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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF  
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS AND ORAL QUESTION PERIOD  
(PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS)

FOR

WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL 2010



Responses to Questions Taken As Notice

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

**Different drug coverages in hospitals (further)**

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

I certainly would like to bring back responses to the questions from yesterday given by the Leader of the Opposition. They're questions regarding the drug accessed in hospitals. We'd just like to inform the legislature that under the new Health PEI there will be a provincial medical advisory committee that will oversee all drugs in the province so that, hopefully, will lead to better decisions on what drugs are covered in varying hospitals.

**Funds for out-of-province organ transplants (further)**

Furthermore, I would like to table responses to the question in regards to the out-of-province support or policy for the budget in terms of the support to lung transplant recipients.

Those are seconded by the hon. Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

**Speaker:** Thank you.

Madam Minister, I'd ask you to do that under tabling of documents. (Indistinct) okay, you can do it now.

Questions by Members

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

**London trip and workers**

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

The staff of IIDI continue to travel around the world. Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning, my first question today is: During the year of 2008-2009 your staff went to London, England to recruit skilled immigrant workers. Could you tell the House how many skilled workers your department recruited from this trip?

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

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

As the Leader of the Opposition is well aware, here in Prince Edward Island, as in many other areas of the country, we're now entering a time where we're facing a skilled worker shortage. It's important that we do go to job fairs around the world to try and look for that skilled labour that we can't just provide with training here on Prince Edward Island. Labour market mobility is something that's very much at the forefront for this province and every province in the country.

I can check to see if there are numbers with respect to the Leader of the Opposition's question and if I can get those numbers, I'd be pleased to bring them back.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

We agree just how important skilled workers are, and especially immigrant skilled workers, so perhaps the minister might want to check your briefing book which I'm sure might have those information and numbers in it and let the House know how many people your staff brought back from that trip.

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

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

It's interesting that the Leader of the Opposition seems to know what's in my briefing book. Again, I will check with staff. Obviously she's speaking about something that's a couple of years ago. I'll check with staff and if there are numbers attached to that particular mission, again, I'd be pleased to bring them back.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

#### **London trip and bioscience workers**

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

One of the big files in your department is actually the prosperity plan, and according

to the prosperity plan you want to have 2,000 bioscience people working here in the province. You talked about this in 2008 and 2009. At this particular trip, were any bioscience people brought back to PEI?

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

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

The Leader of the Opposition makes reference to the Island prosperity plan. Bioscience is certainly a sector that we've identified as a key sector.

According to RBC and some of the latest economic indicators, the Island prosperity plan is working. RBC has indicated that our economy has weathered the economic downturn better than most other jurisdictions in the country and they attributed that mainly to our efforts to diversify the economy here in Prince Edward Island.

So I'm very pleased to say that this is a government with a plan and that plan is working.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

So to the same minister, when your staff were at this mission to try and find skilled workers, how many bioscience people did

they bring back? Your success is so great, it's talking about 2000. Would they have brought back maybe 200 people? What are you speaking about?

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Madam Speaker, I guess perhaps the Leader of the Opposition thinks that if we just stay here at home and sit on our hands that the world will come to us.

Obviously that's an approach that was attempted here for 11 years in the province under the previous administration. Again, with respect to skilled labour, we do attend job fairs and I will check on the particular one that she's referencing. If we can put together some numbers (Indistinct), I'd be pleased to bring them back.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

### Follow-up to trips

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

We believe it's important to go on these trade missions. We just want to help Islanders see the accountability on actually what the taxpayers' been footing the bill on. So my question to you, Mr. Minister, is: Do you actually do follow-ups when your staff come back to know what the results are from their excursions?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Innovation

and Advanced Learning.

**Mr. Campbell:** Absolutely, Madam Speaker.

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Then, to the same minister, perhaps you could tell us how many skilled immigrants your staff brought back from Germany that year.

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

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

Again, I will check with those numbers. She's referring to a couple of years ago. I'll refer to staff and if we can compile that information, again, I'll be pleased to bring it back.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

### Germany trip and IT workers

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

To the same minister. According to your bioscience and your prosperity plan, you also talked about information technology, that you expected 2,000 workers. From your Germany trip, did you bring back any IT workers?

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

Minister, how many skilled workers did they bring back on that trip?

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

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

The Leader of the Opposition seems to have her attention focused on recruiting from around the world. I'd like to take the opportunity maybe to update the Leader of the Opposition and the House as to what we're doing right here at home as well.

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

What we've seen from this government is record investment at Holland College, great stakeholders, great partners in a great educational institution. We're working very closely with them through the knowledge infrastructure program and through phase two of redevelopment of Holland College to allow for more seats, to allow us to train more Islanders, more Atlantic Canadians, to bring knowledge to our young people of this province and of this region, and to help with our skilled trade shortage on Prince Edward Island.

Again, perhaps if the Leader of the Opposition would like to just list off whichever country she wants I'll try and compile that information and bring it back. But again, with respect to skilled labour shortage, we're focusing our efforts on education right here at home, on recruitment-retention, and that requires some travel around the world to seek out that skilled labour. We're doing that and we're helping to address the skilled labour shortage on Prince Edward Island.

Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

### **Leeds trip and workers**

### **Netherlands trip and workers**

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

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

To the same minister. We're actually talking about the thousands of dollars your department spent on these international trips, but let's see how the outcomes were. What happened when they went to Leeds, England? How many skilled workers did they bring back?

We were asking some questions around some of the trips that this minister's staff had done in the area of recruitment of skilled workers. My question: They also that year travelled to the Netherlands. Mr.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Madam Speaker, again, I'd be pleased to go back with staff and have a look at our recruiting efforts and try and compile some information.

Perhaps we'd even go back a little further than 2008. I don't know. Go back to 2004, 2005. If that's helpful information to the Leader of the Opposition, maybe we could go back a little further and have a look at that as well just to see how the recruiting efforts are going.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

#### **New jobs**

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

To the same minister. In your whole area of your prosperity plan you also highlight the fact that you're going to be creating 5,000 new jobs, especially in aerospace, innovative technologies and bioscience. From all these trips, which probably were necessary, what we'd like to know is: What are the results that your staff brought back?

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

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

To speak of results, we now have an aerospace industry here in this province that employs upwards of 900 people. That aerospace industry has grown by 24% over

the last two years. It now accounts for 25% of our international exports in this province. It's wonderful to see a government with a vision, a vision for today and a vision for the future.

Our bioscience industry is growing. We have new companies: one in Summerville, Phyterra Yeast, another one in Kensington, Nature's Crops International. Our bioscience and our aerospace industries are growing in this province.

As I indicated, our economy has weathered the economic downturn because of our efforts to diversify the economy. We have a plan, the plan is working, and I'm very proud to serve under the leadership of Premier Ghiz, the man with the plan, and we're going to implement that plan, and continue to grow the economy here in Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

#### **Belgium and Scotland trips and workers**

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

To the same minister who's going to implement that plan. My question: When your staff were in Belgium and in Scotland, how many people did they bring back to work in the aerospace, innovative technology or bioscience industries?

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

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

I want to compliment the staff of both our Population Secretariat and at IIDI for their efforts in trying to recruit skilled workers to this province. I also want to complement my department, the Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning, its staff, for all their hard work in trying to move forward the post-secondary programs here in this province and working with our great institutions here in this province to help train and deliver a skilled workforce.

This government has made great strides after 11 years of neglect by the previous administration. We're very proud of our accomplishments and there are more to come.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

#### **Tabling of trip information**

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

To the same minister. Mr. Minister your department spent thousands and thousands of dollars on these trips. We just want to know what the results are. You tabled some of that information last year here in the House.

My question: Will the minister please table the same details for all trips that your department have taken in the fiscal year 2009-2010? Will you table that information?

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

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

I believe that the information that the Leader of the Opposition requested will be tabled during budget estimates, Madam Speaker.

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

#### **Number of skilled workers recruited**

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

To the same minister. Mr. Minister, just how many skilled workers, collectively, do you think your department recruited from all these trips and brought back and nominated here in PEI?

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Again, Madam Speaker, I've made the commitment to the Leader of the Opposition to go back and refer with staff to our recruiting efforts.

Again, she's talking about something from two years ago. I'll go back and meet with the staff, try and get that number, and be pleased to bring it back to the Leader of the Opposition.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Minister, your government has been in now for three years. The prosperity plan is two years old. Constantly we ask for information and update. You seem to be having awful difficulties with this file.

My question to the minister is: It's my understanding from all those great trips your staff actually nominated less than 10 people. Would that be an accurate number, Mr. Minister? Of course I have the numbers.

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

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

I don't know whether the Leader of the Opposition is inferring that the bureaucrats at IIDI and in my department are all about taking these great trips that she speaks of. They work very hard, and I'm very pleased and very proud to have such a dedicated staff working on behalf of all Islanders.

If she has some information she'd like to share, I encourage her to share it. I told her I would try and compile the information and bring it back.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Minister, you're also responsible for the entire PNP fiasco, so these questions around skilled workers - tell us, Mr. Minister, how many people did your staff actually recruit and bring back? It's such an important area. You talk about your prosperity plan, you talked about all that growth. So how many people did they actually bring back?

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Again, Madam Speaker, recruitment is one aspect of what we're trying to do through Population Secretariat and IIDI.

We're also focusing a lot of our attention on repatriation and retention of our young Islanders. The best way to retain our young Islanders is to create opportunity for them right here at home here and to provide them with a quality education so that they are well trained and well (Indistinct) to work in those opportunities. We're doing both. We're very proud of our efforts, and those efforts will continue to grow the economy of Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

#### **Tabling list of companies**

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

To the same minister. Usually when you go on trips there are usually reasons for it. So I guess what we'd ask you: Could you table a

list of all the Island companies requiring skilled workers that necessitated those trips? Will you table the list of companies?

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

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

With respect to the Leader of the Opposition's question, of course, with respect to private companies, I'll check to see whether that information can be provided and if it can be provided I'll be pleased to bring it back.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** To the same minister. Mr. Minister, it's obvious that skilled workers are available. We see Ocean Choice and other private companies successfully brought in over 150 foreign workers last year, yet your department has gone on many trips and it looks like they've only brought in less than 10. What we'll do is we'll move out of that area and go to your settlement strategy.

### **Settlement strategy**

Mr. Minister, many immigrants choose to move to Prince Edward Island because of their interest in the Canadian dream. Minister, you promised a settlement strategy a year ago. The former minister promised it the year before that. Where is the strategy, Mr. Minister?

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

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

We have a draft strategy. Now it's my intention that we go back out for more discussion with our new Islanders. The Leader of the Opposition has constantly called for a comprehensive strategy, yet she sits and says: Hurry up and get it done. I don't understand how those two things go together.

We need to exercise our due diligence here and make sure that what we have is a comprehensive document that addresses all the needs of our new Islanders. Also, we'd like to have new Islanders to have an opportunity to add their input to this as well. That's what we going to do. We have that draft, we're going out for discussion with our new Islanders, and we'd be pleased to present this great document once that process is completed.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

To the same minister. In regards to this great new document you're referring to, you're the same minister that last year in April told us you were actually in discussions with the federal minister, but you weren't.

But my question to the same minister. On

April the 8<sup>th</sup> last year in this House here's what you said: We're building our settlement strategy here to make sure we're working with groups like the association of newcomers, that when these immigrants arrive in PEI they're made welcome, they're made to feel at home, they're given every opportunity to make a smooth transition into life here on Prince Edward Island.

So where's the strategy, Mr. Minister?

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

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

I think I just indicated where we're at with that strategy. I want to take a moment again to thank the association for newcomers to Prince Edward Island for the hard work they do in helping us and partnering with us. We're very pleased as a government to have greatly increased the investment to the association for newcomers to assist them in doing that fine work. They're great partners in this province.

As a matter of fact, as I indicated yesterday, I had the opportunity last Saturday to attend an event to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Singh decision with respect to refugees in this country. That of course was put on by the association for newcomers. Great partners, great people doing great work to welcome and help transition our new Islanders to this society.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Opposition.

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

To the same minister. Mr. Minister, you have a Population Secretariat, a full secretariat of probably eight people, very professional, and I'm sure capable. Their salaries add up to over \$350,000. They've been working on this file for the last two years.

My question to you is: Why is your settlement strategy so difficult for you to deliver on?

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

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

Of course, when you're dealing with new Islanders from different parts of the world there are a lot of complexities to that. Yes, we do have a very professional and dedicated staff at the Population Secretariat. We've chosen to go out for professional consultative advice for someone else to take a look at the settlement strategy as well, for a second opinion, and to also give us some extra resources in addressing the new Islanders.

Again, as I indicated, we have a draft ready. We're going back out to our new Islanders for some more discussion for their input. It's important that we clearly recognize, understand and meet the requirements of our new Islanders in helping them settle and transition into the society here on Prince

Edward Island.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

To the Premier. Mr. Premier, you've spoken about this strategy that was available. You said last year that you actually had deputies committed working on this strategy. Are you disappointed and embarrassed that this minister still cannot deliver a strategy?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

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

I'm very pleased with our Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning. I think that what our government is trying to do is work collaboratively with the different immigrant communities. We know that Prince Edward Island, going back now over the last probably nine years has gone from a population of the low 130,000s to now 140,000. We know that (Indistinct) other provinces we're going down in terms of their population, Prince Edward Island's was actually increasing. I have to commend the former minister of economic development, he started that, he was the one who saw the vision with regards to the PNP program. We were very happy to continue on with it.

It's unfortunate the Leader of the Opposition is so against it. But what we're doing now is

- and if there was a mistake before - because everything's new. Most provinces had a lot of immigration taking place within their provinces. It was new to Prince Edward Island. We're now starting finalizing our settlement strategy here in the province. It's not something that you can just copy and paste a settlement strategy. It's something that I know that our department has been working on for quite awhile. There has been a deputies group and now we're going to go out and do some consultations.

We might as well get it right. I know the Leader of the Opposition is just more concerned with getting the settlement done. Well, I'd rather make sure that we get the settlement structure done properly. I have the utmost confidence in the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning to make sure it gets done right.

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Madam Speaker, that's pretty disappointing to all the people that this Premier is comfortable with the fact that no work's been done on this file.

Your retention rate from one report that was done by the Institute of Island Studies suggested that you were retaining 25% of people. But we'll go back to the minister and have some questions with him on what's actually in this draft document.

Could the minister describe to the House perhaps the employment services that would be included for immigrants under the settlement strategy? What would they look

like, Mr. Minister?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

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

That's interesting information that the hon. Leader of the Opposition mentioned there with regards to this study that was done at I think it was the University of Prince Edward Island. That information was actually old information. I'm not sure if the media picked up on that, but I believe it went back to 2004, 2005, when that was done.

I just want to point out that according to the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada, last year retention among government-assisted refugees in PEI was very high with little turnover. The number is just shy of 100%. The number of (Indistinct) is 77 with five more expected to end - to the end of March - bringing the total to 82 from March 2009 to 2010. The Provincial Nominee office has retention information on the skilled worker connection and entrepreneur categories 2007-2009. In fact, skilled workers 76% retention -

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

**Premier Ghiz:** - connection 82% and entrepreneurs 55%.

As we know, that is over 100% increase in just the last two years.

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

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

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

I'd like to go back to the minister, but just before that, this report I'm referring to was dated November 25<sup>th</sup>, and it was actually work done with Shine XiongYoung Chung, and she actually interviewed immigrants. And 25% retention rate.

Question to the minister: Could the minister describe to the House perhaps what the employment services would look like under this settlement strategy?

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

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

As I stated earlier, we have a draft document now. I think it's only fitting that our new Islanders have a chance to review that draft document, and to add their input and to give us their thoughts with respect to how we're addressing the needs and concerns on issues of transitioning our new Islanders into society.

Once that process is complete I'd be pleased to bring the settlement strategy forward, but until that time I'm not going to add any speculation or anything with respect to the Leader of the Opposition's questions. When the document is complete I'll be pleased to bring it forward.

Thank you.

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

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

That's an interesting answer. Last year, Mr. Minister, I had Dr. Chung finally get an interview time with you and the Premier. Dr. Chung, from the South Korean association, presented to you many concrete ideas. In addition, some of the needs of the South Korean community, who really want to stay here in the province. That was a year ago. At that meeting you told him and the association that you were working on the strategy. So what, for the South Korean people, is in that strategy for employment services? What would be in it?

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

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

Myself and the hon. Premier did have the opportunity to meet with Dr. Chung and a contingent from our Korean community, and a fine group of individuals who bring a lot of diversity and a lot of skills to this province. As I indicated, our new Islanders are being consulted with. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, Dr. Chung was consulted. He will be consulted further if he so chooses, and we will continue to consult with our new Islanders with respect to our settlement strategy.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

Madam Speaker.

To the same minister. Mr. Minister, about two weeks ago Dr. Chung was in the media describing a little bit of surprise, I guess. Because he was under the impression that you were working on a settlement strategy for about a year or two, as he's been told, and instead he found out from a phone call that you hired another consultant to work on the settlement strategy.

So my question: Please tell the House what your department has done to date on a settlement strategy?

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

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

I believe I've already told the House we have a draft document prepared. That draft document was prepared by both our staff, again, with consultative professional advice from an outside source. We've gone out for consultation - extensive consultation - with our new Islanders. We want to go back now to our new Islanders with a draft document for their input and for their comments, and then we'll be pleased to bring that strategy forward.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

My question is for the Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry. I want to start by saying I'm very glad that I could get this question in today, seeing the minister may be away tomorrow. As the minister's responsible for the sports fishery, it's very good to see a good minister dealing with this situation in a hands-on basis.

### **C&D site in Hazelbrook**

My question has to do with the C&D site in my area. The minister stood in the House last November 17<sup>th</sup> and announced about the year opening, that this site will be open for. I'd just like to get a little update on the time frame, make sure that's in place. Some residents have approached me about this white mountain that's rising in the district. It's soon going to be rivalling Brookvale.

Can you just update us on making sure the whole thing is in compliance, how much more this might hold, and if the time frame still holds?

**Mr. M. Currie:** Good question.

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

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

**Mr. Brown:** You'll get the facts. Tomorrow.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Read the answer now.

**Mr. Brown:** Madam Speaker, I want to inform the House that the contractor at the C&D site has been working with the department and he has been providing all the

data that we require. He is putting the proper caps on, he's drilling the proper holes, in order to be testing the site.

The contractor is in compliance with the order to date, and I must say he's working very well with the department. The white material that he has there will be going. Prices are a little down now for scrap metal, but once it gets back up that'll be going Madam Speaker.

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

**Mr. McIsaac:** On the water quality, Mr. Minister, can you tell us for sure if the water quality is being checked on a regular basis and there's no need for the residents to be concerned in that area, and it will be ongoing after this site is shut down?

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

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

I can assure the member that the testing is being done and it will be done after the site is closed down. Because this is a part of the new procedures we have in place for closure plans for any C&D sites that are being closed.

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

### **Timeline for new Stratford school**

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

A question for hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development and Attorney General. The residents and the children and teachers in Stratford are currently looking out the window and seeing a wonderful structure being built. They are curious as to the timeline and would like an update. So I'm asking the minister if he could please inform the House as to the update on the construction of the new Stratford school, as I'm sure soon the Eastern School District, and possibly the residents of Stratford, will be involved in naming this new school.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

I know that the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock is extremely passionate about her school, Glen Stewart, and the students that attend. Right now, Glen Stewart Elementary is a very full school with approximately over 700 students. As part of our capital budget this year we'll be investing \$30 million in schools all across Prince Edward Island, \$9 million of which will be going towards the new investment in Glen Stewart.

The new school is on target. Right now, as of today, we're approximately 65% complete, with work being scheduled to be finished and on target. School to be opened in the middle of August. We will be embracing an additional 125 kindergarten children. The kindergarten children will be

housed - the K to 3 program will be housed in the old Glen Stewart, and the new school will be home for the new grades 4, 5 and 6.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

### **Settlement strategy (further)**

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

My next question is to the innovation minister. Mr. Minister, we were speaking there, a little while ago, about the famous settlement strategy that your department's struggling with. My question is: Why would you hire a consultant four weeks before the House to actually have them start work on the strategy when you've told us time and time again that there was a strategy going to be released almost any day?

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

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

I believe, as I indicated earlier, we did seek some professional consultative advice with respect to the settlement strategy. As I and the hon. Premier have stated, this will be a comprehensive document, and deals with a lot of complex situations.

We want to make sure that we do everything we can and take the time and do the due diligence to get it correct because this is of the utmost importance. We have a lot of new

Islanders who are settling into our great province here of Prince Edward Island, and it's important that we as a government - and further than that, we as Islanders, we as a society - we have an inherent responsibility to do everything we can to maintain and retain our new Islanders here in this province.

It's important, as the hon. Premier indicated, that we get it right. We're taking the time to do that. Again, we sought a second look at this from a professional firm.

**Premier Ghiz:** And she worked for them.

**Mr. Campbell:** Yes, I believe that's correct Madam Speaker.

Of course, as I indicated too, we'll be going back out to our new Islanders to share our draft strategy and to get some final input, and when that process is complete we'll be very pleased to bring it forward.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct) in terms of a settlement strategy, I know in the last year-and-a-half we've lost a number of exceptionally good health professionals that were immigrants to the province. There were two South Korean people that wanted to purchase a couple of businesses. With no help, one bought a business, 250,000, in Ontario, the other person 750,000.

To the same minister. Mr. Minister, the public's not sure what's going on in your

department. In 2009 you told the House and the public that you were in discussions with federal CIC in regards to a new PNP investment program. We found out you didn't even have one discussion. Then in January of this year we found out, once again, that the settlement strategy was slowing down. But in last year's throne speech, and I quote, you said: to build on these measures my government has worked with 40 partners to develop a settlement strategy.

Well, what's going on? Why are you going back to start the process all over again? You've had two years. What's going on?

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

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

Again, this government is taking the time, it's doing our due diligence to get it correct. The Leader of the Opposition wants to rush this through like she wants to rush a lot of things through, and we've seen the results in the past of what happens when people rush things through. Rush decisions, that's what brought us things like, for instance, Polar Foods. I would guess that NOFG was a lot of rush decisions. I've had the opportunity to look through the last report of the Auditor General that just came out recently, and in section six it refers to crab loans. I'm certain that there were some rush decisions made there, too, and I think it's easy to see what the outcome of making rush decisions in this province are.

This government is not interested in that

approach, and we're taking the time to get our settlement strategy right -

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

**Mr. Campbell:** We're taking our time to get the settlement strategy right. When it's completed, I'll be pleased to bring it forward.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

In that same Auditor General's report, your department told the Auditor General - guess what you told them? The department's working with its federal and provincial partners, as well as the association of newcomers, to move forward on issues such as language training, translation and interpretation, diversity, single-window services, and the Population Secretariat are refining settlement services.

Where is your strategy? Why did four weeks before the House you hire a consultant to do the work of your department? Why?

**Premier Ghiz:** You don't like that consulting firm?

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

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

I guess the answer to the question: Where is your strategy? The Leader of the Opposition referred to our federal and provincial partners, the association for newcomers. We have great institutions like Holland College, like Study Abroad Canada.

The results of our settlement efforts to this point, last session the Leader of the Opposition referred to people waiting for English language training in this province, and of course, English language training, as I'm sure she is aware, is a federal responsibility. However, this government has made the decision to invest, and invest heavily, in English language training because the language barrier is the biggest barrier for newcomers and new Islanders transitioning into society here in Prince Edward Island. I'm pleased to say there are now more seats available than people on the waiting list. That's action. That's what this government has been doing, and the efforts towards settlement and retention in this province are working, and they're working well.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Madam Speaker, in the 2009 throne speech the government said, and I quote: The strategy will be released shortly.

Where is the strategy? Why don't we have it tabled in the House today? In fact, why don't you bring it tomorrow, the draft report, and table it in the House?

**Mr. M. Currie:** Good question.

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

**Mr. Bagnall:** If there is one.

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

I'm looking forward to this draft strategy going out for discussion with our new Islanders. I think it's important that they have their input. In fairness to those new Islanders, I would like them to have the opportunity to add their input to our settlement strategy here because it is those new Islanders that we have a responsibility to help to remain and stay, that we have an inherent responsibility to help assimilate into our society here. They're of the utmost importance. They are a top priority for my department. We're going out for discussions with them to complete our settlement strategy and then we'll be pleased to release it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** To the same minister. Mr. Minister, you've been telling us in the House and the people in the public for the last two years that you've been working with these 40 partners. Why, again, would you hire a consultant four weeks ago, before the House started, to actually come do the work that your staff were supposed to be doing? Will you be releasing the draft settlement strategy? As well as the strategy

that you said in your throne speech was ready to be released any day. Can you release both of those?

**Premier Ghiz:** No.

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

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

We're not in the habit of releasing draft strategies before strategies are completed. We won't be doing that in this case, either. As I indicated, out of respect to our new Islanders, it's important that we get their input and we get their views. It's these new Islanders that we have the responsibility to retain here in the province. It's important that they get a chance to look at this, to share their issues, to share their input, to share their concerns. From that we'll be completing that strategy and we'll have it here very shortly.

I'm not sure why the Leader of the Opposition is, I guess, so objective of having professional consultative advice from this company here in Prince Edward Island that employs a lot of Islanders. I think they've done a fine job so far. They do great work, and we're pleased to have them here and we're pleased to have them be a part of this process.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Madam

Speaker, this minister says one thing, and then he tells us something else, and then he goes back and he changes his mind again.

But we'll go to the Premier. Mr. Premier -

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** There is no excuse why there is not a strategy done. Will you tell us what the problem is with this minister and his department?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

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

Again, we know that the minister and his department are doing a great job. Again, Prince Edward Island has really been new with regards to immigration, going back to 2001 when we've been aggressive with it. When we came in, obviously the Leader of the Opposition - it's too bad when she was a backbencher before that she didn't raise these issues because they were in power for six years.

We've now, I, myself, have met with many different associations from our immigrant community. We know that the department has been working on this now, going back to 2009, the Speech from the Throne, when we announced it, which was only back in November. There is a draft done. We want to make sure that we do some more consultations because we want to make sure that we get it done right the first time.

As the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning mentioned, there's many instances

where we've seen governments rush through things: NOFG, the beef plant, the crab loans, Polar Foods. We've been cleaning up those messes the same as we've been trying to rectify this as well.

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

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

This is the same Premier that's comfortable with Brooke MacMillan, Neil Stewart breaking every rule. Comfortable, obviously, with preferential treatment for MLAs, probably relatives, on this lovely PNP mess.

### **Holding minister accountable**

But we'll ask the Premier the question. Mr. Premier, this minister of innovation has actually shown zero leadership on this file. It's three years now. For the last two years this file's been in the media almost every day. He really can't handle this file. He calls it complex. I think it at one point he even used the word confusing.

My question to you is: When are you going to hold him accountable for doing nothing on this file?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

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

The Leader of the Opposition had so many problems with her facts in that question it's hard to know where to start.

First of all, we have a great department which has done a great job on this file. She talks about preferential treatment. The Auditor General reviewed all those files. That is not the case. It's a shame that the Leader of the Opposition of this province would challenge the Auditor General in that effect.

I know that the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning has done a great job on this file, and really, it's quite unfortunate that it's been the Leader of the Opposition in this province that has probably tainted this in more ways than anyone else, because we know from the Auditor General's report that our government has followed up on every single recommendation that the Auditor General has made.

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

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

It's not my voice that's taped on a conversation with a particular person in regards to PNP, but we'll go back to the innovation minister -

**Mr. Bagnall:** It must have been Rob MacEachern you were talking (Indistinct).

**Leader of the Opposition:** Mr. Innovation Minister -

**Mr. Bagnall:** Was that Rob MacEachern you were talking to, Premier?

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** - when are we going to see a settlement strategy in the House delivered?

**Mr. Bagnall:** Was that Rob MacEachern you were talking to, Premier?

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

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

My voice taped? I think I called back someone who called my office and said we'd look into that.

**Mr. Bagnall:** Was that Rob MacEachern?

**Premier Ghiz:** I think every - it was Rob MacEachern, absolutely.

**Mr. Bagnall:** (Indistinct) telling you what to do (Indistinct).

**Premier Ghiz:** I'm sorry, Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition doesn't think we should do our job, but if you look at this program, thousands of new immigrants have moved to Prince Edward Island.

Our car dealerships are doing well. Our apartments are all filled up. The housing starts in this province have been doing well. Our sales tax has been doing well. We are one of the only provinces in Canada that did not fall into a recession last year. A lot of it is because the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning in this province has done a fantastic job. I think it's time that the Leader of the Opposition stand up and congratulate the minister just as I'm doing right now.

**QUESTION PERIOD-PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS**

**14 April 2010**

Congratulations to the Minister of  
Innovation and Advanced Learning.

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

[End of Question Period]