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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: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the gallery today. Great to see a big crowd. I understand we've got a lot of RNs here. Great to see them. Also, we've got the Mayor of Montague, Richard Collins. Great to see Richard here. I think she stepped out, but I'll mention this anyway. Dunja Stajic, or one of our Pages, is going to, on this Friday, become a Canadian citizen. I want to congratulate her.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Premier Ghiz: She's not here now. She probably knew I was going to do it so she's a little embarrassed. Wonderful to have new Canadians, and she's a great young woman, and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate her.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to rise and welcome all the visitors to the gallery today, especially the RNs and bachelor of nurses. I also would like to welcome the other visitors in the gallery and people watching at home. I want to wish Carson MacKinnon a belated happy birthday. He's 8 years old as of yesterday.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

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

I, too, rise to welcome all the guests to the gallery, especially Mayor Collins from Montague, who is also a school trustee with the Eastern School District.

I also would like to acknowledge the recognition that Dunja is getting as a Canadian immigrant, Canadian citizen, on Friday, a former student at Birchwood Intermediate. So certainly very happy for her and her family.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's a great privilege to rise in the House today. I'd also like to recognize some guests in the gallery. Phyllis Nolan from Montague, welcome, and Carole MacPhee from Cardigan, welcome to you too.

Also, I'd be remiss if I didn't welcome my friend and Mayor of Montague, Richard Collins. Richard is my next door neighbour, lives right across the street from me. He's a member of the school board for - I think this is probably his third term. He's a great mayor. He's been elected probably more as Mayor of Montague than in the province. It's a great privilege to recognize Richard here today, as a friend, more so than mayor

or anything else, but as a neighbour and a friend.

Also, I'd like to welcome all the RNs today here and their families, and anyone that is watching on t.v. today, welcome also.

Thank you.

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

Mr. MacKinley: Madam Speaker, just on a point of privilege.

In the Legislative Assembly on May 4, 2010, the transcript had: Was the low bidder for the PEF. It was the RFP. So if they could just change that PEF to RFP.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I certainly would like to stand today and rise and welcome all the registered nurses that are with us today, and those nurses that are students at UPEI as well.

Also, to Eddie Lund who is a faithful watcher here at the Legislature, who was here every day this session. This is a gentleman that does great service. His wife is at the Beach Grove Home and he is there every day to feed his wife at the Beach Grove Home. So he's a devoted husband, and I want to say thank you to Eddie for being here every day at the session.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Hon. members, I'd like to draw your attention to the Speaker's Gallery so I

could introduce you to a guest of mine.

Today we have Dr. Eve Hepburn who is visiting from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. I know some of you have already spoken with Dr. Hepburn. She is going to be a guest speaker at the University of Prince Edward Island next week with the Institute of Island Studies. Dr. Hepburn is doing a study on the politics of Island regions and that includes a study on Prince Edward Island.

So she will be in touch with some of your offices. I understand the Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs is meeting with her. I know the hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness and the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock. I know if there are any of you who have time, she is going to be here for another week or so. If your office is contacted it is worth telling her all about our Island. The main research question is how do Island regions negotiate their autonomy with larger political structures.

I would like to welcome you to the Legislative Assembly, and hopefully you'll enjoy the proceedings and your time on Prince Edward Island.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

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

Recognition of Ron Hickey

Mr. Greenan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

After 38 and a half years in the insurance industry, Summerside's businessman Ron Hickey has cashed in his policy and joined the ranks of the retired. Ron is the son of the late Hon. T. Earle and Elizabeth Hickey. Many in this House and our viewing

audience will remember Ron's father was minister of finance for PEI from 1966 to 1976.

After graduating from UPEI in 1970, Ron began to work in Summerside with R. E. Ellis Insurance in 1971. He purchased the firm on August 1st, 1977, the day before the birth of his son Mark. In 1992 R.E. Ellis and the Summerside office of Hyndman and Company merged to form the 50-50 partnership now known as Hickey and Hyndman.

Over the years Ron has always been a supporter of his profession and community. He has been active in the greater Summerside and area Chamber of Commerce, serving as president in 1988, and served as a board member of the Summerside Regional Development Corporation for seven years. Ron was on UPEI's board of governors, as well as serving on several insurance boards provincially, and has represented our province and the Atlantic region at the national level.

While Ron is retired, the Summerside company has retained its name as his son Mark has become a full partner in Hickey & Hyndman. Mark and his spouse, Karla, also reside in Summerside. Ron and his lovely wife Gloria have their daughter Laurie's three children, Avery, Hannah and Brayden to indulge during their retirement years and can be confident that the business is in good hands.

Thank you, Ron, for your sustained contribution to your home community and I, along with others in this House, wish you and Gloria many healthy years of retirement.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

PEI Federation of Agriculture awards

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Early last month the PEI Federation of Agriculture sponsored an evening at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel to honour some special Islanders in a celebration of excellence in agriculture.

The recipients were as follows:

Jessica Reeves of Kensington Intermediate Senior High School was presented with the Teacher Recognition Award in Agriculture for her efforts to incorporate agriculture in the classroom.

Jen and Derrick Campbell of Brookvale received the Agricultural Awareness Award for very successfully promoting a positive image of farmers and agriculture on PEI.

HowMac Farms of Darlington were awarded the PEI Agriculture Employer of the Year Award, and the Agriculture Employee of the Year Award was presented to Mr. Dan LaPierre from Red Point, Prince Edward Island.

The Gilbert R. Clements Award for Excellence in Environmental Farm Planning was awarded to Blair and Kent Caseley of Spring Valley Farms.

The federation also recognized Dr. Bud Ings, a former member of this House and minister of agriculture, who was recently inducted into the Atlantic Agriculture Hall of Fame.

As well, the federation recognized Greg and Tanya MacKenzie of Stratford who were named Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers for 2009.

I ask that the members of this House recognize the great contribution of these Islanders through the number one industry of our province. As well, I want to thank the federation of agriculture for sponsoring this great event.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Recognition of Phyllis Nolan

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm pleased to rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent of mine.

Phyllis Nolan of Montague, tired of listening to the same old rhetoric from this government, decided to take matters into her own hands and fight to have the Kings County Memorial Hospital emergency room opened 24 hours again.

This shows true leadership from an Islander who has shown compassion and commitment to those in her community. Instead of sitting around and waiting for someone else to take action, Phyllis has taken it upon herself to drive more than 400 kilometres all over Kings County gathering up 2,295 signatures for her petition, which calls upon government to reinstate the emergency room service at Kings County Memorial Hospital.

On behalf of all residents of Montague-Kilmuir, and on behalf of all residents in Kings County who will benefit from the emergency room, I want to extend my sincere thanks to Phyllis for taking the fight into her own hands. I also want to recommend that the government immediately act upon the wishes of over

2,000 signatories of this petition, and keep their promise and open the emergency room in Kings County immediately.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Hon. members and members of the gallery, although we welcome everybody here, we would ask you to refrain from partaking in the debate that goes on, and that includes clapping or banging onto the rail.

So you're welcome to be here, but you have to be mindful of the debate that's going on on the floor.

Responses to Questions Taken As Notice

Questions by Members

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Restoration of 24 hour ER at Kings County Memorial Hospital

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question today is to the minister of health. Minister, I've been asking for a long time in both Question Periods and during budget estimates and still have not gotten a clear answer from you: When will be restoring the 24 hour service to Kings County memorial emergency room?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I do acknowledge that the Mayor of Montague is here with us today. We do have a meeting with the mayor and the council in June. But again, I reiterate to the Member

from Montague-Kilmuir that this is due to staffing shortages. We did have the combined lab tech issues back in April of 2009. Those positions have been filled, as of January of this year, but we are experiencing a shortage in nurses at the Kings County Memorial Hospital.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, she's not following her own model of care because they changed the model of care and they have the proper amount of nurses in the Montague hospital right now under your new system.

So, minister, Kings County residents are getting very impatient with this government. It seems that there is one excuse after another. The last thing you told me that you were short three and a half nursing positions, but yet you changed the model of care in Montague last week.

Minister, since you are laying off 13 other nurses across the province, are you going to move some of them down there? What is your plan for the - open the Kings County Memorial Hospital?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Just to clarify the hon. member's statements, last week we had an opening at the Wedgewood Manor for the model of care at that particular area. The hon. member from Kings County Memorial Hospital, that hasn't occurred to fully implement the model of care there.

So perhaps, in regards to the model of care that will help the situation at the Kings County Memorial Hospital - but again, I

reiterate to the Member from Montague-Kilmuir, this is based on patient safety and the complement levels. It just doesn't take doctors. It takes nurses. It takes all health care professionals when we're operating a 24/7 emergency facility.

So I implore the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir that there are statistics out there and that we are working towards that. Our recruitment office is working hard on that. But if we can assure that, we will re-evaluate the situation, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Madam Speaker, they've been evaluating the situation for the last year.

Today I am tabling a petition of 2,300 names from residents that feel dejected because they can't get answers from the minister and this government. They feel betrayed. They are frightened and anxious about emergency room services in Kings County.

Minister, will you stand up today and announce the reinstatement of a 24-hour emergency service in Kings County Memorial Hospital?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Again, the Member from Montague-Kilmuir asked these questions during Budget estimates, and like I said to him then, and I say that again today, we will reassess the situation when we can fill those positions to ensure patient safety.

But I want to assure the member and those residents in the area of Montague that we have increased access to Island EMS

because of the reduction in hours. So to ensure patient safety, there is an increase in that area of service.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Minister, the people of Montague and Kings County are very disappointed in you. The nurses, RNs, on PEI are very disappointed in you. Minister, when are you going to take some responsibility and stand up and be accountable? Stop putting the blame on somebody else and everything else all the time. You're the minister. Make a decision. Will you announce the 24-hour emergency room being opened in Montague? Minister, we're waiting.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Madam Speaker, as Minister of Health and Wellness, I want to assure patients, I want to ensure Islanders, that there is safety within our health care system.

When we cannot reach and achieve a full complement to ensure, as this particular member's asking about the Kings County Memorial Hospital, we have to ensure a proper complement. We do have a reduction in hours. But again, I reiterate to the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, that we will reassess that situation.

But again, I implore the hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, this is where we're moving towards with the model of care. We are utilizing all health professionals in our system to full practice and we want that to happen.

Again, Kings County Memorial Hospital is one of the showcase units in this province. Just like the QEH, just like Wedgewood, which opened last week, Madam Speaker.

This should help the situation that we are seeing at Kings County Memorial Hospital.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Leasing land for windmills

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

My question today is for the minister of energy. Minister, I'm receiving some calls from interested landowners that are interested in leasing their land for windmills. Can you tell me what the going rate is for leasing a windmill today in Prince Edward Island?

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, that is a private contractor.

That's a private contract between the wind developer and the landowner. We do not set the rates for that. The landowner and the wind developer will get together and negotiate a contract and a price for that. That's not set in legislation. It's a private contract between two individuals, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. M. Currie: I understand that, minister, but is the going rate somewhere around \$10,000 for one of these windmills to be located on a property?

Is that what you hear of in your department?

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, as I understand it, at some point in time, if there's wind production, if they can put a windmill on a piece of property that produces 40% wind, there's a higher rate.

If they put a windmill on a section of property that can only produce 30% power, that's a lower rate. So I can't tell him where it is in that range.

Again, I reiterate, this is a private contract between a private landowner and a company. If he wants us or if he wants Maritime Electric or the developers to release all of this information to the public about residents and what they're getting for rental properties, then so be it. He can request the developers to do that.

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

MLAs leasing land for windmills

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

A question for the minister. Minister, are there any of your colleagues that are presently leasing land for windmills in Prince Edward Island?

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

Mr. Brown: Again, Madam Speaker, this is a private contract between a private company - a developer - and the landowner.

This has nothing to do with government. There's no government money involved here. If windmills are put on people's

property, that production will be exported off the Island. This is a private company and a private investment.

I don't know where he's getting his information from. The government of PEI is not leasing any land. The government of PEI is not involved in the process at that point in time. We have an independent fairness auditor in place to ensure that proper due diligence is done and that it is a fair process for all Islanders, Madam Speaker.

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

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

Minister, you didn't answer the question. My question is: Do you have a member of Cabinet that has a vested interest in leasing their land for this RFP project that's being placed?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes, he does.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I would have no idea. Neither would the ministers, because everything that they would own would be in blind trust.

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

Wind energy RFP (further)

Mr. M. Currie: Last week in the House, Madam Speaker, the minister of energy indicated he was in charge of this file.

Are you in charge of it, or Maritime Electric?

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

Mr. Brown: Madam Speaker, the plan is quite clear, envelope A and envelope B in this tender process.

Maritime Electric will be the company that's purchasing the power. Any export power will be purchased and will be a deal between the landowner and the company. There is no money involved here that belongs to the government of PEI. This is a private transaction between a private individual and a private company.

I don't know. Is the member insinuating that if I go out and do something with the government today or go out and get a driver's license, I'm in a conflict of interest? Is this what it's getting down to? We can't do anything because we sit in government?

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

Minister and leasing land for windmills

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

Question for the Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier. Minister, do you have a vested interest in the RFP that's taking place and do you have leases signed for windmills to go on your property?

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

Mr. Webster: Madam Speaker, I've said before in this House on several occasions, everything I do have is in blind trust.

Our family does own land. I'm out of the business now. I basically have a full-time position here. So no, I don't know.

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

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

Question for the Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier. So, minister, you're indicating that you're not aware of any windmills or any leases that signed for your property and your farm in Kinkora?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Obviously the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters would know that he was in Cabinet. He held assets. Any assets when you go into Cabinet are placed into a blind trust. None of my members - who knows?, it could be myself. I don't know, it could be any one of us - may have land that is leased out. We would have no idea whatsoever, Madam Speaker, because it would all be in blind trust.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Question for the Premier. Premier, you indicated last week that you're going to have the final say on the RFP process, then. So are you going to sit there and evaluate a process that one of your Cabinet ministers has land leased for this project? Is he going to be in there lobbying for his project versus everybody else?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Obviously not, Madam Speaker, no.

First of all, the minister would not know. Usually, if those things come up, the lawyers would be notified and ministers

would dismiss themselves from any conversations. We do that all the time within Cabinet. If there's anything to do with - for example, there are contract negotiations going on. If it has anything to do with doctor negotiations, I dismiss myself from the discussion. When we're here in the Legislature, if something comes up with regards to teachers' pensions, all the teachers in the Legislature dismiss themselves.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters knows what the protocols are, and it's unfortunate that he tries to slander individuals in this Legislature.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Speaker, each windmill is three megawatts and it's 130, so there are 40-some windmills at 10,000 lease a year.

That's \$400,000 on a 20 year lease. It's 8 or \$10 million. It's a nice gift to have.

Premier, there seems to be a pattern here. There seems to be that you promised Islanders you were going to look after Islanders first, and your MLAs were supposed to be good servants and caretakers of the taxpayers' money. But what we have is involvement in FoodTrust, involvement in land for bypasses, PNP, and now we have windmills. Do you not see the pattern that's developing in your government? Are you not concerned about this?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

It's unfortunate that the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters chooses to follow his leader on this issue. But as you know, all

members have their assets in blind trust. There is nothing untoward here whatsoever. That's why we have a Conflict of Interest Commissioner. The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters I believe tried not once but twice, and challenged the hon. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal with regards to conflict of interest. There was none there whatsoever. Actually, the conflict commissioner even came back and went so far as to say that hon. members are making baseless accusations in this House, and it's slandering all MLAs in the Legislature, including himself.

So I urge the member, if he has any issues whatsoever, Madam Speaker, that's why there is the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

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

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

I think I did see the Auditor General say in his last statement that the conflict of interest legislation should be changed.

Genzyme Diagnostics

My next question is to the minister of innovation. Minister, a situation is unfolding today in Prince Edward Island regarding a bioscience company in the West Royalty industrial park, Genzyme Diagnostics. I'm wondering. That company is - there are over a hundred people there. Can you tell us what the situation is? Is it going to be sold and moved off Prince Edward Island?

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

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

That's a very good question. Yes, Genzyme corporation has made a decision to sell off its diagnostic division, not a lot unlike what Diagnostic Chemicals did back in 2007. In 2007 we were very fortunate to have Genzyme come to this province. Genzyme is a very well recognized multi-national company. Now, they have made a decision to sell off the diagnostic division. We're watching that process very carefully.

Regardless of the ownership structure, whether it be Genzyme or whether it be a new company, since Genzyme has taken over from Diagnostic Chemicals, they've actually grown in West Royalty. They've grown from about 87 jobs, I think, to now about 103. Average salaries have grown from around 40,000 to \$47,000 a year. We're very hopeful that regardless of the ownership structure that that growth will continue. We're watching it very closely, and if it's not Genzyme, if it's another company, we'll be in close contact with them as well to help them grow and prosper here in Prince Edward Island.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

BioCommons Park

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

A question to the same minister. Minister, it's my understanding that this company also spent a lot of time over the last number of months, with design and doing blueprints for a new \$20 million facility to go in the much talked about BioCommons Park that's been talked about for the last couple years. Has that project also been cancelled for the new BioCommons Parks?

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

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

Absolutely not. We're actually very excited about the progress with respect to the BioCommons. Again, regardless of the situation with Genzyme, the BioCommons, I think, will be a cornerstone and centrepiece of the bioscience industry here on Prince Edward Island, a research park that allows our research and development companies to work towards commercialization of bioscience products here in this province.

Again, we're awaiting the outcome of the discussions with Genzyme with respect to selling off the diagnostic division. When that process is complete - if there is a new ownership structure - we'll be engaging that company as well to tell them about the BioCommons and the prospects of growing their business here on Prince Edward Island.

Thank you.

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

Mr. M. Currie: A question for the same minister. Minister, the BioCommons Park has been announced over two years now and there's nothing there, just a sign. So if this company is not coming, are you in discussions with any other bioscience companies to come to this park in West Royalty?

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

Mr. M. Currie: This year.

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

Yes, we are in discussions with a number of companies. Some companies that were very excited about the prospects of having, and companies that are also very excited about the prospects of coming to our new bioscience park.

Again, we're in negotiations with those companies, and with respect to those negotiations we won't be disclosing those companies at present. But we think we'll have some exciting announcements in the very near future.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Pavement on bypass road

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

A question for the minister of transportation and public works. A week or two ago it was found out, I guess, that the bypass road, the pavement has failed, or whatever. Can you give us an update if a final decision has been made on the road that was paved last fall?

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

Mr. MacKinley: We might know next week. We're looking for the independent consultant's report to come back. It hasn't come back yet, that I know of.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Registered nurse positions (further)

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question is to the health minister.

Madam Minister, the PEI Nurses' Union is baffled by your government's decision to implement the model of care at the QEH -

Mr. Bagnall: They feel betrayed.

Leader of the Opposition: - with no consultation whatsoever. My question to you is: Why would you eliminate 12 full-time positions, and six part-time positions at the end of National Nursing Week, last Friday? Why would you do that?

Mr. Bagnall: They feel betrayed.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Last year, approximately May of last year, we announced the new model of care, and the process, and we announced a design team of approximately 80 individuals, including RNs that sat on that, to look at the whole system in terms of the design. This is following out of the Corpus Sanchez report of 2008.

These changes are because we are trying to ensure patient safety in our system. We are trying to ensure a sustainable health care system here on Prince Edward Island. We are just following in the direction of every other jurisdiction in Canada, recognizing the full scope of practice of every health professional in our system.

This is not about any job loss. Obviously, we feel for the RNs that do work at - and I know we're using the example of the QEH. Last week we did open the Wedgewood showcase unit, fully. We do recognize that there obviously, with any profession, when there are changes there are issues around that. I have empathy for those individuals that are effected, but I guess the message to send today, that each one of those nurses

that are affected, that are being displaced, they will be guaranteed a position within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and if they so choose - some of them may live in other parts of the province - may choose to work somewhere else within our health care system, but they will all have a job. We are creating a sustainable health care system here for the future of Prince Edward Island.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The PEI Nurses' Union were not consulted. They were not allowed to be part of that process. As one person put it, a registered nurse from the QEH, and I quote: A nurse shuffled from one area in nursing to the other is not so simple. Many nurses who work on unit 3, which is a medical unit, have been there for decades. To shuffle a surgical, orthopaedic, or other unit nurse, will feel more like a complete upheaval, and it's based on a lot of assumptions, that the particular nurse has the skill sets for that specialized unit.

My question to you is: Why would you on Friday of last week have your staff go in and eliminate 12 full-time positions and six part-time positions at the QEH unit 3 in Charlottetown?

Mr. Bagnall: No heart - betrayal.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Madam Speaker, I just want to reiterate, and make it fully aware that unions were part of this.

They weren't part of the design team, but

what's important to note is that RNs were part of the design team. Now, the PEINU was asked to be part of presentations and things like that and they refused to go to those meetings. That was up to them to do that if they wanted to. But again, we made sure that RNs were part of the design team.

But again, I reiterate that this is not about job losses, this is about patient safety. The best possible health care for Islanders and fully using the scope of practice and the training of our registered nurses in this province, the training of our licensed practical nurses, the training of our registered care workers in this province.

Again, I reiterate to the Leader of the Opposition that our staff did meet with the affected individuals on Friday, obviously because of shift issues. But I know there has been concerns over vacation and we certainly feel for those individuals because a lot of them have very young families. They will have their vacation time and full implementation will not occur until September because of the vacation time.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Let's hear directly then from an RN who is working on unit 3 just about what it's like for her. She's lost her 50% position on Friday of last week:

As of Friday, May 14th, I suddenly was informed that 16 part-time positions on unit 3, only six would remain on the rotation as of June. Only one of those is 50%. So now, because I'm not looking for a full-time permanent position - because the woman has to work she's got five children - and increase of hours I will not be needed any

longer in unit 3.

She'll not be able to stay there.

Mr. Bagnall: Shame, shame!

Leader of the Opposition: My question to you. This nurse can only work 50%. Explain how cutting these RN positions are going to help with the nurse retention problem in the province?

Mr. Bagnall: Shame on you, minister.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like to speak to the Leader of the Opposition in terms of the shortages that - we have a chronic shortage in RN positions in this province. If we use the Queen Elizabeth Hospital as one example, we have about 25 full-time positions that we have a shortage of and we have 51 permanent part-time positions.

I would like to reiterate and ensure the Leader of the Opposition that all the affected individuals on unit 3 will be given a job at the QEH, and they will be, obviously, sitting down individually - and I think this is the most important - that they will be individually discussing the options that are available to them to look at their experiences, where they would like to be within the hospital.

I want to reiterate to the Leader of the Opposition: we are ensuring patient safety by moving in this direction and we want to create a sustainable health care system in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter.

Psychologists in Western School Board

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General. Mr. Minister, I know you and I share the same philosophy that early intervention is crucial for children with learning disabilities. There's been a lot in the media about school psychologists and the assessment wait times. I've had some frustrated parents waiting for their child to be assessed.

Can you please tell me what the ratio is that the department is using for child assessment psychologists in the school boards and how many are in the Western School Board?

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

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

I am very well aware of the wait times for psycho-educational assessments here in the province. Just to give you some numbers, we've been successful - board psychologists are hired by the school boards across the province and boards have been successful in adding two positions over the last year and a half, but the funding does come from, obviously, the department.

We basically realize that right now we're working on a learning disabilities action plan. There is a component of that which deals with interventions. But I certainly want to clarify for all Members of the Legislative Assembly that interventions are well underway before a child does receive their psycho-educational assessment. The only people in the system that can apply a Wechsler-III are trained psychologists here in the province. But we have school

counsellors. We have approximately over 50 school counsellors, we have over 150 resource special ed teachers, and we've been fortunate to sustain and add positions in the system to help support children who are requiring interventions.

So those interventions are in place and while the psycho-educational assessments are in the queue, interventions are taking place and school psychologists do have the ability to do the Woodcocks, the Peabodys, informal reading and math assessments to provide supports to classroom teachers.

I want to reiterate that. There seems to be a message going out to the public that supports are limited, but I will remind the Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter that there are strong supports in the system and we make sure that intervention is our number one priority in the system for children who need that support.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter.

Monitoring of wait list

Ms. Biggar: Supplementary, Madam Speaker, to the same minister.

Mr. Minister, what monitoring process do you have in place with the department to ensure that the children that are on that wait list through the school board are actually getting moved through the system? How do you monitor that?

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

Mr. D. Currie: Thank you very much,

Madam Speaker.

As I alluded to, we as a department am committed to - and I've sent a very strong message to the boards - that as the minister I want to do everything in our power from a department to look at ways that we can reduce wait times on the psycho-educational assessments. That's a very formal assessment. You need specific trained psychologists to do that. We have been fortunate that we have added over two positions in the last year and a half.

One of the pressures that is on school psychologists in the system are the risk assessments. The risk assessments in the province, if there is a threat on a student to another student, psychologists are brought in, and those risk assessments take anywhere from three to five days of full-time focus on the students that are in crisis. So there are realities of the pressures on the psychologists. But we are working with the boards and the senior leaderships to make sure that we do everything we possibly can to address the wait times, and committed to that.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter.

Ms. Biggar: To the same minister, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Minister, will you ensure that the resources are followed through for those children that are waiting to be assessed?

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

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

As the minister, I've been very fortunate to be part of the support from the Premier and Cabinet in respect to the investments that we're making in classrooms. Not only are we making investments in the classroom, as I alluded to, we made investments with over 25 reading recovery teachers. We have implemented and supported literacy coaches. Have seen some direct results in grades 1, 2 and 3 in literacy across the province since 2005. So, very focused. We have increased the educational assistant allotment to over 300 positions, which do provide daily interventions and support, particularly the children who are struggling with their reading in the early grades.

This particular fiscal year there is an expectation as minister that we key in on literacy interventions and numeracy interventions for children in grades 4, 5 and 6.

So, very committed to raising the bar on educational professionals in the system to make sure that children deserve every opportunity. Keeping in mind that we are bringing in kindergarten, we are adding over 112 kindergarten teachers. We have implemented -

Speaker: Minister, I would ask you to wrap up your answer.

Mr. D. Currie: - the early year education - thank you very much - but they are our priority, Madam Speaker, and we'll continue to do so.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Festival of Small Halls

Ms. Docherty: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question today is for the hon. Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development. As many of us know, the Festival of Small Halls was a fantastic event in the province, and one that not only did many Islanders and visitors enjoy, but are looking forward to what's forthcoming.

I would like the minister to indicate to the Legislature the process that is currently being followed in regards to the applications that were received from interested communities, communities that are wishing to host the event, and as well, how soon they will know whether or not they were successful in their application.

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

Mr. LeClair: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

A proposal has been received from the Festival of Small Halls regarding the balance of funding for their events and programs. As you know, earlier on the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning announced \$90,000 in funding for support staff for the event through our Community Internship Program.

Before that took place we also announced funding and support for development of a three-year plan for development and expansion of the Festival of Small Halls. We expect that we will be announcing our commitments when that plan comes forward. Definitely, in cooperation with the department of tourism and other departments in government, we'll be implementing that plan and moving forward with that.

Regarding the schedule of events, the festival requested applications and received an overwhelming response. I understand they have been evaluating these proposals and they will be making an announcement

on which ones were successful and where they will be having their events in the very near future, I believe probably as soon as Friday.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Registered nurse positions (further)

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the health minister. We were talking about the expertise that the nurses have, especially the RNs, and the process of you setting up this model of care. You made comments that you were answering me. You're actually answering today to the people, the RNs and the bachelor of nurses. We both received this letter from an RN and I'll repeat this and quote directly:

I'm an RN with 18 years experience and currently working on unit 3, the showcase unit, for the model of care at the QEH hospital. Though I had had many concerns throughout the process, nothing could surpass the shock and (Indistinct) of the catastrophic news that was passed on to the RN staff in the unit on Friday, May 14th.

But she goes on to say that:

We were told and believed the number of practising RNs is going to decrease significantly over the next ten years.

In light of this, it seems that it's very disappointing that you're actually cutting out RNs, causing such an upheaval, and now we're going to start having nurses, instead of choosing to work on PEI, move elsewhere.

What are you going to do to ratify this

situation you've put them in?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Madam Speaker, we are valuing our RNs.

We have a chronic shortage of RNs in our system. It's important to know that over 95% of the registered nurses graduating from UPEI this year have been sponsored in our health care system on Prince Edward Island this year.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Bertram: That's over - about 53 students that have graduated, Madam Speaker.

Not only that, we have a Health Care Futures Program encouraging our - whether they be graduates from high school to enter the health care profession. This is about sustaining our health care system. It's about valuing every health professional in our system, and it's about jobs. We value jobs in our system, Madam Speaker, and every individual is valued in our health care system.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you. To the health minister. Not only have you failed to receive input on the new model of care from those who know best how it would operate, but you've also violated their collective agreement by making major changes to the scheduling and also eliminating positions.

My question to you: Will you stop the process until you actually meet with the PEI Nurses' Union, meet with the staff at unit 3, and make sure that you clear up these issues

before you push this change further and then impact on patient care?

Mr. Bagnall: And most of all, know what you're doing.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Again, I bring it back to a year ago when this process was initiated. We had design team members, whether they be RNs, whether they be ERRNs, ERNs, LPNs, RCWs, PTs, OTs, SWs, RTs, nutritionists, dietitians, and the list goes on. So a whole 80-plus individuals came together for this design team, a fully integrated health care system.

Again, I implore the Leader of the Opposition: do go around and visit our health facilities, Madam Leader of the Opposition. We have a shortage of RNs. Many of our RNs are working in excess of overtime hours. So we want to ensure patient safety. We value our RNs, we value our LPNs, our RCWs, and we are fully implementing the model of care and moving forward with this. The members on and the RNS on the unit 3 of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital will have jobs at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital if they so desire, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

One time you're saying that we have a critical shortage, then you're saying that the RNs can stay if they want to? You cannot just take an RN that works in a medical unit, has 15, 18 years experience, and plump them over in the psychiatry unit. Do you not

understand that these RNs will require further training and support? You also have a whole group of new RNs coming in the system which require the support from the experienced RNs.

Madam Minister, you created a mess. What are you going to do to fix it up?

Mr. Bagnall: A big mess, a big mess.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would reiterate. About a week ago I talked about the pink slips that were given back in 2005 by this former administration which left our system in a chronic shortage.

About a week ago I also announced the redevelopment of the emergency department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We are implementing more RN positions at the ER at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. But we do have a chronic shortage. It's interesting that the Member from Montague-Kilmuir talked about his hospital at the Kings County Memorial Hospital, and that is dealing with a shortage of Rns.

We do have a shortage. We're addressing this. We're moving, like every other jurisdiction in Canada, towards a model of care, and we are valuing RNs, LPNs, RCWs, every health professional in this one Island health care system.

We appreciate every job in this province, and we value our students that are coming out of our RN programs, whether it be the accelerated program - and by the way, the accelerated program, 11 of them are going to be sponsored in December of this year.

So it's great news, Madam Speaker, and it's great to see our students and our RNs that

are graduating having jobs in Prince Edward Island.

An Hon. Member: Great!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To the health minister. I must remind people that your government, your Premier, is the Premier that thinks Islanders are spoiled with access to health care.

But the questions to you, Madam Minister, are from some of the RNs. One question is this: Why is government recruiting UPEI students to the workforce when we new grads will continually be at the bottom of the totem pole and not able to get a full-time job?

As you eliminate positions and you cut the positions out of the system, you're actually defeating the purpose of trying to invest in the young nurse that's coming in to take the job.

Mr. Bagnall: She doesn't understand.

Leader of the Opposition: My question to you is: What are you going to do to fix the problem that you've just created?

Mr. Bagnall: She doesn't understand.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I'm glad that the Leader of the Opposition referenced myself. She's taking that out of context, of course, because she knows I was

relaying a story about a test that I was supposed to have at the QEH, but perhaps I was going to have to go to Summerside, and I said to myself: Isn't it amazing how lucky we are here in Prince Edward Island that perhaps we just have to travel 45 minutes to Summerside to have a test? That's what I was indicating.

Now what we're trying to do with our health care system in this province is make sure that it's sustainable. We know that things have to change. I apologize that things are difficult whenever there's change, but with change can come positive things. I implore everyone to give us a chance to allow us to make the system a little bit better.

I think everybody will agree that the system is not functioning as well as it could be. What we're trying to do is implement new models of care where we're able to use all the talents of all our health care professionals, starting with our doctors, our nurse practitioners, our RNs, our BNs, our LPNs, our RCWs, everyone working together.

It's not going to be an easy road, but it's going to be something that we hope that's going to make health care in this province sustainable for a long time to come. Because one of the great things about being a Canadian is the fact that we have a public health care system, and as a government we have to make some decisions on how we can sustain it for the long term, Madam Speaker, and that's what our government is trying to do.

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

Expectations of model of care

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Back to the Premier, then. We spent the whole session when your health minister was on the floor to find out what are your principles around health care that you expect your government to deliver when you turn this all over to the health agency.

My question directly with you is: What are your expectations on the delivery, the type of model of care at the QEH and other hospitals, directly related to RNs and bachelor of nurses, and will you actually, today, give the message out that you'll meet with the PEI Nurses' Union, the RNs, and also the bachelor of nurses?

Mr. Bagnall: She's ducking and hiding.

Leader of the Opposition: Both the Premier and your minister, will you commit to that today?

Mr. Bagnall: She's on the hot seat. She can't handle it. Look at that.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I've had the opportunity to meet with Barb Brookins before in the past. I've had the opportunity, where I think the former minister of health and myself were the only premier and minister of health combo that ever went out to UPEI. We met with our nursing students out there, we heard their issues. We were the government that introduced the accelerated nursing program.

But the Leader of the Opposition talks about our long-term vision for health care. Having a safe and sustainable health care system is what we're looking for. I realize what worked 40 years ago in health care does not work today, the same as what works today is not going to work in 10 or 15 years' time. Health care is going to continue to evolve.

The hon. member talks about the emergency room. Just to look at the irony of the situation, he's up talking about the emergency room in Montague, which is currently open. It's not open during the nighttime hours. He says the new model of care should make it easier for us to implement that.

So there we have the hon. House Leader for the opposition fighting for the new model of care, then we have the Leader of the Opposition that is fighting against the new model of care. That is the debate we're currently having.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Premier Ghiz: It's a debate that will continue on, Madam Speaker.

We currently have shortages in the province
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Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) you did.

Speaker: Order, please!

Premier Ghiz: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I'm pretty sure the only year where there's been job losses in our health care system over the last five years has been decisions made by the previous government with pink slips. But what we're trying to do is make sure that there's a long-term sustainable system. We want to see more money put in preventative measures, more education around health care, we want to see more money put into home care. We want to see less institutionalization in our health care system. We want to see all our health care workers working to their full potential, and that's what we're trying to do there.

Is it going to be easy? Absolutely not. But are we going to be a government that is going to go through those steps to make sure that we can do the best we can? Absolutely, because I know that unless we change the way things are working today, in 10, 15, 20 years' time, things could all fall apart.

We see what's happening in Greece, we see what's happening in Europe. Health care needs to adapt, and that's what our government is going to do. Because we want to make sure that Islanders have access to the best possible health care system in this province, Madam Speaker, and that's a pledge that I'll continue to make to Islanders.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Speaker: Statements - order, please!

Statements by Ministers

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Model of Care

Ms. Bertram: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The number one priority of our one Island health system is patient-focused care and safety. We provide service to our One Island Community through primary health care, acute care, home care, mental health programs, community care, long-term care and the list goes on. Through every facet of our health care system our priority is the patient.

We have a tremendous workforce in our health care system. People have dedicated their lives to providing for the needs of others. We value each and every one of

these individuals. They are trained professionals who show support and compassion to Islanders in time of need.

Model of care is allowing our health care providers to work collaboratively to ensure patients needs are met in a coordinated, consistent and timely manner. We are working to ensure Islanders are seen at the right place at the right time by the right person.

Each of our health care workers are trained to provide health care to patients. Our model will clarify and organize those roles to make sure all our professionals work to their full scope of their employment, using their full training and education.

RNs and LPNs will be able to better collaborate and assess the needs of patients. We expect the RN will be able to devote more time to dealing with more complex patient issues, to provide leadership and to spend indispensable care and service to our patients that they are trained to provide.

The PEI health system faces ongoing challenges related to health human resource shortages, increased demand for services and rising costs. We must embrace the way we organize and deliver care to ensure that we are able to provide high quality, sustainable health care to Islanders in the years to come.

Model of care will allow us to staff some chronic RN vacancies and reduce pressure on staff who work excessive overtime or even work short-staffed. This new design will have a positive impact on overall patient safety within our one Island health care system.

Model of care involves meeting the health needs throughout our province while making the most effective use of our health care resources. This is a system-wide initiative to

improve the way we organize and deliver care.

Yes, as we've heard today, some RNs may find themselves in a new working environment. I recognize that many individuals are apprehensive when faced with this new challenge. But let me reassure you that their work is highly valued, that there will be no job losses, and every health care provider in our system will have a job. Every health care provider plays a vital role in our system. We need our RNs, we need our LPNs, we need our RCWs, our allied health professionals, our support staff, our front line workers and all our health care team.

This is the time for transformation within our health system. We have spent the last year meeting with professionals, working collaboratively and seeking their input to ensure we design the right system to meet the health care needs of PEI and provide the most effective working environment.

I am proud to say that in the next month all five of showcase units will be up and running at the Prince County Hospital, Kings County Memorial Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Wedgewood Manor - that opened last week - and Summerside Home Care.

Physicians, support staff, allied health professionals, front line nurses, managers and many external stakeholders participated in this collaborative planning process.

In closing, model of care is all about providing a sustainable system focused on patient care and safety. We are providing a more efficient system, a more effective system where our professionals will provide all the services they are trained to provide, where patients see the right provider promptly, with the assurance that these are professionals doing the job that they have

been trained to do.

In close, this is the right thing to do for the well being of Islanders. We must embrace it. We must work together. We must optimistically value the long-term positive impact it will have on our one Island health care system.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Madam Speaker, when you think about the QEH or Prince County, there are the two primary acute care hospitals in the province.

This government goes back and talks quite a bit of Corpus Sanchez and the work that they have done. It's my understanding this government enjoyed their work so much they actually hired two of the people that worked on Corpus Sanchez that's helped implement the model of care here. But what this government did not do was value the work, the expertise from the PEI nurses' association or, for that matter, other health unions.

When you think of if this government truly was valuing the RNs and the bachelor of nurses in the implementation of this model of care, never, in their right mind, on Friday afternoon, on the week of national nurses' week, would you go in, in the afternoon, and actually tell 12 full-time position RNs and six part-time that they no longer have a job in that unit.

When government makes comments that: It's just a matter of shuffling people around, let's remind ourselves that RNs are well trained, bachelor of nurses have how many years of experience?, and are the backbone

to the changes of the true model of care.

If you're looking at an LPN, if you're looking at an RCW, their work can only be supported through the great work and expertise of the RNs. I'm sorry, but this government better take a closer look at this. This is really about, I guess, cutting positions, saving money instead of actually having a good health system for the whole province.

Finally, this is a government that, today, invested \$750,000 to bring Kelly and Regis to the province, in comparison to really, truly investing in the nurses that is the backbone of our health system in PEI.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Asper Foundation (Donagh Consolidated)

Mr. D. Currie: Madam Speaker, I am extremely pleased to stand in the House today to acknowledge a number of grade 9 students and their teacher, Jo-Anne White, who are in the gallery today from Donagh Consolidated School. Jo-Anne is the program coordinator for the Asper Foundation Holocaust study program.

I would also like to welcome grade 9 students Clancey Beagan, Chelsea Connell, Carrie Fraser, Danielle Murnaghan and volunteer parents Paula Fraser and Frances Squire.

A few weeks ago these students joined other grade 9 students from across Canada in Washington, DC to participate in the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program.

The Asper Foundation Human Rights and

Holocaust Studies Program was established 13 years ago in Winnipeg. It has developed into a national initiative that aims to promote tolerance and make grade 9 students who participate in the program more aware of the consequences of racism through a specifically designed education program.

The trip was a great success from everyone's perspective. The students visited the Lincoln, FDR, Jefferson, Vietnam and Korean memorials as well as the Smithsonian Institute. These students also had the unique experience of standing in the very spot where Martin Luther King, Jr. stood when he gave his speech: I Have a Dream. However the focal point of the trip was a moving tour of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

I would like to share with the members today a few insightful journal entries from the grade 9 students who participated in this program. The first one writes: I feel I am more aware of racism and discrimination and I feel that I can stand up so that it doesn't happen so often. Another student wrote: Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to be a better person. Then, another wrote about a room filled with shoes belonging to victims of the Holocaust: It's hard to imagine that so many people, big or small, were wearing those shoes. I can't possibly write and describe the pain and feelings I feel towards this subject.

I'm very proud of these students. They were excellent ambassadors for Prince Edward Island and Canada. They worked hard to complete all of the requirements of the program and they deserve congratulations from everyone for their efforts.

A final celebration for the program and a thank you to all the supporters will be held at Donagh on Monday, May 31st, at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to join these

students as they pledge to work towards equality and the elimination of racism and prejudice.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. D. Currie: I know the group just arrived and I was in the middle of my statement, but I do want to acknowledge the students; Jo-Anne White, who has been leading this program now, formally at Birchwood intermediate; and Frances Connell, another teacher at Birchwood, who are now leading this program.

I want to thank you very much for continuing the program and spreading this valuable opportunity to children in other schools across Prince Edward Island.

So thank you very much. I look forward to chatting with you after.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving of Petitions

Speaker: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

24 hour emergency medical services at Kings County Memorial Hospital

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table a petition signed by 2,295 residents from Montague and area calling for the reinstatement of the 24-hour emergency room service.

This petition was circulated by Phyllis Nolan. She's in the gallery today and she's done a lot of legwork on this petition, and she's asked me to present this on behalf of the residents in the town of Montague and

the area.

So with that, I move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that the said document be now received and do lie on the table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, Madam Speaker, I better sign this myself too.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bagnall: I want to make sure I got my signature on it, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)!

Speaker: Order, please!

Tabling of Documents

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

Ms. Sherry: Madam Speaker, by Command of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table the Annual Report for the Department of Social Services and Seniors for the period ending March 31st 2009 and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Reports by Committees

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you.

Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Standing Committee on Health, Social Development and Seniors, I beg leave to introduce a report

of the said committee, and I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford, that the same be now received and do lie on the table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Ms. Sherry: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford, that the report of the committee be adopted. By receipt and adoption of this report, your Committee requests permission to meet beyond prorogation of the Third Session of the Sixty-third General Assembly.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Introduction of Government Bills

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

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

Madam Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2010*, and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2010*, Bill No. 51, read a first time.

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

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

This is simply any of the additional spending in capital and current accounts that

has taken place since the last sitting.

Thank you.

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

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

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

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness, that the 3rd order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 3, Consideration of the Supplementary Estimates, in Committee.

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

Mr. Sheridan: We're in committee?

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair (Biggar): Hon. members, do you have the supplementary -

Mr. Sheridan: I tabled them yesterday and you had your copies.

Chair: You should have a copy of the white supplementary estimates.

Mr. Sheridan: They were all passed out yesterday.

Chair: We'll get you a copy, hon. members.

The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to further consider the grant of supplementary supply to Her Majesty.

Hon. members, we will be getting you a copy, and we will be starting on page 5, supplementary column number 5. We'll just wait until the opposition members have their copies.

Mr. Sheridan: Fantastic. I'll just give you a little bit of a briefing, just to - I know that the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters would be very well aware of what the supplementary appropriation - and just to give a brief update of the Leader of the Opposition.

There are two schedules, Schedule "A," Schedule "B." Schedule "A" has to do with any of the supplementary spending that has taken place that is in old year, in 2008-2009. Schedule "B" has any supplementary spending that would take place in the 2009-2010 year that has just ended.

All of those that were not reported in the last sitting is what we'll go over now. In Schedule "A" there is simply spending on the current. In the Schedule "B" there'll be both current and capital amounts.

[Noise from outside entered the Chamber]

Mr. M. Currie: You'll have to talk up. I can't hear you with all the protesters.

Mr. Sheridan: Okay.

Mr. M. Currie: Nurses want to talk to

people. Nobody'll listen to them.

Mr. Sheridan: Right on.

Chair: Hon. members, we're going to go to page 5, now that you have your copies, of Schedule "A," and we're going down column 5 to Innovation and Advanced Learning: 582,500.

Down further to Employee Benefits: 6 million -

An Hon. Member: That was (Indistinct) from the other night.

Mr. M. Currie: Party.

Chair: Could I have order, please?

Mr. Sheridan: You might have to close that window, Madam -

Chair: That's fine, it's not the outside I'm talking about.

Thank you.

Employee Benefits: 6,527,300.

Transportation and Public Works: 324,400.

Total Current Expenditures: 7,434,200.

Any questions, members?

Mr. M. Currie: The innovation one.

Mr. Sheridan: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Is it over here - detailed over?

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah. That one's 100% offset by revenue from the federal government. As you know, we have to report all supplementary spending, no matter if it is 100% offset or 50% offset. In this

case it is 100% offset by \$582,500 by the federal government. That's to - from the federal revenues from the Labour Market Development Agreement.

Mr. M. Currie: It says to fund labour market computers.

Mr. Sheridan: That's correct.

Mr. M. Currie: Where'd you buy the computers?

Mr. Sheridan: Where would they have come from? I believe all of our - and I'd have to check that - that HP had a contract with us that was put out for tender, and I think that HP was the winner of that - just off the top of my head. I could confirm that for you at a later date.

Mr. M. Currie: Xwave, they didn't have anything in there?

Mr. Sheridan: Xwave is the carrier of those. Xwave has the contract and HP is the type of computer that's brought forward.

Mr. M. Currie: Is this the one - these tablets - electronic tablets.

Mr. Sheridan: I'd have to check and see if they are a part of this as well, but most of these are just computers that would be used for the Labour Market Development Program coming forward here with the devolution.

Mr. M. Currie: There are only 30 employees. It wouldn't be \$582,000.

Mr. Sheridan: No, but it's for the full cost of the system development. Everything to do with the program coming down here.

Mr. M. Currie: Was this -

Mr. Sheridan: Part of the devolution, and

that's why it's paid in that fashion.

Mr. M. Currie: Was this tendered?

Mr. Sheridan: This was tendered.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Moving over to page 9, to Schedule "B," hon. members.

Supplementary column number 2.

Education and Early Childhood Development: 5,211,800. Office of the Attorney General: 1,000,000. Provincial Treasury: 2,695,200. Tourism PEI: 182,600. Transportation and Public Works: 1,487,000. P.E.I. Public Service Commission: 398,300. Total Capital Expenditure: 10,974,900.

Moving down to section B. under Current, column number 2, as well. Supplementary.

Agriculture: 975,000. Education and Early Childhood Development: 2,662,600. Environment, Energy and Forestry: 234,000. Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development: 165,000. Innovation and Advanced Learning: 16,994,600. Innovation PEI: 4,900,000. Social Services and Seniors: 334,700. Tourism PEI: 856,600. Transportation and Public Works: 2,375,000. Total Current Expenditure: 29,497,500.

Grand total: 40,472,400.

Questions?

The hon. Leader of the Opposition first.

Leader of the Opposition: Just one question, in terms of Innovation and Advanced Learning, the 16 million. It says

to fund labour market training programs and grants to post-secondary educational institutions offset by the federal revenue -

Mr. Sheridan: Correct.

Leader of the Opposition: - from the Labour Market Agreement, but then it also says the knowledge infrastructure program and official languages in education.

That official languages and education is just French and English, is it? Or is that English as Second Language for immigrants?

Mr. Sheridan: That's also English for second language training as well.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay. So this is just the money that's coming from the federal government to support that.

Mr. Sheridan: That's a Canada-PEI (Indistinct). So there is offset there from the federal government as well. So out of that 16.9 that the chairperson just spoke about, that's offset by 13.9 in federal revenues. So that decreases the amount of the (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Madam Chair.

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

Mr. M. Currie: The Labour Market Agreement is - I add that up, it's about 22 million. What was the total amount that Ottawa sends down to you?

Mr. Sheridan: In the full devolution of it?

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Mr. Sheridan: Full devolution -

Mr. M. Currie: Twenty-eight million?

Mr. Sheridan: - it would be in and around

the 28 million would be about the total amount.

Mr. M. Currie: Where's the other 6 million, then?

Mr. Sheridan: There is also the Labour Market Agreement as well, dollars that would come forward. I'd have to get that confirmation on the exact figures for you, hon. member. I wouldn't know that off the top off my head. But I can get that for you and bring it back.

Mr. M. Currie: Is the East Coast Music Awards going to be in Charlottetown this winter?

Mr. Sheridan: Yes, they are.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Mr. Sheridan: That money has been set aside in that one spending of the \$200,000 to ensure that Charlottetown would have the wherewithal with this (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: The \$2.3 million special warrant for highways, can you send us over a breakdown of what that is?

Mr. Sheridan: I sure can. I can give it to you right here as well, just for your information. The highway maintenance sand account had a shortfall of 1.5 million.

Mr. M. Currie: One point five -

Mr. Sheridan: We had an opportunity to buy additional sand. You know how that works. You buy sometimes in a two or three-year allotment. We were able to get a good deal on it so we bought additional sand last year when the opportunity presented itself.

Mr. M. Currie: Who from?

Mr. Sheridan: I can't tell you that.

Mr. M. Currie: I bet you it was M&M Resources.

Mr. Sheridan: I can find that out for you.

Mr. M. Currie: Find that out and get back to me.

Mr. Sheridan: Certainly will do that. And salt account was over by \$80,000 and \$795,000 was the traffic line and sign accounts that were overspent in that past fiscal. That was an opportunity that we used to buy supplies that we had an opportunity to get a deal on as well.

Mr. M. Currie: I don't have any problem, minister, in regards to the fishery and aquaculture account, \$40,000 for tunicate. I am concerned about the lettuce that is growing in our streams, the sea lettuce, and it seems to be choking out a lot of rivers and it's doing a great deal of damage of everything that's on the bottom, especially clams and mussels, and probably going to affect the oxygen levels.

I know they did talk about bringing in a machine. The minister said he was going to forward pictures and stuff. I haven't seen that, but I think that some work has to be done in regards to what's taking place with this sea lettuce -

Mr. Sheridan: I couldn't agree with you more.

Mr. M. Currie: - and tackle it right away.

Mr. Sheridan: I have had that discussion as well with the minister and he is very adamant that work will be done on it this year as well. The minister of environment is looking into it.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay, because

the minister of fisheries -

Mr. Sheridan: His concerns - what I'm relaying to you is that we've had that conversation that we have to do something this year with it.

Leader of the Opposition: Have you had the conversation with the minister of fisheries who has a proposal in front of him?

Mr. Sheridan: Oh yeah, absolutely.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay.

Chair: Anything further?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you.

Madam Speaker, I move that the Speaker take the chair, and that the Chair make report to Madam Speaker.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Madam Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, I wish to report that the committee has gone into supplementary supply to be granted to Her Majesty and has come to certain resolutions which I am pleased to report to the House whenever it should be pleased to receive the same.

Mr. Sheridan: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, that the report of the committee be now received.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Chair: Madam Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee be now adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal

Affairs.

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

With unanimous consent of the House, I would like to have second reading of *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2010*.

Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Clerk: *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2010*, Bill No. 51, read a second time.

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

Mr. Sheridan: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the said bill.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair (Biggar): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2010*.

Hon. minster, would you like to give an intent of the bill?

Mr. Sheridan: Sure. Hon. members, this is just exactly what we went over in detail a moment ago. This is the bill that accompanies the book of estimates.

Chair: Would you like to have it read?

Mr. M. Currie: What number is it?

Mr. Sheridan: This is Bill No. 51 that was just put forward this afternoon. It was just passed out.

Mr. M. Currie: Carried.

Chair: Shall the bill carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Shall Schedule A carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Shall Schedule B carry?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: I move the title.

Chair: *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2010*.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: I move the enacting clause.

Chair: May it please Your Honour: Be it therefore enacted by the Legislative Assembly and the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of a Committee of the Whole House having had under consideration a Bill to be intituled *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2010*, I beg leave to report that the Committee has gone through the said Bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the Committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

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

With unanimous consent of the House, I'd like to do third readings of the outstanding bills.

Speaker: Do we have consent?

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

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development, that the 4th, 9th, 12th, 14th and 15th orders of the day be now read.

Wrong orders.

Madam Speaker, with your indulgence, we have the third readings ready to roll. We would like to do the following: order numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 15.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The following bills were ordered for third reading:

Order No. 5, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act* (Bill No. 34);

Order No. 6, *Labour Mobility Act* (Bill No. 38);

Order No. 7, *Highway Traffic (Excessive Speed, Stunt and Racing) Amendment Act* (Bill No. 43);

Order No. 8, *An Act to Amend the School Act* (Bill No. 44);

Order No. 10, *An Act to Amend the Real*

Property Tax Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 49);

Order No. 13, *An Act to Amend the Child Care Facilities Act (No. 2)* (Bill No. 47);

Order No. 15, *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2010*, (Bill No. 51).

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

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development, that the said bill be now read a third time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The following bill read a third time:

Order No. 5, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act* (Bill No.34);

Order No. 6, *Labour Mobility Act* (Bill No. 38);

Order No. 7, *Highway Traffic (Excessive Speed, Stunt and Racing) Amendment Act* (Bill No. 43);

Order No. 8, *An Act to Amend the School Act* (Bill No. 44);

Order No. 10, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act (No. 2)* (Bill No. 49);

Order No. 13, *An Act to Amend the Child Care Facilities Act (No. 2)* (Bill No. 47);

Order No. 15, *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2010* (Bill No. 51).

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

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development, that the said bills do now pass.

Speaker: These are the bills introduced by leave of the House, read a first time, read a second time, committed to Committees of the Whole House, reported agreed to with and without amendment as the case may be, read a third time and it is now moved that these bills do pass.

All those in favour, say 'yea.'

Some Hon. Members: Yea!

Speaker: Contrary, "nay."

Carried.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Tourism and Culture, that the 2nd order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

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

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Culture, 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.

I now call on the hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter to come down and chair the Committee of the Whole House on supply.

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

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

Ms. Sherry: Madam Chair, I would like to table some answers to oral questions asked yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition during estimates for Community Services, Seniors and Labour.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

We were on page - just have to look that up, hon. members. Last night, we were working on - just starting on page 136, at the bottom. Strategy, Evaluation and Industry Investment.

Hon. minister, do you have someone you wish to take on the floor?

Mr. Vessey: Yes.

Chair: Permission granted.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, I see you passed over and re-announced my announcement from last week about Regis and Kelly 'Ripped Us' coming.

Chair: Ripa. Ripa.

Mr. Bagnall: Kelly 'Rip Us.' Rip us for a million bucks. That's what that is. Kelly 'Rip Us' for a million bucks.

Mr. Greenan: That's a good one.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, so how are we going to - where have we got your study on this, showing that we are going to do any - where it's going to pay off? You talked about \$12 million today. Did you pull that out of the air in your release today? That it was going to bring 21, or where did you come up with those figures?

Mr. Vessey: Those figures - industry's changing. This is something I wanted to try to go forward with instead of t.v. advertising to build brand awareness through a syndicate show like Regis and Kelly. We reach a market in the US that we're not tapping right now and we have the flight in the mid-Atlantic that comes in from New York and we're trying to create awareness of PEI to give people a reason to come. We're going to have the benefit of reaching 3 to 4 million people with these broadcasts and we're going to showcase all of our Island and our culinary and our culture.

It's something industry wants. It's something the federal - minister of ACOA was in today. They have money in. We're working in partnership with the feds and we're working with the province and industry and we're just trying to promote our province as minister of tourism and that's, I guess, the mandate I have.

Mr. Bagnall: Now, minister, I can't see in the world where you're going to get - and spending a million dollars here and get any economic benefit back to the province on this other than paying - they may eat a little bit of food and might stay for a week while they're here. Other than that, I think that it's a (Indistinct) waste of money on that particular - and I can't believe that we would be spending a million dollars in the time of economic restraint, in a time when even nurses are getting moved around, we can't open an ER in Montague, we can't do any of this stuff, and you're spending a million dollars to bring in two people for a

promotion.

I mean if it was \$100,000 you could live with it, maybe. But a million bucks? They got the name right when it's Kelly 'Rip Us' for a million bucks. I really can't believe that your department would do that.

Mr. Vessey: I guess, hon. member, as minister of tourism, it's an investment in tourism. It's a primary industry in the province. What's good for tourism is good for our province. We made an investment in the industry and I'm proud of it. The federal government is onside. The industry is onside. Apparently you're not onside, but it's an investment in tourism.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, I've always said you have to spend some money to make some money, but you don't spend a fortune to make nothing. That's what you're doing in this promotion. You're spending a million dollars that we could be using here in Prince Edward Island for a lot of good across the province.

Yet, it's going out to a syndicate in the New York media area and for very little return that you will ever get back on that money. I can't believe that you would go out and spend that kind of money when we need it in education, when we need it in health care, where we need it in our drug formulas, where we need it in all of these areas.

We got fishermen that can't even make a living here because the price is so low but we can't get any help for them. We got farmers that can't make any money because the price is so low and you don't have any money for them. But yet you'll make a millionaire out of two people to come here to this province. I find that, minister, very embarrassing.

Chair: Anything further, hon. member?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes there is. We're not even getting close to being done here.

Mr. Vessey: I guess, hon. member, the cost to bringing them in - Regis and Kelly do not make any money. It's the cost for their production crew to come up to get ready and that's all part of the cost of doing business.

When you go back to say about health care and education in the province, tourism is a good revenue generator for the province. We return, out of the 16 or \$17 million budget, 42, 43 million into general revenue, which goes to pay for health care and goes to pay for education - as you can understand.

We're just trying to work with the industry. They're very supportive of what we're doing. This is how they want to go forward and as minister responsible for the department, we're investing in tourism.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, I think that you'll have a million less going into the revenue this year, because of the million you're putting out to bring those two individuals here to the province. I guess I can stand here and argue with you all day on whether I agree with you bringing - and paying a million dollars -

Mr. Vessey: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: - of PEI money to bring those two individuals here to the province. I think it's a disgrace and a waste of money, and that's all I'm going to have to say.

Chair: Okay, I do know, hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, do you have a question? We haven't really started anything?

Mr. M. Currie: No. Well, we're at -

Chair: We are starting Strategy and Evaluation -

Mr. M. Currie: - Strategy and Evaluation -

Chair: The total there is 834,000.

Do you have some questions, obviously?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, you spent quite a bit of money at UPEI on the Tourism Research Centre. Can you just give me an overview of what's being done out there, what they're actually doing?

Mr. Vessey: They, I guess, carry out studies on behalf of the industry to look at marketing and where things are going and what we should be focusing on in our department.

Mr. M. Currie: So do they follow up on, for example, the Big Break? Are they doing the cost analysis if you make an expenditure?

Mr. Vessey: No, it's not from them. I believe, it's from an independent media, a third party.

Mr. M. Currie: Do you not kind of quantify, if you make an expenditure, that somebody's -

Mr. Vessey: Yeah, we'll be following up on that, yes.

Mr. M. Currie: So, did you do one for the Alanis Morissette concert?

Mr. Vessey: I think that was tabled, hon. member, last year. I don't have that with me today.

Mr. M. Currie: I don't remember seeing it tabled. Okay, did you do one for the rockabilly concert you had there last summer at Cavendish?

Mr. Vessey: You mean Cavendish Beach? Yes, I believe we -

Mr. M. Currie: There's one done for that?

Mr. Vessey: Is there one done for that?

Kevin Jenkins Director Corporate Services: Yes, there was.

Mr. Vessey: Yes, there was one done for that.

Mr. M. Currie: Is that done by UPEI research centre?

Mr. Vessey: No.

Mr. Bagnall: Who was it done by?

Mr. Vessey: I'm not sure on that, but I can find out and bring it back.

Mr. M. Currie: Could you bring that in?

Mr. Vessey: Sure would. Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay, the other one I have is, I remember seeing in the media - of course, the media is never wrong - and they indicated on an interview -

Mr. MacKinley: That's when they're quoting you.

Mr. M. Currie: That's right. You're always wrong. I'm right.

Mr. MacKinley: Yes, yes, yes. (Indistinct) know that.

Mr. M. Currie: The promoter indicated that he was going ahead with the Cavendish music festival last year. He didn't need the \$250,000, but you guys kept shoving it into his hands, so he took it. Did you give them any money this year?

Mr. Vessey: Yes, Cavendish Beach has been funded this year.

Mr. M. Currie: And could you tell us how much?

Mr. Vessey: Two hundred thousand.

Mr. M. Currie: Well, I thought I saw in here 450.

Mr. Vessey: No. It's an investment in rural PEI, as you know, where it's at, and there are a lot of spinoffs out there. It's doing good things. A lot of revenue generated from -

Chair: Montague -

Mr. M. Currie: How many tickets did you sell last year?

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

Mr. Vessey: We don't have that here with us, but we'll find out for you.

Mr. M. Currie: I heard it was 10,000 tickets, but they came three times, so you guys said it was 30,000 people visited the site.

Mr. Vessey: Well -

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah, but that's not 30,000 tickets sold.

Ms. Dunsford: That's three nights of tickets.

Mr. Vessey: I guess if you buy a ticket for each night it would be. I don't know for passes -

Mr. M. Currie: So you'll bring that information back on last year?

Premier Ghiz: Ask Mel Gass, your former leader, he thought it was a great idea.

Mr. M. Currie: No, Mel's not sitting there. It's the minister -

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm -

Chair: Oh, you're not done.

Mr. M. Currie: No.

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

Mr. M. Currie: The question I have, minister, on Grey Worldwide. You're paying them \$585,000 a month.

Mr. Vessey: It's a year, I believe.

Mr. M. Currie: No. It says right here on the document you tabled: a monthly fee of \$585,600.

Mr. Vessey: That's what it is, I believe it's wrong. It's a yearly fee.

Mr. M. Currie: On the next one it says production online 452,000, and then public relations 376,000.

Mr. Vessey: We'll have a look at that.

Mr. M. Currie: Nine, eleven to go. You gave them - do they not receive about 5 or \$6 million for promoting the general Island or something? Is that -

Mr. Vessey: Oh, I don't think it's that, hon. member.

Mr. M. Currie: You don't think it's that high? I think everybody's waiting for it to change. You promised change.

Mr. Vessey: We're looking at the -

Mr. M. Currie: You changed things today with the nurses. Yeah.

Mr. Vessey: We're looking at reviewing that contract.

Mr. M. Currie: But it's not 500 - as tabled here?

Mr. Vessey: I think it's a year, hon. member. We may have made a mistake.

Chair: Right here, right here.

Mr. M. Currie: It's a typo error?

Mr. Vessey: Yeah. I think it's -

Chair: Right there, minister.

Mr. Vessey: It's the monthly fees that total 585, hon. member.

Mr. M. Currie: So this is a total of 585?

Mr. Vessey: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay. Good.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: That's all I have on that.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Industry Investment.

Total Industry Investment: 2,801,100.

Questions under that section?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Could I have a complete

accounting of the gala party in Vancouver?

Mr. Vessey: You mean Atlantic Canada House?

Mr. M. Currie: Whatever you had out there. You spent a million dollars on it. I'd like to see an accounting.

Mr. Vessey: We occurred no cost for that, I believe.

Mr. M. Currie: Pardon?

Mr. Vessey: We had no cost for that.

Mr. M. Currie: The province paid no -

Mr. Vessey: It was in the fives. It was in through the sponsorship of the 500,000.

Mr. M. Currie: So, who'd you give the 500,000 to?

Mr. Vessey: The Confed centre and Grey Worldwide.

Mr. M. Currie: The Confederation Centre?

Mr. Vessey: They were part of Atlantic Canada House. The Young Company - all that, that went out.

Premier Ghiz: Confederation Centre coordinated - they got the contract -

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: - and coordinated for all of Atlantic Canada. So they were the coordinators for it.

Mr. M. Currie: You just gave them 500,000 for wine. So who gave the other 500,000, ACOA and them?

Mr. Bagnall: It was a million dollars from the province.

Premier Ghiz: Yes. It was a million from the province, but part of that, 500,000, was sponsorship money, as well, that I believe went to VANOC, and then 500,000 was for Atlantic Canada House.

Mr. M. Currie: All the air -

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

Mr. M. Currie: All the air fare and stuff, that was all done through the Confederation Centre?

Mr. Vessey: That was all covered through the -

Mr. M. Currie: Who's responsible for the Confederation Centre? Do they get funding from us?

Premier Ghiz: Dave MacKenzie.

Mr. Vessey: Dave MacKenzie.

Mr. M. Currie: I know that.

Mr. M. Currie: You guys give them funding every year?

Premier Ghiz: What's that?

Mr. M. Currie: You guys don't give them funding?

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Yeah, Confederation Centre? Oh yeah, big money.

Mr. M. Currie: Through what department?

Mr. Bagnall: Every department.

Premier Ghiz: Through culture, I think. Yeah, every department. A lot - big money.

Mr. Vessey: Culture, I believe.

Chair: Anything further under that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah. Minister, so the air travel and everything all went through Confederation Centre. Have you asked the Confederation Centre for a breakdown of where they spent the 500,000?

Mr. Vessey: That would be provided to us.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Vessey: That would be provided to us.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, so can we have a copy of that?

Mr. Vessey: We have - all the bills probably have not been - they may be now but they weren't a couple of weeks ago, so when we have it finished up, we'll table it.

Mr. Bagnall: You will table a copy of that?

Mr. Vessey: Yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: You'll assure me you'll table a copy of that?

Mr. Vessey: If I can, yes, I will.

Mr. Bagnall: What do you mean, if you can?

Mr. Vessey: Well -

Mr. Bagnall: You put \$500,000 of taxpayers' money into it and you don't want to show where you spent it?

Mr. Vessey: No, no. I'll table it if I can.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Vessey: Yeah.

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

Mr. M. Currie: I see in here that you provided a bonus that says for Dunne Consulting for \$55,000. Can you tell me what that's -

Premier Ghiz: That sounds like a bad idea.

Mr. Bagnall: Is that Steve Jenkins?

Mr. Vessey: No, that's Steve Dunne.

Premier Ghiz: No, that's Steve Dunne - move a motion on that one. He ran your advertising campaign last election.

Chair: The hon. minister.

Mr. MacKinley: He won't be running it next election.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Chair: Hon. members, the minister is trying to answer the question.

Mr. Vessey: I believe that's through Grey, for work that he's contracted out from Grey. Is that correct? Is that how that works?

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct). It says you gave Grey Worldwide 55,000 to pay Steve Dunne out. What did he do?

Mr. Vessey: They exceeded sales targets so I guess they got a bonus for it, through the contract.

Mr. M. Currie: Tourism was up last year in numbers?

Mr. Vessey: I believe we -

Mr. M. Currie: I'd like to know what the

(Indistinct) -

Mr. Vessey: - that's the advertising sales, but I believe we held our own very well in tough economic times. Probably the best in the Maritimes, our province.

Mr. Bagnall: What were the figures on tourism?

Mr. Vessey: I have that somewhere, hon. member, I guess I better make sure before I -

Mr. M. Currie: Dunne Consulting got a lot of work on this page.

Mr. Vessey: Yeah, they did.

Premier Ghiz: We've got to reward them, the great job they're doing. Hopefully they'll do it again next (Indistinct), if we're lucky.

Mr. Bagnall: That's nice (Indistinct). That's kind of jeopardizing their reputation by making comments like that.

Premier Ghiz: What? They did a great job. They helped elect a good government.

Mr. Bagnall: Saying that they're working for the Tories and helping you, that's what you're saying. And if that's case -

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: - if that's the case, minister, you're not helping their reputation.

Chair: The minister has the papers that you asked for.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Question?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: The question?

Mr. Vessey: Hon. member, to your question on the numbers, I have here that we were up .8% in revenue and visitation was up by 7.8%.

An Hon. Member: Point eight?

Mr. Vessey: Point eight with the revenue, point eight, yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Revenue? What would point eight mean, then?

Mr. Vessey: I don't (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Who does your communications over there?

Mr. Vessey: Julie Whitlock.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) he takes you upstairs and briefs you for an hour before you talk. I thought he must have been your communication guy.

Chair: Any further questions, hon. members?

Mr. Vessey: No, no. It's Julie Whitlock.

Chair: Any further questions from that section?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) point.

Mr. Bagnall: No. There's \$2 and a half million, and I'm trying to find the grant sheet. I can't seem to find it. Who got all the big grant money here?

Mr. Vessey: I think we tabled that, hon. member.

Mr. Bagnall: I'm trying to find it here but I don't see it.

Chair: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: I think if it were I'd have it here, but I'm trying to find it. Now, I'm not saying it's not here, but I can't seem (Indistinct).

Chair: (Indistinct). Are you sure you passed that out?

Mr. Bagnall: That's all right. Just give me a breakdown of it, then.

Mr. Vessey: Do we have it?

Kevin Jenkins Director Corporate Services: Yes.

Mr. Vessey: Total of \$3.3 million in grants, hon. member.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Chair: He wants to know who got them.

Mr. Vessey: Is this the breakdown over here? Can we give him a copy of that? Save me reading it.

Mr. Bagnall: If you got another sheet there I'll take it, but I've gone through all these. I don't see (Indistinct).

Mr. Vessey: Can we get you a copy of this one?

Kevin Jenkins Director Corporate Services: We may need that as well. Can someone - Pages copy -

Chair: We can get you a copy to give you back.

Mr. Bagnall: Carried.

Mr. Vessey: Thank you.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, Brenda Gallant, does she do communications?

Mr. Vessey: She's marketing, I believe.

Mr. M. Currie: Marketing

Mr. Vessey: Director of marketing, and very good staff.

Chair: Okay.

Regulation and Compliance.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, I want to go back to that section when I get the grant sheet. If that's okay, we'll move on. I'll carry it and we'll move on.

Chair: Yes. I'll bring it back to there whenever you're ready.

Mr. Bagnall: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry?

Total Regulation and Compliance: 211,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: Carried.

Chair: Nobody else is answering except you.

We need half majority, at least, hopefully.

French Services. Appropriations. Total French Services - do you have any questions under that?

Mr. Bagnall: What's that (Indistinct) old (Indistinct)?

Mr. Vessey: That's (Indistinct) French grants, hon. member. We tabled it last night.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, but what does it go for? Just (Indistinct).

Chair: For projects under the federal-provincial promotion of official languages agreement.

Mr. Vessey: Are these them here?

Chair: They may be able to help you (Indistinct).

Mr. Vessey: We had some special projects, hon. member. Acadian tourism commission, Cavendish beaches and dunes.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Vessey: Cavendish beaches and dunes. Island east, south shore frolics, North Cape, Tourism Charlottetown, Tourism Summerside.

Mr. Bagnall: Is this for signage?

Mr. Vessey: Brochures, application-driven (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: That's fine. Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Strategy, Evaluation and Industry Investment: 4,100,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Tourism Marketing Communications.

Total Business Development: 880,800.

Any questions under that section?

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, I would like to hear -

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

Mr. M. Currie: - what your vision is for tourism on from now to the future.

Mr. Vessey: I guess my vision for tourism is to work with industry and to promote our province through cultural events and working collaboratively with industry. We made some significant strides in the last couple of years. We've implemented the integrated tourism solution, we've developed (Indistinct) PEI, creating a central reservation system, publishing an industry newsletter, building tourism road shows across the province, engaging with industry and having input from industry. We have the (Indistinct) board that we rely on from industry, and just promoting our province and our culture, and our culinary now is a major player. Just trying to promote all that.

Part of that plays into the announcement today. We're going to promote our beautiful landscape, our culinary, our culture, our festivals in this province and we're going to show people what we're all about. Industry supports it, and we're just working along with industry.

Mr. M. Currie: The focus has seemed to have gone - are you totally convinced that these one and two-day festivals that you spend all this money on is where you want to go instead of - I think what some people feel is the family has been forgotten. You're just showing for a targeted market for a weekend and we can't survive, a tourism industry, on a few weekends a year for a festival in July and another rock festival in Cavendish.

It benefits some people in specific areas, but we have to think of the whole Island in regards to the infrastructure that's invested for cabins and families and everything else. I'm just wondering, are we drifting away from what we used to be, a family-oriented province?

Mr. Vessey: Well, we are - industry does change, it has been changing, but when you say we're getting away from family-oriented product, the hillbilly rock, whatever, Cavendish Beach, it's generated to families. Taylor Swift, my five-year-old just can't wait to go see her.

So, we are looking at family-oriented programs such as Cirque du Soleil, very family-oriented. We got to give people a reason to come, and the more people we can put across the link or put into the airport or the ferries, it's all the better for tourism.

Mr. M. Currie: But we seem to have got away from our beaches and more of our cultural events. You know what? That's why I think sometimes it's sad to see what - and I'm glad to see the government's going to invest in Macphail - but we have a lot of history in PEI, and -

Mr. Vessey: That's just another product for us to market through tourism. Like, we have our museums up east and down west. There's a lot of stuff there that we're trying to market and promote through tourism, through a combination of culture and tourism.

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah. Do you think it was right to allow the skeleton for the blue whale to go out to British Columbia?

Mr. Vessey: Oh, (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: They're not hard questions.

Mr. Vessey: No, no.

An Hon. Member: We'll have another one.

Mr. Vessey: We'll have another one sometime, yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: What? You'll have another one soon? There's only three in the world of

that magnitude. Do you think that was right to allow that asset to go out to British Columbia?

Mr. Vessey: Whether it was the right thing or the wrong thing, I guess it's done now, and (Indistinct).

Mr. Brown: You were the guy who let it go.

Mr. M. Currie: No, I wasn't.

Mr. Brown: Yes you did.

Mr. M. Currie: No. See? Everything's on somebody else, that fellow.

Chair: Anything under that section?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, I'm still -

Mr. Brown: We're sticking to that story.

Mr. M. Currie: I know. Doesn't work for you.

Minister, can you tell me which provinces, in order of size, that visit us? Like, I'm just trying to get a -

Mr. Vessey: What's the major -

Mr. M. Currie: Is it Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, that spend the most time in Prince Edward Island?

Mr. Vessey: I don't have the number -

Mr. Brown: Islanders do.

Mr. Vessey: The Maritime region, they come, or Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Quebec has a lot. Ontario. How long they stay? I don't have those facts.

Mr. M. Currie: Can you, I mean, you spend -

Mr. Vessey: I'm sure we have those (Indistinct) -

Mr. M. Currie: - \$400,000, whatever, at UPEI.

Mr. Vessey: We can find that out for you.

Mr. M. Currie: Somebody must have done some crunching.

Mr. Vessey: We'll find that out and bring it back.

Mr. M. Currie: Then I want you to carry flow over the top of that where you're spending your tourism dollars by Grey Worldwide to attract.

Mr. Vessey: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Because if it's not working, if you're spending all this money on Grey Worldwide and Steve Dunn -

Mr. Vessey: That's being re-evaluated, that whole contract, hon. member.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay. So, I'd like to see that.

Mr. Vessey: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: So your vision is that you think that these two-night events are the way to go from now on?

Mr. Vessey: If you take a look at Cavendish Beach, it's a great event, and it's got a week of people coming. We've done a lot of work in July. We've got Cavendish Beach, we've got Cirque du Soleil, we've got Regis and Kelly. We've got a lot of stuff going on here, and it's good for industry, and we've worked every step of the way with industry on this. It's easy when industry supports what the department does, working together, collaboratively.

Mr. M. Currie: So, you say only, you gave them again 250,000 this year, even though you pushed it into their pocket? They didn't want the money.

Mr. Vessey: Two hundred this year.

Mr. M. Currie: Two fifty last year.

Mr. Vessey: I think it was 200 last year, 200 last year, 200 this year, and you know, successful. Successful and profitable are two different things.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes. You're going to show me, you're going to table that document that says that you can quantify that the expenditure made a return of investment.

Mr. Vessey: Yes, that's right.

Mr. M. Currie: I'm anxious to see the one on the Alanis Morissette concert. That was a - okay. I'm done.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: It seems like you put an awful lot of money into Tourism Charlottetown.

Mr. Vessey: It's an ongoing -

Mr. Bagnall: I'm looking here that you're up to - going through figures and I haven't got through it all yet. You're at \$425,000 that's going into Tourism Charlottetown right now and I still haven't got through - there is the Culinary Institute which is in Charlottetown which is 200,000 over and above that.

How come you're putting it all in - instead of Tourism PEI, why isn't it going into Tourism Charlottetown?

Mr. Vessey: Some of it is core funding and some of it is budget-based. It's the way that

- the funding that they've been getting for years.

Mr. Bagnall: I don't think Charlottetown tourism ever got those kind of dollars the last two years.

Mr. Vessey: I can look in -

Mr. Bagnall: It just seems like you're piling the money right into the Charlottetown tourism, but I don't see the increases to the PEI tourism association compared to what I see here with Charlottetown tourism. So, how come?

Mr. Vessey: It's funding that has been in place, hon. member.

Mr. Bagnall: PEI tourism has been in place a long time and they represent the whole province. You're dealing with one aspect of the province and they're getting almost a half a million bucks here in grant money.

Mr. Vessey: We fund Summerside, we fund Cavendish.

Mr. Bagnall: Not to that extent.

Mr. Vessey: No, not to that extent, but we fund all the regional tourism associations. I guess some are busier than others.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, minister, it just seems - I'm disappointed you're putting all your money in the Charlottetown area rather than spreading it out across the province. It seems like you're putting it in to Charlottetown tourism rather than Tourism PEI, which I think is a big mistake.

Mr. Vessey: We're trying to work with all the regional tourism associations.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Moving to page 138.

Excuse me, Mr. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: I'd like to welcome Kara Grant, Olympian, here to the Legislative Assembly.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Premier Ghiz: If the hon. members over there have any questions about the million dollars that was spent on Atlantic Canada House, Kara was actually out covering for the *Guardian* and she was an invitee in the province as well, because we wanted to invite out former Olympians. I think she'll attest we were in the top three hottest venues out at the Olympics and it was a great spot to promote all of our culinary treats that we have, our great music, everything. It was a spectacular time.

I'm sure that if the hon. members have any questions, they should just go back in the archives and read her great article.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Chair: Okay, thank you.

Total Visitor Services: 691,800.

Any questions under that?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Marketing: 5,713,600.

Question.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, I see on your grants that you gave \$100,000 for a sound and light show at Charlottetown. What was that?

Mr. Vessey: The show I believe here at

Province House, hon. member.

Mr. M. Currie: Pardon?

Mr. Vessey: The show here on Province House.

Mr. M. Currie: One hundred thousand dollars?

Mr. Vessey: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Who did that, your department?

Mr. Vessey: Tourism Charlottetown ran that, I guess.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, you gave the money to Tourism Charlottetown?

Mr. Vessey: Two years' funding.

Chair: Anything further?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Media Relations/Editorial: 357,500.

Question?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Fulfillment: 772,900.

Question?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Who looks after this section?

Mr. Vessey: Brenda Gallant and Harold McGuigan.

Mr. M. Currie: I thought she was in charge of marketing.

Mr. Vessey: She's the director and Harold is the manager of marketing.

Mr. M. Currie: Media distribution, could you just give me a little insight?

Mr. Vessey: The mail-outs.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh the tourism guides, they look after that side?

Mr. Vessey: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: How many do you mail out?

Mr. Vessey: I'd only be guessing at that, hon. member. I'll have to get that for you too. I think it's diminishing a little bit.

Mr. M. Currie: Are you moving away from that versus the Internet?

Mr. Vessey: Not yet, no. But it is, I believe, dwindling a little bit.

Mr. M. Currie: The other one I have is the reservation system. We've had a number of issues with it in regards to it's not working right and it's been promised every year it's going to come back.

Mr. Vessey: That's an ongoing thing. We're trying to work with the industry to get everybody to buy into it. There are a few glitches, but we try to work them out and it's continuing.

Mr. M. Currie: I think what it shows what irritates most of them is they think the site is good, but it shows that the properties are rented and they're not.

Mr. Vessey: And they're not.

Mr. M. Currie: When people are clicking on, then they just leave because the facility is rented or it shows it's full. So that's what

people are complaining about that come up and they see that there are vacancies and they could drop in when they get here, whether it's Greenwich or wherever.

Mr. Vessey: We're working on that, trying to make it - it's something that's ongoing, but we're trying to do the best we can to get it up.

Mr. M. Currie: Who is spearheading that?

Mr. Vessey: Sebastian Mango. He's put a lot of time into that and it's a big project.

Mr. M. Currie: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Publications: 661,200.

Any questions under that?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) thousand for -

Mr. Vessey: That's for the publication of the visitors guide, I believe.

Mr. M. Currie: Four-hundred and seventy-three-thousand, is that the paper -

Mr. Vessey: That's the printing contracts, I believe.

Mr. M. Currie: Is that done locally?

Mr. Vessey: Tendered every couple of years.

Mr. M. Currie: Who has it now?

Mr. Vessey: I think it's spread over four different companies, hon. member.

Mr. M. Currie: Four companies?

Mr. Vessey: Four different companies, yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Is that because of the colours?

Mr. Vessey: Pardon me?

Mr. M. Currie: Is that because of the many colours that's on the document?

Mr. Vessey: I'm just not sure why that is, but I'll find out.

Mr. M. Currie: I think it has to do with the printing presses, the number of colours. Maybe I'm wrong.

Chair: Anything further?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Travel/Trade Sales: 517,300.

Questions.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Market place, North America, Europe, Asia, \$90,500. Give us more on that. What's that figure for?

Mr. Vessey: We don't have a breakdown on that, but that's out in the department in travel.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Mr. Vessey: Departmental travel.

Mr. Bagnall: That's department travel.

Mr. Vessey: Large events, meetings with several tour operators, sales, contract operators. It's just the price of doing business.

Mr. Bagnall: So trade shows, you're

spending 183,000 for staff to travel all over the country here.

Mr. Vessey: We're trying to promote our province. We have to send people away to these events. Just trying to get brand awareness to let people know what we're all about and where we're at.

Mr. Bagnall: Now you've added another million dollars to that for advertising to bring in -

Mr. Vessey: But that, hon. member, is going to pay dividends years to come down the road when people exactly know where we are and get their opportunity to find out about us.

Mr. Bagnall: They'll remember for five minutes after they watch the show.

Mr. Vessey: I guess that's your opinion. I think industry thinks this is the way to go. We partnered, as I said, with the federal government and industry and we're going to do our best to promote our province.

Mr. Bagnall: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. M. Currie: No, no.

Chair: Question.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Are you still on Travel/Trade Sales?

Chair: Yes, we are.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, I guess what I was trying to ask earlier was your out-of-province travel, does it reflect the provinces and the states that patronize our market? I

don't see that in this here. I see South Carolina and places. I know you're interested in going to areas to attract new business, but Washington, DC and places like that there, that -

Mr. Vessey: That's where trade shows are and where staff travel to for trades shows. We're just trying to promote our province.

Mr. M. Currie: Is your advertising reflective of those areas that patronize our market?

Mr. Vessey: We're always trying to develop new market and keep existing markets.

Mr. M. Currie: You got them key messages, you're not straying from them one bit.

An Hon. Member: He's doing a great job.

Mr. M. Currie: He's not answering any questions.

An Hon. Member: He's doing a good job.

Chair: Anything further in that section?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: You know, minister, I got a list of our out-of-province travel here for your deputy minister and it's 33,600.

Mr. M. Currie: You just imagine.

Mr. Bagnall: Thirty-six thousand for your deputy minister. She spends almost as much of the time out of the province as she does in the province.

Mr. M. Currie: You imagine.

Mr. Bagnall: There's three days out, there's four days out, there's two days out, there's three days out, there's three days out, there's

seven days out, there's -

Mr. M. Currie: Add them up.

Mr. Bagnall: There are five days out. I mean - there are two weeks out.

Mr. Vessey: She's very busy. She's a marketer and very good at it.

Mr. Bagnall: Does she work out of the province and you just fly her back in and forth?

Mr. Vessey: No, no.

Mr. Bagnall: Is she one of those ones that go to Alberta all year or BC or whatever to work for you?

Mr. Vessey: No, no.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: What?

Mr. Vessey: No, no.

Mr. Bagnall: She doesn't? She actually works here?

Mr. Vessey: Yes, she does.

An Hon. Member: She has an office here.

Mr. Bagnall: Does she have an office away too? Because she's - I'm wondering, does she have an office with Air Canada? Because she seems to fly more than Air Canada does itself. I was just wondering.

An Hon. Member: Flying (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Does she have an office there with Air Canada?

Mr. Vessey: Not that I'm aware of, hon. member. She has an office on the third floor

of the Shaw Building.

Mr. Bagnall: What?

Mr. Vessey: She has an office on the third floor of the Shaw Building.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Anything else?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you, minister.

Chair: I have to carry the final totals, hon. members.

Total Tourism Marketing Communications:
9,595,100.

Mr. Vessey: Yeah, we'll bring it back and get it to you hon. member.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) carry this year.

Chair: Total Tourism PEI: 24,112,600.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Thank you, hon. minister.

We'll be back to page 72, the Department of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you, Madam Chair, yes.

Chair: Would you like some more water?

Mr. Sheridan: I would. Jeffrey boy's going to do that.

I have a deputy, Doug Clow, that would like to join me here.

Chair: Permission to take a guest on the floor?

Mr. Clow.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah. Agreed.

Chair: Members, we're on page 72. We're just going to start that section.

Administration.

General. Total Administration: 648,800.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Sheridan: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: The Member from Georgetown-St. Peters has been asking for contract figures -

Mr. M. Currie: That's right.

Mr. Bagnall: - that you promised that you were going to bring back. Do you have those figures with you today?

Mr. Sheridan: The only one that's outstanding now is the Accreon contract, and I have that right here.

Mr. M. Currie: What I had asked for was all the contracts they've got.

Mr. Sheridan: And you've got them all now. You've got -

Mr. M. Currie: No, not contracts - that was for individuals.

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: What work they received.

Mr. Sheridan: And this is it. This is -

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Mr. Sheridan: - their one contract that they have.

Chair: Seventy-two.

Mr. M. Currie: Thank you.

Chair: Any -

Mr. MacKinley: I have a question.

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

Mr. MacKinley: I don't know if it's the proper place, but close enough. You're under - all right, what I want to know is if the minister could tell me: What's the difference between a tender, if the government tenders something - I'm going to ask your deputy or you - if a government tenders something, what's the difference between tendering and calling for an RFP? The opposition doesn't understand what the difference is.

Mr. Sheridan: The RFP is usually for services and a tender is usually for goods and such as that, hon. minister.

Mr. MacKinley: That's good enough.

Chair: Minister, are you okay there?

Mr. Sheridan: I'd like (Indistinct). That'd be great.

Chair: Do you have some more questions now? Or I think you were in the middle of questioning.

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. So, that's being tabled for us now, minister?

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah. All set.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. One other thing minister. How much is this little propaganda

tax flyer cost you?

Mr. Sheridan: The same price as this one.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So what did it cost?

Mr. Sheridan: No idea. Six thousand dollars.

Mr. Bagnall: Six thousand dollars to put a - so is the Liberal party paying for this for you? Is the Liberal party paying for this for you?

Mr. Sheridan: That's not propaganda. It's the same as this. This is an insert into a tax bill that went out the year of your election, and exactly the same information is on the inside of this that is on our pamphlet.

Mr. Bagnall: So -

Mr. Sheridan: And so what that says beside that - we changed the tax bill this year substantially to make it easier for Islanders. As you know, we're in the fourth year of a freeze on property -

Mr. Bagnall: You want to table that one?

Mr. Sheridan: Sure will.

Mr. Bagnall: Sure. Good.

Mr. Sheridan: The fourth year of a tax freeze for Islanders where the property taxes for owner-occupied residential properties has not gone up for the fourth year in a row.

We wanted to make sure that Islanders know exactly how to read their bill so that they can be aware of the fact that their taxes have not gone up again for the fourth year in a row.

Mr. Bagnall: Did this go out - the taxes have not gone up -

Mr. Sheridan: The property taxes -

Mr. Bagnall: I've been getting more concern, more calls from people, telling me their property taxes have gone up minister.

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Assessments.

Mr. Bagnall: They're saying that their bill this year is much higher than it was last year, some up to 30% higher.

Mr. Sheridan: Now, as you know, if you're living in your home, owner-occupied residential property, your taxes have not gone up one cent. As long as you are in your home, you haven't made any adjustments to your house, built on a wing or did any other improvements, your house will not have gone up.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. Sheridan: If you have another lot, that could possibly have gone up. If you are not a resident of Prince Edward Island, you don't live in that house, you rent it, yes, it could go up.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, so what you're telling me is that if anybody in PEI that didn't do anything to their property in the last year, if their taxes have gone up, to call you, because their taxes should not have gone up. And if anybody's taxes when up this year, you will reimburse them. If they fall under that criteria.

Mr. Sheridan: Hon. member, make sure what you're speaking about here -

Mr. Bagnall: No, I know.

Mr. Sheridan: - is when it's an owner-occupied residential property -

Mr. Bagnall: I understand all that.

Mr. Sheridan: - you live in the house. We're not talking about any changes in Waste Watch. We're talking about your property taxes.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. So anybody in PEI whose taxes went up, contact you, because they shouldn't have.

Mr. Sheridan: If your property tax assessment went up and your bill changed, and you are paying more property tax on an owner-occupied residential property, you did not make improvements, then your taxes will not have gone up. Waste Watch went up by about \$4 -

Mr. Bagnall: So I can do a press release saying that you are going to look after it, because if the - pay for the extra money - that there's no way that it should have gone up if they followed those - what you just said.

Mr. Sheridan: The most exciting part of all of this is that Islanders know full well what this government stands for.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. No, that's fine -

Mr. Sheridan: This government stands for -

Mr. Bagnall: - minister, I thank you.

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Mr. Bagnall: And I will -

Premier Ghiz: Mine went up a lot for my cottage property that I own, probably because of the riding that it's in and all the great work that the government's doing.

Mr. Sheridan: That's probably exactly why.

Mr. Bagnall: Well, minister - well, Premier, I want to ask you a question,

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: What work did you do the property?

Premier Ghiz: What's that? Nothing.

Mr. Sheridan: He's - that's not -

Premier Ghiz: But it's not my primary residence.

Mr. Sheridan: That's not his primary residence.

Premier Ghiz: My primary residence was frozen.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, no wonder you're sneaking it through then, their tax raises to us.

Premier Ghiz: Yeah. Well, guess what? If you're fortunate enough - I'll say this -

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: - if you're fortunate enough (Indistinct) piece of land (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: Land grab.

Mr. Sheridan: Pay taxes.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh, so that's how you do it. You just put on one little thing and raise everybody else's.

Mr. Sheridan: One little thing. That's Islanders' homes. That's what's important to all Islanders.

Mr. Bagnall: Yeah. So on everything else, you're raising the taxes on. That's fine,

that's fine.

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

An Hon. Member: Uncovered.

Premier Ghiz: Uncovered. I agree with that.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, fire dues. When the bill goes out, are the fire departments putting up their dues every year?

Mr. Sheridan: Every department has the right to do that within their district.

Mr. M. Currie: So it's not province-wide, it's just certain departments?

Mr. Sheridan: Absolutely, and so what happens, as you're very well aware of, for instance, in a very small part of my district the fire department has put a huge new building up to house the fire department. In the past few years they have bought two new trucks. What they have done is put a little bit of an increase in place, and they maintained it again this year to allow for the financing of their new building.

Mr. M. Currie: I got a call from an individual that owns blueberry land and some forest in Clear Springs, which would be the first district, and land taxes were \$44 and the fire tax was 40. It's gone up \$15 in the last three years, which he didn't mind at that point, I guess, but it's getting to the point now where he says next year they're going to leapfrog ahead of the taxes on it.

Mr. Sheridan: Most districts, just to give you an idea with the fire dues, they will only tax a piece of property that has a building on it. Now, every district's different, so I can't

speak to that -

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Mr. Sheridan: - but most districts go around and just make sure that there is a building on that property. They know which parcels have a house on it.

Mr. M. Currie: I think there are buildings on it, but there is a blueberry property and they have some trees. One other question maybe, and I'm pretty sure you'll understand this.

If you have an asphalt plant and you have a company that buys asphalt from the asphalt plant to do driveways, what your department is doing is charging provincial sales tax twice on a product where it shouldn't be because it's a reseller. It's the same as if you were the oil company. I bought oil off of you, you don't charge me provincial sales tax. But when I sell it to the customer I charge him tax.

In this case, it's an unfair situation with the small pavers when they go to the big construction companies and buy asphalt. Your department is charging them provincial sales tax and I thought that was eliminated years -

Mr. Sheridan: No.

Mr. M. Currie: No?

Mr. Sheridan: No, it is still in place. It has to be in place to level the playing field. These people pay taxes on what they do to produce the product and so -

Mr. M. Currie: No, they don't.

Mr. Sheridan: Yes, they do. Until there's HST in a jurisdiction, they're paying all input costs. So all the input costs that go into making asphalt have to be covered off in a

tax base. So what happens is when a small supplier of driveway asphaltting buys from a large plant, we take that and charge sales tax on it to ensure that the playing field is level for all those out there -

Mr. M. Currie: But the playing field is not level for him.

Mr. Sheridan: Yes, it is.

Mr. M. Currie: Because when he goes out, he just charges the tax on what he sells. But the little guy, when he buys from him and goes out, he's more expensive because he's paying tax on tax.

Mr. Sheridan: He is paying part of the input tax that the large asphalt producer pays. So he is paying tax to help offset the tax that the asphalt producer is paying so then when he goes out, he has to be on a level playing field, make sure that it's fair for the persons buying that asphalt to go out and compete with the guy that's paying all the input tax.

Mr. M. Currie: But if I went to Arsenault's Sawmill today and bought a truckload of lumber -

Mr. Brown: And it would be good lumber.

Mr. M. Currie: - I'm going to sell it to somebody else, I'm a reseller -

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: - they don't charge me provincial sales tax. They manufacture the product from wood and I'm reselling, so I go in there, I don't have to pay them.

Mr. Sheridan: You pay the tax up front and then you could get rebated the tax on that. It's the same thing with the asphalt.

Mr. M. Currie: Can he get rebated?

Mr. Sheridan: Who? This character here?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes. Well, he's a business person. I don't know if he's a character. Regis and Kelly would be characters.

Mr. Sheridan: I can't see that from here. I don't know -

Mr. M. Currie: I'll give you a copy. You can go copy this for them. But if that's the case, I think that would be fair and I understand what you're trying to say to quantify the tax. But in the reseller business, if you buy - if I went to Garden City Dairy and bought milk and said I'm going to distribute that door-to-door down through Stratford, as a reseller, they don't charge me tax on it.

Mr. Sheridan: All of those resellers are all charged tax and then they can use it as a rebatable tax back as one of their costs of doing business. Now, is it always rebated? I can't speak to that.

But I know in this kind of a case, I've looked at this many times in my old life and this one as well. It's the only way to level the playing field. They have to pay tax to the producer of this asphalt to ensure that the playing field's equal. So they're paying all the input tax at the asphalt producer level. So for me to come in and buy from you who are the producer and I'm going to go out and compete with you, I don't think it's fair unless they pay that.

Mr. M. Currie: No, but see the little guy would be charging more because he has to get his cost back that he was just charged by the big asphalt. But the main asphalt company does not - when he goes out, he just charges the tax once. So he's cheaper than the -

Mr. Sheridan: He's paying tax on all his inputs, is what I'm saying to you. The

asphalt producer has to pay all of his input taxes. Right?

Mr. M. Currie: But you're getting twice. You're getting taxed twice here.

Mr. Sheridan: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: That's what's called highway robbery.

Mr. Sheridan: The only way to do it - the only way to make it fair for the -

Mr. M. Currie: You're covered, are you?

Mr. Sheridan: The only fair way for the little guy to go out and do it is to charge tax on that. I know what you're saying about whether they're collecting twice. But that is the only way to make it fair -

Mr. M. Currie: But I don't understand how you're making it fair. If you're a reseller, you're taking the same product and just charging tax on it. But you're charging twice here. (Indistinct).

Mr. Sheridan: He's paying a tax to the producer. The producers has paid all his input taxes for the product. He buys all of the tar and the used stone and everything -

Mr. M. Currie: I understand all that.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, would you have another look at that?

Mr. Sheridan: I'll certainly have another look at it.

Mr. Bagnall: I don't think you're right on what you're saying, but I think it's something we should have a look at.

Mr. Sheridan: We will take another look at it for you. No question.

Chair: Moving forward in the estimates.

Mr. Bagnall: Carry that first section because the only thing in there is salaries.

Chair: Total Administration: 648,800.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: The Treasury Board Operations, other than salaries, there's very little. We'll carry it.

Chair: Total Treasury Board Operations: 786,800.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Pension Benefits.

Mr. Bagnall: That's all salaries again. It's under \$30,000.

Mr. Sheridan: The department's very largely all salaries, as you -

Chair: Total Pension Benefits: 841,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Office of Treasury Board: 1,628,200.

Mr. Bagnall: Same thing. It's salaries again.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, if you took the salaries out of the Provincial Treasury, you would have a lot of money.

Mr. Sheridan: That's right. Wouldn't it be nice? We could never do without the professionals in there. That's the hard part about it.

Chair: Office of the Comptroller.

Total Accounting: 1,167,800.

Mr. Bagnall: It's sure not helping our deficit, minister.

Mr. Sheridan: That's right.

Chair: Questions under that section?

Mr. Bagnall: We'll go to the next on debt.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Procurement: 259,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Debt, Investment and Pension Management: 662,000.

Mr. Bagnall: You never gave us anything on the materials and supplies. You get that information for us?

Mr. Sheridan: Yes, I do.

Mr. Bagnall: Can you just give me the breakdown with that 245,600 was, minister? While your deputy's getting -

Mr. Sheridan: The debt management? Yeah. Those are the three bond raters that we have to pay. How do you like that?

Mr. Bagnall: Professional and contract services.

Mr. Sheridan: We have to pay the bond raters to come in and say what they say.

Mr. Bagnall: That's the only way you can get them to say what you want them to say. By paying them.

Mr. Sheridan: As long as you're doing great things for the people, they don't mind -

Mr. Bagnall: If you pay them off, then

they'll say anything you want.

Mr. Sheridan: Also in there is Morneau Sobeco. Morneau Sobeco is our actuary that helps us out with all -

Mr. Bagnall: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Bagnall: Can we have a copy of that stuff now?

Next total is what?

Chair: Just checking out the copies here, member. Do you want me to continue on while they sort that out?

Total Risk Management and Insurance: 313,900.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, there's 48,000 there, professional and contract services in that section.

Mr. Sheridan: Melanber is the name of the company that does that work for us. It does an assessment of how our risk assessment is taking place inside the government and the reinsurance is also part of that.

But I mean, we have -

Mr. Bagnall: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: - inside that portion of it. Then we do reinsurance through them.

Chair: Total Corporate Administration: 376,100.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Office of the Comptroller: 2,779,300.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you.

Chair: Taxation and Property Records.

Total Administration: 1,236,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Tax Audit, Collection & Inspection Services -

Mr. Bagnall: This administration one. There's \$863,900. You get a breakdown on that yet? Is that debt written off? Is that what you were talking about there?

Doug Clow Deputy: That's a provision we set up every year. It's based on a percentage of the sales tax. It's point four of 1% of sales tax.

Mr. Bagnall: For what? What's it there for?

Doug Clow Deputy: A general provision we set up.

Mr. Bagnall: Pardon?

Doug Clow Deputy: A general provision.

Mr. Sheridan: Provisions for doubtful recovery. So we have to make sure that we have it there for any kind of (Indistinct). So our write-off store sales tax now is less than point four of 1%.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay -

Chair: Tax audit -

Mr. Bagnall: - \$25,000 -

Chair: Sorry, I thought you meant okay.

Mr. Bagnall: - in that section for professional and contract services.

Mr. Sheridan: As you see, that's a new line item. That's the audit that goes out and checks on where the can depots are, where our new environmental can pickup is, that recycles. So we have to go out and ensure that these audits are ensuring that they're doing proper job as our collection of cans and recyclables.

Mr. Bagnall: Why did your travel drop 33,000?

Mr. Sheridan: Why did it?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes.

Mr. Sheridan: You see where it was, 90 for the estimate. We came in at 76,000, and we're dropping it to 43,000 in an attempt to make sure that we're underspent as -

Mr. Bagnall: Did you just put that figure in to try to balance your budget?

Mr. Sheridan: As you can see, we dropped 30 there, and we're going to ensure that we continue to do it in that fashion in the future.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Carry that section.

Mr. Sheridan: We're trying to set a standard for all others -

Mr. Bagnall: Carry that section.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you.

Chair: Total Tax Audit, Collection & Inspection Services: 1,401,800.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Tax Administration & Client Services: 2,139,700.

Questions?

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Just, minister, we haven't got any of that, you just sent one thing over. Have you got it now - you don't have it for all the sections?

Mr. Sheridan: Yes. We do so.

Mr. Bagnall: Can you table them for me then, please? Or just pass them over.

Mr. Sheridan: Yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Thank you.

Are you tabling them or just giving them to me?

Chair: Are you tabling them, or do you just want the copies?

Mr. Sheridan: You can just give them to him, that's fine.

Chair: Okay.

Mr. Sheridan: That's great.

Mr. Bagnall: The way it's set up, you can't read them anyway. Because he's got no dollar value for any of these contracts.

Mr. Sheridan: That's right. We can't be giving away dollar amounts so that there's contracts - somebody will be winning the next round of (Indistinct) -

Mr. Bagnall: You're the only minister in this government that hasn't.

Mr. Sheridan: Come on. We're going to make sure. We'll check on that.

Mr. Brown: We'll check on that.

Mr. Sheridan: Holy moly. You can't be giving out those figures.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: I mean, you gave us the total thing, but you're not giving us any breakdowns, minister.

Mr. Sheridan: You can see it, you can see the total for the department in each of the divisions, and then you can see what contracts are a part of it. We can't be giving away different parts of it like that.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: You only have the one copy of this?

Mr. Sheridan: Yes.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Bagnall: You'll have to get them tabled, then, because they'll need copies.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) Accreon?

Chair: That was already passed out.

Mr. M. Currie: I never got that.

Mr. Bagnall: You'll have it there, because - did we get all - that's for every department in his (Indistinct)?

Mr. Sheridan: Every section, yes.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. You'll have a chance to look at it there (Indistinct).

Chair: Anything else under this section?

Mr. Bagnall: Yes. We'll carry that, but, minister, we want to be able to go back and ask questions on that before we're done.

Mr. Sheridan: Sure thing.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Property Assessment and Geomatic Services: 1,329,600.

Mr. Bagnall: That's all salaries. Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: Right on.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Taxation and Property Records: 6,107,600.

Mr. Bagnall: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Communications PEI.

Total Administration: 297,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Document Publishing Centre: 2,124,100.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. M. Currie: Wait now, where are we at here? Chairman?

Mr. Sheridan: Coming up to Multimedia.

Chair: Multimedia Services, page 76.

Total Multimedia Services: 651,400.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Strategic Marketing and Design: 625,900.

Shall it carry?

Question.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: The equipment. What equipment (Indistinct)?

Mr. Sheridan: What would the equipment be in that strategic marketing? They could be anything from the little computer systems that they would use for the marketing and design portion of this. Could be some of the trade booth displays, any of that kind of (Indistinct). Very minimal, \$10,000, I think.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Chair: Yes, we did.

Mr. Bagnall: Did we carry administration?

Chair: We did multimedia and we're now on -

Mr. Bagnall: We're on Document Publishing Centre right now?

Mr. Sheridan: No, we're past that.

Chair: No, we're on page 76, hon. member. Everything else was carried.

Mr. Bagnall: Oh. Okay.

Mr. M. Currie: What's trade booth displays in this part?

Mr. Sheridan: What would be part of it?

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah. What's that for?

Mr. Sheridan: They do all of that kind of thing over there in strategic marketing and design. They produce all the different products for all of government. It's another combined effort for all of government to ensure that we have the proper backdrops and such for any kind of our trade booths or visits to other jurisdictions.

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier Ghiz: Just a note for your department, because they're probably paying attention to this, but I discovered this when I was in Chicago. Prince Edward Island is still very much unknown, okay?

Mr. Sheridan: That's correct.

Premier Ghiz: The problem is, you can have a booth with Prince Edward Island. Well, it means something, but where is Prince Edward Island? I noticed one of the - I think it was Madagascar, or one of the African countries kind of had a big map with pointers going to it: Here's where our spot is, and I think that's what we should do with our international booths at those conferences.

Mr. Sheridan: Good idea.

Mr. Brown: Regis and Kelly did that today with Google Earth.

Premier Ghiz: Exactly.

An Hon. Member: PEI.

Mr. Brown: (Indistinct) everybody in the world knows where it is.

An Hon. Member: Isn't that amazing?

Premier Ghiz: But, anyway, that's an idea for you.

Mr. Sheridan: That's a very good idea. Thank you, sir.

Chair: Any questions under that section?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Total Communications PEI:
3,698,800.

Shall it carry?

An Hon. Member: Questions.

Chair: Oh, you want to go back to (Indistinct)?

Mr. M. Currie: Pardon?

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

Mr. M. Currie: It says policy advice. Who does your communications between yourself and Ottawa?

Mr. Sheridan: Between ourselves and Ottawa?

Mr. M. Currie: On equalization?

Mr. Sheridan: Most of that work's done by Nigel Burns inside the economics, statistics and federal fiscal relations, as you see in that next section we're coming to now. Nigel is the manager of that section and he has all the contacts with our federal counterparts.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) Pat Binns is in there.

Mr. M. Currie: We're on the -

Chair: We're trying to carry the total for Communications PEI. We have to carry that middle section total, the three million, before we move on to the next section.

Mr. M. Currie: I'll carry it. Carried.

Chair: Okay?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes. I'm sorry.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Economic, Statistics and Federal Fiscal Relations: 439,700.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St.

Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: You say Nigel Burns, he does the bureaucratic. Who does the political one for the province?

Mr. Sheridan: Me.

Mr. M. Currie: You do, to the minister?

Mr. Sheridan: With Flaherty, yes, sir.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay. Now I thought Mr. Flaherty said that due to the economic stimulus is over now, that the belt tightening is going to begin. So where do you see your equalization go from here?

Mr. Sheridan: As you saw it this year, it went down by \$10 million. Do we expect further reduction? I would expect that at this point we have put forward a number that we expect it to further reduce by a smaller number into the next year, but I can't see it going out in any smaller number from that point on. What Mr. Flaherty is attempting to do is get the collective belt tightened in Ottawa. They need to make a few changes there, and they're looking at every avenue that they can possibly do.

So, yes, the six smallest jurisdictions in Canada were cut this year with regard to equalization, but I don't see it going on too far into the future. I expect a further small reduction in the next fiscal and then levelling out.

Mr. M. Currie: I thought that Gail Shea indicated that there was no difference, that actually there was more. Where do you disagree? Explain to me where you say there's 10 million less.

Mr. Sheridan: There's no doubt at all with regard to the \$10 million. You'll see it inside the revenue book where there is a \$10 million reduction. Want me to wait just a

second?

Mr. M. Currie: No, go ahead.

Mr. Sheridan: (Indistinct). So what happened was that Minister Shea was not given an update as to what took place -

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, okay.

Mr. Sheridan: - with regard to the reduction in -

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, you're right.

How much do you receive now, minister, per year? From the -

Mr. Sheridan: Well, you just, so you understand that Minister Shea just wasn't up - she hadn't been informed of the actual reductions, so that's why. I just wanted to make sure that you were aware that Minister Shea, as you know, did not come back to rebut it. We were cut by the \$10 million. She just wasn't aware that that had taken place. Okay? Just wanted to make sure that you're aware.

Mr. M. Currie: I don't think she still agrees with that, but anyway -

Mr. Sheridan: Yes. No.

Mr. M. Currie: - you have your opinion, she has hers.

Mr. Sheridan: It's not an opinion. It's fact. It's in our book.

Mr. M. Currie: No.

Mr. Sheridan: It's in the current revenues.

Mr. M. Currie: No, it's not.

Mr. Sheridan: So it's down by -

Mr. M. Currie: I think Flaherty also said there was a - you were wrong.

Mr. Sheridan: That's (Indistinct).

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

Chair: (Indistinct) more questions.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes. How much did you say the equalization was?

Mr. Sheridan: It has gone down this year from 339 million, it's gone down to 329,000 million for this upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. M. Currie: Three hundred thirty-nine million.

Mr. Sheridan: (Indistinct) that we're (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: My God, Steven Harper is good to you. He is so.

Mr. Sheridan: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: He's unbelievable.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Shall it carry?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

An Hon. Member: Carried.

Chair: Total Information Technology Shared Services: 24,817,500.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

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

An Hon. Member: She sent a letter.

Chair: Do you have anything to pass out under this section?

Mr. Sheridan: Which one is he looking for?

Chair: Information Technology Shared Services.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) professional services.

Mr. Sheridan: (Indistinct). Professional services should all be there.

An Hon. Member: That's three pages and three pages to (Indistinct).

Mr. Sheridan: Two or three pages together.

Mr. Bagnall: Five point two nine one million.

Chair: Any questions?

Mr. Bagnall: But minister, we don't know what any of that contract - I mean, you haven't any prices in here for anything.

Mr. Sheridan: We won't put prices on those. All your prices there, you just go line by line, and you can see where they fit in with each of these groups. You'll see under the technology shared services that those numbers all come in underneath the professional and contract services.

We can never release those numbers because they're bid on, tendered, and RFPd on every -

Mr. Bagnall: This is 14 years I've been here and this is the first time that anybody's said that they can't release figures of taxpayers' dollars that have been spent.

Mr. Sheridan: I give you taxpayers dollars for all of our spending, every bit of it. But I

cannot give you dollars for numbers that are going to be RFPd in the next year. It's very easy for them to go -

Mr. M. Currie: The minister of highways publishes the contracts and tenders for highways.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) expenditures (Indistinct).

Mr. Sheridan: No, that's what I'm saying. But then next year they will be able to go out and tender these and be able to look at these numbers and go out and tender exactly the same amount.

Mr. M. Currie: I've never seen this before.

Mr. Bagnall: Carry it all.

Mr. M. Currie: No, no.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister -

Mr. Sheridan: I'll give you all the information you want, I can give you every little bit of -

Mr. M. Currie: Okay, I had asked for Accreon. Accreon has contracts that they're getting. How much are they getting?

Mr. Sheridan: You have it right in front of you now.

Mr. M. Currie: It's not.

Mr. Sheridan: The RFP that's there, I gave you a separate handout. I tabled it when we first sat down.

Mr. M. Currie: How much did they get in the last year?

Mr. Sheridan: That RFP is for \$296,000. It's all broken down there for you, 296,000.

Mr. M. Currie: What handout are you talking about, minister? I don't have it.

Mr. Sheridan: I gave it to Madam Chair when I first sat down. They had a House copy for you.

Mr. M. Currie: There is no price on this one.

Mr. Sheridan: There is a full contract there with Accreon's name on the front of it. No, that's not it. I gave you the full breakdown.

Madam Chair, do they each have a copy?

Chair: It was copied and circulated.

Mr. Sheridan: So you have a copy there. It's a full contract and it shows the RFP number - 613, I believe, is the RFP number.

Mr. M. Currie: A request for proposal 613, okay. So that was how much?

Mr. Sheridan: Two-hundred and ninety-six thousand dollars.

Mr. M. Currie: Is that the only work they got in the last year?

Mr. Sheridan: The other piece that they had - and the hon. member had just showed the two contracts. One is the 296 and the other one is for the actual proposal that was put together to do this study. The study was -

Mr. M. Currie: Forty-seven thousand.

Mr. Sheridan: Forty-seven thousand dollars. So they did this work to say that this is how this should progress. Then we went to RFP to actually have the transformation begin. This \$296,000 was the RFP that won

the transformation process.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay, the xwave Bell Aliant professional server blade consulting, how much was that?

Mr. Sheridan: The xwave portion of it there?

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Mr. Sheridan: Xwave as you know takes care of all the computer systems with the HP that we talked about earlier. Total for xwave last year was 1.6 million.

Doug Clow Deputy: That was for the computer refresh (Indistinct). Is that what he's talking about?

Mr. Sheridan: Is that the one that you're speaking of, the computer refresh?

Mr. M. Currie: No, it said xwave server blade consulting. The next one is professional server consulting.

Mr. Sheridan: I'm going to look it up now (Indistinct) give it to you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: (Indistinct) \$1.6 million grant, what's that?

Mr. Sheridan: Where are you at?

Mr. Bagnall: Just the next section there on the grants, the 1.6 million. What's that grant for?

Mr. Sheridan: That's the ongoing computer. That's what we're talking about, the refresh. That's the xwave contract, 1.6 million. That's our refresh going right across all of government. We put quite a bit of effort putting those computers out across our

school system instead of refreshing, say, my computer, for instance, instead. We put most of it into the school system so they can have the very latest in technology. So we continue this refresh program. We think it's great. It was started by your government and we continue it on.

Mr. M. Currie: One point six million every year for a computer?

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah, refresh.

Mr. M. Currie: And how long is our contract for?

Mr. Sheridan: Through till 2012.

Mr. M. Currie: I see a company in here called 626903 New Brunswick Inc. What's that for? It says IT Shared Services.

Mr. Sheridan: That would be the contract I gave you earlier for Allan MacDonald. You have that, I tabled that during this sitting.

Mr. M. Currie: Oh, that's his company name?

Mr. Sheridan: That's his company, yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: He's done now?

Mr. Sheridan: He is finished -

Mr. M. Currie: The first contract. And you said you extended him.

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah, we extended him.

Mr. M. Currie: He's still there.

Mr. Sheridan: He is still there. We are ready to go to market now looking for the COO. You'll probably see that within the next - the advertisement going out to look to fill his spot.

Mr. M. Currie: You said the other guy from Montreal -

Mr. Sheridan: Jean Yves.

Mr. M. Currie: Is gone?

Mr. Sheridan: He left as of Friday, I believe. A week ago Friday.

Mr. M. Currie: His contract was somewhere around \$49,500?

Mr. Sheridan: I tabled that one with you.

Mr. M. Currie: Just under the 50,000.

Mr. Sheridan: He was extended. He stayed for the first one and then was extended again. As I said, we were having trouble finding an infrastructure director.

Mr. M. Currie: So his was more than - what you gave me was \$49,500. Was that his total?

Mr. Sheridan: He had an extension as well. He has his first one. I think I gave you both there. You would have had both of Jean Yves contracts. You would have had the first one and the same contract again in an extension.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, I just don't understand what one page, \$5 million, why wouldn't you just put them in there?

Mr. Sheridan: For those amounts?

Mr. M. Currie: Yeah.

Mr. Sheridan: I can give those to you. I don't want to table them. I just need to be very -

Mr. M. Currie: That's fine, you just answered my question, that's all I want.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Chair: Total Technology Asset Management: 1,600,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. M. Currie: Is this the one that you're talking about xwave?

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah, the 1.6 million.

Mr. M. Currie: And it's good till 2012.

Carried.

Chair: Total Information Technology Shared Services: 26,417,500.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Provincial Planning and Municipal Affairs.

Total Administration: 354,300.

Questions?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, who looks after this section now?

Mr. Sheridan: That's Albert MacDonald.

Mr. M. Currie: Albert. There was talk about a new formula for equalization for municipalities. Have you got that worked out?

Mr. Sheridan: That's been fully in place for two years. What we did, it's a grant system now instead of a tax sharing formula, as you've heard in the news. This year what we did to try to take away the worry of predictability, we have given them a 1%

increase right across the board for all municipalities for next fiscal year. We told them that in this year's budget, so they have a full eight months to get ready to have that aligned with their first of their fiscal year, January 1.

So that part of it - the predictability is one of the sticking points between us. What we have done since that time is that we've also struck a committee to review how tax sharing could be better utilized between the municipalities and the provincial government. We have put together a task force. It will probably take about the same amount of time that we will sit to try to look at municipality acts. Probably out in the vicinity of about a 18-month period. We want to take a look at - all jurisdictions have a problem with how we actually share tax with municipalities. It's based solely on what products and services the municipalities give to the constituents and what the province does.

So it's a very fine line to walk and we need to take the time to look at all the other jurisdictions to find a wheel that's not broken and try to take advantage of that and create something that is very transparent, open and predictable for both orders of government.

Mr. M. Currie: We talked about this last week when you were on the floor with a bill, derelict properties that are in the municipalities or even derelict properties that are out in the rural area. The minister of environment is involved somewhat with these deadbeats that own property and don't want to leave and leave them in disrepair. But it reflects on communities and municipalities. Is there some way that the strong arm of government can act a little quicker?

I have a situation in one area where it's like seven years since these people have left.

They're gone, the place is run down, and nobody will move to do anything and it's just too long.

Mr. Sheridan: In Treasury Board a week and a half ago we put through a bill that is going to help with properties outside the municipalities where we have full jurisdiction. We are creating a fund.

Mr. M. Currie: Outside of municipalities?

Mr. Sheridan: Outside of municipalities.

Mr. M. Currie: This one I have is inside. I think what you're department is doing is negotiating with the next door neighbour, because you want the full amount of taxes and they're saying: No, no, it's only worth less than half of that because I have to tear everything down and clean it up and you want way too much.

Mr. Sheridan: But you, as a taxpayer of Prince Edward Island, can appreciate the fact that we're not going to forgive back taxes because they've been lazy and derelict.

Mr. M. Currie: That's not his fault. He wants to clean up the property.

Mr. Sheridan: That's not the point. He has been derelict in his abilities to clean up and his responsibility to clean up.

Mr. M. Currie: He's gone, he's not even in PEI now.

Mr. Sheridan: Right.

Mr. M. Currie: So he has vacated his property.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) vote?

Mr. M. Currie: No, they probably don't vote either.

Mr. Sheridan: So inside a municipality, the municipality has a say over that property. We can't go in and say that we're going to clean it up. We'll work as a municipality to do that. But where we have full jurisdiction on land, we have created a fund as of two weeks ago in Treasury Board to allow us to go in. When the minister of environment decides that it is a hazard or a (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: He's got one out in Winsloe I asked him about last year and I think it's still the same.

Mr. Sheridan: With the fund created -

Mr. M. Currie: The Royal Bank owns that property.

An Hon. Member: The wheels of justice (Indistinct) slow sometimes.

Mr. M. Currie: They got money. The wheels of justice? The wheels of your government.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition, question.

Mr. M. Currie: Picture-taking. Somebody's taking pictures in the Legislature.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition, question.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Just one question. J.P. Arsenault has left, who are you replacing J.P. with?

Mr. Sheridan: J. P. Arsenault is going to be leaving us in short order. He's been offered a tremendous opportunity with the federal government. It's a great loss to the province. We were very excited to have him there to help us with this transformation. We are going to try to find a replacement for J.P. It's not going to be a small order.

Leader of the Opposition: Okay, thank you.

Chair: Just remind members, there's no picture taking in the Legislature.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay, (Indistinct).

Minister, I understood that you're - and I appreciate you doing the one for outside of municipalities, but it's my understanding that some municipalities do not have the strength of a bylaw to go in and enforce the strong arm to take control of the property. A lot of them don't have bylaw officers like Charlottetown and Summerside do to enact these bylaws and move on them.

I would feel a little more comfortable if you would say that you'd work closely with and carry out your -

Mr. Sheridan: (Indistinct) duties, sure.

Mr. M. Currie: Duties inside a municipality.

Mr. Sheridan: We're very happy to do that with the municipality. If Montague came to us and said that we do have one spot that's there - we are not making any inroad - Montague's a bad example because they move on their properties quite well inside that municipality. Use one that's smaller, Victoria-by-the-Sea.

Victoria came to us and said: We've got a derelict property and it's really hurting out tourism product. We will work with them very tightly on this. We now will have funds. We can use those funds inside municipal areas, but we have to have cooperation from the municipality that they're asking us to come in and work with them.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay, thank you.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Provincial Planning: 261,900.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct).

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

Mr. M. Currie: There's a buffer zone around there that's still there.

Mr. Sheridan: Not a buffer zone, but a special planning area.

Mr. M. Currie: Right.

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Are you going to remove that?

Mr. Sheridan: As you saw inside the report from the ex-magistrate, he has talked about these special planning areas, and what role do they play, and should they be in place? He has suggested that a number -

Mr. M. Currie: Two years. Yeah.

Mr. Sheridan: He has suggested a number of situations where it could help move these special planning areas actually into accountable municipalities. We've put a few suggestions in place inside the study that will help that, so that the SPAs could all go away inside of Prince Edward Island, and be managed by people in those districts that could have the planning rights to be judged by themselves.

Mr. M. Currie: Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Page 78, hon. members, at the top.

Total Municipal Affairs: 23,322,000.

Question?

Mr. Bagnall: Minister -

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: Do you have a copy of those grants that go to the municipalities?

Mr. Sheridan: Sure do.

Mr. Bagnall: Could you table them, please?

Mr. Sheridan: Sure will.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, did the City of Charlottetown, are they back in the -

Mr. Sheridan: Yes, they are.

Mr. M. Currie: - of the Federation of Municipalities?

Mr. Sheridan: They are so, and we're very pleased to have them back inside the federation. It was too bad that they ever left.

I think it's very important for the capital city to be part of the federation of municipalities. They are coming back in and paying their dues. In support of that, we have raised the dues that we're paying to the federation as well, to ensure that they can work alongside us as we try to enact the changes in the judge's plan.

Mr. M. Currie: How much do you fund this organization?

Mr. Sheridan: Our amount that we just put in this year, we increased it to \$100,000 annually.

Mr. M. Currie: They get the rest of their funding from the municipalities?

Mr. Sheridan: That's correct.

Mr. M. Currie: They only represent those that are members? Every other one -

Mr. Sheridan: There are very few municipalities in Prince Edward Island that are not part of the federation. I think there are four.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay. Jim.

Mr. Sheridan: The list of the municipality grants, we will send that over to the office for you. That's open information for anyone.

Mr. Bagnall: Minister, you're going to do that because we haven't got -

Mr. Sheridan: Oh yeah.

Mr. Bagnall: We're not -

Mr. Sheridan: Not an issue. That's open to everyone. We put that on display.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay, I'll carry it.

Chair: Okay.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Provincial Planning and Municipal Affairs: 23,938,200.

Mr. Bagnall: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Department of Finance and Municipal Affairs: 65,658,100.

Mr. Bagnall: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Moving to page 79.

Council of Atlantic Premiers.

Total Council of Atlantic Premiers: 192,200.

Mr. M. Currie: Who looks after this -

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

Mr. M. Currie: - that's in that section there?

Mr. Sheridan: Who is in charge - the council of Atlantic -

Mr. M. Currie: No, I know the Premier is.

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Who works in there with him?

Mr. Sheridan: Who would be covered under that? I don't think there are ever any salaries in there, anymore.

Mr. M. Currie: Who's the secretary? Who's the Premier's secretary.

Mr. Sheridan: The Premier's secretary is Brenda Kelly.

Mr. M. Currie: So she gets the 84,900?

Mr. Sheridan: No, there are no salaries there.

Mr. M. Currie: Well, it says -

Mr. Sheridan: That's a secretariat.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay.

Chair: Okay?

Mr. M. Currie: So there are no salaries in that part?

Mr. Sheridan: There are no salaries in there at all.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay. Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Page 80.

Employee Benefits.

Total Employee Benefits -

Mr. M. Currie: Question.

Chair: I'll just read the total first please, and I'll come to you there: 39,496,400.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: You've dropped \$20 million. How?

Mr. Sheridan: That's the market's coming back. Where we have to make those pension contributions that make up for the amortization of the capital loss and the interest loss on that. Expectations are that we'll be \$20 million less on the hook this year than we were under the budget estimate of 2009-2010.

Mr. M. Currie: So you maintain that the market's going up?

Mr. Sheridan: We know where they are. These are all based on actuarial numbers done in June, so we do that the year prior. These are numbers that we are very comfortable with. These are all done by an actuary and we base -

Mr. M. Currie: So you're comfortable that you think the market's going up and you won't be putting in an extra \$20 million.

Mr. Sheridan: This one, what happens is -

in this June of 2010, we'll get actuarial numbers again to help us with next year's process, so we're always a year behind. We're in pretty good stead with regard to this number. These are actuarial numbers that are given to us by an outside agency.

Mr. M. Currie: How much is in the employee benefits from now?

Mr. Sheridan: Inside - like the Master Trust?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Mr. Sheridan: Master Trust right now is at 1.2 billion - 1.- almost 3 billion. We are just a hair above where we were at the highest point before the decline started.

Mr. M. Currie: Are we fully funded now?

Mr. Sheridan: Are we fully funded? We wouldn't call it fully funded. We have a plan in place for both aspects of the Master Trust to be fully funded.

Mr. M. Currie: Is everybody inside this fund now in the Master Trust?

Mr. Sheridan: There is one group that's outside the master trust.

Mr. M. Currie: And that is?

Mr. Sheridan: Small education group, CUPE.

Mr. M. Currie: Small educational group? What would they be?

Mr. Sheridan: They're a CUPE group that chose not to join the guaranteed group and they made that decision a number of years ago when the uniform pension plan came into play. They made a decision to stay outside.

Mr. M. Currie: And they have their own pension?

Mr. Sheridan: They have their own pension plan that is non-guaranteed by the government.

Mr. M. Currie: Non-guaranteed.

Mr. Sheridan: They made a choice when everybody else was offered to come inside the Master Trust and they chose to stay outside. They were given some bad advice and stayed out.

Mr. M. Currie: Are there many in there?

Mr. Sheridan: These are - they're made up of the bus drivers, some janitorial workers and some administrators.

Mr. M. Currie: Do you believe bus drivers should be made to retire at age 65?

Mr. Sheridan: Not my category.

Chair: Anything else under that section?

Mr. M. Currie: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

General Government.

Mr. M. Currie: Shame, shame!

People want to work and they won't let them work.

Chair: Page 81.

General Government.

Total General Government - we can go through each section.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Chair: Okay.

Total General Government: 11, 227,800.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Moving, hon. members, over to Auditor General's report on page 153.

Mr. Sheridan: Interest strikes on debt?

Chair: Oh, oh. Sorry.

Mr. Sheridan: That's okay.

Chair: Sorry, I forgot about that. Page 82. Sorry.

Total Interest Charges On Debt:
109,959,700.

Mr. M. Currie: Question.

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

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, how much has the debt increased in the last three years?

Mr. Sheridan: Total net debt would have increased - do we have a final figure on that we would have grown?

Inside of those last three years, as you know, are two of our fiscally stimulated years that we put in place, which included the two largest capital budgets in the history of the province.

Mr. M. Currie: I understand that.

Mr. Sheridan: So with that growth, we would be 61 million inside of 2009. So about a hundred for the two between 2008-2009.

Mr. M. Currie: So when you came into government, what was the debt? Doug

should have that right in top of his head there.

Mr. Sheridan: What was the debt before him? So it's gone up by a hundred million dollars those two years of 2008-2009. So it went from 1.34 to 1.40.

Mr. Bagnall: That's where it is as of today?

Mr. Sheridan: That's at March 31st, 2009, the end of fiscal -

Mr. Bagnall: Okay.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, could you give me an idea what your plan is going to be to eliminate the deficit?

Mr. Sheridan: Absolutely. We laid that out very clearly inside when we tabled our budget for this year. Inside of three years we will be at zero. We will balance the budget inside of those three years.

Mr. M. Currie: That's balance the budget, but what are doing to decrease the debt?

Mr. Sheridan: What we will do with the debt coverage, once we start to have any kind of movement now in the markets to come back - as the Premier and I have both said very publicly, in times of downturn, we're going to be there for Islanders. We've shown that in spades in the last three years, investing heavily in our depleted infrastructure. That put big dollars into the capital budget and allowed all of the programs that we felt were that important to be maintained.

I think the most important part of this is that with our very skilled civil service, and that includes everyone in the health professional business and everybody across civil, are all paid in the way that they should be, but most importantly, we also back their pension plans, hon. member. As you know, full half

of last year's deficit was pension dollars that we had to allocate to maintain and make sure that full indexation and all of the pensions would stay in place for all of our various scope of civil servants.

So we wanted to ensure that took place as well. We hadn't made any changes. Anyone working for the civil service in the past two years would not have known that there was any downturn in the economy whatsoever. We're proud that we did not send anyone home at that time. No one was cut in pay and no one lost benefits or pension, hon. member.

With that, we'll continue to do those kind of things in times of downturn. But as we see the market starting to rebound, you'll see that we'll balance our budget and we will have a percentage of our surpluses in the times of good years go toward debt. That will ensure that we make some inroads very clearly.

Mr. M. Currie: Like 1.4 billion, if you took a 50-year mortgage, it's \$30 million a year. I'm just wondering if somebody has done the math in regards to when we tip over and the interest is going the other way. Like, we're paying \$105 million in interest.

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah.

Mr. M. Currie: Okay, so that's - you know where I'm coming from? If you announce a plan for 50 years that we're going to eliminate the debt in this province and we're going to spend \$30 million a year paying it off, you get to the point somewhere where the interest is taking over.

Mr. Sheridan: Remember now, the interest is part of our overall cost, so if you made a plan in 50 years of paying the 30 million, it would also be paying your interest charges. But when you bring up the interest charges on debt, it's a very good point that you're

making on this because it's very important to see that our interest bite - you see the number has stayed very consistent across the board there and the three numbers that you're looking at.

What that does for us is that because of our growth in our economy, the interest bite is actually less. We're at an all-time low in Prince Edward Island now with interest bite. We drop down into about 7.5% area, lowest in recorded history. We will continue to do that. We've been very fortunate that an awful lot of maturing debt is coming in at a high number and we've been able to reinvest it at a lower percentage.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, your interest debt's gone from 96 million to 105 or 106. That's \$10 million increase. But this is the lowest interest we've ever seen. Are you projecting that the market's going to go a little bit south and interest charges are going to increase?

Mr. Sheridan: We are going to make sure that we are protected in that manner. We have put a little bit more forward to ensure that if the interest rate does continue to go up a bit, we're protected in those parts of it.

As well, some of the capital projects that we've been working on over the past number of years are fully completed. As you know, we don't start to advertise those projects until the project is complete. So once that happens, then the interest is registered and we'll be paying on those recently completed projects.

Mr. M. Currie: How's your loans? Where do you feel - (Indistinct) your loan provision for loss, has it increased this year on all government loans?

Mr. Sheridan: As you may be aware, I don't have any of the loan portfolio. It was inside my department -

Mr. M. Currie: I understand that, but Treasury Board, you're still responsible for the dollars.

Mr. Sheridan: No question, and IIDI has a number of different portions. The century fund, for instance, is completely self-reliant. They make that work internally. IIDI and the lending agency both have provisions in place that they have not gone over on for all three of our years that we've been in government. Very capable people running those two departments.

Mr. M. Currie: You increased your provision for losses over the last few years, I'm pretty sure. PEI lending did and BDI.

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah. As your portfolio grows, you have to increase your provision, as you would be well aware.

Mr. M. Currie: What is the portfolio (Indistinct)?

Mr. Sheridan: I wouldn't have those actual numbers off the top of my head. What I could tell you is that there's still provision for a loan loss inside of those - are both still under 1% of the market, and that's an incredible number.

Mr. M. Currie: You'd have 200 million out.

Mr. Sheridan: Two hundred million out for both, you say?

Mr. M. Currie: I'd say. Wouldn't you, Doug?

Mr. Sheridan: I was just trying to get a number there for you. We can -

Mr. M. Currie: Should have that number right in the top of his head.

Mr. Sheridan: We don't watch that one.

Mr. M. Currie: He's the deputy minister.

you.

Mr. Sheridan: That's not -

Mr. Sheridan: That is just for that department. That's not PEI Lending Agency.

Mr. M. Currie: Responsible for all the dollars and cents in this province.

Mr. M. Currie: PEI lending is -

Mr. Sheridan: That's not our department.

Mr. Sheridan: I don't have that number yet. Doug's really slow, as you said today. Struggling with that number.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes, it is. He's Treasury Board.

Mr. M. Currie: It's 280 for IIDI.

Mr. Sheridan: We take care of making sure that they're in under their loan provisions.

Mr. Sheridan: We'll try to find that one as we carry on. As soon as we find it we'll -

Mr. M. Currie: He's the master man in Treasury Board. He oversees and calls them in whenever they're out of line.

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, I asked the question, I think when the minister of health was on the floor, does Treasury Board cover for - we're taking a lot more doctors in as -

Mr. Sheridan: He has almost every number in this province in that head of his but that one, we can leave -

Mr. Sheridan: Salary?

Mr. M. Currie: Something must have happened to his tongue because I haven't heard the figure yet.

Mr. M. Currie: On salary. There's a liability issue, I guess, when you do and if there is ever malpractice. I'm just wondering: Do you pay for their insurance or do you provide a provision for loss in case of any claims by people that -

Mr. Sheridan: He's trying to pull it out.

Mr. Sheridan: I just checked with Doug on that, whether they are in underneath our risk management portion, and they are.

Mr. M. Currie: I'll get over there and pull it out for him.

Mr. M. Currie: They are?

Chair: Do we want to continue and then he can bring back -

Mr. M. Currie: I'm just waiting. Yeah, it will just be a second. Minister, while we're waiting - okay.

Mr. Sheridan: That portion is there. There is additional insurance that is purchased by their - what's the name of the doctors? - the physicians - medical society. They do provide the insurance there as well for their personal (Indistinct) -

Mr. Sheridan: So under BDI, under IIDI, that department is \$280 million.

Mr. M. Currie: It's 280 now?

Mr. Sheridan: Two hundred eighty million inside of IIDI and assorted companies there.

Mr. M. Currie: They provide a part themselves?

Mr. M. Currie: I'm sorry, I didn't hear

Mr. Sheridan: Now I would expect that

they pay dues that pay for that, but it's for their personal liability.

Mr. M. Currie: Carried.

Got that other figure? The 280 and plus -

Mr. Sheridan: Yeah, we're trying to find that one.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. M. Currie: What page are we going to now?

Chair: We are now going to page 153.

Auditor General.

Mr. Sheridan: We just found that one, hon. member, if you want that: 178 million for lending agency.

Mr. M. Currie: And 280?

Mr. Sheridan: Right on. Oh, I'm sorry, 280 is the total between the two. So we are at the BDI combined is just about 28 million and the PEI Lending Agency is 178. Total of 206.

Chair: Okay.

The Auditor General's office.

Total Auditor General: 1,682,100.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: The salaries have gone up 150,000. Are you hiring another person over there in that department, or what's the story?

Mr. Sheridan: Inside the Auditor General, and as you know from being inside of government, when the Auditor General asks for a little increase in their budget, you give the Auditor General an increase in his

budget.

That's being facetious, of course, but the Auditor General for a number of years has been bringing in contract people to do the work when the crunch gets on, and so now what we have done is we have allocated numbers inside their actual salaries so that he can bring in new employees to take care of the workloads that he does have.

Mr. Bagnall: Okay. Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Moving to page 164.

P.E.I. Public Service Commission.

Total Management: 235,900.

Questions?

An Hon. Member: What page?

Mr. M. Currie: (Indistinct) new guy there, what's his name?

Mr. Sheridan: Aidan Sheridan.

Mr. M. Currie: A-ha, a brother.

Mr. Sheridan: Brother of mine.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Sheridan: We tried to trace each other's roots, guys.

Mr. M. Currie: No patronage here in your government.

Mr. Sheridan: No patronage there. We found that we both came from the same county in Ireland, and he was kicked out of Ireland a century after my guys were.

Chair: Anything else under that?

Mr. Sheridan: My grandfather came across and his father did, so. Can't find any connection there.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Management's carried.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Classification and Employee Relations.

Total Employee Assistance Program:
307,600.

Questions?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Occupational Health and Safety:
188,300.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) happen to this?

Mr. Sheridan: Occupational Health and Safety? Who would be in charge of that? Do you want me - I've got that book right over here, we can grab that.

Chair: Sure.

Mr. Sheridan: I'm not sure if that's Mary Beth Parsons who takes care of that as well. I think that she may do that. Staffing, staffing, occupational health, (Indistinct). All right.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you. I'll grab it for you here.

Chair: Total Classification and Labour Relations: 1,585,200.

Question under that?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. Sheridan: That's Karen Thomson, by the way, just to -

Mr. M. Currie: Karen Thomson.

Mr. Sheridan: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: The situation with your employees, you're in negotiations now?

Mr. Sheridan: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: How many contracts are open there now?

Mr. Sheridan: We have nine tables coming due this spring.

Mr. M. Currie: Nine?

Mr. Sheridan: Nine tables.

Mr. M. Currie: Don't wish that on anybody.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: So are you loosening your wallet or -

Mr. Sheridan: We hope not.

An Hon. Member: We're negotiating.

Mr. M. Currie: So 2% - 2% means what to your budget, Doug?

Mr. Sheridan: Each point, each point -

Mr. M. Currie: A hundred sixteen, twenty million, is it?

Mr. Sheridan: - costs us about \$7.5 million.

Mr. M. Currie: Each point?

Mr. Sheridan: Yes.

Mr. M. Currie: Seven and a half million.

Mr. Sheridan: Is that fair?

Mr. M. Currie: Does that mean that you're -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Sheridan: Thanks, boss.

Chair: Anything?

Mr. M. Currie: Anything else you want to talk about in secret? You don't want to share with the rest of us?

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

Mr. Sheridan: The Premier's just concerned, whenever there's any talk about negotiations during the time, hates to have numbers thrown around while we're at table.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Sheridan: Always protecting me.

Mr. Bagnall: The professional and contract services. Do you have the breakdowns for those for -

Mr. Sheridan: Professional and contract services?

Mr. Bagnall: - contract services?

Mr. Sheridan: For the whole department, you mean?

Mr. Bagnall: Each section has (Indistinct).

Mr. M. Currie: Eight hundred and thirty-two thousand.

Mr. Bagnall: One's 832,000 and the next one's 613,000.

Mr. Sheridan: Let me take a peak here. We didn't bring brother Aidan over. There they are.

Mr. M. Currie: Nothing like looking after your own.

Mr. Sheridan: There they are. Will you pass that across, if you could? Perfect.

Mr. Bagnall: Does that have both of them on there, minister, or just the one?

Mr. Sheridan: We don't pass out monies.

Mr. M. Currie: Is this HR? Is this where HRA is?

Mr. Sheridan: Yes. They'll earn their money this spring.

Chair: Any other questions?

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Classification and Employee Relations: 2,081,100.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Staffing and Human Resources Planning: 1,894,800.

Questions?

Mr. M. Currie: Question.

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

Mr. M. Currie: How many vacant positions do you have in government today in the

public service?

Mr. Sheridan: How many positions do we have?

Some Hon. Members: Vacant.

Mr. M. Currie: Vacant.

Mr. Sheridan: How many vacant positions? Oh, my. That'd be a good question. I could tally those up for you and send it over to the office if you like.

Mr. M. Currie: Do you intend to fill them all? Because I thought I heard a message that you were going to - other people were going to be taking on more responsibilities or something.

Mr. Sheridan: Absolutely. Every deputy has been charged with ensuring that we're doing the very best that we can do with the people that we have invested in right now.

Mr. M. Currie: So that's why I'm asking. So if there's 400 spots there, you're not going to fill them, and save yourself 20 million bucks.

Mr. Sheridan: We'll never not fill positions if it's going to compromise the services that we give to Prince Edward Islanders. That's the kind of caring government that we are under this Premier, and we will ensure that we always have the people there.

Mr. M. Currie: Those are the words from a cold-hearted banker, and you're saying -

Mr. Sheridan: That's it.

Mr. M. Currie: - you want us to believe that?

Mr. Sheridan: That's all.

Mr. Brown: It's the truth.

Mr. Sheridan: Every time it comes -

Mr. M. Currie: There's another fellow telling fibs over there.

Chair: Question.

Shall it carry? Carried.

An Hon. Member: It's a whole new government -

Mr. M. Currie: Listen to that fellow over there.

Chair: Page 166.

Corporate Services.

Total Systems and Administration: 622,200.

Question?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: Is everybody, minister, under the government payroll system now on -

Mr. Sheridan: Now. The computer one? That you and I set up?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Mr. Sheridan: They will - the final component will go into place, I believe, it's the 22nd of this month. So as soon as that -

Mr. M. Currie: Nurses, teachers, everybody's under this?

Mr. Sheridan: That's correct.

Mr. M. Currie: And what about the scheduling? Is that underneath there, too?

Mr. Sheridan: The scheduling? (Indistinct).

The portion of, like it's never covered under the actual, the same platform, but it had to be incorporated, especially in health, so that it could be picked up, so that you could see the scheduling and they could all be adjusted to make payroll. It's very easy to do payroll for teachers, as you would well be aware.

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Mr. Sheridan: Just in health, when there are crazy schedules involved, they have to be able to pick up those numbers, just like taking punch cards and taking them and filling them out. So that's the biggest issue was trying to get health online, but they conquered that beast and now we'll have education on as of the 22nd of the month. We'll be collapsing that program and maintenance will be all that's needed inside that department -

Mr. M. Currie: Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: - here on out.

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Language Training Centre: 231,900.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Corporate Services and Finance:
511,100.

Question?

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. M. Currie: What's it say, ununionized, is it? No.

Mr. Sheridan: (Indistinct). What's the question? Sorry, hon. member.

An Hon. Member: Ununionized training.

Mr. M. Currie: No. I'm sorry. I'm looking at it wrong.

Mr. Sheridan: Oh, okay.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Corporate Services: 1,365,200.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total P.E.I. Public Service Commission:
5,577,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you very much.

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

Members, we have to carry a section on page 110 under SkillsPEI before we can carry the total for the department on 112.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: I believe the minister had some materials he was going to bring back (Indistinct) the agreement to carry that section.

Mr. Campbell: I have the materials here you requested around the professional contract services, DeltaWare. You also asked about the Atlantic Veterinary College, the numbers and the agreement. They're there as well. So, I think I've brought back everything that you -

Mr. M. Currie: Minister, are you also in negotiations with OCI and their contract?

Mr. Campbell: Do you mean negotiations

with OCI and their contract?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: We have discussions with OCI and their contract, we've been in discussions with OCI since -

Mr. M. Currie: You came into government?

Mr. Campbell: - (Indistinct) 2007.

Mr. M. Currie: Where are you at now? It seems the rhetoric has dropped, so you're -

Mr. Campbell: The rhetoric?

Mr. M. Currie: Yes.

Mr. Campbell: What do you mean by the rhetoric?

An Hon. Member: Rumours.

Mr. M. Currie: You used to be saying: We're going to get rid of it as soon as we get in, and that's the fact of the price of lobsters, and the Premier was going on (Indistinct) for end and end. He was going to get rid of it.

Mr. Campbell: We're always in discussion with OCI as we would be with any seafood processor in the province.

An Hon. Member: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Chair: Question?

An Hon. Member: Have you got something here?

Leader of the Opposition: Just one question.

Mr. Campbell: Yes.

Leader of the Opposition: (Indistinct) finally admit that you need to have a public inquiry on the PNP?

Mr. Campbell: No.

Chair: Anything else, hon. members?

Leader of the Opposition: No. That's fine.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Going to the -

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: One moment. Page 112.

Total Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning: 127,501,700.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Campbell: Madam Speaker, I move that the Speaker take the chair and the Chair make report to Madam Speaker.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Madam Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, I wish to report that the committee has gone into supply to be granted to Her Majesty and has come to certain resolutions thereon which I am pleased to report to the House whenever it should be pleased to receive same.

Mr. Campbell: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, that the report of the Committee be received.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Chair: Madam Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

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

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that the 9th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 9, *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2010*, Bill No. 45, ordered for second reading.

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

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

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2010*, Bill No. 45, read a second time.

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

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

I call on the hon. Member from Tyne

Valley-Linkletter to come down and chair the Committee of the Whole House.

Chair (Biggar): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2010*.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Bagnall: This is the budget estimates that we've all gone through on the floor of the Legislature?

Mr. Sheridan: That's correct. This is every one of our departments broken down for you to show the current expenditures.

Mr. Bagnall: We've asked all the questions we were going to ask on that.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you.

Chair: Shall the bill carry? Carried.

Shall the schedule carry? Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: I move the title.

Chair: *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2010*.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: I move the enacting clause.

Chair: May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal servants, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island, towards appropriating the several supplies raised for the exigencies of Her Majesty's Government and for the other purposes hereinafter mentioned, do humbly beseech that it be enacted:

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Sheridan: Thank you.

Chair: Madam Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2010*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Finance and Municipal Affairs.

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

With unanimous consent from the entire House, we'd like to have third reading of the bill.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2010*, Bill No. 45, read a third time.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Premier, that the said bill be now read a third time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Sheridan: Can we go right through now?

Mr. Clerk says that we can have it seconded by the hon. Premier and that the bill will now pass.

Speaker: This is a bill introduced by leave of the House, read a first time, read a second time, committed to a Committee of the Whole House, reported agreed to without amendment, read a third time and it is now moved that the bill do now pass.

All those in favour, say 'yea.'

Some Hon. Members: Yea!

Speaker: Contrary?

Carried.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This concludes the business government has for the consideration of this House for this session.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. members, I'm advised that the Her Honour the Honourable Lieutenant Governor has arrived at Province House to consider the grant of Royal Assent to the additional bills passed during this, the Third Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly, and I now propose to leave the

Chair in anticipation of Her Honour's arrival.

Chair: Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has passed certain additional Bills during this, the Third Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly, and now begs Your Honour's consideration of the grant of Royal Assent for the following bills:

Bill No.25, *Highway Traffic (Roadside Suspension) Amendment Act*;

Bill No.26, *An Act to Amend the Roads Act*;

Bill No.27, *Gift Cards Act*;

Bill No.28, *An Act to Amend the Crown Proceedings Act*;

Bill No.29, *An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act*;

Bill No.30, *Highway Traffic (Nitrous Oxide Fuel Systems) Amendment Act*;

Bill No.31, *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 2)*;

Bill No.32, *An Act to Hospital and Diagnostic Services Insurance Act*;

Bill No.34, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act*;

Bill No.35, *Government Reorganization Act*;

Bill No.36, *Statistics Act*;

Bill No.37, *An Act to Amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act (No. 2)*;

Bill No.38, *Labour Mobility Act*;

Bill No.39, *An Act to Amend the Apprenticeship and Trades Qualification Act*;

Bill No.40, *An Act to Amend the Charlottetown Area Municipalities Act*;

Bill No.41, *An Act to Amend the Child Protection Act*;

Bill No.42, *Provincial Anthem Act*;

Bill No.43, *Highway Traffic (Excessive Speed, Stunt and Racing) Amendment Act*;

Bill No.44, *An Act to Amend the School Act*;

Bill No.47, *An Act to Amend the Child Care Facilities Act (No. 2)*;

Bill No.48, *An Act to Amend the Lotteries Commission Act*;

Bill No.49, *An Act to Amend the Real Property Tax Act (No. 2)*;

Bill No.51, *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2010*.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor Barbara A. Hagerman: In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

Speaker: May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island in session assembled, approach Your Honour at the close of our labours with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government. We do humbly beg for Your Honour's acceptance of a Bill to be intituled *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2010*, thus placing at the disposal of the Crown the means by which government can be made efficient for the service and welfare of the Province.

Clerk: Her Honour the Honourable Lieutenant Governor doth thank Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill in

Her Majesty's name.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor

Barbara A. Hagerman: I wish to commend all hon. members for the conscientious manner in which you have conducted your deliberations during this the Third Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

At this time, I pray that until the Legislative Assembly again meets, each of you enjoy good health and property and that peace and freedom for all people shall be more nearly achieved.

Clerk: Madam Speaker, it is Her Honour's will and pleasure that this Third Session of the Sixty-Third General Assembly be prorogued.

Accordingly, this Legislative Assembly is prorogued.

Speaker: Prorogued.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Legislature prorogued