my personal opinion. I’ll take the advice from the experts, but I don’t think we need to be as stringent as they are in Ottawa, but we

need to make sure that we protect our employees.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct).

Premier Ghiz: Pardon?

Mr. M. Currie: I can't seem to find it here.

Premier Ghiz: It's 10,400.

Mr. M. Currie: That's the total contract or just the end of the fiscal year?

Premier Ghiz: Just fiscal year.

Mr. M. Currie: So, he's going to continue on -

Premier Ghiz: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: So you must (Indistinct) -

Premier Ghiz: - 10,400 for this year.

Mr. Bagnall: And that was what you spent?

Premier Ghiz: Yeah. Next year, I think it's another 10,000 or 15,000.

Mr. M. Currie: So it's 25,000 for a year, then?

Premier Ghiz: Yeah.

Chair: Further questions there?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Shall it carry?

Premier Ghiz: If it's more, I'll tell you but that's what I've been told - 10,000

(Indistinct).

Chair: Total Executive Council Office: 1,793,300.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Top of page 67.

Intergovernmental Affairs.

Intergovernmental Affairs. "Appropriations provided for research, coordination of information, liaison and communication, provision of support, advice and consultation and preparation of briefing documents on strategic intergovernmental issues and opportunities to ensure that the interests and priorities of the Province are presented in dealings with other governments." Administration: 4,000. Salaries: 346,400. Travel and Training: 36,000. Grants: 22,300. Total Intergovernmental Affairs: 408,700.

Any questions on this section?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct)?

Premier Ghiz: Sandy Stewart, Rochelle Gallant and then Kelli Jennings is the administrative assistant..

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Premier, we asked a question in the first section and you said it was in the Executive Council. Who works in the Executive Council for you there now? Because it's 1.5 million so you must have quite a few workers.

Premier Ghiz: So you want to go back a little bit there?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah, just go back.

Premier Ghiz: No problem. Rory Beck is the clerk. Matt McGuire is in there, Wendy MacDonald, Karen Stanley, Karen Cheverie, Carolyn Fraser, Rose Long, Christine McKinnon, Tony Sturz, and there's a couple of vacant positions.

Mr. Bagnall: And that's 1.5 million?

Premier Ghiz: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: How many people?

Premier Ghiz: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11.

Mr. Bagnall: So they're making 150,000 apiece?

Premier Ghiz: No.

Mr. Bagnall: Well, there's \$1.583 million for them.

Premier Ghiz: I said 11 names. Two are vacant so we don't even know if we'll spend that much but we still have to budget it in.

Mr. M. Currie: Is this where Gordon Cobb was?

Premier Ghiz: No.

Mr. M. Currie: Good.

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct) works in your office.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: No, we're okay where we are here.

Is it not a lot of money, Premier, for 11 people, 1.583 million?

Premier Ghiz: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: Did you put a breakdown of the salaries in here?

Premier Ghiz: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: I don't see them.

Premier Ghiz: You'll find them.

Mr. Bagnall: Let me have a look there before I -

Premier Ghiz: No problem.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, yes, I do have a breakdown.

Chair: Further questions on that section, then?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters -

Mr. Bagnall: Premier, this doesn't come anywhere close to 1.5 million. Eighty, 120, 160, 260, 380. That's only 500,000, Premier.

Premier Ghiz: You're making me go back a section here. Just give me one second, I'll add up everything for you. No, that's right, one point five. That's how much they had budgeted for. It's because there are vacant positions.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm not going to name any names here, but with people, I go from 91, 86, 74, 57, 54, 54, 43, 43, 40 and 38. That doesn't add to \$1.5 million.

Premier Ghiz: You're right. But that's because there are vacant positions.

Mr. Bagnall: You say you got two vacant positions.

Premier Ghiz: Two.

Mr. Bagnall: You'd have to be spending, then, \$500,000 apiece to get to 1.5 million.

Premier Ghiz: Well, that's a -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Are you paying them 500,000?

Premier Ghiz: They're not doctors. No, they're not doctors. I'm not saying that doctors make that much. Don't want to get myself into trouble.

Mr. Bagnall: Wouldn't want to do that.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) doing that a lot lately.

Mr. Bagnall: It just seems like you have a lot of money here. You have that many employees. Can you not (Indistinct) -

Premier Ghiz: I'll get you that answer tomorrow and why it - whatever the budget is, it should add up to that. Why that number's higher, I'm not sure. I'll get it for you.

Mr. Bagnall: It's not higher. It's a lot lower, Premier.

Premier Ghiz: I'll get you that answer. No, why the number in the book's higher.

Mr. Bagnall: It's a million dollars higher.

Premier Ghiz: Wouldn't be a million.

Mr. Bagnall: Let me see.

Premier Ghiz: You add it up.

Chair: The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, while he's adding it up.

Mr. M. Currie: Premier, the process in Executive Council can be very cumbersome with all the land transactions that go through. Are you still processing all the land? I thought there was a move afoot that you guys were going to let IRAC do that and then - (Indistinct) every one goes through. Land transfers.

Premier Ghiz: Yeah. They still all go through government, not through Executive Council though.

Mr. M. Currie: Not through Cabinet?

Premier Ghiz: Oh no, they all go through Cabinet.

Mr. M. Currie: So you never changed that?

Premier Ghiz: No. We've kind of streamlined it. You know how when you used to get the Cabinet book it used to be everybody.

Mr. M. Currie: Pages and pages.

Premier Ghiz: Yeah, pages and pages. We just now list them off and it goes through the operations committee.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah, Premier, (Indistinct) difference.

Premier Ghiz: Let me ask Karen. Karen, why's that higher?

Unidentified Voice: The salary?

Mr. M. Currie: She can't do it from over there. (Indistinct).

Premier Ghiz: I'll go ask her and I'll come right back.

Mr. M. Currie: He's too stubborn to bring her on the floor.

Premier Ghiz: Absolutely. The other half million is the Cabinet ministers' salaries. The Cabinet ministers get paid out of that area. I should have known that. Sorry.

Mr. M. Currie: You should have.

Chair: Further questions there on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Premier, do you pay a salary to Billy Dow?

Premier Ghiz: No.

Mr. Bagnall: You don't pay any salary to him?

Premier Ghiz: No, I don't. Probably should, shouldn't I?

Mr. Bagnall: He's paid out of the PNP or what's he paid out of?

Premier Ghiz: No.

Mr. Bagnall: What?

Premier Ghiz: No.

Mr. Bagnall: No?

Premier Ghiz: No.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Who all is on your senior compensation package?

Premier Ghiz: All, every single one of them (Indistinct)?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Premier Ghiz: Or the ones in this book

right here?

Mr. Bagnall: Have you got them all listed?

Premier Ghiz: No, I don't have them all. The ones that are in this book here, well, in the first part there's Chris LeClair and Geoff Townsend. In the second part there is Executive Council, which you're in now, is Rory Beck.

Mr. Bagnall: So you have three people on senior compensation?

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct) keep going, I'll go through them all.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. How many are not on here?

Premier Ghiz: Are not on here?

Mr. Bagnall: Are not on here.

Premier Ghiz: The deputies (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Are not listed here.

Premier Ghiz: The deputies from the other departments.

Mr. Bagnall: And that's the only people?

Premier Ghiz: Yes. Plus, like Workers Compensation Board of PEI and things like that.

Mr. Bagnall: Will you table those?

Premier Ghiz: They've been tabled many times, but I'll table them.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Intergovernmental Affairs: 408,700.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Acadian and Francophone Affairs.

Acadian and Francophone Affairs.
 “Appropriations provided for the coordination of measures relating primarily to the implementation of the *French Language Services Act* within the Provincial Government, including support to departmental French Services coordinators, coordination of several bilateral agreements, provision of translation services, administrative support to the Acadian Communities Advisory Committee and several other initiatives concerning the promotion of the French Language.”
 Administration: 15,800. Equipment: 1,100. Materials, Supplies and Services: 22,700. Professional and Contract Services: 179,200. Salaries: 688,900. Travel and Training: 16,800. Grants: 14,500. Total Acadian and Francophone Affairs: 939,000.

Questions on that section?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

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

Mr. M. Currie: The college in Wellington, l’Acadie, is it funded the same per capita per student as Holland College and UPEI?

Premier Ghiz: I don’t believe so, but that would - there was no funding in place, actually, when we came into government, and we were the first government to provide funding, I believe. Isn’t that right? Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: No, it was funded.

Premier Ghiz: No.

Mr. M. Currie: But it wasn’t as funded as it

probably should -

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct) significant increase since we came in. It falls under higher education.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Mr. Premier?

Premier Ghiz: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: You were saying the other day you didn’t have any conflict of interest. How come you got a (Indistinct) of \$2,360?

Premier Ghiz: Well, I have to update my conflict information.

Mr. Bagnall: So that cost you \$2,360?

Premier Ghiz: I guess so. The same as it would cost you when you send in your bill. No different.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, that’s for your own personal that you sent in. Would you do that every year?

Premier Ghiz: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So it’s 2,300 every year to -

Premier Ghiz: No -

Mr. Bagnall: - say it’s okay?

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct). I think it had to do with getting married.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, okay.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

An Hon. Member: Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: Premier, have you heard any good response -, I know it was a great donation, and that's to the Red Cross, the money that went to Haiti, and the 50,000, and I congratulate you for doing that. That's a good initiative. But did you hear any response back, or did you get any response back from what we've done?

Premier Ghiz: Yes. Especially from Islanders, but it's interesting. Some of the questions that you were asking earlier today about government advertising, I heard from a lot of Islanders that called me up or sent me emails that were complaining that we weren't doing enough. Then when I told them that as a government we provided \$50,000, and if you look on at it on a per capita basis, I'm not 100% sure, but I'm pretty sure Nova Scotia and New Brunswick gave in the \$100,000 range, so per capita we were one of the larger donors. But I had some people complain to me -

Mr. Bagnall: No, no, I'm not growling about this.

Premier Ghiz: Just one sec, I'll just finish here. People said: Why didn't we give any money? So when I got back to them I explained to them that we gave 50,000. Perhaps, maybe, we should have put out an advertisement on it, but we didn't.

Mr. Bagnall: So you're saving \$4,860 here that you're - for a rainy day? Obviously, because it's in your forecast at year end. So there's no - it's not budgeted anywhere.

Premier Ghiz: Are you in the miscellaneous section now, or where are you at?

Mr. Bagnall: No, you're in the same thing, under general government here.

Premier Ghiz: We're not under general government yet. We're at Acadian and Francophone Affairs.

Mr. Bagnall: Well, let me see, where are we here then?

Premier Ghiz: Acadian and Francophone Affairs.

Mr. Bagnall: We'll get there.

Chair: Shall that section carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: No. There's -

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: You have \$5,000 that goes there for the Francophone during the Olympic Games. What was that for?

Premier Ghiz: (Indistinct).

Ms. Bertram: (Indistinct).

Premier Ghiz: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: What's it?

Ms. Bertram: (Indistinct).

Premier Ghiz: Our contribution -

Mr. Bagnall: Go ahead.

Premier Ghiz: Our contribution to the Francophone house of Canada.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So what did you give the New Brunswick minister of finance \$3,000 for?

Premier Ghiz: I think that was for hosting a conference.

Mr. Bagnall: What's that?

Premier Ghiz: The hosting of a conference, I believe it was.

Mr. Bagnall: For here? Or for there, or where?

Premier Ghiz: Our share of hosting a conference when it came to - just give me one second and I'll go there for you. Okay? Which one are you asking about?

Mr. Bagnall: It was 2,000 - no, \$3,000 to the minister -

Premier Ghiz: You have the same thing I'm looking at. Just read what it says underneath there.

Mr. Bagnall: It says to the Canadian Francophone, MCCF, for 2,000 -

Premier Ghiz: That would be our share of the conference.

Mr. Bagnall: And nine and 10. That's for the conference. Okay.

Chair: Questions?

Mr. Bagnall: So there's others here. Are they all for conferences, too? These \$1,200 ones?

Premier Ghiz: Yes. One sec. Just let me go through them all.

Francophone Affairs, PEI's contribution to the Place de la Francophonie during the Olympic Games. Then you've got PEI's contribution to the national coordination of the Ministerial Conference on Canadian Francophones. Then you've got the 2009 annual convention of the Fédération

nationale des conseils scolaires Francophones. It's just our participation in these conferences.

Mr. Bagnall: It seems like you've got one listed three times here.

Premier Ghiz: The 1,200, 1,200, 1,200?

Mr. Bagnall: The 1,200, 1,200, 1,200.

Premier Ghiz: Participation to the pre-convention, (Indistinct) in Montreal, participation. Yeah, it's because it comes in different (Indistinct). One's la Société de développement de la Baie acadienne. Different organizations ask to be funded, so we provide the funding for them.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. The trip to France, the Colonel Gray school. Do all students that travel away on trips get reimbursed, Premier, from your office?

Premier Ghiz: No.

Mr. Bagnall: So it's just Colonel Gray that got this money this year?

Premier Ghiz: It would have been to do with French Immersion and it would have - because it was French, Acadian Francophone Affairs probably contributed to some of those things for the development of French culture.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

An Hon. Member: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Moving on to the top of page 68.

Acadian Community Advisory Committee. "Appropriations provided for the organization of meetings of the Committee, including materials and supplies, travel

expenditures and honoraria.”

Administration: 2,500. Materials, Supplies and Services: 600. Salaries: 6,300. Travel and Training: 2,700. Total Acadian Communities Advisory Committee: 12,100.

Questions on that section?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Acadian and Francophone Affairs: 951,100.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Executive Council: 3,944,600.

Shall it carry? Carried.

An Hon. Member: That’s it.

An Hon. Member: Good job.

An Hon. Member: Good job.

Premier Ghiz: I think you got a bill next.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Chair: It’s innovation, 107, roughly around there.

Mr. Campbell: Permission to take a staff member on the floor.

Chair: Shall that be okay?

Mr. Campbell: Shannon Burke.

Chair: Okay.

Starting at the top of page 110.

Do you have handouts?

Mr. Campbell: I certainly do. Neatly organized. All in order.

Chair: Ready?

Mr. Bagnall: Minister?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Your assistant, is that the same lady that was working with the PNP?

Mr. Campbell: She worked at IIDI.

Mr. Bagnall: She worked at IIDI?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: She’s the one that got paid the bonus of \$9,500?

Mr. Campbell: There was a number of staff that did, yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So she got the \$9,500 bonus then?

Mr. Campbell: I’m not sure what the figure is.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Campbell: I’m not sure what the figure is.

Mr. Bagnall: Well, it’s the figure you gave us.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So that’s it?

Mr. Campbell: You have it there.

Mr. Bagnall: I have the figure, but is this the same person? I’m trying to find out.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, it is the same person?

good worker in the department.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. Campbell: You got that right, absolutely. Big shoes to fill, but she's pretty good.

Mr. Bagnall: So she's changed positions?

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) good person.

Mr. Campbell: That's correct.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Campbell: There is no question, great guy, very dedicated public servant and gave a lot of good advice and did a lot of great work. Everybody misses him for sure.

Mr. Campbell: Reagh Hicken retired, and she's acting in finance and - what's the name (Indistinct)?

Mr. Bagnall: What's that?

Shannon Burke Acting Director:
(Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: Everybody misses Reagh.

Mr. Bagnall: When did Reagh retire?

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, Reagh is a good guy.

Mr. Campbell: Finance and admin. Reagh retired in January.

Chair: Shall we start at the top of page 110, or any further questions?

Mr. Bagnall: So have you advertised that position or what are you doing?

Mr. Bagnall: Do these all fall in order?

Mr. Campbell: No, Shannon is acting in it for the time being, but it will be eventually advertised for sure.

Mr. Campbell: I believe so, yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: It's eventually going to be advertised?

Chair: Departmental Management.

Mr. Campbell: Yes

Administration. "Appropriations provided for the operation of the offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister."
Administration: 37,400. Equipment: 4,500. Materials, Supplies and Services: 30,000. Professional and Contract Services: 37,000. Salaries: 927,000. Travel and Training: 78,000. Grants: 500,000. Total Administration: 1,613,900.

Mr. Bagnall: When is that going to be?

Premier Ghiz: Mr. Chair?

Mr. Campbell: I don't know. I would assume - I don't know when it will be. It will be in the near future, for sure.

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Mr. Bagnall: In the near future?

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

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

I'd like to recognize two districts that are here tonight. One of them is held by myself and the other one will be held by a Liberal, hopefully, after the next election. Of course,

Mr. M. Currie: Reagh Hicken was a really

in District 13, Mark O'Halloran is here, Faye Williams, Chris Lane, Isaac MacEachern, Terry Allen and Paulette Hooley. I think (Indistinct) Paulete, she might have left.

Then in District 7, Daniel MacGregor, Eli White, Peter White, Joe Aylward, Rita Aylward, Mary Murnaghan, Mary Lou Parkman, Jimmy Dunn, Pam Dunn. I hope that's everybody. I thought I saw John Cameron slip in there at the end. He's down on my list and I am right, he did slip in.

I'd very much like to welcome them to the Legislature. Hopefully we'll try very hard so that next time when District 7 comes in here after the next election, they'll have their own member from the government side of the House, the Liberal Party side of the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Chair: Total Administration: 1,613,900.

Questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: This Robert Perrin. He's the one that does your international trade with you?

Mr. Campbell: He's under contract, I believe he was under contract -

Mr. Bagnall: No, no, he was under contract with me in the department when we were here, agriculture. So he's still doing your work for you?

Mr. Campbell: No, his contract is done.

Mr. Bagnall: So who have you got replacing him now?

Mr. Campbell: Kal Whitnell who is

director of special projects.

Mr. Bagnall: Who?

Mr. Campbell: Kal Whitnell. I must say too, that certainly Bob was a tremendous mentor for Kal as well.

Mr. Bagnall: Bob was really an excellent -

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, there is no question.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Your EA, is this where Joe Keefe is?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Communication officer is now who?

Mr. Campbell: Ron Ryder.

Mr. M. Currie: Who's the internal communication assistant?

Mr. Campbell: I guess that'd be Ron, and then we have Major Stewart who is transferring to the department of education, I believe, this summer.

Premier Ghiz: Another happy person (Indistinct) happy to move to Summerside?

Mr. Campbell: You mean the interim?

Mr. M. Currie: Says interim communication assistant.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, the interim is Christian Ledwell. I think he's related to Frank Ledwell. Yeah, he's Frank's son.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Carr, Stevenson and MacKay, 7,700, what was that for?

Mr. Campbell: What handout is that?

Mr. Bagnall: That's under legal here.

Mr. Campbell: That was with respect to a FOIPP request.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Campbell: With respect to a FOIPP request on grants and loans.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. What about Matheson and Murray then, you have a couple there.

Mr. Campbell: Matheson and Murray was -

Mr. Bagnall: Eight thousand dollars worth there.

Mr. Campbell: That is with respect to the hog plant.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Campbell: Some legal issues surrounding the hog plant.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Minister, have you heard anything back from the ArsenaultBestCameronEllis, have they finished the audit yet?

Mr. Campbell: No, they haven't finished the audit.

Mr. Bagnall: Can you update us where it is now then?

Mr. Campbell: They're in the middle of the audit there now.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, so when are they expected to be completed?

Mr. Campbell: Our audited statements have to be completed by June 30th.

Mr. Bagnall: Who is doing the audit on them?

Mr. Campbell: Which audit are you referring to?

Mr. Bagnall: They're doing an audit on ArsenaultBestCameronEllis. Right? So who's doing it?

Mr. Campbell: Who specially from -

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah.

Mr. Campbell: - ABCE?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah.

Mr. Campbell: I don't know.

Mr. Bagnall: Is it being completed by chartered accountants or who is it being done by?

Mr. Campbell: It would be, yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: So what accountants are doing it?

Mr. Campbell: I don't know how many accountants are at ArsenaultBestCameronEllis. There would be a lot of them.

Mr. Bagnall: Somebody is doing the audit on them, so they wouldn't be doing it.

Mr. Campbell: Doing the audit on them. That's being done through the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Mr. Bagnall: So you don't know who's doing it for -

Mr. Campbell: No.

Mr. Bagnall: Did they find anything out - are they going to clear a conflict of interest?

Mr. Campbell: That process is underway. I can't speak to - I don't know what the outcome of that will be. I don't anticipate there will be, but that's why there is a process through the institute.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, you have 500,000 in grants under your section. I only see 176 where you spent.

Shannon Burke Acting Director: This was an accounting entry that they did, they added to the budget book. Next year they're wrapping up further, wrapping up the special projects funds from the province. So they're adding an additional \$250,000 to our grants budget and they just added 250 right across the board for comparative purposes. There is a note in the budget book.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, I'm just wondering why your office has 500,000 to do for grants. I mean, why isn't that under a line for training or investment or infrastructure or something?

Mr. Campbell: This is a help research fund. It was created 10 years ago. It's to fund -

Mr. M. Currie: I never had any 500,000 under my minister's office. I sat there for eight years.

Mr. Campbell: I don't know where it was, but this was created 10 years ago to fund medical research projects, and there are usually about four to five projects a year in this fund (Indistinct) federal funding.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Administrative assistant, who is that?

Mr. Campbell: Administrative assistant in the minister and deputy's office are Sandra MacIntyre and JoAnn McQuaid. Then there is a records clerk, that lady is off on leave. We have somebody filling in temporary, that's Tracey Paquet filling in for Cindy MacLean.

Mr. Bagnall: So what's your EA listed as? I don't see it here. I don't see it. Where is he on this list?

Mr. Campbell: It's the first line.

Mr. Bagnall: Executive assistant?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: He makes 54,000 a year?

Mr. Campbell: There is a range there, isn't there?

Mr. Bagnall: There is a range.

Mr. Campbell: Yes, it followed in that range.

Mr. Bagnall: So he's up to 54,000?

Mr. Campbell: No, he falls within the range.

Mr. Bagnall: So what's his range?

Mr. Campbell: The range is there on the -

Mr. Bagnall: He can't make up to 55,000, though?

Mr. Campbell: If he was at the top step of the level it's no different than anyone else working in the public service. There is a range given and, depending on your length of time in service, typically you advance a

step each year, the same as any government employee.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: The interim communications assistant now, is that from the intern program?

Mr. Campbell: That's from the intern program, yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: So they get \$19 an hour.

Mr. Campbell: Correct.

Mr. Bagnall: How many do you have, just the one in your department?

Mr. Campbell: No, we have - they're listed in the individual sections. I think there are a couple at Innovation PEI as well. But within the department management itself, he's the only one.

Mr. Bagnall: I can't believe Joe Keefe is making 54,000.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

Shall it carry? Carried.

SkillsPEI.

SkillsPEI. "Appropriations provided for the administration and delivery of programs targeted at improving the Prince Edward Island labour market." Administration: 299,300. Equipment: 29,000. Materials, Supplies and Services: 16,000. Professional and Contract Services: 177,000. Salaries: 3,462,900. Travel and Training: 68,000. Labour Market Development Agreement: 23,886,900. Older Workers' Program: 515,900. Provincial Programs: 1,362,000. Total Skills PEI: 33,649,500.

Questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: The professional and contract services.

Mr. Campbell: It's in the handout.

Mr. Bagnall: Kevin Arsenault, professional services. What's that for?

Mr. Campbell: He worked on a project developing foreign credential recognition. We contracted him to do some research on that. Kevin Arsenault, with his expertise coming from the association of newcomers -

Mr. Bagnall: Is he with Kevin and Chucky. Is that the Kevin we're talking about, Kevin Arsenault? Or is there a different Kevin Arsenault?

Mr. Campbell: I don't know.

Mr. Bagnall: Does he have a consulting firm?

Mr. Campbell: No, I don't believe. He has his Ph.D. He was with the association of newcomers.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Atlantic Business Interiors, who are they? There's a \$33,000 contract for them.

Mr. Campbell: They're a company that does office interiors, I guess.

Mr. Bagnall: So where's that for?

Mr. Campbell: At the ATC, I believe.

Mr. Bagnall: So we're doing office remodelling in there?

Mr. Campbell: No, we did a fit up because SkillsPEI, because of the devolution in

October, we certainly didn't have - I don't know what we have - 61 staff or something. We made a decision to operate out of SkillsPEI and it's a standard office fit up. We had to fit up the ATC for the staff. It's offset by federal revenue.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Who's this Berni Wood & Associates? There's \$400,000 contracts there. What was it for?

Mr. Campbell: Again, I guess it's a consulting firm. It was for coordination of training and coordination with SkillsPEI.

Mr. Bagnall: What kind of training?

Mr. Campbell: Employee training.

Mr. Bagnall: For what?

Mr. Campbell: For LMDA.

Mr. Bagnall: Who are you training?

Mr. Campbell: Staff. We took this over in October and it required a lot of training.

Mr. Bagnall: So where's this Berni Wood & Associates from?

Mr. Campbell: I have no idea. I don't go out and find out where the companies are from. I don't know where he's from, really.

Mr. Bagnall: Bevan Brothers, you have a contract services there for 4,000 - no, 3,400.

Mr. Campbell: Again, it's for office setup, and we were afforded the budget, through devolution. That offsets those costs.

Mr. Bagnall: Cabinetmaster, then?

Mr. Campbell: Same thing.

Mr. Bagnall: Same thing? What did you buy from them for 15,000?

Mr. Campbell: Cabinets, I assume.

Mr. Bagnall: Kitchen cabinets?

Mr. Campbell: Well, no, I think it would be office cabinets probably.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you know?

Mr. Campbell: No, I don't go to see what -

Mr. Bagnall: You don't have these things. You just list them -

Mr. Campbell: I don't have them itemized, no.

Mr. Bagnall: No breakdown of what it's for.

Mr. Campbell: No, I don't have them itemized.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Clear point -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: Berni Wood's from Charlottetown?

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: ClearPoint, what are they? Or who is it?

Mr. Campbell: ClearPoint is a company, I think, that works in software. With the devolution, again, there's a lot of software and hardware that -

Mr. Bagnall: Who is this?

Mr. Campbell: I don't know. I don't know why it matters.

Mr. Bagnall: Sure it matters.

Mr. Campbell: Why?

Mr. Bagnall: Of course it matters. You spent \$35,000. You don't know what it's for and you don't know who got it.

Mr. Campbell: It's ClearPoint. It's a company that -

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah but you don't know what they do. You're just guessing.

Mr. Campbell: No, I'm not guessing. It's software. Why does it matter who, specifically, it is? I don't understand it.

Mr. Bagnall: You don't understand it?

Mr. Campbell: No. Why, specifically -

Mr. Bagnall: If you're going to bring it, have the information, not half-assed.

Mr. Campbell: Okay.

An Hon. Member: Easy now.

Mr. Campbell: That's unparliamentary there, I believe, is it?

Chair: Yeah, just watch (Indistinct).

Can you retract that?

Mr. Bagnall: What?

Chair: The last comment.

Mr. Bagnall: I don't even know what I said. What did I say?

Chair: I'm not going to repeat it.

Mr. Campbell: You'll read it in Hansard tomorrow.

Mr. Bagnall: Whatever it is, I'll retract it. I don't know what it was.

Chair: Thank you. Okay. Good.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, okay, what's this 13,552? We're going to get through them. It's ClearPoint. What's this for?

Mr. Campbell: I can get a breakdown for you on it and bring it back. I'm not sure. It's in software design, providing software for the system.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, so what's the 9,100?

Mr. Campbell: It'd be something similar, I assume. Just two different lines. I imagine we got something from them on one occasion, something again on another occasion.

Mr. Bagnall: But you don't know where they're from or you don't know who they are.

Mr. Campbell: No, I don't know why that makes a difference.

Mr. Bagnall: You don't?

Mr. Campbell: No, I don't.

Mr. Bagnall: Thirty-nine thousand dollars. We want to know what it's about.

Mr. Campbell: I'll bring that back for you.

Chair: Question here, the hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness.

Mr. Henderson: (Indistinct) discussed with you a while back there just about some of the individual contracts that are done up for training plans and whatnot for individuals. Some of the issues seem to be around that the computer software wasn't able to allow them to provide amendments and it was creating a lot of extra work for the staff. Is

there any feedback on that? Has that been resolved or will it be resolved?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, for the most part. It's ongoing. You have to realize, I guess, we're taking over a huge piece of work and a huge complex system as well. We expect that there will be some kinks, I guess I would say. We've addressed most of them. It's like anything else. There will always be some bumps in the road but the staff have been fantastic, very dedicated, and work long hours and over weekends to try and iron them out.

Mr. Henderson: So you think that's been resolved or will be resolved or is in the process of being resolved?

Mr. Campbell: Oh yeah. It fits in the process. I think we've gotten over the major hurdles. You know, there'll always be some things that we need to do along the way.

Mr. Henderson: Okay.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm still on this expenses. A lot of money spent here in this section. Coastal doors and frames. What was that (Indistinct)? What did you do there?

Mr. Campbell: Well, I guess, likely - I'm just going by the name of the company but I assume doors and frames.

Mr. Bagnall: There's nothing explained to you there in your notes?

Mr. Campbell: I don't have a breakdown. It's office setup.

Mr. Bagnall: Then you're really into the next one. It's DeltaWare. You got \$1.5 million and you got no breakdown of what

any of it was for.

Mr. Campbell: DeltaWare provided the computer system, which delivers the programs for SkillsPEI. Everything went through Treasury Board. There was -

Mr. Bagnall: There are 15 different contracts in here for this DeltaWare and it totals 1.5 million, but you got no breakdown and you can't tell me what anything was spent for.

Mr. Campbell: I'm sorry?

Mr. Bagnall: You got no breakdown.

Mr. Campbell: I mean, it's 15 different bills. It all relates to the same thing. It's the system.

Mr. Bagnall: You're telling me there's 15 bills for the exact same thing?

Mr. Campbell: What I'm saying is, 15 bills for the system design setup and providing the hardware and software for deliver the programs -

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, will you bring back the breakdown on these expenses? Because there's no breakdown here, other than the figures.

Mr. Campbell: If I can, no problem.

Mr. Bagnall: What do you mean, if you can? You must have them or you wouldn't have the figures here.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, we'll bring it back. Sure.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm not going to carry that section there until we get that information back because I want -

Mr. Campbell: No problem.

Mr. Bagnall: Because I want to see what the breakdown, what the stuff is for.

Mr. Campbell: Sure.

Mr. Bagnall: In this section. Because there's 22 million - what's the expenses - 3.4 million, I think, in that section and it doesn't show us what any of it's for.

Chair: Going to hold that section, move to the top of page 111.

Population Secretariat.

Population Secretariat. "Appropriations provided for policy and programs to support the Island Prosperity Plan and to respond to Island labour market needs through Settlement, Recruitment, Repatriation and Retention." Administration: 99,300. Equipment: 3,200. Materials, Supplies and Services: 63,000. Professional and Contract Services: 25,000. Salaries: 678,100. Travel and Training: 67,000. Grants and Contributions: 875,000. Total Population Secretariat: 1,810,600.

Questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: The salary on that section.

Mr. Campbell: I believe there's a handout.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm trying to find it here. Is that the one where -

Mr. Campbell: It's handout number 14.

Mr. Bagnall: Handout 14?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, 14, I think.

Mr. Bagnall: Who's the executive director in that section?

Mr. Campbell: Jim Ferguson.

Mr. Bagnall: And the director is who?

Mr. Campbell: Jane Mallard.

Mr. Bagnall: You have grants in that section of \$875,000.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, just give me a second there until I catch up to you. It's handout number 16. There's a breakdown there.

Mr. Bagnall: Who's Pierce?

Mr. Campbell: It's Percé.

Mr. Bagnall: Percé

Mr. Campbell: It's a program.

Mr. Bagnall: What's that?

Mr. Campbell: Percé is not a who. It's a program.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) program.

Mr. Campbell: It's a repatriation and retention initiative providing Islander-born university students with summer work experience in their field of study.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Campbell: It's for French students, I believe.

Mr. Bagnall: It's for French students?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Campbell: Good program.

Mr. Bagnall: The seniors network. Is that the seniors federation that gets that money?

That grant of 30,000?

Mr. Campbell: It was paid to East Prince youth development.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon? No, it's 30,000 for PEI seniors net.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So why would it be paid to youth?

Mr. Campbell: They run the program. East Prince youth development runs the program for seniors.

Mr. Bagnall: Is that like the heap senior program? Or what is it?

Mr. Campbell: I'm not sure exactly the details of it.

Shannon Burke Acting Director: It's to provide computer training to seniors.

Mr. Campbell: It's to provide computer training for seniors.

Ms. Dunsford: Good program. Great program.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, no, that's good.

Ms. Dunsford: All across PEI. (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: CIC portal?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm sure the minister can answer.

Ms. Dunsford: Just saying.

Mr. Bagnall: What's that C -

Mr. Campbell: It's the Canadian

Immigration Portal. I guess it's a federal initiative, but the provinces is contribute to it, and this is our provincial contribution.

Mr. Bagnall: What's it for though, minister?

Mr. Campbell: It's for people - they can go on and track through their progress through the immigration process to find out where their application is at. Again, it's an initiative of the federal government. This is our contribution. If you're in the system trying to be processed through the immigration programs, then you can - it's just a program where you can go and see where you're at in the process.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Further questions?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: The PEI Association for Newcomers -

Mr. Campbell: Great group.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah. No, and I agree.

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely.

Mr. Bagnall: But what's the 574,000? What's the breakdown on that?

Mr. Campbell: It's a grant. They deliver a suite of programs with respect to newcomers to PEI, whether it be job search, settlement, just familiarizing people and helping them make the transition. There's a suite of programs.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Twenty thousand dollars to the confederation library?

Mr. Campbell: It's an English as an additional learning tutoring program. It's

been going on for I don't know how many years.

Mr. Bagnall: Are there tutors hired?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: That's what this money is for?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: Good.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

Mr. Bagnall: In the City of Charlottetown -

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: - what are they getting 9,600 for, a grant?

Mr. Campbell: That's for translation and printing of the welcome guide that's included in the CIC portal. I mean, I guess, for now at least, the bulk of our immigrants are settling in Charlottetown, so they participate in the portal to familiarize newcomers to Charlottetown.

Mr. Bagnall: You've got the Community Access Program - CAP funding - and that's good funding, but have you cut that?

Mr. Campbell: No.

Mr. Bagnall: Have you increased it?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah. That funding is moving over to Innovation PEI, and of course we know what happened this spring -

Mr. Bagnall: As long as it's going to be there. So you're just transferring it. It's not here.

Mr. Campbell: Yes. Exactly. No desire

whatsoever to cut that. I guess Islanders and Canadians as a whole have voiced their opinion on cutting CAP funding. It's a valuable service to a lot of people who can't access Internet at home.

Mr. Bagnall: You've got travel and training, 67,000. That seems like a lot for this section for travel.

Mr. Campbell: It's handout number 15, I believe. The breakdown is there in the handout, number 15.

Mr. Bagnall: It's an awful lot of out-of-province travel. Why so much?

Mr. Campbell: Well, it's - I guess -

Mr. Bagnall: I'm not criticizing you -

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: - I'm just wondering why it's so much.

Mr. Campbell: I guess it's immigration. There's a lot of federal-provincial interaction. There are a lot of meetings. They're all listed there in the handout, what they were in relation to. It's just the nature of what the department does.

Mr. Bagnall: Like, minister, and I know you've got to get French-speaking teachers and stuff here. What was the response of your trip to Paris and Brussels here for 79, for \$8,000?

Mr. Campbell: I'm not sure exactly what the numbers were. But -

Mr. Bagnall: Did you bring anybody back? Or did you recruit anybody from those trips?

Mr. Campbell: When you're on a recruiting trip, you typically don't bring somebody back with you. There is a process that they

have to engage in.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Campbell: So it could be -

Mr. Bagnall: Did you take any applications or -

Mr. Campbell: I think there was - I don't know the number, but there were a significant number of contacts made. I don't know the exact number or what stage in the process that those would be at, but -

Mr. Bagnall: So you don't know - you've got no feedback whether you've got anybody from there, or you didn't get anybody from there.

Mr. Campbell: Again, there's a - it could be two to three years before you actually realize people arriving. It could be even longer than that. The immigration process is not a speedy process. I think maybe the RDÉE group from Evangeline-Miscouche participated as well. Great group. Economic development in the French part of the province. They've been a great group to work with.

Chair: Further questions?

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, yes. I thought there was somebody there. Who's the executive director in this section?

Mr. Campbell: Of the Population Secretariat?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah.

Mr. Campbell: Jim Ferguson.

Mr. Bagnall: I thought he was the one on the last section?

Mr. Campbell: No, he's the Population

Secretariat.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. I already asked that question then.

Chair: Question?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah. Okay.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Population Secretariat: 1,810,600.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Training and Post Secondary Education.

General. "Appropriations provided for post secondary coordination, the regulation of private training businesses and the administration of the Division."

Administration: 24,100. Equipment: 2,500. Materials, Supplies and Services: 8,100. Professional and Contract Services: 21,400. Salaries: 612,800. Travel and Training: 24,900. Total General: 693,800.

Questions on that section?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Quite a bit of travel again in this section.

Mr. Campbell: Travel. Just let me catch up to you again here. That's on handout number 19.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah. I know. I'm looking at it here.

Mr. Campbell: Okay.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, you're department is working with IT centre, and you have such a great video conference at the IT centre.

Mr. Campbell: At the ATC?

Mr. Bagnall: I'm noticing that you're spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on travel bills travelling all over Canada on these things. Can there not be any way where you can use video conferences rather than travelling all over the country? Because you have one of the best setups in North America -

Mr. Campbell: Well -

Mr. Bagnall: - sitting right here at your fingertips in the building you're working out of.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, and we do look at that as much as possible. With respect to federal-provincial meetings, or whether it be at the deputy or director level, we more or less take a look at what the other jurisdictions are doing as well. If they feel that there's a need to be in the same room, well then we kind of follow suit.

We also have the director who's a board member, I believe, on the MPHEC - Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission - and that requires a significant amount of travel because of her duties with respect to that.

Again, we're looking through our budgets for 2010-2011 at being as frugal as possible with our travel as well.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Your salaries seem to be awful high for this small section. Why? Why would we be spending so much there?

Mr. Campbell: If you look in the post-secondary grant section - the section that does student financial aid, student loans -

their salary is included in this section as well.

Mr. Bagnall: So who's the director here?

Mr. Campbell: Susan MacKenzie.

Mr. Bagnall: Susan MacKenzie?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: The manager of literacy is who?

Mr. Campbell: They're listed here, just let me find them again.

An Hon. Member: Barb Macnutt.

Mr. Campbell: Where's the handout on staff?

An Hon. Member: That's Barb Macnutt.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah. Barb Macnutt.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. That's fine.

Chair: Further questions on this section?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Apprenticeship and Training.

"Appropriations provided for the administration of apprenticeship training and certification of tradespersons."

Administration: 4,500. Equipment: 1,000.

Materials, Supplies and Services: 3,400.

Professional and Contract Services: 63,500.

Salaries: 315,200. Travel and Training:

22,500. Grants: 2,500. Total Apprenticeship and Training: 412,600.

Questions?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: An awful lot of legal fees in

here, minister? Why all the legal fees?

Mr. Campbell: There was a trade essentials program and this was a program that was federally funded. Most of this was paid for by the federal government and that has now been transferred, that program. You see the numbers will indicate that all through this section. That particular program, which is a great program, it helped people who were having difficulties.

Mr. Bagnall: Do they pay it all or you get partial payment?

Mr. Campbell: I think the total was a little over a million dollars and I think they gave us about 875,000.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Grant Thornton, you got 10,400. What contracts are they doing with you?

Mr. Campbell: What handout are you on?

Mr. Bagnall: Same one. Just down below the legal fees on the same thing.

Mr. Campbell: That's in the next section under Innovation PEI.

Mr. Bagnall: It's all listed under handout 22.

Mr. Campbell: Yes, but if you look at the top of that page it's Innovation PEI which is the next section.

Chair: Further questions on this section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Travel and training, again, is up to 22,500.

Mr. Campbell: Actually our forecast amount was lower than what we budgeted for, but we feel with the - it's important to keep a training budget. Training is very important in the public sector for sure.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Moving to the top of page 112.

Post Secondary Grants. "Appropriations provided for post-secondary educational institutions, student assistance, adult basic education, literacy training and the community service bursary program."
 Collège L'Acadie. Operating Grant: 280,500. Restricted Funding: 495,000. Total: 775,000. Holland College. Operating Grant: 15,034,700. Capital Assistance: 4,732,000. Student Tuition Subsidy: 7,000,000. Restricted Funding: 4,562,200. Total: 31,328,900. University of Prince Edward Island. Operating Grant: 30,296,900. Capital Assistance: 2,895,300. Restricted Funding: 2,157,500. Atlantic Veterinary College: 8,496,500. Total: 43,846,200. Student Aid: 7,341,600. Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission: 5,646,700. Other Grants: 382,400. Total Post Secondary Grants: 89,321,300.

Questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Minister, I thought you said a few minutes ago when we were talking about the Collège L'Acadie that you upped their grant.

Mr. Campbell: We did.

Mr. Bagnall: According to these figures they spent 887,000 last year and your budget is only 755,500 this year. So that's down.

Mr. Campbell: But the budgeted amount for 2009-2010 was about 770, I believe. We were able to leverage \$75,000 in federal spending. That's why the forecast amount exceeded the budget amount for 2009-2010. But the budget amount of 2010-2011 is up I guess 2% from what it was in 2009-2010 on the operating grant.

Mr. Bagnall: It doesn't show it here on your figures, though.

Mr. Campbell: It does if you go budget estimate to budget estimate.

Mr. Bagnall: It's still down. Your budget estimate was 770. Oh, it's up five there. In your actual spending what you spent last year is down. The actual spending was 845,000.

Mr. Campbell: Yes, because we leveraged \$75,000 from the federal government and, of course, we'd be absolutely delighted if we leverage that again this year. But it's not our call.

Mr. Bagnall: I had a couple of other ones when we were going through here. The Atlantic Veterinary College. What are we getting from the other provinces and Atlantic Canada now?

Mr. Campbell: I don't know if we have the breakdown on that. That agreement that we have with the other provinces is expiring this year. In September of 2011. There is a committee, I believe, of deputies and senior officials who are now starting to look at negotiations around the (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, so have the other provinces committed that they're going to continue to stay in? Because Nova Scotia at one time were looking at backing away from the Atlantic Veterinary College. Are they now? Or are they on side on this?

Mr. Campbell: The current agreement doesn't expire until next fall.

Mr. Bagnall: I know there has been negotiations going on, minister.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So are they on side?

Mr. Campbell: We don't have a firm commitment at this point in time, but that's part of the negotiation process.

Mr. Bagnall: What about New Brunswick?

Mr. Campbell: Again, it's all part of the negotiation process. I'm guessing that New Brunswick would like to know where the other jurisdictions are at before anybody makes a firm commitment so that that process is underway.

Mr. Bagnall: So what happens - what funding are we getting from the other provinces?

Mr. Campbell: I'm not sure of the breakdown. I can get that for you if you like.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah, I would like that.

Mr. Campbell: Okay.

Mr. Bagnall: Because I'm just wondering if they bail out, what's the cost going to be to us?

Mr. Campbell: It would be significant.

Mr. Bagnall: So are they putting 1 million, 2 million, 5 million, or what are they putting into the program?

Mr. Campbell: I'll get that for you and bring it back.

Mr. Bagnall: Your assistant doesn't know,

does she?

Mr. Campbell: I'll get that and bring it back for you.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Capital Assistance program for UPEI.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: They're doing an awful lot of work out there, right?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Eventually, who is going to pay for it? It's great, we need it and everything. But it comes with a cost.

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely, there's no question.

Mr. Bagnall: How are we going to pay for these things? Because it's a major - there is going to be major construction and major costs coming down the road on this (Indistinct). It's easy to put them there, minister. You can get grants and stuff to put them there, but you got to operate them and keep the expenses after.

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely, and that's factored into the operating grant that we provide to UPEI each year. We have to invest in our infrastructure, in particular. I mean, this government clearly identified that health care is -

Mr. Bagnall: Have you done any work on future costs that is going to be - or maintenance and upkeep to the university buildings and stuff that is coming through here?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: Because we put major infrastructure out there. As we all know, it

comes at a cost.

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely.

Mr. Bagnall: We got government grants and we got it there. But once we got it there we have to pay for it.

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely, no question.

Mr. Bagnall: Have you done a 10-year analysis with the university or has a 10-year analysis been done to show where these costs are going to be coming from?

Mr. Campbell: I don't know about 10-year, but we had asked the university to provide us with three to five-year projections of where they think they're going to be at. We have to invest in our infrastructure for education, there is no question.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm not arguing that part. But as I said, it all comes with a cost.

Mr. Campbell: Absolutely.

Mr. Bagnall: Whether the province can afford it after we get it there, that's another thing.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah. I guess what we have probably in our favour right now is that interest rates are so favourable that it does cut our costs. It a great time. Of course, we also had the federal government making a commitment to investment to the KIP program, the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, which was a big help to provide funding right across the country into infrastructure. When somebody puts 50 cent dollars on the table we have to go match it, there's no question.

Mr. Bagnall: Holland College, for instance, they've been expanding pretty well too.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So we're going to have two education bodies that have put a lot of infrastructure in place around them that we're going to be footing the bill for.

Mr. Campbell: With respect to Holland College, if you look at the deferred maintenance as one issue down there, but one of the issues that Holland College was facing was the waiting list was so long because they didn't have the room to accommodate.

I think it's fair to say that if you were to tour the facilities of Holland College, in particular the Charlottetown Centre, it was in need of a lot of work with the existing centre, and then the new centre for community engagement and the new centre for applied science and technology. What it does is it allows us to get more of our high school graduates into programming earlier, to cut down on the wait list. Of course, that helps the bottom line for Holland College as well.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, they've just built a big student union, or student residential -

Mr. Campbell: Glendenning Hall, yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Is that going to be able to pay for itself?

Mr. Campbell: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Have you got the projections on the cost? What the government's going to have to put into it?

Mr. Campbell: Government's -

Mr. Bagnall: Are we subsidizing the student rooms?

Mr. Campbell: Not on Glendenning Hall, and I think - I'm not sure - but I can't think of an instance across the country where

governments fund residences for universities, because they're income generating. They're designed to pay for themselves, so the funding that we provided to Holland College, or that the federal government provided, for that matter, through the KIP program isn't used for renovations to Glendenning Hall.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, I do.

An Hon. Member: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Mr. Bagnall: No, I have more questions.

Chair: Oh, okay.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir has one more.

Mr. Bagnall: The student aid program.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: We're still running you down a bit this year. Is there a reason why we're down?

Mr. Campbell: Actually, that's good news, because it's because of lower interest rates.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Campbell: Budgeted because of - we covered the interest rates for students while they attend school.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: Because interest rates are lower, that reflects in the budget.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: You give them five million.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Why? Or, what for?

Mr. Campbell: MPHEC serves a couple of different functions. One is, well, it's a maritime group, of course, and we pay into MPHEC to provide funding for students who are accessing programs outside of the province that we don't offer here. Kinesiology would be an example. We don't currently have a kinesiology program.

So it's not necessarily buying seats, but it's a Maritime agreement that goes towards offsetting costs for students who have to leave the province to attend a program.

Mr. Bagnall: So, like Dal University, for instance, or medical seats, is this part of this money?

Mr. Campbell: Well, no. I mean, the Department of Health and Wellness looks after the physicians' seats, or the doctors' seats. But at Dalhousie, for example, they have a pharmacy program. I believe they have an ophthalmology program. We don't offer them here in PEI, so we participate this way to offset some of the costs of students who can't access the program they want in their home province.

Mr. Bagnall: Do we offset the costs for students, or do we offset university costs? I think it's the university costs -

Mr. Campbell: Well, I guess -

Mr. Bagnall: - because we're taking seats. I don't think we help the students with their

tuition, do we?

Mr. Campbell: No, it doesn't go directly to the student, but it probably makes the students' costs lower because you've offset the university which, in essence, you would hope translates to offsetting the students as well.

Mr. Bagnall: So we're subsidizing students for off-Island? Because that's basically what you're telling me. I don't think that's right.

Mr. Campbell: If we can't offer them a program here in the province in their field of study - and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia do the same things.

Mr. Bagnall: I thought that fund - minister, maybe you can correct me - was put there to make sure that our Island students would get seats in different universities for different programs.

Mr. Campbell: It more or less -

Mr. Bagnall: That we don't (Indistinct) supply here.

Mr. Campbell: It more or less does.

Mr. Bagnall: But it never, ever helped on their tuition fees or costs to the student. Are you saying you're adding these tuition fees now?

Mr. Campbell: No. If you look at students who come to UPEI, say, foreign students - now it's not the same thing, but it does help to ensure that we have access to programs that are not offered here in the province.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

Mr. Bagnall: The other grants -

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: - you have a list there for other grants on that section of 382,400. What are they?

Mr. Campbell: Just wait until I find you again here. We have a community bursary program. We have a grant to the Atlantic Provinces Community College Consortium, I think it is.

Mr. Bagnall: How much is that?

Mr. Campbell: It's 11,250.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Campbell: We have a Marine Atlantic Bursary that's been in place -

Mr. Bagnall: Marine Atlantic?

Mr. Campbell: Yes. It's been in place for some time.

Mr. Bagnall: How come that's in place? I mean, Marine Atlantic's not even here any more.

Mr. Campbell: Just give us a second here. I'll just go on while Shannon looks it up.

We also fund community schools out of this. It's a great program.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: There's grants for literary incentives, and there's literacy grants as well.

Mr. Bagnall: Literacy grants?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Is that for, what, so they can hire literacy teachers, or is that -

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: It's all for that?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: How much money are you putting into that?

Mr. Campbell: Fifty thousand.

Mr. Bagnall: Fifty thousand?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. That's a good program.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah. It is.

Mr. Bagnall: So, is the uptake on that, minister, is it good, (Indistinct)?

Mr. Campbell: On literacy? It's not where I'd like to see it, but it's something that through the Council of Ministers of Education, right across the country -

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, wasn't there a problem with the two literacy groups that they got into kind of not agreeing with one another and some of them resigning some of the boards?

Mr. Campbell: I'm not really sure. On the Marine Atlantic -

Mr. Bagnall: There's two groups. I think one of them -

Mr. Campbell: The Marine Atlantic bursary is a bursary that's been set up, and to be eligible you have to have been, you have to be a former employee, or a dependent of a former employee, of Marine Atlantic who will be entering post-secondary study for the first time.

So it's for employees or former employees. I'm assuming that this was set up probably when the Confederation Bridge opened or

when the ferry stopped running, Marine Atlantic.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So, is the uptake, (Indistinct)? Is this grant being uptaken every year?

Mr. Campbell: I see it must have been this year because it was budgeted for 3,000 and the forecast was for 3,000, so we must have had an entrant who was a dependent of a former Marine Atlantic employee.

Mr. Bagnall: So any dependent - so that would be - would that be children, grandchildren and right down the line? Or how far does that go?

Mr. Campbell: They have to be living in the same household. So it would likely be - well, it could be a grandchild, but more than likely it would be a child of a former employee.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

An Hon. Member: Carried.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Training and Post Secondary Education: 90,427,700.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning: 127,501,700.

Mr. Bagnall: Can't carry that total yet.

Chair: Oh, no, that's right. Okay, we've got

to hold that. Because there's one section on hold back.

Okay. Moving to the top of page 113.

Corporation Management.

Corporation Management. "Appropriations provided for the operation of corporation administration." Administration: 531,000. Equipment: 5,000. Materials, Supplies and Services: 90,000. Professional and Contract Services: 137,000. Salaries: 427,000. Travel and Training: 22,000. Total Corporation Management: 1,212,000.

Questions on that section?

Mr. Bagnall: Administration -

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: - 531,000. What's so high in that section? Administration.

Mr. Campbell: The big part of it is occupancy, which is basically interest, amortization, property taxes, fuel, those types of things with having a building.

Mr. Bagnall: Are there rentals in this, too?

Mr. Campbell: I don't think.

Shannon Burke Acting Director: No (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: No. We own the building, and it's just the cost, I guess, of -

Mr. Bagnall: Which building are you talking about?

Mr. Campbell: Innovation PEI, 94 Euston Street.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Equipment, five, five,

five. Is that just a figure you throw in there?

Mr. Campbell: Equipment?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: It's right here.

Mr. Campbell: Oh, yes. Yes, it is. We have a staff member who required an ergonomic chair because of a back problem, and that was through this. Then there was, because of the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal's new legislation, there were BlackBerrys, or Bluetooth headsets, for staff. What's that?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: Yes, there was work done to two offices?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: Yes. There was work done to two offices as well. And a projector. Pretty standard stuff.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, the professional and contract services are 137,000. What (Indistinct), what handout is that one?

Mr. Campbell: Twenty-two.

Mr. Bagnall: Twenty-two?

Mr. Campbell: Yes. This is the one you were asking about earlier, I believe.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Minister -

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: - there's a whole list there. Grant Thornton, you were going to give me what they were for \$10,000.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah. There was professional services with respect to BioVectra which was a product of the -

Mr. Bagnall: Say that again. I can't hear the minister.

Mr. Campbell: Professional services with respect to BioVectra. That was with respect to the Diagnostic Chemicals sale with Genzyme and BioVectra. Professional services -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: A little quieter. The member can't hear.

Mr. Campbell: Professional services regarding interim billing tax services. Review of tax programs, review of income tax, with respect to the Genzyme agreement, which again was a product of the Diagnostic Chemicals.

Mr. Bagnall: PricewaterhouseCoopers there for 4,100, what was that?

Mr. Campbell: That was with respect to what they did around the NOFG file.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Jim Johnston, who's he, or James Johnston?

Mr. Campbell: I think that is down on Water Street, isn't it? I don't know who he is. A professional firm, I believe it's down here on Water Street, I'm not sure.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: ArsenaultBestCameronEllis is in here for - what were they doing for you?

Mr. Campbell: Preparing financial statements.

Mr. Bagnall: That was PNP stuff they were doing for you?

Mr. Campbell: Not through Innovation PEI.

Mr. Bagnall: No.

Mr. Campbell: No. Just general preparation of financial statements.

Mr. Bagnall: What's the Altus Group?

Mr. Campbell: What's that?

Mr. Bagnall: Altus Group, what is it?

Mr. Campbell: They're property appraisal.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Who is the chief executive officer in this section?

Mr. Campbell: Neil Stewart.

Mr. Bagnall: Neil Stewart.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: Famous Neil, is it?

Mr. Campbell: If you say so.

Mr. Bagnall: Who is the executive assistant?

Mr. Campbell: Just let me get to the staff. Joanne Andrew.

Mr. Bagnall: And we have a records clerk - who's in communications now? I think that's the only one I need.

Mr. Campbell: That's Major Stewart.

Mr. Bagnall: You say he's moving, though.

Mr. Campbell: He's moving, and I believe Julie Whitlock is over in the Department of

Tourism, I believe. She's on assignment in the Department of Tourism. Major is moving to education, I believe.

Mr. Bagnall: Major's position is being taken by Julie?

Mr. Campbell: No, Major's position will become vacant when he moves to Summerside.

Mr. Bagnall: So you're not replacing anybody?

Mr. Campbell: We probably will replace Major just because of the amount of communication (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Any idea who is replacing him yet?

Mr. Campbell: Not at this point, no.

Mr. Bagnall: Are you advertising that position?

Mr. Campbell: I don't know if we're advertising it or not. I think he's going on a three month, so we probably wouldn't advertise because -

Mr. Bagnall: So are you going to backfill it for three months?

Mr. Campbell: I would guess, yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: Who are you putting in there?

Mr. Campbell: There is a lady, Angela Court, I believe is her name.

Mr. Bagnall: Who?

Mr. Campbell: Angela Court.

Mr. Bagnall: Angela Court, okay.

Mr. Campbell: She used to be

communications, I believe, for the armed forces.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Business Development.

Prospecting and Innovation.

“Appropriations provided for leading the attraction of new businesses and business partners to the Province which complement the provincial economy. In particular, firms are targeted in the aerospace, life science, food processing, information technology, bioscience and select manufacturing sectors.” Salaries: 1,044,000. Travel and Training: 101,000. Total Prospecting and Innovation: 1,145,000.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, is that 25 we're looking at for -

Mr. Campbell: Yes, 25.

Mr. Bagnall: So who is your senior director there?

Mr. Campbell: Brad Mix.

Mr. Bagnall: Brad Mix?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Who is your senior investment officer?

Mr. Campbell: Senior investment officer? We have John Eden, Scott MacDonald, who is right now on assignment with Skills PEI, and Jason Cleaversmith.

Mr. Bagnall: Who?

Mr. Campbell: Jason Cleaversmith.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. We have investment officers. What do they do?

Mr. Campbell: Investment officers do - well, it's prospecting, company recruiting. We have Kyle Hann who works closely with our aerospace sector.

Mr. Bagnall: Who's that?

Mr. Campbell: Kyle Hann.

Mr. Bagnall: They don't do any investment or anything for the department? Because usually investment officers are in the stock market and they're doing investments and (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: No, they work in supports to our different sectors and in recruiting as well. They provide support to the director, Brad Mix.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Who are your investment officers?

Mr. Campbell: We have Kyle Hann, Steve Thain.

Mr. Bagnall: Steve Thain.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, he's up in the Summerside area, I believe. Doug MacDonald.

Mr. Bagnall: Is he the Doug MacDonald that had the ambulances?

Mr. Campbell: No.

Mr. Bagnall: Where is he from?

Mr. Campbell: I think he's from Charlottetown. Nassau Street.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, good.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Game force instructor, what's that?

Mr. Campbell: He works with our video game sector, which I believe probably the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters was instrumental in bringing to PEI. He does instructional work for them.

Mr. Bagnall: So who is that?

Mr. Campbell: Fred Irving.

Mr. Greenan: Summerside, District 22.

Mr. Bagnall: So what does he do actually? I know you said he works with the gaming.

Mr. Campbell: He does instructional work, I guess. We have gaming through Holland College. He works with students as well, to give instructions with respect to gaming industry.

Mr. Bagnall: So is this part of the video games that they're making out there?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Does he have staff work under him or does he just work by himself in that section, or what?

Mr. Campbell: Just by himself.

Mr. Bagnall: So where does he work out of?

Mr. Campbell: He works out of 94 Euston, Innovation PEI.

Mr. Bagnall: Work out of there, okay.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

Mr. MacKinley: The guy that - who was it? The Leader of the Opposition took him out to the park after (Indistinct). Where does he work?

Mr. Campbell: Innovation PEI.

Mr. MacKinley: Where?

Mr. Campbell: Innovation PEI.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, do you have another question there?

One question on salaries here.

Mr. Bagnall: No, it's not on salaries, it's on the travel and training part of this. Minister, and I'm looking at this again and I know it's \$101,000 for travel and training here.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: But most of it, to me, is travel. I'm looking at the -

Mr. Campbell: It's the nature of the department. This is the department where we contact companies who may have an interest in relocating to Prince Edward Island. It's the nature, it always has been. I'm guessing - if you went by number of employees, this would probably be the most heavily travelled section in government just because of the nature of what they do in prospecting companies. I mean, we're trying to attract companies from all over the world.

Mr. Bagnall: I guess my concern is, minister, you gave me a breakdown of out-of-province travel and stuff and you have a cost there of 101,000. Your break down is

128,000.

Mr. Campbell: In the handout?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah.

Mr. Campbell: Okay, wait until I get to it here in the budget book. It's just an estimate that's in the budget book and the handout provides you the exact amount.

Mr. Bagnall: According to your forecast, would be what your actual costs were and your actual costs weren't that, your actual costs were 121 and this is 128. So they're still off.

Mr. Campbell: You do your third quarter forecast in February so you would never peg it right to the dollar. So this is as of year end, that's the exact figure as of year end.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, so your 121 was an estimate?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Why would you go down? The costs of travel are going up, yet you're budgeting less.

Mr. Campbell: It's like anything else we're looking at doing administratively. Right across government we're looking to make sure that we're getting return for the money we're spending. Probably just a little bit closer look at whether the prospects that we're looking at warrant the travel, and just staff being a little bit more cognitive of the economic situation. They're doing a good job and we've asked everybody to scrutinize very closely, and that's what they're doing.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Lending Services. "Appropriations provided for lending and investments operations."
Interest Revenue: (1,500,000). Other

Revenue: (80,000). Interest and Other Expenses: 410,000. Provision for Credit Losses and Guarantee Payments: 1,150,000. Net - Operations: (20,000). Salaries: 204,900. Travel and Training: 12,000. Total Lending Services: 196,900.

Questions there?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you.

Interest revenue. Why are we losing 1.5 million?

Mr. Campbell: We're not.

Mr. Bagnall: You got it circled as a loss.

Mr. Campbell: The rest - well, you look down through. All the expenses are - it's just an accounting practice. All the expenses are shown as a positive. So this is revenue, which will be the opposite. That's actually revenue that we're taking in.

Mr. Bagnall: But I'm looking at you're interest revenue. You're down 1.5 million. I'm looking at other revenue, you're down 80,000. Then you go to another column and you got 410,000 interest and other expenses. Those are expenses and the payments are expenses. So why are we losing our revenue?

Mr. Campbell: Actually if you look at the forecast for 2009-2010, on interest income on the loan portfolio, it was forecasted 1.4 and we're budgeting for 1.5.

Mr. Bagnall: But you're still budgeting for a loss of 1.5 million. Where is that money coming from or where -

Mr. Campbell: It's revenue.

Mr. Bagnall: Why -

Mr. Campbell: It's interest we make on loaning money.

Mr. Bagnall: So why are we down 1.5 million?

Mr. Campbell: Why are we down?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah. Because that's a lot.

Mr. Campbell: We're actually up from our q-three forecast in 2009-2010.

Mr. Bagnall: But you've shown me a loss of 1.5 million here.

Mr. Campbell: No.

Chair: The non-bracket is negative. The bracket is a positive.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: If you look down, all the expenses. So you take legal and professional fees, \$40,000. That's not a revenue, right? There's no minus sign in front of it because it's an expense.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, I (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: The minus sign in front of interest income on loan portfolio is just what is says it is. It's interest income. That's what we're taking in for interest on our loan portfolio.

Mr. Bagnall: One point one five.

Mr. Campbell: One point five.

Mr. Bagnall: But why would it cost us a loss on the - because when you circle the figures in there -

Mr. Campbell: It's not a loss.

Mr. Bagnall: Well, you got it listed as one.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) and they kicked you off, so I think you should be quiet.

Premier Ghiz: I think he did a great job.

Chair: Shannon's going to answer that, okay?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: When we're going through the estimates, we're talking about expenditures. When we're going through the Budget estimates, each line would be considered an expenditure and they're shown as a positive. In accounting, when you actually have revenue coming in, it's shown as a negative because it's opposite of an expenditure.

So if you add it through to the bottom - say you're looking at the Budget estimate, it's shown as a minus 20,000 - it's actually a net revenue as opposed to an expenditure for lending services.

Mr. Bagnall: So actually you got a net revenue of 220,000 for the whole section?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: For that section.

Mr. Campbell: Yes, correct.

Mr. Bagnall: What are the other 410,000 for your interest and other expenses? Have you given me a sheet on that?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: Interest and other expenses would include interest as well (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: One would be interest expense, which would be - I guess it's on long-term debt, is it? The 40,000 would be legal and professional fees and the 70,000 is an expense on our entrepreneur loan program.

Mr. Bagnall: Expense on your - 70,000?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: So what's that cost? What makes up that 70,000?

Mr. Campbell: Most of it is provision for loss, and you have to factor that into your budget.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, and you said there was 40,000 first there, minister. For what?

Mr. Campbell: Legal and professional fees.

Mr. Bagnall: So are they in your -

Mr. Campbell: (Indistinct) another handout (Indistinct)?

Mr. Bagnall: We're a little short but -

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, I don't think we have that broke down under this section but we'll take it back for you.

Mr. Bagnall: I don't need that breakdown.

Mr. Campbell: Okay.

Mr. Bagnall: Salaries. Who's the head in this department?

Mr. Campbell: Norman MacDonald (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: How many staff is in that section?

Mr. Campbell: One, two, three, four, five, six. Six staff.

Mr. Bagnall: Are they all full-time?

Mr. Campbell: I believe they are. Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: So you've got six staff there

for 200,000?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: That's pretty good because you had 10 that cost you a million five a while ago.

Mr. Campbell: But we have management fees that come over from IIDI because Norman and his group also deal with the century fund loans so that offsets some of the cost of salary.

Mr. Bagnall: So you're not paying the full amount of these salaries then? At this section?

Mr. Campbell: Correct.

Mr. Bagnall: But you are in your department in other sections?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Chair: Further questions from that section?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Moving to the top of page 114.

Business Development. "Appropriations provided for the delivery of information and assistance to businesses in Prince Edward Island. Specifically, assisting in the start up, expansion and diversification of Island businesses and ensuring the long-term success of these companies." Salaries: 775,700. Travel and Training: 76,000. Total Business Development: 851,700.

Questions on that?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: How many employees do you have in that section?

Mr. Campbell: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, I believe.

Mr. Bagnall: Who's the head of that department?

Mr. Campbell: Brian Keefe.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Travel and training's still high again, minister. You must be getting close up to a million dollars in travel and training in your department, are you?

Mr. Campbell: This is where all of our trade mission travel is. Like, if we're out promoting lobster, for instance, or Boston seafood or all of I guess what I would call our marketing initiatives, the trade is included in this section.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Programs. "Appropriations provided for the development of business." Strategic Infrastructure Assistance: 1,000,000. P.E.I. Tax Incentives: 7,600,000. P.E.I. Labour Rebate: 4,500,000. Island Prosperity Strategy Programs: 3,664,000. Small Business Expansion: 3,500,000. Community Business Development: 200,000. Trade Development: 300,000. Total Programs: 20,764,000.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, do you have a breakdown of that stuff for us here in this book? What page or which one is it?

Mr. Campbell: The whole section 32. It's broken down. The different components are broken out by letter. I think there's a lot of pages. I think there's seven different sections under that.

Mr. Bagnall: Is it all here?

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: Or just - like the 7.6 million, the PEI tax incentives. Are they listed?

Mr. Campbell: They would be, yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: For the companies that got the tax incentives.

Mr. Campbell: You're looking at the budget figure for 2010-2011, right? We would have what's accounted for in the -

Mr. Bagnall: It's 7,600,000. Do we have a list of that?

Mr. Campbell: That's the budget for this coming year.

Mr. Bagnall: Well, okay. The 9.5 is. Do you have a list of that?

Mr. Campbell: It's in the handouts.

Mr. Bagnall: That's in here? Good. The five point seven, that's in here too? The rebate program, they're all listed?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: Just to clarify on the handouts - the handouts as in years' past are just the approvals - anything that was approved.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: The handouts -

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Shannon Burke Acting Director: - as in years' past just are all the small business approvals. Some of the programs we account for differently if they're multi-year commitments. In the handouts it's only reflected - the amount of the approval.

Mr. Bagnall: So, I don't have everything in the handout for the \$5.7 million. Is that what you're telling me?

Mr. Campbell: Where is 5.7?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: Five point seven, which line?

Mr. Campbell: Where is 5.7?

Mr. Bagnall: Five - well, that's what you spent last year is 5,750,000. That was under -

Shannon Burke Acting Director: Oh, was that for the -

Mr. Bagnall: - PEI labour rebate.

Mr. Campbell: Okay

Shannon Burke Acting Director: You'd actually have more than that in there.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: You'd actually have an amount higher than that, because within that section there's a multi-year commitment.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Just a sec, I can't hear a word when he's talking.

Chair: The member can't hear.

Shannon Burke Acting Director: The amount of the approvals for the current year are quite a bit higher than the forecast because of the way that we account for some of our programs. For the PEI labour rebate, for instance, if we have a five-year commitment we only expense one amount for each year of the five years. So what you have in here - I think the approvals total 29

million, but what you have in the forecast only relates to what we're expensing in 2009-2010. So, it'll continue-

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Campbell: The handout totals the complete amount -

Mr. Bagnall: Is it broken down what's going to be paid out this year and what isn't?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: No.

Mr. Bagnall: No? Okay.

Mr. Campbell: But, I think - well, I mean, you can look at it.

Mr. Bagnall: No, no. That's fine. I just wondered if there was a full breakdown from the five years - what each year was going to be.

Mr. Campbell: Well, I think the years are - the multi-year commitments - I think in the handout they're listed, like, if it's 2010-2015. Then if you take the total amount, you can pretty closely estimate what's going to be spent year by year.

Chair: Further questions on this, the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: So that's the same with the 3.5 million also, they're all listed here?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: And the 6 million are all listed?

Mr. Campbell: The 3.5 - okay, that's handout 32 D. Yeah. That's small business -

Mr. Bagnall: That's the small business expansion.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: And all the companies that got money are listed here.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: And also the Community Development Fund?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Shannon Burke Acting Director: It shows the approvals for community development.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Shannon Burke Acting Director: It does show the approvals for community development -

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Shannon Burke Acting Director: - but we actually have zero in the forecast for that because it was funded by Population Secretariat this year.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So you have zero in there now.

Shannon Burke Acting Director: It was approved, but then Population Secretariat would have reimbursed for that.

Mr. Campbell: That's why the forecast amount is zero.

Shannon Burke Acting Director: Yeah.

Mr. Campbell: (Indistinct).

Chair: Shall it -

Mr. Bagnall: So minister -

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

Mr. Bagnall: - why are you down \$5 million? I guess that was the question. The forecast was 25, and you're budgeted this year for 20?

Mr. Campbell: This is more or less related to the performance of our sectors, because the rebates are tied to the taxes generated by the companies, the corporate tax, property tax. So when the sectors actually perform better and make more revenue, we end up rebating more back. That's why our forecast number is significantly higher. If you look at the budget number -

Mr. Bagnall: So you're saying the economy is not performing as well?

Mr. Campbell: No, in these sectors it's performing very well.

Mr. Bagnall: So you're going to be an increase of five as far as performance?

Mr. Campbell: From what we budgeted in 2009-2010 to what the forecast is - yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. But, why are you budgeting for less than this year?

Mr. Campbell: Well, and again -

Mr. Bagnall: Are you budgeting for a decrease in the sector?

Mr. Campbell: It's something that's hard to predict.

Mr. Bagnall: So you're predicting a downward trend, I take it? According to this you are. You've gone from 25-20 -

Mr. Campbell: No.

Mr. Bagnall: - so that's a downward trend.

Mr. Campbell: No, and you know, it is - again, it's just hard to predict, so we

budgeted -

Mr. Bagnall: No, I understand. But you're budgeting for a downward trend. That's all I'm asking.

Mr. Campbell: I guess you could look at it that way.

Premier Ghiz: That is a downward trend - (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: That's right. If it's not, tell me how. That's the kind of finances I want to see.

Premier Ghiz: They do the chart, you're going down.

Mr. Bagnall: According to those places. But if this is -

Premier Ghiz: Sounds like blackmail.

Mr. Bagnall: But - no, no. But if this is going up, I really want to hear this one, because -

Mr. Campbell: Year to year, whether it be your government or ours - year to year that budget figure has been very stable - very similar - and then the forecast amount just reflects the performance for the tax incentives.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Campbell: So I'm not forecasting a downward trend.

Mr. Bagnall: You're not. Okay. I guess I'm kind of confused here, because you've got - your forecast was 25 million.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: Your budget was 20 million. And you're not forecasting a downward

trend.

Mr. Campbell: No, and again -

Mr. Bagnall: That's a 20% decrease, minister.

Mr. Campbell: Again, this is the way it's been reported year after year, where basically the budget estimate has been the same, and then typically, I guess, in this section, if the sectors perform well, there has been a special warrant and it's been completely offset by revenue. It's just hard to predict. I'm not predicting a downward trend. It's something that's hard to predict.

Chair: Further questions on that section?

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. You're not predicting them, but you're budgeted for a 20% decrease.

Mr. Campbell: Again, it's just been the standard practice year to year that we basically keep that budget figure the same and then -

Mr. Bagnall: So you -

Mr. Campbell: - some years the sectors may not perform as well and you'll see that forecast number lower. We're very lucky, very proud of the fact that it is higher this year, because that means we're doing well.

Mr. Bagnall: So did you do these figures or the provincial treasurer do these figures? That's what I want to know.

Mr. Campbell: I'll ask -

Mr. Bagnall: Because his figures are always - he budgets more and he comes in less and he figures he's doing a great job. Are you trying to copy him on this thing or what?

Mr. Campbell: I'll run that by him when he's in tomorrow.

Mr. Bagnall: All right.

Chair: Further questions on this section?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Strategic Initiatives and Properties.

“Appropriations provided for the development and management of strategic initiatives.” Property Rental Revenues: (1,723,000). Gain on Sale of Property: Nil. Property Rental Expenses: 1,801,500. Net Property Operations: 78,500. Salaries: 504,900. Travel and Training: 13,500. Atlantic Technology Centre: 618,500. Total Strategic Initiatives and Properties: 1,215,400.

Questions on that section?

Mr. Bagnall: Questions, yes.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you.

What property did you sell?

Mr. Campbell: The Tube-Fab building.

Mr. Bagnall: The what?

Mr. Campbell: Tube-Fab -

Mr. Bagnall: Where's that?

Mr. Campbell: - in West Royalty.

Mr. Bagnall: Where?

Mr. Campbell: In the industrial park.

Mr. Bagnall: In the industrial park?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Who'd you sell it to?

Mr. MacKinley: Tube-Fab moved out to Cornwall.

Mr. Campbell: Exactly.

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Somebody wake you up?

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Campbell: I'm not - I think it might have been Chandler's that purchased that, but I'm not sure.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Anything going on in there now?

Mr. Campbell: In Tube-Fab?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah.

Mr. Campbell: Yeah. They're out in Cornwall.

Mr. Bagnall: No, is there anything going on in the building that you sold?

Mr. Campbell: Chandler's did a major expansion. Actually, I did a statement on it here two or three weeks ago in the House. They've gotten some significant contracts and they've expanded a lot.

Mr. Bagnall: So are they working out of there now?

Mr. Campbell: I'm not sure if they are. I toured their facility out in West Royalty, but I was in just the one building. I don't know whether they use -

Mr. MacKinley: Tube-Fab moved out to

Cornwall and bought that cheap building that you guys had to write off 3 million when you were in there.

Ms. Bertram: Oh, that's the story, is it?

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah. At least we can get some work done.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. What's the rental revenue?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: That's just the rent that we -

Mr. Bagnall: What's that?

Mr. Campbell: That's the just the rent that we've received.

Chair: The hon. member has the floor.

Thank you.

Mr. Campbell: Just the rent that we receive for the properties.

Mr. Bagnall: Just a sec. Can we stop? I can't hear you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir has the floor.

Thank you.

Mr. Campbell: It's just the rent that we receive for the properties that we own.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, so who are you renting from? Or I mean -

Mr. Campbell: Rent to?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. Who are you renting to?

Mr. Campbell: I don't have a list of who the tenants are, but I can tell you what some of the buildings are.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: There's the south mall at West Royalty.

Mr. Bagnall: What's that?

Mr. Campbell: There's the south mall at the West Royalty Industrial Park, and the north mall.

Mr. Bagnall: Do we own that? The government?

Mr. Campbell: Yes. There's the Watts Drive building. There's the Cabinetmaster building in Montague. There's the Summerside Business Park, the Bloomfield building that we just put (Indistinct) in.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. There wouldn't be much rent coming in from the building in Montague. That's closed down. That's been closed down for about six months.

Mr. Campbell: I'm just giving you a list of the properties. When they do close down, then we do have a tool that we can use to market, trying to attract a company. We market all the properties that we have vacant. Just vacant properties from time to time. There's turnover.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. I didn't think that we were in the property rental business in this government.

Mr. Campbell: Business development.

Mr. Bagnall: What?

Mr. Campbell: Business development.

Mr. Bagnall: Are these properties that have been taken away from businesses that you're renting out?

Mr. Campbell: Most of them are not. Like, the West Royalty industrial park, it's an industrial park.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So, the industrial park, all the buildings out there are owned by your department.

Mr. Campbell: Not all the buildings, no.

Mr. Bagnall: A majority of them?

Mr. Campbell: We have four buildings out in West Royalty.

Mr. Bagnall: What kind of rent do you get coming in from them, then?

Mr. Campbell: I don't think - we don't have a breakdown on the tenants and the rent.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So, not just in Charlottetown, across the province, do you have other buildings?

Mr. Campbell: Yes. I mentioned Bloomfield., Pooles Corner.

Mr. Bagnall: What do we have in Bloomfield?

An Hon. Member: One of your buildings (Indistinct) the road up there (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: The call centre building in Bloomfield.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Campbell: The call centre building in Bloomfield.

Mr. Bagnall: So are you renting that to the

new -

Chair: (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Or do they get a rent subsidy?

Mr. Campbell: They do get a rent incentive for a period of time.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: That's typical of any -

Mr. Bagnall: Is that free rent for the first year or something like that?

Mr. Campbell: I'm not sure exactly what the agreement is. I don't think it's - it's a percentage, I believe, but I don't think it's free rent. Well, I'm not sure exactly what (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Well, and if it is, I don't - it's good.

Mr. Campbell: The agreements vary.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. Okay.

Mr. MacKinley: How's that (Indistinct) park doing down in Cardigan? The one that one of the ministers bought for the campaign (Indistinct)?

Chair: Do you have a question, the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal?

Mr. MacKinley: Yes. There's an industrial park in Cardigan or down in Pooles Corner -

Mr. Campbell: There is?

Mr. MacKinley: And that was bought from the campaign manager, the former - the member that's not here now from

Georgetown, whatever, bought it from his campaign manager -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. MacKinley: I'm wondering, how's that park going down there?

Mr. Campbell: There are some vacancies there, for sure.

Mr. MacKinley: Are there many vacancies there?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) sleeping over there.

Mr. Campbell: Just one second.

An Hon. Member: What's that?

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) there many vacancies there?

Mr. Campbell: I'd have to look to see.

Mr. MacKinley: Is his former campaign manager still putting those fundraisers on for him, too?

Mr. Campbell: I have no idea.

Mr. MacKinley: Oh.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Any further questions on this section?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, I do.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. MacKinley: (Indistinct) campaign manager again?

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir has the floor.

Thank you.

Mr. Bagnall: The Atlantic Technology Centre, 618,000. What's that for, minister?

Mr. Campbell: It's an operating grant, to offset the cost of operating the building.

Mr. Bagnall: It's an operating grant.

Mr. Campbell: Just to offset the operating cost of the building.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. You have offices out there now, do you not?

Mr. Campbell: Yes, I do.

Mr. Bagnall: Are you paying rent there?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: How much are you paying rent there?

Mr. Campbell: It's included in the section. It's probably - I don't know if it's included in the handouts or not. We could go back.

Mr. Bagnall: I didn't see it in any handout.

Mr. Campbell: It's included in the - I can go back into the other sections if you want.

Mr. Bagnall: If you have any idea, I'd like to know what you're paying there. Minister, why would you move out there when you could have worked out of your own building?

Mr. Campbell: We needed a considerable amount of space because of SkillsPEI, and we made the decision to locate SkillsPEI, the Population Secretariat and the post-secondary apprenticeship trades and training

together. Because what we find is that a lot of the clientele that we're dealing with with post-secondary, we're also dealing with in SkillsPEI. So it's just better service to the taxpayer, really. Instead of having them go to one building down on Rochford Street, and then they have to be sent across to the ATC for a different - there's just not the space down in the government complex down there on Rochford St. to accommodate them.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you know how much rent you're paying over there?

Mr. Campbell: The Population Secretariat pays about 55,000 a year. SkillsPEI, which has a lot more space, of course, pays about 200,000 a year. Do we have post-secondary? The post-secondary, we'll see if we can find it here. (Indistinct).

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Vessey: Call the hour.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, if you want to stay on another 10 minutes, you'll finish.

Chair: The hour has been called.

Mr. Campbell: I wouldn't mind.

Mr. Bagnall: Talk to your people.

Chair: Hon. members, the hour has been called.

Mr. Campbell: He said it'd pass if we'd extend the hour 10 minutes.

An Hon. Member: No.

Some Hon. Members: Pass.

Chair: Do you want to extend the hour 10 minutes?

Mr. Bagnall: I said I'd extend the hour 10 minutes and finish him off if he wanted to.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Is that agreeable?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Chair: Okay.

An Hon. Member: Perfect.

An Hon. Member: Thank you.

Chair: Extend the hour and he's going to bring that information back.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

We'll carry that section.

Chair: Carry that section?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Business Development: 24,173,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Top of page 115.

P.E.I. Food Technology Centre.

General.

Mr. Bagnall: Just read the number, please.

Chair: Total General: 1,232,900.

Questions on that?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. The operations, minister, give me an explanation of that cost.

Mr. Campbell: Why it's going down? That's actually a good news story, actually, because when private sector companies use

the facilities at the Food Technology Centre, depending on how much business we do out there, that offsets the cost to government itself. So when you see our contribution going down, it means that they're actually doing more projects for private sector companies out there.

Mr. Bagnall: So, who's running that?

Mr. Campbell: Jim Smith.

Mr. Bagnall: So has there been much expansion on products going through there?

Mr. Campbell: There's been quite a few, and like I say, the budget -

Mr. Bagnall: Do you have a list of those in there? Could you get me a list?

Mr. Campbell: I think there's probably a lot of privacy issues there, because, I mean, companies that go out there to do work at the Food Technology Centre, I went out for a tour -

Mr. Bagnall: No, I understand.

Mr. Campbell: - they wouldn't even show me a lot of the stuff.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. I had the same thing when I (Indistinct).

Mr. Campbell: Yes, yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. I'll carry it.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total P.E.I. Food Technology Centre:
1,232,900.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Finance and Administration.

More than the number, or just the number?

Mr. Bagnall: I only want the - no, that section's okay.

Chair: Okay.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Innovation PEI: 27,402,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Moving to P.E.I. Lending Agency. Top of page 116.

An Hon. Member: Carried.

Chair: Want that read, member?

Mr. Bagnall: Just the numbers.

Chair: Okay. Total General: 782,400.

Questions on that?

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, why is it -

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: - that you spent 1.8 million last year and you're down to 782,000 this year? What's the difference? Quite a decrease.

Mr. Campbell: We provisioned for the low-interest loan program last year.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Campbell: We put extra provision in last year for the low-interest loan program.

Mr. Bagnall: For who? The fishermen?

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. The takeup's not going to be as big this year, is that what you're saying, or what?

Mr. Campbell: That's what we expect, because we figure we likely got the bulk of the fishers who participate in the first round. We did open the program up again -

Mr. Bagnall: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total P.E.I. Lending Agency: 782,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

The hour has been -

Mr. Bagnall: You can't carry the whole section because there was one section with information to bring back.

Chair: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: We'll have to bring it back on when he gets that. That's okay?

Chair: The information is on the Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning.

Premier Ghiz: Carry (Indistinct) always bring it back. You can just (Indistinct) table under Tabling of Documents.

Mr. Bagnall: It'd only take a second for him to carry it, anyway, Premier. Okay.

Chair: The hour has been called, hon. members.

Yes, minister.

Mr. Campbell: I move that the Speaker take the chair and the Chair report progress and beg leave to sit again.

Chair: Shall it carry?

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: I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock, that this House adjourn until tomorrow, Friday, at 10:00 a.m.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The Legislature adjourned until tomorrow, Friday at 10:00 a.m.