

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Carolyn Bertram

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MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS .....	133
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS .....	137
BELFAST-MURRAY RIVER (Tribute to Lorin Panting) .....	137
TRACADIE-HILLSBOROUGH RIVER (William Whelan) .....	138
SOURIS-ELMIRA (25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souris Hospital) .....	139
ORAL QUESTIONS .....	139
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (PISA Test) .....	139
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Standardized Tests) .....	140
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Education System-further) .....	140
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Grade 12 Literacy Test) .....	141
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Standardized Tests Policy) .....	142
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Broadband) .....	143
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Education System-further) .....	144
SOURIS-ELMIRA (Student Readiness for Post-High School Study) .....	144
SOURIS-ELMIRA (Business Confidence) .....	145
TYNE VALLEY-LINKLETTER (Potato Market Status) .....	146
TYNE VALLEY-LINKLETTER (Potato Industry Support) .....	147
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK (Third Cable) .....	147
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK (Third Cable and Green Infrastructure Fund) .....	147
MORELL-MERMAID (Asbestos in Shaw and Sullivan Buildings) .....	148
SOURIS-ELMIRA (Business Confidence-further) .....	148
STRATFORD-KINLOCK (Health Records Storage-further) .....	149
STRATFORD-KINLOCK (Legislation on Breach of Privacy-further) .....	150
STRATFORD-KINLOCK (Consequence for Violation of FOIPP Act) .....	152
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS .....	152
EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (National Recognition of Early Learning and Child Care System) .....	152
TOURISM AND CULTURE (Increased Hours at Stratford Library) .....	153
FINANCE, ENERGY AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS (Bedeque Amalgamation) .....	153

FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Future Fisher Program).....	154
HEALTH AND WELLNESS (Adding New Medications) .....	155
ENVIRONMENT, LABOUR AND JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL (Seeing Oneself) .....	156
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS.....	157
INTRODUCTION OF BILLS .....	157
BILL 19 – An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act.....	157
BILL 21 – An Act to Amend the Fisheries Act .....	158
BILL 18 – An Act to Amend the Renewable Energy Act .....	158
BILL 20 – An Act to Amend the PEI Lands Protection Act .....	158
ORDERS OF THE DAY (GOVERNMENT) .....	158
SECOND READING AND COMMITTEE .....	158
BILL 15 – Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accounting Act .....	158
MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT.....	181
MOTION 27 (Recognizing the high standard of educational skills achievement in Finland).....	181
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.....	182
STRATFORD-KINLOCK.....	183
EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT .....	185
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.....	188
MOTION 39 (Congratulating Confederation Centre of the Arts on the celebration of its 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) .....	190
STRATFORD-KINLOCK.....	190
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.....	193
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK .....	195
TOURISM AND CULTURE .....	197
WEST ROYALTY-SPRINGVALE.....	198
CHARLOTTETOWN-LEWIS POINT .....	199
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AND DEPUTY PREMIER .....	199
STRATFORD-KINLOCK.....	200
MOTION 50 (Requesting the Legislative Assembly support a National Inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal Women) .....	201
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK .....	201
TYNE VALLEY-LINKLETTER.....	203
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SENIORS .....	204
MORELL-MERMAID.....	205
TRACADIE-HILLSBOROUGH PARK.....	205
PREMIER .....	206
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.....	206
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK .....	207
ADJOURNED.....	208

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.

It's wonderful to see such a great crowd in the gallery today.

I would like to recognize – I see Eddie Lund, Mike Redmond, but I also see the mayor of Stratford, the ever growing community, in fact, growing so much that if I recall correctly, he got acclaimed, I believe during the last election there. So congratulations to the mayor.

I know that there was a lot of councils sworn in, I believe it was yesterday evening. I want to congratulate all of the new councillors and mayors for, first of all, putting their names on ballots, and second of all, for serving their community but also their province. Congratulations to all of them.

*Et puis un grand bonjour à des étudiants de la neuvième année de l'École François-Buote et puis leur enseignant, Maxime Duguay. On sait que l'École François-Buote est une excellente école. Notre gouvernement a fait des expansions pour améliorer l'école, je pense, deux fois pendant les dernières cinq années. C'est parce que plus d'enfants veulent être dans des classes françaises, et puis c'est excellent.*

*Je sais que j'avais un débat avec ma femme sur qu'est-ce que notre fille, Julia, va faire, mais on a choisi l'immersion. Mais c'est bon, les deux, et puis l'anglais aussi. Alors, j'espère que vous aimerez la Chambre aujourd'hui et bienvenue.*

A big hello to some grade 9 students from Ecole François-Buote and their teacher, Maxime Duguay. We know that Ecole François-Buote is an excellent school. Our government has made expansions to the school, I think, twice in the past five years. This is because more students want to attend French classes, which is excellent.

I know I had some discussions with my wife concerning what our daughter, Julia, would be doing, but we chose immersion. But that's good, the two, and English also. So, I hope that you enjoy the House today, and welcome.

To all the students in the gallery, welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Of course, it's the grade 9 class from l'École François-Buote, their teacher, Maxime Duguay. We've done two expansions, I believe, over the last five years at Ecole François-Buote. Obviously, it is expanding and growing. So, I want to wish you all the best with your studies in the future.

Thank you very much. Merci beaucoup.

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

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

It's great to be back here on a Tuesday. I'd like to welcome the students here today, too, for Question Period. I hope you enjoy your stay. It's great to see the young faces here.

I'd like to thank all the people who came out to our fundraiser on Friday night for the PC party. It was a stormy night, and we had a big crowd on a stormy night. It's good to see that much dedication, people travelling from all over the far reaches of the province to come celebrate with us on a stormy night.

I want to thank the great work of the organizers and everyone who showed up for a great evening Friday evening.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood.

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

It certainly is a pleasure to rise today and see such a large crowd in the gallery, of course, the large number of students who are with us. It's good to have you in as this place is getting ready to be closed down. It'll be a few years before you're able to be back, so it's great that you're able to come in today and spend some time with us.

I, too, would like to congratulate Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee and all the city councillors who were sworn in last evening. Several MLAs attended that event and new faces. The city direction may take on a bit of a change as well.

Also, I would like to say thanks to all the good folks who have taken the time to send me their comments over the last few days. I want to let them know I very much appreciate that.

As well, I'd like to say good luck to the Special Olympic organization that's organizing the very worthy fun day out at UPEI today for students with disabilities.

Thanks, Madam Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Vessey:** Madam Speaker, I'd like to rise today to welcome everyone to the House as well.

I see His Worship Mayor Dunphy and Eddie Lund in, and Mike Redmond.

I'd also like to bring the House up to speed on a fundraising dinner that was held at the Delta on Saturday night where there were over 800 people in attendance.

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

**Mr. Vessey:** I would like to thank the staff and all the organizers, but I know they slept all weekend because they worked so hard to accommodate so many people. They were asleep until Monday.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Webster:** Madam Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise in the House today and see the gallery as full as it is.

Absolutely a fantastic turnout, full House. Eddie is a regular here and it's nice to see

Eddie here as well. Also great to see the students from grade 9, École François-Buote, here as well.

The other thing that's happening on the land now is we do have a lot of beans and corn to be harvested by the farming industry. Farmers are very resourceful people. The beans and corn can be harvested if the ground is frozen with no snow, so we'd be good to go at that point. We are hopeful that the weather kind of turns around and we can pull these crops in to feed our livestock and beef that normally consumes the corn. We do wish the farm industry a break and well in the next few days.

Also, District 19, I'd like to extend best wishes to all the folks out watching in District 19 and hope they have a great day.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism and Culture.

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

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge Lot 11 Community Council, Susan Milligan and her six councillors. We have three new councillors step up so we're very honoured to see people participate in the public process.

As well, I want to acknowledge His Worship David Dunphy, Mayor of Stratford, with us here today. As many would know, David's uncle Thomas Dunphy was a member in this Legislature at one point.

Also in the gallery is some of our staff: Kathleen Eaton, our director of libraries and archives, Grace Dawson, our branch and community service librarian for public service library. Hope you had a safe trip home from O'Leary last night. We also have Jane McKinney and Ashley Graveline who are joining us today from the Stratford Library, and we will be making an announcement a little later on on the details of a good announcement for the Stratford Library.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

It's a pleasure for me to rise as well today. I also want to speak about a dinner that took place this past weekend, Madam 'Dinner.'

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

**Mr. Aylward:** Madam 'Dinner,' Madam 'Dinner,' it had nothing to do with a political affiliation, Madam 'Dinner.'

It actually was the sixth annual dinner to recognize Capt. Nicola Goddard and of course, the Light Up Papua New Guinea Foundation that has been named for Capt. Goddard, Madam Speaker.

It took place at the Charlottetown Legion. It was a wonderful event. There was many monies raised and I would like to thank, on behalf of the Goddards, all the people that not only bought tickets, but very generously bid on the silent auction items.

As well, I'd like to congratulate the residents of Stratford-Kinlock for their generosity with relation to the Stratford and Area Food Drive that took place this past weekend. Once again Stratford filled up many pallets at the Food Bank, and I'd just like to wish them all the best for the generosity.

I'd also like to, as well, recognize the Mayor of Stratford, David Dunphy, and of course Dr. Bill Whelan is up here in the gallery as well. Dr. Whelan is a member of the Canadian Cancer Society board and he does incredible work in our community.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

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

I do want to welcome all the students from École François-Buote School. Really good

to see as many students come out as possible to see how democracy really works.

I do want to recognize, of course, Eddie Lund, and Dr. Bill Whelan who was the past chair of the PEI Home and School Federation, and a good friend of mine, Mayor David Dunphy, I want to kind of congratulate him on his acclamation as well on the election and acclamation of all of the council members that were there. Some acclaimed and some went through the electoral process. It's great to have them all back.

I do also want to congratulate Bethany MacLeod from Montague Regional High School. She's the new president-elect of PEI Teachers' Federation. I had the opportunity to speak with them on Saturday at noon. It was great, and it's good to see some new blood coming in there. Gilles Arsenault will be finishing up his term either soon or in the end of June and Bethany will be taking over for him. Blaine Bernard and Aldene Smallman will be her right-hand people as they are the vice-presidents for that for the coming year.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

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

I, too, would like to welcome everybody here today and also say hello to everybody out in West Royalty-Springvale, and also the residents of Andrew's Lodge. I hope to get out to see them soon. I'd also like to congratulate all of the councillors all across Prince Edward Island that have put their names forward and have been successful, and those that have been retired, thanking them for their service to date.

It was a nice, great evening last night. A bunch of us were out there to the swearing-in ceremony for the Charlottetown City Councillors and it was a great event. I'd like to wish Mayor Clifford Lee and all of the councillors great success as they move forward, and especially Greg Rivard and Jason Coady. They are the two councillors

that I work most closely with in West Royalty-Springvale. I'm looking forward to working with them.

I'll also welcome Mayor David Dunphy here today. I know he's already met with his council and he's already put them to work because I was talking to one of his councillors this morning who is very excited and looking forward to Mayor Dunphy's leadership.

I'd also like to give a notice out there that West Royalty Elementary School is going to be having a pancake breakfast fundraiser on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. Anybody that's in the district that could help support the Home and School association at that school, it would greatly be appreciated.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

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

I, too, would like to welcome everybody in the gallery today and in particular some people from my district, Tracadie-Hillsborough Park. Of course, Bill Whelan is here and we'll be speaking a little bit about Bill shortly. Shane Hennessey, it's good to see Shane there, and of course Eddie Lund is here, my faithful friend who I had a good conversation with this morning. It's always good to share some thoughts with Eddie.

Also, Mayor David Dunphy I understand is here. He's up back there somewhere so I'd like to welcome Mayor David here. Also, congratulations to all of the mayors and councillors from across PEI who were successful in their bids for their leaderships in their districts, and constituents.

Anyway, I think that's it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road.

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

It's a pleasure to rise in the House today and welcome all of those to the visitors' gallery. A special recognition to four of my constituents: Gary and Marilee Arsenault and Ronnie and Paulette Gaudet. I'd like to welcome you here, also to His Worship Mayor Dunphy, the Mayor of Stratford, welcome here today.

A new fundraiser for the Tignish Health Centre will be going online tomorrow on Facebook, the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>. They're going to auction off pies. What goes along with these pies are faces and those are faces from managers or our community chair within the community of Tignish. The highest bidder gets to throw that pie into the face of the person that they select so it should be very interesting and have a lot of fun and it's for a great cause. I encourage everyone to go online tomorrow and spend a little bit of money.

Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

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

It's a pleasure to rise in the House and welcome all of those in the public gallery.

I'd also like to say hello to all of the good people in Alberton-Roseville that may be watching on TV.

It was a sad week up in my community. We lost a couple of good community people. My condolences on behalf of the District of Alberton-Roseville go out to the Hammill family and the Gallant family.

I'd also like to congratulate those that were successful in their campaign for mayor and council seats in the municipal election. A big thank you that goes out to all those folks that offered their services but weren't successful in their campaign.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

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

I want to welcome everyone back for another long week of hard work. I'd like to welcome everyone in the gallery, especially the students. That's the future for us up there, and hopefully they'll be sitting down here with us someday.

I'd like to say hello to everyone in District 1. In District 1, in Fortune Community Centre, the farmers are having a supper on Saturday night. They're calling it the harvest – just the harvest. All the farmers get together on a Saturday evening and you get them all into one room and they have new ideas and great ideas on what worked and what didn't work. I'm looking forward to being there Saturday night with the farmers. Not only do the farmers attend, a lot of the public attend, everybody attends. They sell as many tickets as they can. I'd like to thank Wayne and Bonnie Townshend for organizing this. It takes a lot of work. They've done it for the last number of years, so I'm looking forward to Saturday night and meeting all the famers in District 1.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Deputy Speaker.

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

Welcome to everyone in the gallery, and especially to my neighbour constituents from Lot 11 council, and congratulations to them.

I also want to recognize some of the other councils and congratulate all of them: the Eilerslie-Bideford council, Tyne Valley-Linkletter council and also the new mayor of Summerside, Bill Martin.

I want to send out best wishes to the deputy mayor of Summerside as well, one of my constituents, Bruce MacDougall, and I wish him a quick recovery and that he'll soon be back on the go.

I also want to wish a happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to Donald and Lois MacKendrick who had a celebration on the weekend with the community and family.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

I rise to welcome all our guests in the gallery, Mayor Dunphy and families that are here for an announcement we will be making. We'd like to acknowledge the leader of the NDP, Mike Redmond, is with us today.

Also want to acknowledge the recent passing of Wilbert McInnis and my condolences to the family. Wilbert, his legacy, Peake and McInnis Insurance Company, a long-time community leader and just an outstanding citizen during his lifetime. My condolences to his family in his passing.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

#### Statements by Members

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

#### **Tribute to Lorin Panting**

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

Today I would like to take this opportunity to honour and acknowledge Lorin Panting from Panting's Garage in Wood Islands.

Lorin has been unofficially known as the mayor of Wood Islands for many years. Lorin and his son Doug co-own and operate Panting's Garage that has been in business for many decades. It is a booming spot to provide services from changing tires to engine replacements and everything in between.

The interesting thing about Panting's Garage is that it is PEI's version of *Corner Gas*. If anyone is interested in the local Wood Islands news, provincial, national, or world news, it can all be found out at Panting's Garage.

The way it works is you bring in your vehicle for Doug to fix, then you proceed to

the office which has a wood stove right in the middle of it, then Lorin starts the discussion of the day and the debate is on. This has been the custom in the area for many years. The only thing that would cut any conversation short would be Lorin getting a tow call or someone calling that locked their keys in their vehicle down at the ferry. Lorin would drop everything and take off to address the situation. Service is everything to Lorin.

Lorin always made a point to notice roads that needed work, culverts that needed replacing or plows that weren't keeping up. He would then quickly relay that information back to me for an expected quick resolution.

I'm sad to inform this House that Lorin passed away last week at the age of 87. Lorin worked every day until two months before he passed. He was quite a character and will be sincerely missed by his wife Peggy, son Doug, daughter Gloria, son Robert, the rest of the family and everyone in the Wood Islands area.

Lorin will be truly missed by all, but never forgotten.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

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

With your indulgence I neglected to announce the presence of the grade 9 students from École François-Buote, and their teacher Maxime Duguay, and you are certainly welcome here today. I'm sorry that I neglected doing that earlier.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

### **William Whelan**

It was 2002 when William Whelan received an unexpected phone call from Fairway Medical Technologies in Euston, Texas. They were researching early cancer detection and what it has helped using their optoacoustic imaging prototype. Whelan has always had a fascination with the physics of

the human body. He received his doctorate in medical physics at McMaster University and for 12 years researched biomedical optics as a member of the faculty at Ryerson University.

Whelan wasn't familiar with optoacoustics but after doing some research he became captivated. It was very cool, he said: I found the ultrasound part of it fascinating.

Optoacoustics involves a short pulse of light fired into a cell tissue using a laser.

Optoacoustic research is not new. Whelan brought his research and technology with him when he became the Canadian research chair of biomedical optics at UPEI in 2008. He worked with Seno Medical Instruments in San Antonio, Texas to conduct trials on men with prostate cancer.

Whelan is the head of a research team working with several graduate students.

Michelle Patterson is a researcher on that team: I started playing around with the frequency of his signals, and to our amazement we saw that the frequency from cancerous tissue was much harder than that of normal tissue. This is a big step for the future of cancer screening, says Patterson. In the clinical setting the testing could tell the doctor a lot about the prognosis of the cancer as well as what is the best treatment for that particular cancer. In our earlier testing at UPEI we were able to detect the presence of benign tumors in the prostate, as well as malignant tumors.

William Whelan looks forward to the new discoveries his team will make as they continue their research. The UPEI team has published his work in the *Journal of Biomedical Optics*, *Biomedical Express*, and several other scholarly journals.

Madam Speaker, Bill Whelan is with us here today, and I would ask my colleagues to give him a round of applause.

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

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souris Hospital

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

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Souris Hospital. The Souris Hospital has provided excellent health care and consistent quality service since its beginnings. The hospital serves a population of 7,500 people and an average of 15,000 tourists annually.

The history of the Souris Hospital does not stop at 25 years. It dates back to 1876 with what was called a marine hospital. At the time marine hospitals looked after the sick and the infirm from the seafaring vessels.

Next was the Souris Hospital which opened on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945. It was a small hospital with cramped wards and it did not suit for the modern times. The Souris Hospital served the community until the present day hospital opened its doors 25 years ago, winning an award for architectural design.

Eastern Kings residents are proud of their hospital and the services it provides. The past August the Island Wide Hospital Access hosted the Souris Hospital 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary rededication. All money raised went to the Souris Hospital Foundation.

I wish all staff and volunteers at the hospital all the best and my appreciation to the volunteers who raise the funds needed each year.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

### Questions by Members

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

### **PISA test**

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

Question to the minister of education: Do you recognize that PISA is the only test that matters?

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

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

PISA is one of the assessments that we use. We use PCAP as well, we use the common assessments ourselves, and we use formative assessments in the classrooms. All of them, they're very important in improving the education of our children.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

Question again to the minister of education: Do you think you can build a better test than PISA?

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

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

We have nothing to do with PISA, the building of PISA. That's an international test. It doesn't even look at our curriculum.

The ministers of education back in 2006, 2007, introduced PCAP, which is the pan-Canadian, to look at our outcomes. That's what we wanted to focus on there so we can improve our scores at the PISA test when they come up every three years. On top of that, we at the provincial level put in common assessments to work on our specific curriculum itself.

As well, the teachers in the classroom use formative assessments on a regular basis to improve our system so that every year that PISA comes out we can see that we have growth in that area. We're not seeing that when we only did PISA, but since we've introduced the other assessments we are now really seeing growth.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

It sounds like the minister does think he can build a better test than PISA. Actually, as a matter of fact, if I hear him correctly, he thinks he can build all kinds of tests that are better than PISA.

### **Standardized tests**

Question to the minister: Since you've been minister, are there more standardized tests or less?

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

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

The PISA tests have been going on since around 2000, and as we explained in the House earlier, we were not doing well in those even right up until the last ones. But we noticed that along the way – even the previous government had noticed – we're not doing very well in PISA. We need to do something else to help that along, so they introduced PCAP.

We came in, we introduced the common assessments. It came out of the Kurial report and it said this is one the things we need to do. The common assessments were put in place and we will continue to work on that.

But it's not me that's developing these. In our department – our department is made up of teachers and past principals who are experts in the field. That's what the department of education is really made up of. They know from the classroom level, what needs to be done and how to correct it, and we will continue doing that and using the best people possible to improve our system right through.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

It sounds like he doesn't want to answer the question. Obviously we have way more

standardized tests since he became minister. This government has a bad habit of creating tests when they can't pass the one that exists, and the one that exists is PISA and it's the one that we are really judged on. It doesn't matter how you cut it or how he spins it, we don't do well at it, and the minister seems to think that adding a test is going to help that.

### **Education system (further)**

Question to the minister: Why do you think that patting yourself on the back for mediocrity is an answer when you should be out there building the best system in the world?

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

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

I do want to say it's really great that the opposition has finally agreed that, hey, education is a high priority and that every day since we started Question Period, they lead off with education. I want to really thank the hon. member for that because we need a good discussion.

We need everyone to understand what PISA is, what PCAP is, what common assessments are, and what interventions are in place that we are using to improve our system, and look at the very positive things that are happening within our system and the gains that we are seeing.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

It's not hard to lead off Question Period every day with questions about education because it is important. This government doesn't see that it's important. Everybody on Prince Edward Island's telling them it's important so we're also going to tell them it's important. We're trying to stress how important it is.

Inventing tests isn't important. Doing nothing isn't important. Hiding in your office with the lights off isn't important. Fixing the system is important.

### Grade 12 literacy test

Question to the minister: Is your new grade 12 literacy test standard for every student in grade 12?

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

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

The literacy test that's coming out can be taken at any time through the high school years, okay? But, we are going to require that that is taken before you can graduate. But you can take it in grade 10, you can take it in grade 11 or you can take it in grade 12. It's up to you whenever you want to challenge that test.

But you know, this is helping our students realize where they are so that when they get into the University of Prince Edward Island or they go to Holland College or they go out into the work world they are prepared. That's what the idea is behind all of these assessments. I don't want to look at it just as a test. It's like checks and balances in our system to say: Are we improving in math? Are we improving in reading, science, in writing? We need to do that because for years all we had was PISA and we were failing at that, so we put other interventions, other assessments, in place so we would improve and we are really seeing that happen.

I wish the opposition member would actually look at some of the positive stuff because there's so much positive stuff going on in our system.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

I think the easiest way to explain this to the minister – if they didn't social pass everyone

right out the door, you would know exactly whether or not people were meeting their requirements at the end of every grade. You don't want to talk about that.

Back to your grade 12 assessment: Do international baccalaureate students, with their own literacy standards and assessments, take the same test as the general grade 12?

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

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

Just on the social pass he talks about, I'll quote again from Ron Canuel, who is the president of the CEA, Canadian Education Association. When he was talking to your standing committee here he said, on social promotion: I'd have to say the majority of provinces do social promotion, it's not just PEI. What became abundantly clear was the overwhelming evidence that retention doesn't lead anywhere. It actually impedes the student.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Question to the minister of education.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Do international baccalaureate students, who have their own literacy standards and assessment, have to write the same test as the general grade 12 students?

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

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

The literacy assessments we see as something that will actually help the system. It will be there as a requirement for all who graduate to take that.

The IB, the international baccalaureate, to tell you the honest truth right now, my understanding is, but I can check on that to

be sure. But we do want the literacy test to be written by all students before they graduate so they know and we know exactly where their literacy levels are.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

There are actually several streams: There's the honours grade 12, there's the academic grade 12, there's the practical grade 12, there's also in the advanced placement program.

Question to the minister: To allow them to graduate, will the practical grade 12 students be required to pass the same exam as the honours grade 12 students?

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

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

We're just putting that into place. As I noted, I will take that actual question back and I will find out exactly where it is. But the literacy piece we are putting in place to make sure that our students are prepared, and they can write it at the different levels as they go through. I think it'll work out very well. We look forward to that.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

Somebody thought it was a good idea to put it in the Speech From the Throne, so I would have thought that they would have, at the very least, briefed you on it. But go back and get your briefing, bring it back to the House. It's important. That's why we ask it first because it's important. It's important that you get briefed. Maybe tonight when you go home, take a little detour and get them to brief you on something so you can answer some questions here tomorrow.

The Nova Scotia report offers a way forward. I know, even though you didn't read it, question to the minister of education: Why are wasting time making up pointless tests rather than addressing the real problems?

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

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

I'm sure if the hon. member had read the Nova Scotia report he would know that in Nova Scotia they do PCAP. They do common assessments as well. We will do what we feel we need best is here. We work with the other provinces and the other ministers to see: What are you doing in your provinces that can improve our system? They look at our system and see: What are you doing there that can improve ours?

We've already had comments from Manitoba, from New Brunswick, and even, just lately, from Ontario, looking at our last results from PCAP saying: What are you doing on PEI that things are really improving there?

Maybe the hon. member wants to look at the results of our PCAP or common assessments just to see how much improvement we really are making here on Prince Edward Island.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

When you set the bar low no one will be surprised when you jump over it, and that's what you did. Everybody in this House knows you're setting the bar low so we can jump over it. PISA's the only test that matters. Everyone knows that.

### **Standardized tests policy**

The sad part is that in 2007 it was this very government that promised to do away with standardized testing. Question to the minister again: Was this just a policy of the

former minister of education or a policy of this government?

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

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

I think everyone across the world, except maybe the hon. Leader of the Opposition, realizes the benefits of doing the common assessments, the PCAP and the PISA. If you're running a business you have checks and balances in it. In the dairy industry you have milk recording, classification. Those are checks and balances, those are assessments. Everyone does that to find out: Where are your weaknesses, where do we may have to put more investment to make the system better? That's what we're doing there and that's what we will continue to do, and that's what the other provinces will continue to do, including Nova Scotia.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

The fact is that this minister treats PISA like a game rather than an indicator of success.

Question again. Why aren't you giving teachers what they need instead of making up tests that can be passed?

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

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

Now that really shows how much the hon. member over there knows about the assessment. The common assessments are made by the teachers themselves. They're delivered to the students by the teachers and they're corrected by the teachers. They are the teachers' tests. They make them up, they deliver them, and they correct them on what they feel the students at grade 3, 6, 9 or whatever level, that they may need and what level they should be at.

To think it's just us making these tests up is completely wrong. They're made by the teachers themselves for their own students.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

I think we'll wait for the briefing to be had before we comment on that.

### Broadband

The Speech From the Throne is a great indicator of how out of touch this minister and this government actually are. One example tells the tale. The throne speech actually said that equal Internet access amongst Island schools will be provided.

Question to the minister of education: Does that mean the \$12 million spent delivering broadband across the province hasn't worked?

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

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

There's been an \$8 million investment in making sure the main highway is through. We will make sure now, going forward, that we have the full Wi-Fi into all the schools and we'll do that over the next few years.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

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

This government has spent \$12 million upgrading the broadband to the whole province already.

Question to the minister of innovation: Has this failed? Is this why there's another \$8 million being spent by the minister of education?

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

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

The broadband has been placed right across the province and that's there to connect all the communities across the province, and have the general public well connected within that program. I think what will take place is that from that great highway that's been built with broadband, it then will extend to all our school systems as was explained by the minister of education.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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

So we're going to have a \$20 million broadband system in the province according to what the minister of innovation just told us.

#### **Education system (further)**

Island businesses now, UPEI, Holland College, all say that students aren't ready when they graduate.

Question to the minister of education: For the sake of our kids, will you follow what Nova Scotia did, their lead – it's okay to follow their lead – and recognize that we need change and we need it now and it's important that we address it right now?

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

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

As I said, we are working with Nova Scotia. We're working with Ontario and all the provinces as they are working with us. When we see issues that they – or interventions that they put in place, we'll look at them and see if they'll work in our system and they will – in most cases they're very similar.

I think things are really improving in the educational system and so do most of the

people in the province and in our system itself. The opposition had some trouble with us making great gains that we do, but we're going to continue on in that direction anyway.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct) PISA's not a great gain.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct) top draft pick.

#### **Student readiness for post-high school study**

**Mr. LaVie:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. We can all agree that education is key to our future economy.

To the minister of advanced learning: Do you recognize that UPEI and Holland College believe many of our students are not ready for their first year?

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

The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development.

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

Just on that point, because that's something we are addressing in our department at the present time, it's called the graduate planner. Where we are now looking at the grade 9 students, picking them up there, and with a holistic approach where we have the parents, the student, the principal, the guidance counsellor, the teachers, all as a team to talk with these students and say to them: What are your interests? What do you think you really want to do when you finish grade 12?

If they want to go and be a chemist, then we say to them: Then you have to take this math, this chemistry, whatever courses you need so you will be ready for that. If you want to go into plumbing, then you'll need these other courses, whatever it might be. But find out early what the interests the students have so that we can prepare them

for when they graduate, so that when they get to the higher level of education they're ready for Holland College, they're ready for UPEI, or they're ready for the trades. That's what we're doing here.

Actually Nova Scotia likes that idea as well and they're thinking of doing the same thing, so I think we're well on the right track.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

**Mr. LaVie:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. To the minister of advanced learning: Do you recognize that these students ain't ready for their first year?

**Some Hon. Members:** Ain't (Indistinct).

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

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

One of the things that I have to mention is that I had the honour and the opportunity to attend a graduation this past spring at Montague Regional High School. One of the things that impressed me the most was the huge number of students at that high school that were graduating with honours. I had never seen the numbers so high. When I heard the people that were getting up and giving the bursaries and the scholarships, I was amazed with the number of students that had done so well.

A lot of the times I sit in the House and I hear these questions about how poorly our students are doing. Today I'm going to answer the question that a great majority of our students, the majority, are doing excellent, and I think it's time we recognize what a great job our teachers are doing and what great students we have in our schools in Prince Edward Island.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

### **Business confidence**

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

It just sounded like a leadership speech to me.

It isn't just in education that government is failing by being in the last place. Another important test came out last month and this government failed. The CFIB reported just last month that the business confidence here on PEI has plunged to last place at 52.7.

To the minister of innovation: Why is it last place is good enough for you?

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

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

We just look over the last year the number of jobs that were created in Prince Edward Island. Today in Prince Edward Island there are more people working full-time than ever before in the history of the province.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

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

This is the same minister that shut down 300 workers at OCI plant. The same minister that shut down Georgetown shipyards, another 400 workers. McCain's plant up there, another 400 workers gone. He wants to talk about jobs.

We're not only last, we are six points from the next lowest. That's from being the next lowest, six points. They use 15 points from the national index.

Will the minister of innovation explain why he believes all is well while the truth from our own Island businesses say he is dead wrong? That's their words: Dead wrong.

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

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

I'm really glad that the hon. Member from Souris-Elmira brought up the point about Ocean Choice. I don't think it's any secret that the previous Conservative government made loans of tens of million dollars to that corporation. While they did that, they took no security on those dollars. So when Ocean

Choice decided that they were going to leave Prince Edward Island – and at the same time looking for another big cash cow – they expected that was going to happen because that’s what they had got before. We had this company pull out slowly on their own, then went to Newfoundland and closed three more fish processing plants in Newfoundland.

Then we back that up to the previous Conservative government –

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

**Mr. LaVie:** You shut it down. You shut it down.

**Speaker:** Order, please!

**Mr. Roach:** – and we can look at their economic –

**Mr. LaVie:** (Indistinct)!

**Speaker:** Order, members!

**Mr. Roach:** We look at their economic record when it comes to Polar Seafoods.

**Mr. LaVie:** Allan Campbell (Indistinct)!

**Mr. Roach:** If anybody was a total failure to industry in Prince Edward Island, we only need to look at the previous Conservative government.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

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

I’m glad this minister is ignoring the CFIB, very important, CFIB, and he’s ignoring the questions. He’s ignoring them. He’s running the leadership over there, using Question Period for a leadership race.

Dead last in the country, barely breaking – 50% indicates that this minister is missing the boat.

To the minister of innovation: Can you explain why our Island businesses have such low confidence?

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

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

I can assure this House and this member that the confidence of the business sector on this Island is very good and the record is very good of all our Island businesses. We only need to look at the success that we’ve had in our export development, the success we’ve had with our companies.

Also glad to note again that the Conference Board of Canada recently scored PEI an A+ for foreign investment and employment growth here on Prince Edward Island.

**Speaker:** The hon. Deputy Speaker.

**Mr. MacKinley:** (Indistinct).

**Leader of the Opposition:** Good to see you awake.

**Speaker:** The hon. member for – the hon. Deputy Speaker.

#### **Potato market status**

**Ms. Biggar:** Sorry, Madam Speaker.

My question today is for the minister of agriculture and the deputy premier. Minister, we’ve had a number of challenges in the potato industry over the past summer with some unfortunate incidents occurring with wart and other situations.

Could you just give me an update on how you feel the present status of the markets for our potatoes are doing and how we think the year will end up?

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

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

I thank the Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter for the question. We did have a case of potato wart on Prince Edward Island this summer, which one field led to four, but there were about 10,000 soil samples taken across Prince Edward Island and everything tested clear.

Our team of people sat down with CFIA, who leads the vita-sanitary requirements in Canada and they in turn sit down and discuss that internationally with the United States department of agriculture. They've followed the science on this issue and they've followed the protocols that were in place and are in place. As a result that issue predominantly is corrected and we can now – of course, there are no restrictions for shipment of table stock potatoes into the United States. That's a real good news story.

The other issue we had was, as you well know, and you've seen it in the papers, the food tampering issue which is a very serious issue. It's under investigation at the moment and hopefully there will be a resolve on that soon, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Deputy Speaker.

### Potato industry support

**Ms. Biggar:** Madam Speaker, thank you.

To the same minister: What is your department doing to support the industry in this unfortunate situation that occurred?

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

**Mr. Webster:** Madam Speaker, the business that was affected by the food tampering issue has been shut down for about six weeks to make sure they can address the issue completely.

I spoke to them personally yesterday morning and asked them where they're at and when their business is going to be up and running. They shared with me the fact that they're waiting for some test equipment that will detect, I guess, foreign material in their products. So that is underway. I believe they hope to be going very soon. It's extremely important that Canadians and Prince Edward Islanders support our food system and food safety in all aspects, everywhere. That's an ongoing issue.

Our department is assisting this organization in funding of some of that test equipment as well, I'm proud to say. The equipment isn't here yet but it's supposed to be being built and in transmission.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

### Third cable

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

Question to the minister of finance. Winter is fast approaching and with more and more Islanders using electricity to heat their homes, and the increasing demand on the cables across the Northumberland Strait, can the minister provide this House with an update on whether we're getting our third cable or not?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

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

It is the top priority inside of government right now with regard to any infrastructure needs in Prince Edward Island. I can update the House that in June of this past year we sent our application on to Ottawa looking for an appropriate amount of funding from the federal source.

As you know, we do produce 30% of our own wind here through a great combination of wind farms across Prince Edward Island and right now we do still require a very large amount of power to be coming across from our partners through a very strong accord where we did receive about a 14% decrease in price through the work of the questioner, the Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park, and our Premier.

So with that, it remains a priority. We're hoping to hear back from the federal government very soon.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** A supplementary question, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

### Third cable and Green Infrastructure Fund

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

The federal government last year or a couple of years ago gave over \$700 million to BC and the Yukon for expansion of their network in those two areas, and it was the Green Infrastructure Fund. I understand it's gone now, but has the federal government replaced that money with any other money?

I understand they're going to allow total freeze on the Quebec bridge but still charge tolls on ours. Is that fund still available and are you applying through that fund?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

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

The member is very correct in that there was a green fund that they felt it didn't qualify for, our project with regard to the interconnection cable.

We have found a new way through their introduction of a national infrastructure project, as well as what they have put forward as provincial infrastructure systems and ideas and ways to apply for cash. But through this we have done an awful lot of work with the federal government. We've answered all their questions with regard to the application that was put forward in June, and we hope, through the national infrastructure project, that we will see some funding announcements very soon.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

#### **Asbestos in Shaw and Sullivan buildings**

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

There's an asbestos issue in the Shaw and Sullivan buildings. My question is to the minister of transportation and public works: Just how big is this issue?

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

**Mr. Vessey:** Madam Speaker, I'd have to look into that and get back to the hon. member.

**Speaker:** Supplementary question, the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

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

In the Prince Edward Island Crown Building Corporation report that was tabled this year, the minister's signature was on that report in June. There is an issue here and my question: Will we see any remediation in plans in this fall, especially in the capital budget? Because there's an awful lot of people that work there.

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

**Mr. Vessey:** Madam Speaker, staff take very serious any allegations like that and they'd be looking into that, and it hasn't been on my desk lately, but I'll look into it and get back to the hon. member.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** A second supplementary, the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

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

This is such an important issue, I would ask the minister: Would he also have some conversations with the safety committees that are usually in the buildings as well as the unions?

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

**Mr. Vessey:** Madam Speaker, I'm sure staff have been in conversation but I'll check and get back to the hon. member.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

#### **Business confidence (further)**

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

To the minister of innovation. He's getting off track there on the small business, so I'll try to pull him back on track: 72% of small businesses cited fuel and energy costs while 67% highlighted taxes and regulatory costs.

Minister, wouldn't you then agree that your government is directly responsible for putting us in last place, again?

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

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

I'm not sure of the exact number of businesses that were surveyed during this, but I understand it was quite low.

In the seven years that this government has been in power over 750 new businesses have been created in Prince Edward Island, and I think that's a pretty strong indication of what the government is doing to support business and what the businesses believe that the province is doing for them.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

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

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

**Mr. LaVie:** So the –

**Speaker:** Listening to the member, hon. members.

**Mr. LaVie:** Madam Speaker, so the minister of innovation does know about the survey and he knows about the facts, but he just doesn't want to talk about them.

Tax and regulatory costs named by 70% of the businesses as a major constraint. This government is killing small businesses in the province. Why does this government continue to strangle – and that's how they put it – strangle small businesses in our province with high taxes and red tape?

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

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

I think it's interesting to note that over the last four years in particular, that the businesses on Prince Edward Island are performing only third behind the businesses in Alberta and Saskatchewan in the country

of Canada. I think the businesses in Prince Edward Island are doing a great job.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

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

This minister's got to get out of his office. I agree, the businesses are trying their best in this province is what they're trying.

The CFIB reports that the second-highest limiting factor on the scale and production growth here on PEI is the shortage of skilled labour.

Minister, would you then agree that you are directly responsible for the last placed nation taking trailing mark of 52%?

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

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

Just in the last year alone our department has funded and supported 438 businesses in moving forward in assisting them with their skilled employees. When I looked at the skilled trades, the biggest increase we've had in jobs over the past number of years has been in the skilled trades. You go to Pooles Corner, there are over 120 people working there. There are good skilled trades.

You go down to Borden and you have new manufacturing companies down there. They're all skilled trades. Go to the bioscience or the aerospace. Those are where the full-time jobs are being created. Good wages, some of the best wages in the country, and those are all good, highly skilled trades.

I would also note that last year, out of all the number of jobs that were created in Prince Edward Island, 62% of them were in rural Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Opposition House Leader.

**Health records storage (further)**

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

On Friday I questioned the minister of justice on the significant privacy breach of thousands of Islanders of personal information. However, the minister was clueless and didn't have any information on this incident.

The minister has now had three full days to educate herself on this privacy breach. I'm wondering if the minister could tell us today if she finally understands how important her role is on this file and what she's going to do to address the breach and fix the problem.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General.

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

As the minister of justice and Attorney General in this province, I certainly take that role extremely seriously. We are responsible for the privacy act under my department and certainly we would follow the rules of that privacy act to the tee.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

Again, on Friday the minister stated to the House that her department had no discussions whatsoever about this privacy breach. Again, I'd remind this House that it was the city police department that actually informed us of three breaches that took place.

Again, to the minister of justice: How was such a blatant breach, affecting thousands of Islanders, fail, and how did it fail to prompt any response from you?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General.

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

My answer doesn't change today, three days later. I have full confidence in the policing services that we have in Prince Edward Island, whether we're talking about the Charlottetown police, Summerside police or the RCMP. This issue that the hon. member's speaking about is in direct correlation to the minister of health and the department of health in this province.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

Minister, are Islanders to understand that the justice department as well as the privacy commissioner were both left in the dark about five separate intrusions and privacy breaches?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General.

**Ms. Sherry:** Again, Madam Speaker, I will reiterate to the people on the floor of the Legislature, to the people in the gallery and to all Islanders that I have full confidence in the policing agencies in this province.

This issue was looked after with the utmost professionalism. He is trying to imply that there was a breach of privacy for Islanders' health records. That is not the case. The minister of health has stood up on the floor of this Legislature and assured Islanders that it didn't.

As the minister of justice I am doing the same today. There was not a breach of any personal files in regards to what happened in those buildings that were holding the health records of Islanders.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Opposition House Leader.

### **Legislation on breach of privacy (further)**

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

The minister of justice gets up and states that I'm trying to imply something.

**Ms. Sherry:** Yes, I am.

**Mr. Aylward:** What I'm doing is actually reiterating the information that was provided to us by the police department here in Charlottetown. It was the city police that actually said that there were breaches that took place. There were five separate break-ins. But yet this minister had no idea that any of this was going on.

Minister, why is there nothing in the act to deal with a breach such as this magnitude?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General.

**Ms. Sherry:** Madam Speaker, I'm extremely surprised to hear that the Charlottetown police department reports to the member of the opposition in regards to matters that concern policing in this province.

But to make it clear –

**Leader of the Opposition:** It's because they can't report to you.

**Ms. Sherry:** – to the member across the floor –

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** Order, please!

**Ms. Sherry:** To make it clear, Madam Speaker, to the member across the floor, that there is a process.

Every public body in government, every department in government, is responsible to protect any personal and confidential documents within their department. If there is found to be a breach of any nature that personal individual can contact the privacy commissioner and it's followed up within that way.

Not unlike many, I did hear on the news in regards to this on the radio and I did question my deputy immediately as to what this means within our department. I was assured at the time that the policing agencies

handled those break-ins and that there was absolutely no involvement of our department, and that the department of health and the staff there had things well in hand, and that they had assured that there was absolutely and positively no breach of private documents.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

Section 35 of the protection and privacy act reads, and I'll quote: "The head of a public body shall protect personal information by making reasonable security arrangements against such risks as unauthorized access." Will the attorney general agree with the Charlottetown police that this government failed to protect Islanders' personal information?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General.

**Ms. Sherry:** Madam Speaker, I'll reiterate once again across the floor to the member that he is reading directly from the privacy act that is contained in our department, and we follow that legislation and those acts to the T.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

The Charlottetown police have repeatedly stated records were accessed during these five break-ins.

Again to the attorney general: Is having derelict buildings broken into multiple times acceptable security arrangements to you?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General.

**Ms. Sherry:** Absolutely not, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** Final question, the hon. Opposition House Leader.

**Consequence for violation of FOIPP act**

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

The minister just said it herself, there is no way that derelict buildings are reasonable security arrangements. The minister of health broke section 35 of that act. What is the consequence for violating the FOIPP act? Can the attorney general please answer that?

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General.

**Ms. Sherry:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. There was absolutely no breach of the FOIPP act. If there is any sort of issue here, it is the member across the floor fearmongering.

I have 100% confidence in the policing agencies in this province. Sometimes abandoned buildings are targeted, but I believe the policing agencies have done their job, I believe the department of health has done their job, and I am certainly satisfied on both accounts.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** End of Question Period.

Statements by Ministers

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

**National Recognition of Early Learning and Child Care System**

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

We know that we have an excellent early learning and child care system. Our widely acclaimed early learning and child care system is providing our youngest Islanders with high quality learning experiences and an educational and caring environment.

So it comes as no surprise when our early learning and child care system repeatedly gets recognized on the national stage.

In October 2011 the *Globe and Mail* said: For a top-notch child-care system close to home, Canadians should look to the country's smallest province. PEI's progress has earned praise from the country's leading childhood development experts.

Later that year, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education ranked PEI's new early learning and child care system second in Canada behind Quebec.

We've continued to work hard to pursue excellence in early childhood education. We've continued training our early childhood educators. This year alone over 70 educators earned their certificate in early childhood care and education.

We've provided ongoing support to the provincial early learning curriculum framework to maximize learning opportunities for our children and we work closely with our partners in early childhood education to improve the quality of programs and services for children, families and communities.

As mentioned in the Speech From the Throne last week, the Atkinson's Centre at the Ontario Institute for Studies and Education has increased Prince Edward Island's ranking. Our early learning and child care system is now considered best in the country, along with Quebec. This is no small achievement.

We are thrilled to see our early learning and child care system recognized at the national level. I think all members will agree that those working in the early learning and child care field should be commended for their dedication.

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 would like to congratulate all the great teachers out there who make this possible. We have great teachers in our education system, and obviously in the early learning it's really no different.

It's important that we recognize the teachers and the great job that they do. It's not an easy job being a teacher and it's not an easy job being a teacher these days. I think it's very important to send out our congratulations. I do congratulate them for working really hard with our students and I urge them to keep up the great work.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Other ministers doing statements today?

The hon. Minister of Tourism and Culture.

### **Increased Hours at Stratford Library**

**Mr. Henderson:** Madam Speaker, over the past 12 months, Stratford residents have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are very happy with the new location of the Stratford Public Library on Hopeton Road.

Since the new library location opened, materials in circulation, Internet use and memberships have all increased by about 25%. The number of programs being offered, the number of people participating in them and the number of volunteers in the library have also seen impressive increases over the last year.

When the town of Stratford partnered with the Public Library Service to open the new location last December, Mayor David Dunphy, who is with us here today, immediately began his campaign to see the hours of operation increased.

Well, today I am happy to announce that starting tomorrow the Stratford Public Library will be open Wednesday and Friday morning. That adds seven additional hours a week. That change means the library will be now open 42 hours a week rather than the 35 previously.

By opening the library for additional hours we give all library users – but especially

seniors and parents of young children – better and more convenient access to library materials and programs.

The number one goal of the Public Library Service on Prince Edward Island is to foster and promote a life-long love of books and reading. By expanding the hours in Stratford, and by adding additional staff hours, our library programs and materials become more accessible to residents.

I want to thank Mayor David Dunphy, the Stratford Town Council for also placing such tremendous value on their public library. I'd also like to thank Stratford librarians Jane McKinney and Ashley Graveline for the great work that they do in promoting reading and books. Finally, I'd like to thank our Director of Libraries and Archives, Kathleen Eaton, and our Branch and Community Services Librarian, Grace Dawson, for all their work to secure these additional hours in Stratford.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

### **Bedeque Amalgamation**

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

We had the rare opportunity this month to witness the birth of a new municipality on Prince Edward Island.

After requesting to be amalgamated earlier in the year, the communities of Bedeque and Central Bedeque elected their first ever unified municipal council on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Those council members were sworn into office yesterday, which was the same day that the amalgamation of the new community of Bedeque and Area became official.

The municipality of Bedeque was first incorporated in 1978 and most recently had a population of 143. Central Bedeque began life in 1966 and had a population of 167. Now, with a combined population of 310, they have taken a giant step toward a

brighter future. This is a true success story for Prince Edward Island.

These two tightly-knit communities recognized that they are more alike than they are different. They saw an opportunity to combine their resources, increase their population and enhance their financial standing. In doing so, they have made their community stronger, and they have done it together.

On behalf of the Province of Prince Edward Island, I would like to congratulate the entire community on this historic accomplishment.

I am also pleased to recognize and welcome the members of the new Bedeque and Area municipal council who have joined us today in the gallery. I ask that these community leaders stand as I introduce them. They are: Chairman Ron Rayner and council members Rob Green, Hance Lord, Don MacFarlane, Scott Smallwood and Susan Whelan.

Best wishes to you all and thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Responding to the minister's statement, the hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

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

It's always great when you hear the news of new communities coming on in the Island. For people to put their name forward on a ballot – I'd like to thank the people that have come forward and put their names on ballots. I'd like to congratulate those that have won.

I want to congratulate them on their new community and I wish them luck into the future.

Thank you.

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

### **Future Fisher Program**

**Mr. MacKinley:** Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the House today to provide

the House with an update on the Future Fisher Program.

This year my department has accepted 20 applications into the program and they will be at the Rural Action Centre in Bedeque today to take a part in a business workshop.

The workshop will cover record keeping, accounting, the processing sector, seafood marketing initiatives, export and branding and the role of the industry associations.

The group had a workshop in October that covered lobster biology and handling. I had the chance to meet with them and they are a smart group of young people and very dedicated to their profession.

The Future Fisher Program is a great support for new entrants into the Prince Edward Island lobster fishery. The lobster fishery is alive and well.

Since introducing this, the Future Fisher Program has supported 125 new fishers to gain a better understanding of the industry. One of the greatest benefits of the program is the opportunity it provides for new fishers to develop contacts across the industry and to meet key people from government and industry organizations involved in fisheries management.

It is great to be a part of a government that values the future of our lobster fishing industry in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

The Future Fisher Program provides a new fisher with a solid foundation for a successful career in Prince Edward Island's lobster fishery.

I want to extend congratulations to all the future fishers as they embark on a new career and I wish them all the best.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister.

Responding to the statement, the hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

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

The Future Fisher Program is a good program. Back when we were getting into the fishing, I wish I had a future program back then, as I am today. I'm a poor bookkeeper as I am so I wish I had that program back then. It is a good program and fishing is a good industry to get in.

The fishermen are going in the right direction with the marketing, and now they've got the MSC so it's looking good for the fishers. I'm glad to be able to be a voice for the fishermen. That's one thing I am and I make sure I am. The fishermen always come to me when they've got a topic and they make sure they get their voice heard in the House here.

So I do support the new fishers program.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

### Adding New Medications

**Mr. Currie:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. People who are dealing with serious illnesses shouldn't have to worry about whether they can afford approved treatments. They need to know their government cares and that we are listening to their concerns.

We are committed to helping Islanders access the medication they need. Today I am pleased to announce that effective today, we will be adding 10 new medications – or new indications for existing drugs – to help Islanders battle disease.

The High Cost Drug Program and Catastrophic Drug Program will provide coverage for Revlimid, for the treatment of multiple myeloma after failure of a previous therapy in patients who have not received –

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

**Mr. Currie:** – a stem cell transplant. Revlimid for the treatment of myelodysplastic syndrome.

Under the Family Health Benefit Program, Financial Assistance Drug Program, Seniors Drug Program, Nursing Home Drug

Program and Catastrophic Drug Program the following will be covered:

Fragmin for the treatment and/or prevention of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism; Innohep for the treatment and/or prevention of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism; Lovenox for the treatment and/or prevention of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism; Ondissolve ODF for the prevention of nausea and vomiting in cancer patients; Pregabalin for the management of neuropathic pain; Tudorza Genuair for the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); VFEND for the treatment of invasive fungal infection; and VFEND for the treatment of fungal infection in the blood.

As well, effective today, the Diabetes Control Drug Program, Financial Assistance Drug Program, Nursing Home Drug Program and Catastrophic Drug Program will cover:

Lantus for the treatment of patients who have been diagnosed with type 2 or type 1 diabetes; Levemir for the treatment of patients who have been diagnosed with type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

This is a \$1.1 million investment which will help lessen the financial burden for eligible Islanders in need of treatment. I want to thank the Provincial Drugs and Therapeutics Committee who regularly review medications and make recommendations to government. I would like to acknowledge the following people in the gallery, and I would ask them to stand: Ann Langstroth, Bev and Ken Cornish, Marilee and Gary Arsenault, Tom and Fran Rath, Paulette and Ronnie Gaudet.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Responding to the minister's statement, the hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

It's a pleasure for me to stand and acknowledge the minister of health for

making this very important announcement. As overdue as it is, it still is a very important announcement here.

But I'd really like to single out the organizations such as the Diabetes Association, the Canadian Cancer Society, the NGOs that go above and beyond in their advocacy work and even more importantly than that, I'd like to recognize the individuals, the families, the family members that are suffering from these diseases, and just identify their tenacity for not giving up and continuing to fight for the right to have access to these life-saving drugs.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General.

### Seeing Oneself

**Ms. Sherry:** Madam Speaker, I rise in the House today to tell Islanders about a new program being launched by my department to help address addiction and mental health issues in Island youth.

Youth Justice staff from across the province, in all three counties, have completed the required training and certification to deliver the Seeing Oneself Program.

The Seeing Oneself Program is an evidence-based curriculum that assists youth to understand their own thinking and behaviours, and thus take responsibility for oneself. It is tailored to specific personality characteristics in youth and aims to help youth understand and address factors driving their substance abuse.

Seeing Oneself Program provides youth workers with a new tool to assist youth who are struggling with mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Youth workers will be able to deliver the program both in group settings, as well as one-on-one when seen as beneficial.

There is a direct correlation between substance abuse, among youth, and involvement in criminal behaviour. The Seeing Oneself Program is designed to reduce the individual's substance usage by

helping them to create positive life skills and make positive life choices.

Essential training is now complete and justice staff are currently identifying youth who would most benefit from the Seeing Oneself Program.

Along with youth justice staff across the Island, four staff persons from Youth Addiction Services also received the Seeing Oneself training.

The Department of Environment, Labour and Justice will financially support the delivery of the program including the purchasing of required manuals, workbooks and other resources. Training for staff was provided by the Youth Diversion Program in New Brunswick which is affiliated with the RCMP.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Responding to the ministerial statement, the Opposition House Leader.

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

Again, I stand to acknowledge one of the ministers from across the floor that's making a statement about a program that is much overdue here in the Province of Prince Edward Island.

The minister of health and now the minister of justice have made several announcements in the recent past with regards to mental health and addictions, particularly towards our youth. That is a great thing. It's good that we're moving forward on that, but there's so much yet to do.

What I would really like to remind this government is it's not only our youth. We only have to look at the *Guardian* this morning, the front page story, and realize that we have a real problem, an epidemic here with regards to addictions. It's not only with our youth, it's with our adult population as well.

I've said it once, I've said it again, we need health, we need justice, we need finance, we need education, we need community

services, we need all departments working on this very important issue because every life that's lost here on Prince Edward Island is one too many lives.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** Presenting and Receiving Petitions.

Hon. members, the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and Deputy Premier would like to recognize someone in the gallery.

I'm going to give way to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and Deputy Premier.

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

It truly is a privilege to have some District 19 members in the gallery, and they are Ron Rayner, Rob Green, Don MacFarlane, Hance Lord, Susan Whalen. It truly is great to see them here. It's great to see all the Bedeqes – which is North Bedeque, Bedeque, Central Bedeque and Lower Bedeque, actually, and the great communities of those areas – but I think there are only two of them actually amalgamated so far. It is great to see the vision that they have for their community on a go-forward basis, and that's a very noble thing to pursue that kind of initiative for that community.

The other great thing in Bedeque, too, is the rink, their Hockeyville thing, I think they came in third in that challenge. I believe I'm correct in that. It may be second, but pretty great community with a lot of history and a lot of great honours came from that area, so I do want to congratulate them.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

#### Tabling of Documents

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

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

Madam Speaker, by Command of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table reports required pursuant to Sections 28, 30, 32 and 47 of the *Financial Administration Act* since my last report to this House and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

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

Madam Speaker, by leave of this House, I beg leave to table questions for the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning, the Minister of Health and Wellness, the Minister of Community Services and Seniors and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and Deputy Premier and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Reports by Committees

Are there any committee reports?

#### Introduction of Government Bills

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

**Mr. Roach:** Madam Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and Deputy Premier, that the same be now received and read a first time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, Bill No. 19, read a first time.

**Speaker:** Would you like to provide a brief explanation, minister?

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

This document is really a housekeeping item.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. MacKinley:** Madam Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Fisheries Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning, that the same be now received and read a first time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the Fisheries Act*, Bill No. 21, read a first time.

**Speaker:** An explanation, minister.

**Mr. MacKinley:** Basically what this bill does is allow us to collect a one cent levy through regulations after we have a fisheries licence for processors or buyers now. So it'll allow us to collect a one cent a pound levy at the buyers or the first person on the wharf to receive the lobsters from the fishers.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

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

Madam Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled an *Act to Amend the Renewable Energy Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Community Services and Seniors, that the same be now received and read a first time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *Act to Amend the Renewable Energy Act*, Bill No. 18, read a first time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

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

They're just a very small number of housekeeping changes that we'll make on that bill.

**Speaker:** Do you have another bill, hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs?

**Mr. Sheridan:** Yes, I do.

**Speaker:** You have the floor.

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

Madam Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the PEI Lands Protection Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier, that the same be now received and read a first time.

**Clerk:** *An Act to Amend the PEI Lands Protection Act*, Bill No. 20, read a first time.

**Speaker:** A brief explanation, hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

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

This is a follow-up on what we did last spring with regard to Commissioner Horace Carver's report. As we said, we had a number of other recommendations to bring forward and here in this act we'll bring them forward.

Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Any further bills?

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

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

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier, that the 12<sup>th</sup> order of the day be now read.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Order No. 12, *Chartered Professional Accountants and Public*

*Accounting Act*, Bill No. 15, ordered for second reading.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

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

Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Premier, that the said bill be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** *Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accounting Act*, Bill No.15, read a second time.

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. Sheridan:** That's all you need is it, you're all set to bring it on?

**Speaker:** Committee of the Whole?

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

I ask that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole House to hear the reading and the debate on this bill.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs.

Shall it carry? Carried.

I'll call upon the hon. Deputy Speaker to Chair the Committee of the Whole and the hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General to present her bill.

**Chair (Biggar):** The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accounting Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah, please.

**Chair:** Okay.

Perhaps, first, hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General, is there someone you wish to bring to the floor?

**Ms. Sherry:** Yes. I'd like to ask permission to bring Denise Lewis Fleming to the floor.

**Chair:** Permission for Mrs. Fleming to come on?

**An Hon. Member:** Absolutely.

**Chair:** Okay.

Hon. Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General, while we're waiting for that, do you have anything to open on a statement or do you want me to start reading?

**Ms. Sherry:** Just, I guess, a brief overview that the three professional accounting bodies in Prince Edward Island, in conjunction with their organizations across the country, have requested government to bring this bill forward. What they're trying to do is bring the three different bodies of accountants together under one name.

**Chair:** Hon. members, we're beginning at the first page of Bill No. 15, the interpretation of the Act in 1.(1).

What I'll do is just read through this section perhaps through. If something comes along there just please signify and I'll stop.

1. (1) In this Act

(a) "accounting firm" means

(i) the person operating a sole proprietorship, or

(ii) the persons forming a partnership,

that is registered as an accounting firm pursuant to section 14;

(b) "bankrupt" means bankrupt as defined in the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Canada);

(c) "Board" means the Board of Directors of CPA PEI;

(d) “bylaws” means, except where otherwise stated, the bylaws of CPA PEI made by the Board under section 7;

(e) “candidate” means an individual who is registered, or deemed to be registered, as a candidate pursuant to section 17;

(f) “CPA Certification Program” means the CPA Certification Program established by CPA Canada, which includes the following components:

(i) the CPA Professional Education Program,

(ii) the common final examination, and

(iii) qualifying practical experience;

(g) “CPA PEI” means the corporation Chartered Professional Accountants of Prince Edward Island established under subsection 3(1);

(h) “CPA Prerequisite Education Program” means the CPA Prerequisite Education Program established by CPA Canada;

(i) “inspector” means an inspector appointed pursuant to section 41;

(j) “license” means a license issued, or deemed to be issued, to

(i) a member pursuant to section 30, or

(ii) an accounting firm or professional accounting corporation pursuant to section 31;

(k) “licensee” means a registrant who holds, or is deemed to hold, a license;

(l) “member” means, except where otherwise stated, an individual who is registered, or is deemed to be registered, as a member of CPA PEI under section 13;

(m) “Minister” means the Minister of Environment, Labour and Justice and Attorney General;

(n) “practice inspection committee” means the practice inspection committee appointed pursuant to subsection 40(1).

Question, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Just a question on the definition of minister.

I know over the past couple of years there’s a lot of legislation has come to the floor and they all had to be changed because it had the exact name of the minister or the department at this particular time. As we know even a Cabinet shuffle could change the names of a department, duties could shift over time. While it lies with this exact minister at this time, I thought that government in legislation was getting away from the idea of hard coding these types of clauses into legislation so that it created more flexibility and it didn’t have to come back to the House every time there was a Cabinet shuffle and the names were changed.

I know it’s only minor as far as the contents of it, but I’m wondering why that would happen.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** The legislation was drafted with the specific reference to the minister in consultation with the legislative drafters. I believe that they can use an omnibus bill to modify whenever there is a change and the minister responsible for the legislation.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Last spring in particular – I can’t think of the names of the ones – but there were ones that were done – would there be a reason why those ones would have been missed?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Unfortunately I can’t speak to the ones that happened in other acts, I can only reference the work that I was involved with in this particular act.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point.

**Ms. Casey:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

I understand that this act, it’s happening nationally across the country that they’re changing the name across the country and the programs are being amalgamated. Is there legislation like this happening in all other legislatures?

**Ms. Sherry:** (Indistinct) across the country.  
Across the country.

**Ms. Casey:** It is?

**Ms. Sherry:** Yes.

**Ms. Casey:** You're confirming that it is happening across the country?

**Ms. Sherry:** Yes.

**Ms. Casey:** Thank you.

**Chair:** I'll just continue reading from (n).

(o) "practice inspection program" means the practice inspection program established in accordance with section 39;

I guess that's (o).

(p) "professional accounting corporation" means a corporation registered, or deemed to be registered, as a professional accounting corporation pursuant to section 15;

(q) "public accountant" means a member who holds, or is deemed to hold, a license to practise public accounting;

(r) "public accounting" means any of the following:

(i) the performance or offer to perform any of the following services for the public:  
(A) an assurance engagement as defined in the CPA Canada Handbook,

(B) a specified auditing procedures engagement as defined in the CPA Canada Handbook,

(C) a compilation engagement as defined in the CPA Canada Handbook,

(D) an accounting service involving summarization, analysis, advice, counsel or interpretation, unless it is part of, but incidental to, the performer's primary occupation, if other than accounting,

(E) a forensic accounting, financial investigation or financial litigation support service,

(ii) the provision or offer of opinion, advice, counsel or interpretation with respect to a

taxation matter in conjunction with a service described in subclause (i),

(iii) the preparation of, or offer to prepare, a tax return or other statutory information filing in conjunction with a service described in subclause (i);

(s) "registrant" means a member, a candidate, a student, an accounting firm or a professional accounting corporation;

(t) "Registrar" means the person appointed as the Registrar pursuant to subsection 8(1);

(u) "student" means an individual who is registered, or deemed to be registered, as a student pursuant to section 16.

Continuing to the top of page 3. Any questions under that section? No? Okay.

(2) For greater certainty, the following are not considered public accounting:

(a) management consulting, including investigating and identifying management and business problems related to the policy, technical, organizational, operational, financial, systems, procedures or administrative aspects of organizations and recommending appropriate solutions;

(b) administering insolvent or bankrupt companies or the estates of insolvent or bankrupt individuals, including acting on receiverships as a trustee in bankruptcy or acting in the liquidation and administration of insolvent or bankrupt companies and estates;

(c) financial record keeping;

(d) administratorship, insofar as it involves the management of affairs on behalf of others;

(e) computer systems consulting;

(f) business brokerage, or negotiating and advising on the sale, financing, merger or acquisition of business organizations;

(g) executorship and estate administration;

(h) personal financial planning;

(i) investment counselling;

(j) insurance counselling;

(k) valuation.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Question.

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

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

This clause obviously is just to say who this doesn't cover versus who it does. I understand the purpose of the act and I understand the purpose of the three groups coming together to form one.

The question that comes to mind, though, is because this clause distinguishes those who this act doesn't cover, will there be a move in some of these – because some of these are pretty big business components on Prince Edward Island, like computer systems, consulting, personal finance planning, investment counseling, all those things. Is there a necessity for them to have an act or is the act only necessary because it's a public or it's a national body that's going to represent it?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** The act is required in order to set up the self-regulatory organization. CPA PEI will be responsible for regulating its members, which are professional accountants.

Then it also will have the additional responsibility of regulating public accounting. Because those documents are relied on so greatly by various organizations, for example, your financial statements when they're audited and that type of thing, the body will ensure that they meet the standards so that they can sign off or certify those pieces of work.

The other pieces currently are not part of regulated professional accounting work anywhere in Canada. It wasn't something that our three bodies brought forward.

**Leader of the Opposition:** No, no, and I understand.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** It may be for government to consider.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah, it's not so much this act, and I do get that, because I do

understand the purpose of the act. I guess more of a question. Because this act, like you say, it does provide certainty, because when they're self-regulated they can determine that people are operating at the level that they're supposed to operate at and that the public is safe in using people who fall under this association. So it's fantastic.

There is a lot of other financial groups in here that are outlined, and I guess that's why I bring it up, like insurance, investment, personal finance, (Indistinct) administration that kind of thing, which all deals with finances and people's personal situation. I wonder what protection is extended to them, because there isn't a public body looking to organize to umbrella them.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Right now the individuals who can undertake the type of work may belong to other professional associations.

For example, you had mentioned about financial planning. They have their own membership and group, and we haven't looked to merge with that. It would be, I think – it's not something for us to bring forward as the accounting professional associations. I'm trying to merge into that. We haven't had discussions with them in trying to oversee that.

**Leader of the Opposition:** I guess from a government perspective, though, is there – because this is a piece of legislation that allows a group to be self-regulated and basically police themselves, will that become a necessity in some of these other areas that you have excluded here that they are given the same ability to – if there's a professional group that oversees financial planning, then do they have the ability to be self-regulated through legislation?

**Ms. Sherry:** I suppose they could always request that.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Yes.

**Leader of the Opposition:** And I guess –

**Ms. Sherry:** But this is just strictly on the accounting side.

**Leader of the Opposition:** I know, but because you've taken special steps to

exclude people, I wonder, that's why the question of where they fit comes, right?

I understand the act and the purpose and the importance. There's a group here that has been excluded, and rightly so, because they don't fall under the umbrella of professional accounting, so I get that. But it opens up the question: Is there going to be additional protections in place? I'm not questioning any of those industries, but one bad apple can ruin an industry, especially on Prince Edward Island.

**Ms. Sherry:** I'm just trying to find a good example. I guess the way I see it would be that if any of these groups wanted to join forces and come together and be a self-regulating body in their own right, they have the option to do that. I think how they've done their work continues on basically the same way as it always has.

Any group or bodies have the right to come together and self-regulate their industry.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yes, and I get that. I guess the question's more around protection for the public. Who is to say what standards are set if there's no public body? So if there's no public body and there's no group that wants to come together and self-regulate themselves, who sets the standard for what a standard level of service would be for your money if you put it into investment counselling? Just for example?

**Ms. Sherry:** I don't think we've had any questions from people with concerns around whether or not this is putting them at risk or the public at risk.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Right.

**Ms. Sherry:** That would be – there's lots of things that, perhaps, were not a regulated body or a certified body 20 years ago who now, for whatever their reasons or professional reasons or whatever, do this type of thing. So –

**Leader of the Opposition:** Well, because – and this is a great example of the accounting umbrella looking out for themselves and making sure that they are able to keep the integrity of what they do on a daily basis, right? So it's about integrity for them –

**Ms. Sherry:** (Indistinct) and a level of (Indistinct).

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah, so there's a level of expectation. There's integrity of the service that they provide. It's fantastic that this legislation is going to help them do the things that they need to do. I think that's sometimes where it comes from is, yeah, it is a push within to say: How do we ensure that what we're doing is bringing integrity to what we do?

I'll take the computer systems. It's a good one because that's my background and I lived through the prior year 2000-post-year 2000, and the industry really grew quickly and there were many different products and components and options and things that you could do.

We didn't have any difficulty here on Prince Edward Island, but I know there are jurisdictions where things happened and people were like: We were duped. Right?

**Ms. Sherry:** Yeah.

**Leader of the Opposition:** I think we have a solid industry here now and people are up to speed with understanding of – because we're a computer-literate society now and we weren't really when I started in the industry.

It's just an example of the public maybe doesn't understand what the expectations are of an industry. But I'll move on. It's more of a debate over whether or not we're being (Indistinct).

**Ms. Sherry:** It's an interesting discussion. But unfortunately, we can't speak for those other bodies.

**Leader of the Opposition:** No, and I get that.

**Ms. Sherry:** Right?

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah.

**Ms. Sherry:** We are living in a world where people are looking for a certain level of expertise or guarantee of service. There's a lot of movement in this area and here's an example of that in order to bring credibility to their profession.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah, and I think it's a fantastic thing that's going on.

**Chair:** Okay?

Just finishing up this particular section.

(3) For greater certainty, the following persons doing the following activities are not considered to be practising public accounting:

(a) a person employed as an accountant or auditor performing functions of his or her employment with,

(i) a municipality as defined in the Municipalities Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. M-13,

(ii) the Government of Prince Edward Island,

(iii) the Government of Canada, or

(iv) a Crown corporation;

(b) a member, or an employee of an accounting firm or professional accounting corporation, assisting a public accountant in his or her practice, provided that the member or employee

(i) acts under the direct supervision of the public accountant, and

(ii) does not give opinion, advice, counsel or interpretation, whether verbally or in writing, to the public in relation to any service or activity described in clause (1)(r).

Shall it carry?

**Leader of the Opposition:** I have a question on that.

**Chair:** Question on that section.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Just looking for an explanation of what that clause actually means.

**Ms. Sherry:** (Indistinct).

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Sure. The first part of that clause is in recognition of individuals that are hired by municipalities, provincial governments or federal

governments to do internal audit work, so they're not expressing opinions to the public to rely on financial results.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Right.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** It's an internal piece so we're saying that type of work is not considered public accounting.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** And then the second part is that individuals who support public accountants in getting their work done are not practising public accounting, so they're not contravening the act when they're assisting the public accountant, and provided they make no verbal or written advice, council or interpretation to the public. Just recognizes their legitimacy.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay, yes, thanks.

**Chair:** Shall that section carry? Carried.

Purposes

2. The purposes of this Act are:

(a) to establish CPA PEI as a professional association and regulatory body;

Top of page four.

(b) to regulate practice as a chartered professional accountant, the provision or offer of the services of a chartered professional accountant and the use of associated designations;

(c) to regulate the practice of public accounting, the provision or offer of the services of a public accountant and the use of associated designations;

(d) to transition certain accounting professionals and entities from practising or providing services under the *Public Accounting and Auditing Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. P-28 or *An Act to Incorporate the Society of Industrial Accountants of Prince Edward Island* S.P.E.I. 1951, Cap. 34 to practising or providing services under this Act.

Shall it carry? Carried.

#### PART 1 – CPA PEI

##### Establishment, Powers and Objects

3. (1) Chartered Professional Accountants of Prince Edward Island is hereby established as a body corporate to be known as CPA PEI.

(2) CPA PEI has the same general powers as a company incorporated under the *Companies Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C-14, except where such powers are inconsistent with this Act.

(3) CPA PEI may, by resolution of the Board and in accordance with the bylaws,

(a) purchase, hold or dispose of any real or personal property for the purposes of CPA PEI; and

(b) borrow money upon the credit of CPA PEI.

(4) CPA PEI may, with the approval of two-thirds or more of the members present at a special meeting held, in accordance with the bylaws, for the purpose of approving the same, assess its members for an extraordinary expenditure.

Shall that section carry? Carried.

4. The objects of CPA PEI are:

(a) to protect the public in relation to the services of chartered professional accountants and public accountants;

(b) to protect and maintain the integrity of the accounting profession;

(c) to regulate the practice and professional conduct of registrants and licensees in accordance with this Act, the regulations and the bylaws;

(d) to promote and increase the knowledge, skill and proficiency of students, candidates and members; and

(e) to provide for the professional association and support of members.

Shall that section carry? Carried.

5. CPA PEI shall hold an annual general meeting of the members, in accordance with the bylaws.

Shall it carry? Carried.

##### Board of Directors

6. (1) The affairs and business of CPA PEI shall be under the management and control of a Board of Directors consisting of

(a) at least five members of CPA PEI elected in accordance with the bylaws; and

(b) at least one but not more than two public representatives who are not members of CPA PEI, nominated by the members of the Board referred to in clause (a) and appointed by the Minister.

(2) A person elected or appointed to the Board shall hold office for a term of two years but shall not hold office for more than three consecutive terms, except as permitted in the bylaws.

(3) Where a member of the Board who was elected ceases to hold office before his or her term expires, the Board may appoint a new member to hold office for the unexpired portion of the term.

(4) Where a member of the Board who was appointed by the Minister ceases to hold office before his or her term expires, the Minister may appoint a new member, nominated by the members of the Board who were elected, to hold office for the unexpired portion of the term.

Shall it carry? Carried.

##### Bylaws

7. (1) The Board may make bylaws not inconsistent with this Act or the regulations relating to the management and operation of CPA PEI, including bylaws

(a) respecting the rights and obligations of members in relation to the management and operation of CPA PEI, including voting rights and participation in committees of the Board;

(b) establishing the seal of CPA PEI;

(c) providing for the holding of an annual general meeting of the members of CPA PEI, quorum requirements and the conduct of such meetings;

(d) providing for the holding of special meetings of the members of CPA PEI, quorum requirements and the conduct of such meetings;

(e) respecting the circumstances in which a member of the Board may hold office for more than three consecutive terms;

(f) respecting the governance procedures of the Board;

(g) respecting the appointment of the Registrar, and other officers, agents and employees of the Board;

(h) respecting the qualifications, terms of office, powers, duties, remuneration and removal of the Registrar and other officers, agents and employees of the Board;

(i) providing for the holding of meetings of the Board, quorum requirements and the conduct of meetings, including

(i) fixing the time and place for regular meetings,

(ii) determining who may call meetings,

(iii) regulating the conduct of meetings,

(iv) providing for emergency meetings, and

(v) regulating the notice required in respect of meetings;

(j) respecting the establishment and operation of committees of the Board, including

(i) determining the composition, powers and duties of the committees, and

(ii) providing for the holding of meetings of committees, quorum requirements and the conduct of meetings of committees;

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

**Chair:** Excuse me, members. Thank you.

(k) establishing the duties, remuneration and allowances of members of the Board and committees, and providing for the payment of necessary expenses of the Board and committees;

(l) providing for the execution of documents by the Board;

(m) providing procedures for the making, amending and revoking of bylaws;

(n) establishing categories of membership for persons who are not authorized to practise as a chartered professional accountant under the Act;

(o) providing for the transition of persons from categories of membership, other than those referred to in section 79, established in the bylaws of

(i) the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Prince Edward Island,

(ii) the Certified General Accountants Association of Prince Edward Island, or

(iii) Society of Management Accountants of P.E.I.;

(p) providing for the appointment of fellows of CPA PEI;

(q) establishing fees payable under this Act, including fees for

(i) membership for persons referred to in clause (n),

(ii) registration or a license,

(iii) annual registration,

(iv) the renewal of a license,

(v) a practice inspection,

(vi) the reinstatement of registration or a license; and

(r) establishing penalties for late payment of fees.

(2) The Board may make bylaws not inconsistent with this Act or the regulations relating to practice as, and the provision or offer of services of, a chartered professional

accountant, the practice of public accounting and the provision or offer of the services of a public accountant, including bylaws

- (a) respecting the form of, and procedures for, applications under this Act;
- (b) respecting the information to be provided with an application under this Act;
- (c) respecting procedures for registration and the issuing of licenses;
- (d) respecting the form and content of certificates of registration and licenses;
- (e) respecting the register, including the form and content of the register and the information to be provided by registrants and licensees for the register;
- (f) specifying the date by which a member shall, each year,
- (i) submit a report and declaration respecting his or her continuing professional development activities, and
- (ii) pay the annual registration fee;
- (g) specifying the date by which a student, a candidate, an accounting firm or a professional accounting corporation shall, each year, pay the annual registration fee;
- (h) establishing or adopting requirements for participants in a program of qualifying practical experience;
- (i) establishing or adopting requirements for programs of qualifying practical experience;
- (j) respecting procedures and requirements for registrants to obtain approval to provide programs of qualifying practical experience;
- (k) respecting the practice inspection program;
- (l) establishing or adopting standards, codes or rules respecting practice, professional conduct and ethics; and
- (m) respecting actions or omissions of registrants and licensees that constitute professional misconduct or professional incompetence.

Shall we carry to there? Carried.

Just continuing on.

(3) A bylaw, an amendment to a bylaw or the revocation of a bylaw takes effect when passed by the Board, but is subject to ratification by the members of CPA PEI at the next annual general meeting, or at an earlier special meeting called, in accordance with the bylaws, to consider the bylaw, amendment or revocation.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Just on that and how that would be applied. My understanding was that a bylaw or a change to a bylaw would come into effect immediately and would operate as though that were the bylaw until the AGM. So they could operate basically on bylaw from the first meeting after the AGM until the AGM and not have it ratified?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** This section does allow the elected board that comes from the membership to pass a bylaw or an amendment to it and that it be in effect until a special general meeting is held on it or the next annual general meeting. What I can say, in practice, is that if it's a substantial change to the bylaws there's always a special general meeting called in order to bring it to the membership as a whole.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay.

**Chair:** Shall that section carry? Carried.

(4) Where a bylaw, an amendment of a bylaw or the revocation of a bylaw is not ratified under subsection (3), at or before the next annual general meeting after it was made or revoked,

(a) in the case of a bylaw, it shall expire;

(b) in the case of an amendment, the amendment shall be reversed and the bylaw shall read as it did immediately before the amendment was passed; and

(c) in the case of a revocation, the bylaw shall be revived and read as it did immediately before the revocation.

(5) A bylaw made under subsection (2) that adopts requirements, standards, codes or rules may adopt such requirements, standards, codes or rules published by another professional body or government agency by reference, in whole or in part and with such changes as are considered necessary, and as amended from time to time.

(6) A bylaw made under subsection (2) and any requirement, standard, code or rule adopted by such bylaw shall be made available by the Board for public inspection on request and shall be posted on the CPA PEI website, if any.

Shall that carry? Carried.

Registrar

8. (1) The Board shall appoint a Registrar who shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board.

(2) The Registrar shall keep a register in which he or she shall keep a record of all registrants and all licensees.

(3) The Registrar shall make the register available to the public on request.

Shall it carry? Carried.

9. (1) The Board may delegate to the Registrar one or more of the Board's powers or duties under this Act related to receiving and considering applications, registering persons and issuing licenses to persons.

(2) The Board may impose terms and conditions that it considers appropriate on a delegation of its powers to the Registrar.

Shall it carry? Carried.

10. (1) Where the Registrar is unavailable or unable to act, the Board may appoint a person to act in the place of the Registrar.

(2) Where the Board appoints a person to act in the place of the Registrar, pursuant to subsection (1),

(a) the person acting in the place of the Registrar may exercise the powers and shall perform the duties of the Registrar under this Act and the regulations, or as delegated

by the Board, for the duration of the appointment; and

(b) a reference in this Act or the regulations to the Registrar shall be read as a reference to the person acting in the place of the Registrar.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Top of page 9.

## PART II – CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

### Prohibitions

11. (1) No person shall practise as a chartered professional accountant or hold himself or herself out as a chartered professional accountant except a member.

(2) No person operating a sole proprietorship, or persons operating in partnership, shall provide or offer to provide the services of a chartered professional accountant to the public except an accounting firm.

(3) No corporation shall provide or offer to provide the services of a chartered professional accountant to the public except a professional accounting corporation.

(4) No member shall provide or offer to provide his or her services as a chartered professional accountant to the public through or on behalf of a sole proprietorship or a partnership, unless the sole proprietorship or partnership, as the case may be, is an accounting firm.

(5) No member shall provide or offer to provide his or her services as a chartered professional accountant to the public through or on behalf of a corporation, unless the corporation is a professional accounting corporation.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Question.

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

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

This basically outlines who's allowed to call themselves CPA? If you had somebody who

had the designation and through whatever reason no longer had it, then is this saying they can't practise accounting or they can't practise accounting as a certified professional?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** The first here would be they can no longer put themselves out to be offering the services of a chartered professional accountant if they do not hold membership with CPA PEI, and then under the act as later on, if you're not a member of CPA PEI and not registered as a public accountant, you also cannot practise that as well.

**Leader of the Opposition:** So you can't even offer the service. Okay. Through what means is it – can it be enforced?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Under provisions in the act, if somebody does put themselves out to this piece that they can be subject to being in contravention of the act and subject to fines and penalties. It would have to be something that's taken forward to the courts to find somebody in non-compliance with the act and that fine or penalty is imposed upon in a judgment.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

**Mr. LaVie:** If it does go to court, is the CPA willing to go to court, I guess?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** My understanding from discussions with the Legislative Counsel is that if we become aware of an individual who is not compliant with the act, we would actually take it forward to the Attorney General's office for them to carry forward to the courts on behalf of the profession. Okay?

**Mr. LaVie:** So the province will be picking up –

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** We'd have to ask them to file charges and, yes, carry it. Yeah

**Mr. LaVie:** Okay.

**Chair:** Okay.

Shall that section carry? Carried.

12. (1) No person or persons shall use the designations “Chartered Professional Accountant” or “CPA”, “Chartered Professional Accountants”, “Fellow Chartered Professional Accountant” or “FCPA”, or the equivalent of any of them in a language other than English, except as permitted or required in this section.

And I misread that, it should say: No person or persons shall use the designations. So, that's 12(1).

(2) A member may use the designation “Chartered Professional Accountant” or “CPA” or the equivalent of either of them in a language other than English.

(3) A member who has been appointed or deemed to be appointed as a fellow of CPA PEI in accordance with the CPA PEI bylaws may use the designation “Fellow Chartered Professional Accountant” or “FCPA” or the equivalent of either of them in a language other than English.

(4) An accounting firm shall use the designation “Chartered Professional Accountant” or “Chartered Professional Accountants”, as applicable, or the equivalent of either of them in a language other than English, after its name.

(5) A professional accounting corporation shall use the designation “Chartered Professional Accountant” or “Chartered Professional Accountants”, as applicable, or the equivalent of either of them in a language other than English, after its name.

(6) A person who contravenes section 11 or subsection 12(1), (4) or (5) is guilty of an offence and liable upon summary conviction to a fine of not more than \$10,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Registration as Member

13. (1) An individual may apply to the Board, in the form approved by the Board, for registration as a member.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the Board shall register an individual who applies under subsection (1) as a member and issue a certificate of registration to the individual, if the individual

- (a) satisfies the Board that he or she
- (i) has completed the prescribed practical experience requirements,
- (ii) has passed the prescribed examination,
- (iii) is not bankrupt, and
- (iv) meets any other prescribed requirements; and
- (b) pays the registration fees set out in the bylaws.
- (3) An applicant who satisfies the Board that he or she
- (a) is legally authorized to practise as a chartered professional accountant and use associated designations in another Canadian jurisdiction, without restriction; and
- (b) is in good standing with the organization or body governing practice as a chartered professional accountant and the use of associated designations in that other Canadian jurisdiction, is deemed to meet the requirements of subclauses (2)(a)(i) and (ii).
- (4) The following terms and conditions apply to the registration of a member:
- (a) the member shall meet the prescribed requirements respecting continuing professional development and submit a report and declaration to this effect each year, in the form required by the Board, on or before the date specified in the bylaws;
- (b) the member shall pay the annual registration fee set out in the bylaws each year no later than the date specified in the bylaws;
- (c) the member shall not be bankrupt;
- (d) in the event that the member becomes bankrupt, the member shall notify the Board as soon as practicable but no later than 15 days after becoming bankrupt;
- (e) the member is subject to bylaws establishing or adopting standards, codes or rules for registrants respecting practice, professional conduct and ethics;

(f) the member is subject to bylaws respecting actions or omissions of registrants that constitute professional misconduct or professional incompetence;

(g) the member is subject to any terms or conditions imposed by the Board on the member's registration pursuant to section 20.

Question, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

There are several references in here to not being allowed in if you're bankrupt and not being allowed to keep the designation if you become bankrupt and that you have to notify. What is the significance of those references?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** A person has to – I'm just composing my thoughts.

In order to meet your professional competence level you should be able to maintain a practice where you have a viable operation and you won't be putting yourself at risk for, a lack of a better term, temptation, that may lead you not to comply in order to possibly deal with a situation of bankruptcy.

What happens, should it occur, is that the member can reapply to have his membership reinstated as soon as the issues of bankruptcy are dealt with because it may have to do with their actual operation of their business as a professional accountant.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay, so it doesn't keep you out of the practice? I guess the reason I ask is because there would be several accountants that I would know who are also entrepreneurs and have side ventures and side businesses. Some of them may be moderate risks, but some of them may be high risk, and we try to encourage that, as a province, to have more risk takers. So if they got into a risk that ended in bankruptcy when they went through the process and got it resolved, then they can come back and –

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Have their membership reinstated, yeah.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Do they have to go back through the front door the way they got it to begin with or is it just a reinstatement because you can show you're no longer –

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** There will be provisions in place for what criteria they have to meet. If they were on an extended, we'll say a suspension of their license, they may have to show that they've kept up the professional competence or courses, their continuing professional development, in order to be reinstated.

It's not like you have to go back through the entire program and take the exams again.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Right.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** But you do have to meet some criteria.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay, and on (f) there it says: "the member is subject to bylaws respecting actions or omissions of registrants that constitute professional misconduct or professional incompetence."

Can you give me an example of a bylaw that would be applicable to that clause?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** I can't say I have one off the top of my head because we'd be drafting the bylaws for CPA PEI once this act has been passed. You'll notice at the end that it's not due to come into effect – it's going to be upon proclamation because we do have to create the regulations as well as the bylaws.

But right now, an example would be on the chartered accountants group. We have a very long list of professional standards that people have to adhere to on how you operate your public accounting practice. So that would be a type of thing you're subject to, and if you don't follow those standards it can constitute professional incompetence or misconduct, depending on where it falls.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay.

**Chair:** Okay?

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah.

**Chair:** Shall this section carry? Carried.

Registration as Accounting Firm

14. (1) The following persons may apply to the Board, in a form approved by the Board, for registration as an accounting firm for the purpose of practising as, or providing the services of, a chartered professional accountant:

- (a) a person forming a sole proprietorship;
- (b) two or more persons forming a partnership.

(2) The Board shall register persons who apply under subsection (1) as an accounting firm and issue a certificate of registration to the persons if the persons

- (a) satisfy the Board that

- (i) where the applicant is a sole proprietor, (A) the applicant is a member in good standing with CPA PEI, and

- (B) any other prescribed requirements are met, or

- (ii) where the applicants are partners in a partnership,

- (A) the partnership is registered and in good standing under the *Partnership Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. P-1,

- (B) each partner is either a member or a professional accounting corporation, in good standing with CPA PEI, and

- (C) any other prescribed requirements are met; and

- (b) pay the registration fees set out in the bylaws.

(3) The following terms and conditions apply to the registration of an accounting firm:

- (a) the accounting firm shall continue to meet the requirements in paragraphs (2)(a)(i)(A) and (B) or (2)(a)(ii)(A) to (C), as the case may be;

- (b) the accounting firm shall pay the annual registration fee set out in the bylaws each year no later than the date specified in the bylaws;

(c) each person who provides or offers to provide his or her services as a chartered professional accountant, or provides or offers to provide the services of a chartered professional accountant, to the public through, or on behalf of, the accounting firm shall be a member or a professional accounting corporation, respectively, in good standing with CPA PEI;

Top of page 12.

(d) in the case of a partnership, the accounting firm shall notify the Board as soon as practicable but no later than 15 days after any change occurs respecting the persons constituting the partnership or the status of its registration under the *Partnership Act*;

(e) the accounting firm is subject to bylaws establishing or adopting standards, codes or rules for registrants respecting practice, professional conduct and ethics;

(f) the accounting firm is subject to bylaws respecting actions or omissions of registrants that constitute professional misconduct or professional incompetence;

(g) the accounting firm is subject to any terms or conditions imposed by the Board on its registration pursuant to section 20.

Shall it carry? Carried.

15. (1) A corporation may apply to the Board, in a form approved by the Board, for registration as a professional accounting corporation.

(2) The Board shall register a corporation that applies under subsection (1) as a professional accounting corporation and issue a certificate of registration to the corporation, if the corporation

(a) satisfies the Board that

(i) the corporation is in good standing under the *Canada Business Corporations Act* (Canada), R.S.C. 1985, c. C-44, the *Companies Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C-14 or the *Extra-Provincial Corporations Registration Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. E-14 under which it was incorporated or registered,

(ii) the letters patent or articles of incorporation of the corporation permit the corporation to provide the services of a chartered professional accountant,

(iii) the legal and beneficial ownership of a majority of all issued voting shares of the corporation are vested in one or more members,

(iv) all directors and officers of the corporation are members, and

(v) any other prescribed requirements are met; and

(b) pays the registration fees set out in the bylaws.

(3) The following terms and conditions apply to the registration of a professional accounting corporation:

(a) the professional accounting corporation shall continue to meet the requirements in 2(a)(i) to (iv);

(b) the professional accounting corporation shall pay the annual registration fee set out in the bylaws each year no later than the date specified in the bylaws;

(c) each person who provides or offers to provide his or her services as a chartered professional accountant through, or on behalf of, the professional accounting corporation shall be a member in good standing with CPA PEI;

(d) a shareholder of the professional accounting corporation shall not enter into a voting trust agreement, proxy or any other type of agreement or other arrangement vesting in another person who is not a member the authority to exercise the voting rights attached to any or all of his or her shares;

(e) the professional accounting corporation shall notify the Board as soon as practicable but no later than 15 days after any change occurs in the information submitted with its application for registration;

(f) the professional accounting corporation is subject to bylaws establishing or adopting standards, codes or rules for registrants

respecting practice, professional conduct and ethics;

(g) the professional accounting corporation is subject to bylaws respecting actions or omissions of registrants that constitute professional misconduct or professional incompetence;

(h) the professional accounting corporation is subject to any terms or conditions imposed by the Board on its registration pursuant to section 20.

Question, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

This section here covers off and it's a lot the same as the way you'd treat an individual.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Yes.

**Leader of the Opposition:** But it's set up that a – for a corporation to follow the same – so how is that applicable? Is it through the same manner that you deal with a person?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** There are different types of membership. You can be registered as an individual. We have accounting partnerships that register. You saw that section earlier.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yes.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** There are accounting corporations which we just had here. They all have to register as memberships – register as members of the association and even accounting corporations they have to make sure that the people that are leading those corporations are chartered professional accountants. You will see in the next section that another class of membership is students or candidates. So it's just setting up the different classes.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay.

**Chair:** Shall that section carry? Carried.

Moving on to number 16.

Registration as Student or Candidate

16. (1) For the purposes of participating in the CPA Prerequisite Education Program or

in a program considered substantially equivalent by CPA Canada, an individual may apply to the Board, in a form approved by the Board, for registration as a student.

(2) The Board shall register an individual who applies under subsection (1) as a student and issue a certificate of registration to the individual, if the individual

(a) satisfies the Board that he or she

(i) has successfully completed

(A) a bachelor's degree program approved by the Board, or

(B) a program substantially similar to the one described in paragraph (A), accredited by CPA PEI, and

(ii) meets any other prescribed requirements; and

(b) pays the registration fees set out in the bylaws.

Shall that –

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct).

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Just on accreditation. Is there a section that deals with how an institution gets accredited?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** This is not accreditation for CPA PEI, it is about a program that CPA PEI would accredit, or accept as equivalent. So the intent now is to use the CPA Canada's program. It has already been established and is actually underway and that would be the program that is used.

There could be situations for students where we say we would recognize university degrees that have met the requirements. There's that type of thing.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay. So it doesn't deal directly with accreditation. It gives the ability to accredit by CPA PEI only.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Yes.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

17. (1) For the purposes of participating in the CPA Certification Program, an individual may apply to the Board, in a form approved by the Board, for registration as a candidate.

(2) The Board shall register an individual who applies under subsection (1) as a candidate and issue a certificate of registration to the individual, if the individual

(a) satisfies the Board that he or she  
(i) either

(A) meets the requirements for entry into the CPA Professional Education Program or a substantially similar program accredited by CPA Canada, or

(B) has completed the CPA Professional Education Program or a substantially similar program accredited by CPA Canada and is working towards completing one or both of the remaining components of the CPA Certification Program, and

(ii) meets any other prescribed requirements; and

(b) pays the registration fees set out in the bylaws.

Shall it carry? Carried.

18. The following terms and conditions apply to the registration of a student or a candidate:

(a) the registrant shall pay the annual registration fee set out in the bylaws each year no later than the date specified in the bylaws;

(b) the registrant is subject to bylaws establishing or adopting requirements respecting participation in, and completion of, a program of qualifying practical experience;

(c) the registrant is subject to bylaws establishing or adopting standards, codes or rules for registrants respecting practice, professional conduct and ethics;

(d) the registrant is subject to bylaws respecting actions or omissions of registrants that constitute professional misconduct or professional incompetence;

(e) the registrant is subject to any terms or conditions imposed by the Board on the registrant's registration pursuant to section 20.

Shall it carry? Carried.

19. No member, accounting firm or professional accounting corporation shall provide to a candidate or member a program of qualifying practical experience in public accounting, except on the approval of the Board and in accordance with the bylaws.

Question, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Could you explain what that means?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** On the public accounting side we set the framework for how many hours and practical experience and the progression that is required in order to gain competence in auditing or doing reviews of financial statements.

So that is why if any member, firm or corporation wants to train public accountants they need to come to the board and lay out their training plan and how they will help the students progress in order to gain competence as a public accountant.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Other Terms and Conditions

20. (1) In addition to the terms and conditions that apply to a registration under the Act, the Board may impose any terms and conditions that it considers appropriate on the registration of a registrant.

(2) The imposition of terms and conditions on a registration pursuant to subsection (1) is not effective until notice of the imposition is served on the registrant affected by it.

Shall it carry? Carried.

## Refusal to Register

21. (1) The Board may refuse to consider an application for registration by an applicant who

(a) has an outstanding charge for an offence; or

(b) is under investigation by the Board or another professional regulatory body, until the matter has been resolved.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Board may refuse to register an applicant who has been

(a) found guilty of an offence; or

(b) disciplined by the Board or another professional regulatory body,

for conduct that, in the Board's opinion, renders the applicant unsuitable to practise as a chartered professional accountant or to provide or offer to provide the services of a chartered professional accountant.

(3) The Board may refuse to register an applicant where the Board determines that the applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements for registration under this Act or the regulations.

Shall it carry? Carried.

## Suspension or Cancellation of Registration

22. (1) The Board may

(a) immediately suspend or cancel the registration of

(i) a member who contravenes clause 13(4)(a), (b) or (c), or

(ii) an accounting firm that contravenes clause 14(3)(a), (b), or (c), or

(iii) a student or candidate that contravenes clause 18(a); and  
(b) subject to subsection (2), immediately suspend or cancel the registration of a professional accounting corporation that contravenes clause 15(3)(a), (b), (c) or (d).

(2) Where a professional accounting corporation ceases to meet clause 15(3)(a)

due to the death or resignation of a member or the suspension or cancellation of the registration of a member, the professional accounting corporation has 90 days, or a longer period permitted by the Board, to meet the condition without penalty.

(3) The Board may suspend or cancel the registration of a registrant who is

(a) found guilty of an offence; or

(b) disciplined by another professional regulatory body, for conduct that, in the Board's opinion, renders the registrant unsuitable to practise as a chartered professional accountant or to provide or offer to provide the services of a chartered professional accountant.

(4) The Board may, in accordance with the regulations and upon payment of the reinstatement fee and the late payment fee, if applicable, set out in the bylaws, reinstate the registration of a suspended registrant whose registration was suspended, or a former registrant whose registration was cancelled, under this part.

Shall it carry? Carried.

23. The Board shall cancel the registration of a registrant who makes a request, in writing, for the cancellation of his or her registration.

Shall it carry? Carried.

24. The suspension or cancellation of a registration under this part is not effective until notice of it has been served on the registrant.

Shall it carry? Carried.

## Notice

25. Where the Board refuses to register, or reinstate the registration of, an applicant or imposes terms and conditions on, suspends or cancels a registration under this part, the Board shall serve on the affected person written notice of

(a) the refusal, imposition, suspension or cancellation and the reasons therefore; and

(b) the right of the affected person to appeal under section 26.

Shall it carry? Carried.

### Appeal

26. (1) A person who is aggrieved by

(a) the Board's refusal to register, or reinstate the registration of, the person under this part;

(b) the imposition by the Board of terms and conditions on the person's registration; or

(c) the suspension or cancellation by the Board of the person's registration under this part, may appeal the refusal, imposition, suspension or cancellation to the Supreme Court within 30 days after being served with notice of it.

(2) On hearing an appeal, the Supreme Court may do any of the following:

(a) confirm, revoke or vary the terms and conditions imposed by the Board or the refusal, suspension or cancellation appealed from;

(b) refer the matter, or any issue, back to the Board for further consideration;

(c) provide any direction that it considers appropriate.

(3) The Supreme Court may make any order as to the costs of an appeal that it considers appropriate.

Shall it carry? Carried.

### Relationships and Liability

27. (1) The relationship of an individual registrant to an accounting firm as a sole practitioner, partner or employee or to a professional accounting corporation as a shareholder, director, officer or employee does not affect

(a) the application of this Act, the regulations or the bylaws to the individual registrant;

(b) the fiduciary, ethical or legal duties of the individual registrant; or

(c) the professional liability of the individual registrant.

(2) An accounting firm or professional accounting corporation is jointly and severally liable with an individual who provides, or offers to provide, his or her services as a chartered professional accountant to the public through or on behalf of the accounting firm or professional accounting corporation, for any fines, costs or expenses that the individual is ordered to pay under this Act.

Question, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Leader of the Opposition:** I'm just wondering if I could have that explained just a little clearer.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Sure.

**Leader of the Opposition:** On 27, what the purpose is.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** The second clause, in particular?

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah.

**Chair:** Is there a particular –

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah, the second clause.

**Chair:** Number (2)?

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah.

**Chair:** 27(2)?

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah.

**Chair:** Okay.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** What it is referring to is that the employer, the accounting firm or corporation, has responsibilities to make sure that the people it employs are not going out and offering the services of chartered professional accountants if they aren't that. Then the first clause was actually – the onus is on the individual. You can't put forward your services through a corporation if you know it's not registered as a – so it puts ownership on both sides. (Indistinct) what it's really (Indistinct).

**Leader of the Opposition:** Okay, no. Good, thank you.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** You're welcome.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

### PART III – PUBLIC ACCOUNTING

#### Prohibitions

28. (1) No person other than a public accountant shall

(a) practise public accounting; or

(b) hold himself or herself out as a public accountant.

(2) No person operating a sole proprietorship, or persons operating in partnership, shall provide or offer to provide the services of a public accountant except an accounting firm that holds a license.

(3) No corporation shall provide or offer to provide the services of a public accountant except a professional accounting corporation that holds a license.

(4) No accounting firm or professional accounting corporation shall permit a person other than a public accountant to practise public accounting through or on behalf of the accounting firm or the professional accounting corporation, as the case may be.

(5) No public accountant shall practise public accounting through or on behalf of a sole proprietorship or a partnership unless it is an accounting firm that holds a license.

(6) No public accountant shall practise public accounting through or on behalf of a corporation, unless the corporation is a professional accounting corporation that holds a license.

Shall it carry? Carried.

29. (1) No person other than a public accountant shall use the designation “public accountant” or the equivalent in a language other than English.

Top of page 18.

(2) A person who contravenes section 28 or subsection (1) is guilty of an offence and liable upon summary conviction to a fine of not more than \$10,000.

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct).

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

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

There are a couple times in here where it outlines what the cost would be, or what the maximum cost would be if you were guilty of an offence and it's of not more than \$10,000. What would you expect a fine to be for a first time person or infraction for either a person or a corporation or –

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** The courts would actually be the one to determine what the fine would be for a first time offense as opposed to if it was a repeat offense.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Right.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** The summary conviction is actually what happened in the courts and then it would be decided there.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Yeah, okay.

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

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you, Chair.

With regards to these infractions, who would be responsible for essentially policing this to ensure that there was no contravening action taken?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** The professional body, CPA PEI, and all of its members tend to watch for – are there individuals out there who are putting themselves out as public accountants or CPAs that we are aware they're not? So then there would be follow up to either have them come forward and register, and if they're not eligible for a registrant, they'd be taking it forward and asking the Attorney General to look at filing charges under the act.

**Mr. Aylward:** Okay, thank you.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

#### License to Practise Public Accounting

30. (1) A member may apply to the Board, in a form approved by the Board, for a license to practise public accounting.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the Board shall issue a license to a member who applies under subsection (1), if the member

(a) satisfies the Board that he or she

(i) is a member in good standing of CPA PEI,

(ii) has completed the prescribed education requirements,

(iii) has completed the prescribed practical experience requirements, and

(iv) meets any other prescribed requirements; and

(b) pays the license fee set out in the bylaws.

(3) An applicant who satisfies the Board that he or she

(a) is legally authorized to practise public accounting and use associated designations in another Canadian jurisdiction, without restriction; and

(b) is in good standing with the organization or body governing public accounting and the use of associated designations in that other Canadian jurisdiction, is deemed to meet the requirements of subclauses (2)(a)(ii) and (iii).

**Mr. Aylward:** Question.

**Chair:** Question, the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you, Chair.

I understand what we're getting at as far as the governing body and an individual holding designations within the practice of accounting and the Canadian standards.

We talk quite a bit about the immigrant programs, bringing people to Canada and particularly to our province to ensure we

have sustainable population growth here or we're maintaining our population.

What standards are in place or what practices will be in place to acknowledge credentials coming from a foreign country?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Even the existing public or – accounting bodies – we have what's called mutual recognition agreements. There is a process that we go through between two jurisdictions to evaluate what education programs they have.

I'll use for example in Great Britain, and is it equivalent to the requirements here in Canada? Then we set up a mutual recognition so then if that individual is registered in the other country, when they come here they can then apply to register under a Canadian jurisdiction and we will recognize those pieces.

**Mr. Aylward:** Is it fairly fluid as far as the number of foreign countries, like, within the accounting world? Is there a lot of common knowledge within the practice of accounting from country to country?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** There is variation in the degree of rigor that's in the education program, and the experience. We do have quite a number of mutual recognition agreements and they are in Canada organized through our national body because of the amount of work that has to go through assessing in other jurisdiction. All the current mutual recognition agreements that are in place are going to roll forward under CPA Canada and then in effect, then CPA PEI and we will renegotiate as we go.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you.

**Chair:** Maybe we'll carry up to this section.

Shall that section carry? Carried.

(4) The following terms and conditions apply to a license issued to a member:

(a) the licensee shall continue to be a member, in good standing, of CPA PEI;

(b) the licensee shall be covered by professional liability insurance in the

prescribed amount or assets equal in value to the prescribed amount, subject to and in accordance with the regulations;

(c) the licensee shall submit proof satisfactory to the Board of the coverage required in clause (b) within the prescribed time period;

(d) subject to clause (e), the licensee shall notify the Board as soon as practicable but no later than 15 days after any change occurs in the information submitted pursuant to clause (c);

(e) the licensee shall notify the Board immediately if the licensee's professional liability insurance lapses or is cancelled;

(f) the licensee is subject to the practice inspection program;

(g) the licensee is subject to bylaws establishing or adopting standards, codes or rules for licensees respecting practice, professional conduct and ethics related to public accounting;

(h) the licensee is subject to bylaws respecting actions or omissions of licensees in practising public accounting that constitute professional misconduct or professional incompetence;

(i) the licensee is subject to any terms or conditions imposed by the Board on the license pursuant to section 32;

(j) the license is not transferable;

(k) the license expires on the date indicated on the license.

Shall that section carry? Carried.

License to Provide Services of Public Accountant

31. (1) An accounting firm or a professional accounting corporation may apply to the Board, in a form approved by the Board, for a license to provide or offer to provide the services of a public accountant.

Shall it carry?

Question, the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you, Chair.

Could CETA impact this at all?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** The European –

**Mr. Aylward:** Canada European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** Not to my knowledge because those mutual recognition agreements that we mentioned earlier, those are how we facilitate the mobility of professionals between the two jurisdictions.

**Mr. Aylward:** The reason I ask that is when CETA was first starting to be talked about, I know there was one group that was saying: What's to say our provincial government, or TIR, doesn't announce a \$2 million project on a road somewhere, what's to stop a European construction company from bidding on that project? I guess I'm wondering if that's the case, if that could potentially happen, what's to stop an accounting firm from Great Britain or from Spain or from Germany saying: You know what? There's business to be had over there in North America – well, in Canada, Prince Edward Island. We're going to go over there and we're going to start bidding on that business.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** They can choose to come and bid on a business, but then if they are going to come and conduct their business here, in order to complete the work on PEI they will have to register, if it's public accounting work. Or if it's work that would fall under chartered professional accountants, they would have to register with our body here. We do have that happening even within interjurisdictional right now. Say somebody from Ontario was coming down.

**Mr. Aylward:** A federal trade agreement with another country wouldn't supersede provincial regulations, then, in any way, shape or form?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** No. You'd still need to be – because one of the requirements is that you have to be eligible to perform the work –

**Mr. Aylward:** Okay.

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** – in that jurisdiction.

**Mr. Aylward:** All right, thank you.

**Chair:** Shall that part carry? Carried.

(2) The Board shall issue a license to an applicant that applies under subsection (1), if

(a) the applicant's registration is in good standing with CPA PEI;

(b) the applicant pays the license fee set out in the bylaws; and

(c) the applicant meets any other prescribed requirements.

Shall that part carry? Carried.

(3) The following terms and conditions apply to a license issued to an accounting firm or a professional accounting corporation:

(a) the licensee shall continue to be registered in good standing with CPA PEI;

(b) each individual who practises public accounting through, or on behalf of, the licensee shall be a public accountant;

(c) the licensee shall be covered by professional liability insurance in the prescribed amount or assets equal in value to the prescribed amount, subject to and in accordance with the regulations;

(d) the licensee shall submit proof satisfactory to the Board of the coverage required in clause (c) within the prescribed time period;

(e) subject to clause (f), the licensee shall notify the Board as soon as practicable but no later than 15 days after any change occurs in the information submitted pursuant to clause (d);

(f) the licensee shall notify the Board immediately if the licensee's professional liability insurance lapses or is cancelled;

(g) the licensee is subject to the practice inspection program;

(h) the licensee is subject to bylaws establishing or adopting standards, codes or rules for licensees respecting practice, professional conduct and ethics related to public accounting;

(i) the licensee is subject to bylaws respecting actions or omissions of licensees that constitute professional misconduct or professional incompetence;

(j) the license is subject to any terms or conditions imposed by the Board on the license pursuant to section 32;

(k) the license is not transferable;

Shall that carry? Carried.

**Mr. Aylward:** I think there was one other sentence or (Indistinct) there, Chair.

**Chair:** Oh, okay. I just didn't want to (Indistinct). Under that section as well:

(l) the license expires on the date indicated on the license.

Shall that carry?

Question, the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you, Chair.

So there are going to be inspections with regards to insurance. How frequent would that be conducted?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** People are required to submit their proof of insurance every year.

**Mr. Aylward:** So it's not a self-policing thing? It's automatic that you have to submit that?

**Denise Lewis Fleming Director:** That's right.

**Mr. Aylward:** All right, good.

Thank you.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

## Other Terms and Conditions

32. (1) In addition to the terms and conditions that apply to a license under the Act, the Board may impose any terms and conditions that it considers appropriate on the license of a licensee.

(2) The imposition of terms and conditions on a license pursuant to subsection (1) is not effective until notice of the imposition is served on the licensee.

Shall it carry? Carried.

## Renewal of License

33. (1) A licensee may, at least 30 days before the license held by the licensee expires, apply to the Board, in a form approved by the Board, to renew the license.

(2) The Board shall renew the license of a licensee who applies under subsection (1), if the licensee

(a) satisfies the Board that the licensee

(i) is a registrant in good standing with CPA PEI,

(ii) is covered by professional liability insurance in the prescribed amount or assets equal in value to the prescribed amount, subject to and in accordance with the regulations, and

(iii) has not contravened or is not in contravention of the Act, the regulations, or the bylaws, and

(iv) meets any other prescribed requirements; and

(b) pays the license renewal fee set out in the bylaws.

Shall it carry? Carried.

**Ms. Casey:** Carry the bill.

**Mr. Aylward:** Call the hour.

**An Hon. Member:** Carry the bill.

**Chair:** Too late. The hour has been called.

**An Hon. Member:** Carry the bill.

**Chair:** The hour has been called. We can't extend the hour without unanimous consent.

Madam Minister, please read this.

**Ms. Sherry:** Madam Chair, I move that the Speaker take the chair, and that the Chair report progress and beg leave to sit again.

**Chair:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Madam Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House having had under consideration a bill to be intitled *Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accounting Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has made some progress and begs leave to sit again. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Hon. members, we'll stand recessed until 7:00 p.m.

**The Legislature recessed until 7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Good evening, everyone.

Motions Other Than Government

**Speaker:** The hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

Madam Speaker, at this time the opposition would like to call Motion No. 27.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Motion No. 27.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition moves, seconded by the hon. Opposition House Leader, the following motion:

**WHEREAS** the Province of Prince Edward Island is failing to foster a culture of learning which is conducive to the highest standards worldwide;

**AND WHEREAS** providing Islanders with the opportunity to maximize their potential and accumulate a wide base of knowledge to achieve the upmost set of educational skills is a fundamental function of government;

**AND WHEREAS** there is great potential to learn significant lessons and policy solutions from a recognized leader in high standards of education skills achievement such as Finland;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Legislative Assembly encourage the government of Prince Edward Island to examine the Finnish approach to discover any takeaways to improve educational skills achievement here in Prince Edward Island.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

To open debate on the motion, I'll call upon the mover, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I rise today to move this motion, which has as its focus of necessity of our province assuring that it provides Prince Edward Islanders an education system that is second to none in the world.

Just to be very clear, what I'm talking about is a desire to provide an education system that ensures that our students have the opportunities to excel in education and to proudly step up and to compete on both the national and international levels, whether it be in math, reading, writing, science or technology.

In order for this to happen, however, our government and its Premier and minister must be willing to listen, and they must be open to change.

Denial of the problems in our education system is a costly business. It costs and it fails our students in terms of their futures. It costs our business communities and our Island economy because we do not have the workforce that is trained and capable of meeting demands of a rapidly changing global culture, economy and job market.

It is imperative that if we are going to be able to succeed in ensuring a successful education system for our children that this government acknowledge that there are problems and perhaps radical changes that need to take place.

This has not been the case in the past few years, as we watched our children being outperformed in basic education skills by just about every country in the world. We know that we have children that are more than capable of excelling in our education system, and we know we have some of the finest teachers in Canada and around the world.

It is time for this government to remove its collective heads from the sand and start digging out the problems of our education system and start looking around for solutions that will work. Denial will not help our children.

I believe that one of the best places to start the search for solutions is amongst countries that have consistently high achievements in areas of education. Finland is an example of a country that, like ours, like Prince Edward Island, struggled with low literacy, science and math achievements, but they have turned their failures around.

They first acknowledged that there was a problem, Finland. Secondly, they decided that they would need to do something radical to change the system if their children were going to achieve educational success.

They didn't cut jobs. They didn't increase class sizes. They didn't cut learning recovery programs and that kind of stuff, and they didn't close small schools.

Finland focused on determining what it would take to equip their population with the skills necessary to achieve their full potential and to participate in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

According to one article, some of the reasons why the Finland model has worked are that it retained schools that are small enough so that teachers know every student. Also, if one method fails, teachers consult with colleagues to try to find something else.

Nearly 30% of Finland's children receive some kind of special help during their first nine years of school.

Finland has been said to have the best education system in the world, and I was surprised to learn some of their differences, and I will note a few.

There is only one mandatory standardized test in Finland taken when children are 16 years old; 30% of children receive extra help during their first nine years of school; 66% of students go to college. It's the highest rate in Europe. The difference between the weakest and strongest students is the smallest in the entire world. Think of that. Finland has the smallest difference between the strongest students and the weakest students of the whole world.

Science classes are capped to 16 students so that they can perform practical experiments in every single class; 43% of Finnish high school students go to vocational schools; teachers take two hours a week for professional development.

Finland has the same amount of teachers as New York City but far fewer students, so they have the same amount of teachers as New York, but they have 600,000 students compared to 1.1 million in New York City, so their student-teacher ratio is very fair to students. All teachers in Finland must have a master's degree which is fully subsidized. The national curriculum is only broad guidelines and teachers are selected from the top 10% of graduates.

The school system in Finland has almost no private schools and no national standardized tests. The concept of guiding their education reform has been equity. Their minister of education is quoted in one interview as stating: Even if we don't have oil or minerals or any other natural resources, well, we think human capital is also a valuable resource.

That's something that would be very similar to Prince Edward Island. We don't have the natural resources, but human capital is a very valuable resource especially in Prince Edward Island.

The school does not give up on a struggling child. Their philosophy is geared towards ensuring that every child's success – and they have teams of special educators including a social worker, a nurse, a psychologist, all who work to guarantee that success.

Just want to be clear that I'm not advocating that we introduce Finland's model into our system. What I am suggesting is that a

number of things – number one is they took their model and changed it because it wasn't working. They explored what the possibilities were and came up with another system. They do have things in their model that work for them and perhaps the education system in Finland will help ensure better education on Prince Edward Island simply by looking at how they transform maybe even more so into what they transformed into.

I'd like to ask the Members of the Legislative Assembly to support our motion and perhaps open our minds and our schools to new and innovative practices that could lead to higher academic achievement and a better life for our citizens.

I think I'll leave it there for now. I'm sure that there'll be other members besides the hon. member beside me who wants to speak to this motion.

Before I sit can I do recognition? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to recognize in the gallery here today Ava Murphy, who is with us tonight, and she's a 10-year-old student at West Kent School. She's here with her dad Murray following along, and I think this is her first visit to the Legislature, so I'd like to welcome her here.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** Hon. members I'll call upon the seconder of the motion, the hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

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

**Mr. Aylward:** Madam Speaker, it's certainly my pleasure to rise today to second our motion which is calling on government to acknowledge the problems within the education system here on Prince Edward Island and to do something about it.

Today our motion is talking about the success of the education system in Finland. I believe that our students are more than capable of achieving those same levels of success. We just need to be open to making

the necessary changes to our education system and to make sure that happens. Part of the effort must tackle the government's constant chronic denial of the fact that we have serious issues in our education system.

The other obstacle is to ensure that government is willing to put the investment into education that will be required for every child to have a successful outcome. Without acceptance of the fact that we have a problem, that problem simply cannot be fixed.

There is no point in identifying the problem if government is not prepared to provide the resources and changes that might be necessary to address this problem, but I would warn that the cost of maintaining the status quo would be played out in the lives of our children, our culture, our communities and our Island economy for many years if we do not tackle our education problems now.

I believe our province will pay on a socio-economic level and through poor health, both mental and physical. These will in time impact on a high usage of our health care system which in turn means higher costs.

It is imperative that we take action now to fix what is obviously so broken. As we all know, this government is struggling to meet its current budget protections. The situation will only get worse.

The most recent PISA results have PEI scoring at 479<sup>th</sup> in the world's math and 490<sup>th</sup> in reading and science. We are the bottom of the pile in Canada and the rest of the world. I think that that is an alarming indication that there are problems in our education system. No matter how government wants to twist and spin those numbers, the indicator lights are flashing, the alarms are going off, and for the sake of our province we need to respond.

I, like the mover of this motion, believe in the ability of all of our children to achieve higher levels of learning. I believe we have simply let them down. There are no good reasons for our children to be at the bottom of the pack. They are capable of achieving high levels of education. They simply need the tools and the environment to excel. I'm not just talking about the brightest students.

I believe that, like Finland, we can provide an education system that will ensure all of our children's educational needs are met and that all have the focus and the attention of our education system to ensure that they do succeed.

Frankly, I'm tired of fighting over numbers. I want an action plan. I want to see positive change and I believe that the Finland model, which embodies a smaller population, smaller classes and smaller schools, may have some of the answers for us. But we will never know unless we take a look.

I believe we have excellent teachers, many of whom, however, feel stifled by a narrow curriculum base that is constantly changing with the fad of the day. In Finland those who are hired to teach in schools are the best of the best, the prerequisites for hiring including not only high-test scores but personal integrity and passion for education.

It's interesting to note as well that Finnish students in high school only attend the classes required, similar to what happens in our colleges and universities here. After the age of 16 students have the option of attending academic base programs or vocational schools. I was quite surprised to learn the graduates from both institutions may attend university.

As outlined earlier by the mover of this motion, perhaps the biggest difference in our system is that the Finnish national curriculum framework specifies broad objectives and core content. Teachers and school principals play a central role in both preparing the national curriculum frameworks and design actual curriculum at the level of schools. Schools in Finland, therefore, have much more autonomy in setting learning standards and crafting an optimal learning environment for their children than schools elsewhere.

The Finnish model also emphasis collaborative environments and shared learning areas. I believe that the Finnish model is worthy of further scrutiny. Certainly I acknowledge that their system is not necessarily a perfect fit for our province, but it is worth looking into.

It is time to explore and to embrace change in a world that is fast evolving. I do like the

philosophy as outlined by one writer on the Finnish model who quoted a Finnish principal and stating that – again, I quote: When a student struggles, the question is not what’s wrong with the student or what’s wrong with the student or what’s wrong with the teacher, the question is: What’s wrong with the system?

I hope that Members of this Legislative Assembly will support our motion and address the question of what’s wrong with the system and how we can move forward to fix it.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

I’ll turn the floor to the hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development to speak to this motion.

Podium, Pages please, for the minister.

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

I certainly want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for bringing this motion forward, and the opportunity to talk about what’s working in the Finland model. This is a great opportunity to highlight the work that our department has done in terms of research into international education and systems and recommending that we can apply to our education system here. But I want to start by saying both the mover and the seconder said we need to take a look at our model and make it better.

That’s actually what we did and what we are doing right now. In fact, as I’ve said in the House several times already, the previous government, his previous government – or perhaps it’s actually the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid’s previous government –

**Mr. Aylward:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. McIsaac:** – since you guys seem to have gone strictly right-wing –

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. McIsaac:** – they had the Kurial report –

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. McIsaac:** – they took the Kurial report, it was a 10-month commission to report, that went across the province and looked, using research as well, to see what we need to do in our system to correct things that were going wrong because we were doing the PISA since 2000.

The previous government, as well as ourselves, looked at those results and said: Last place, it’s unacceptable. What do we need to do? The ministers of education under the CMEC decided we should look at our own curriculum. They put in place the PCAP, the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program, to look at curriculum outcomes. We do those on a three-year basis as well with grade 8 students. The PISA is done on grade 10s.

Since we started doing those we’re seeing, this time with the PCAP results, we actually have made great grounds on that. As I said before, PEI has had the greatest gains in math and in reading, greater gains than any other province in Canada. In science we’re two points ahead of the national average, great gains there as well. Are we in first place? No. We’re a long way from last. We’re in fourth and fifth place in most of those areas and we are working at improving it, and to improve it we’re using our common assessments and, of course, the teacher is using formative assessments in the classroom. In our common assessments we watched on a regular basis grades 3, 6 and 9, and now we’re working into the high school as well, to make sure that we have the best system and we look – it’s like a check and balance in our system to see where there are problems and where could we do more, and where we’re doing really well.

In that, because we’ve made a major investment in education, in fact a 36% increase in the education budget since we came to power, of course that includes moves we’ve made with the Best Start program, the early years education and the kindergarten program as such, and we really see, and everybody sees. I actually met with the chamber of commerce this morning and went over the results of the latest common assessments with the chamber there, and they were extremely pleased with the improvements that are going on. They want

to be a partner in this and they will be because we need everyone involved in it, to be looking at the system and saying: Hey, what do we need to fix it?

We don't need to just stand up in the Legislative Assembly and say everything is bad, teachers aren't doing a good job or whatever. We have to give the teachers credit for the fantastic work they are doing because they are the ones who make up the common assessments, they're the ones who deliver the common assessments to our students, and they correct them afterward. So we know exactly, from the group of teachers who are in the field working in the schools all the time, exactly what the students and the level the student should be at. Those are fantastic gains and we thank the teachers for the work they do.

Just on the notion of social promotion, the opposition likes to talk about social promotion. We talk about student assessments and we talk about retention. I think it's important for the opposition to know that Finland schools minimize grade repetition in elementary schools. There is much more emphasis on interventions for learning. Students get the help they need to move forward –

**Leader of the Opposition:** You (Indistinct).

**Mr. McIsaac:** – rather than being held back a year.

**Leader of the Opposition:** First nine years, 22% (Indistinct).

**Speaker:** Order, please!

The hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has the floor.

**Leader of the Opposition:** (Indistinct).

**Mr. McIsaac:** We are improving on that. That's why we took the model, looked at what was wrong with it, put in place interventions that would correct it, and you'll see, I'm sure, the next time we write PISA next year, we're in a lot better shape than we were last time. But that's because of the interventions and the advancements we've made in it.

But effective professional learning is directly linked to student learning and student achievement. High-quality, professional learning builds a foundation that enables continual improvement in leadership, teaching, and expects excellence in student learning. Effective professional learning encompasses curriculum, assessment, instructional strategies and positively influences classroom management and classroom climate. That's important.

More specifically, we have focused on embedded, professional learning. The term job-embedded professional learning means that there is a direct connection between a teacher's work in a classroom and the professional learning the teacher receives. Job-embedded professional learning is more effective than traditional professional learning because educators work on concepts in an ongoing fashion. They have a chance to learn, to try out in their own classrooms and evaluate how it's working.

The learning-try-evaluate cycle is what makes job embedded professional learning so powerful in impacting student achievement. Ongoing professional development of teachers is a priority for Finland. Rather than days here and days there, there's a time embedded in every day for planning, assessing and reflecting.

Student school days are short compared to Canada and professional learning time is embedded into the daily work of the teachers. Teachers have a lot of time to work together during a school day and learn from one another during that time. They trust each other, collaborate together, and rely on their principals.

Teachers are face to face with students about 65% of the time, and the remainder of the teachers' time is spent on preparing lessons, assessment and learning new instructional strategies.

On assessments, contrary to popular belief, Finland does assessments. They are not anti-assessment. Finnish students participate in international assessments in the fourth and eighth grades, along with the 15-year-olds who take PISA. There are classroom assessments by highly skilled teachers. Assessments include formative, diagnostic and summative. Teachers are prepared to

design and implement various forms of high quality assessments. And we do that here on PEI.

Much of a teacher's time not with students is designing these tests and using the information. There is a comprehensive evaluation for students at the end of every semester. Report cards give information about academic learning, non-academic learning, behaviour and levels of engagement. And external national testing occurs at key stages of learning. They measure reading, math and science and other subjects. They do this using sampling methodology.

So, not all schools write the same tests at the same time. However, schools not selected to write these tests often purchase the tests from the national board of education so they can determine how their children are doing.

Schools regularly spend as much as \$5,000 US on these tests. These schools are certainly not anti-assessment.

Finland also has one standardized high stakes graduation exam taken by 15- and 16-year-olds. This is a high stakes test because it decides which students follow an academic path and which follow a vocational path of studies.

The Finland education system has a few key differences from ours. They don't have school boards. Municipal governments are responsible for the schools. With only about 30% of Prince Edward Island being incorporated, I'm not sure how that would work for our rural schools.

An inclusive education. Finland does have an inclusive educational system like we do here on PEI. However, if students with special needs aren't successful in regular schools, they're sent to separate schools. On Prince Edward Island we believe that students with special needs should be included in the general student population. That's one difference between us and Finland.

On teacher training: Education is funded through public sources. All higher education in Finland is free. About 60% of secondary students register in university. People in Finland revere teachers and the teaching

profession so there is a lot of interest in learning how to be a teacher.

This means that becoming a teacher in Finland is highly competitive. Only one of 10 applicants gets accepted. Teachers must possess high test scores on the matriculation exam, positive personalities, excellent interpersonal skills and strong commitment to work ethic as a teacher in school.

Funding. Finland has volunteer childhood care and free preschool that give their children a head start. They have nutritious meals for all pupils and many health services, including counselling. All higher education in Finland is free. Anyway you look at it, Finland is certainly the Cadillac of educational systems.

I'm sure the hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs is wondering how they fund all those initiatives.

Along with income taxes, corporate taxes and municipal taxes, they have a value-added tax, like our HST. It's 24% on goods and services. Where we have no taxes on groceries, they have a 14% tax on food. We have no tax on books or drugs, they have a 10% tax on these things.

We have learned a lot from Finland's education system. We've incorporated some of the features of their system that work for Prince Edward Island. I think we've struck a good balance in Prince Edward Island, and while there is always more to do, and there will always be more to do and more to learn, I believe our system is doing very well.

Just to go back to the start again, we did review what was right and what was wrong with our system back in 2005-2006 with the Kurial report. We've implemented those changes. We've made a significant increase in our education budget, up to 36% from when we came in power. We look at the results we're getting now through PCAP and through our common assessments and we are very pleased with the teaching staff we have here, with the direction the department, which is made up of teachers, has taken our education system. We will continue to follow based on the Kurial report, based on the interventions we have made, and we will have and give our students the best

education possible in our system because of the great changes that we have made.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, minister.

Are there any other speakers wishing to speak to this motion this evening?

Seeing no further speakers, I will turn to the mover of the motion, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

The reason we brought this motion forward is because it's a chance to discuss education. We think education's a very important issue, not just here on Prince Edward Island but around the world. The jurisdiction that this Assembly represents is Prince Edward Island and it's important that we look at our system through a critical eye whether or not the minister wants to or not. That's why we took the approach that we did on this. Finland has a really good model for education. There is a book called *Finnish Lessons* that's not a really long book, but it's very concise, and it doesn't editorialize the system, it talks about it. It talks about the facts of the system. I suggest to anybody who's interested in education and improving education on Prince Edward Island, or anywhere for that matter, read the book. It's not a very long read and you'll find it quite interesting.

This is about opening minds to think differently. Quite often we get trapped in this mindset that what we do or what we've been doing for a long period of time is good because we've been doing it. Nobody wants to admit that we've been doing it wrong. I don't think it's fair to the students that are in the system to look at it that way. To those that are going to come along, to those in the business community that are telling us that there's something broken and it's not connecting right at the other end, to the post-secondary institutes that are saying the students need better math skills, better literacy skills coming out of high schools because when they're getting to post-secondary they need a lot more help – it's not all of them, so it's not all the students.

One of the things that I talked about – Finland's system is – the gap between the lowest and the highest is the smallest in the world. Now think about that for a second. That's a system that's doing something right because they're scoring really high and the gap between the highest and the lowest is the lowest in the world.

This is an opportunity, and never once did myself or my colleague talk about taking the Finland book and implementing it into Prince Edward Island verbatim because there are cultural challenges from any education system from one jurisdiction to the other, and we recognize that. The purpose of talking about Finland is that they do something that's right and they do it really well. They've recognized that their system wasn't giving them the results that they wanted and they said: We're going to make radical changes to it. Because they made radical changes to it and people bought into it, they have one of the best education systems in the world.

We need to look around. We didn't talk tonight about scoring or PISA or where we were or where we are or where we're going or anything like that. The reason we did that is I wasn't trying to turn it into a debate about being ultra critical. It's a conversation about let's look at what else is out there and let's look at the opportunity to be positive about things that are out there. I truly want a better system and I think that many people that I talk to are telling me the same thing now.

When the conversation at the grocery store is people telling you that I know that it's not a small group of people anymore. It's spread out. People recognize it and people recognize the importance of a strong education system and a strong economy.

Here on Prince Edward Island, much like Finland, we don't have oil, we don't have natural resources. We have people who are very dedicated and loyal to Prince Edward Island who want to be here who are hard-working. Let's give them every opportunity to do that right here at home. That's all that this is really about.

We do want a better system. I know the minister likes to insinuate that I blame teachers. I've never blamed the teachers,

I've blamed him. I blamed some of the people who he has around (Indistinct). I've never blamed teachers. We have great teachers here on Prince Edward Island. It's hard to teach with the restrictions that are put on. It's like trying to hit a home run with an arm tied behind your back and that's what we're asking teachers to do here every day. Hit a home run with at least one arm tied behind your back and the other one tied to your side. We want the minister to give the teachers an opportunity to do what they want to do, and they want to be able to do the best they can do with the students, but their hands are tied.

We've looked around at options. I know that we have several different education motions that are coming to the floor here for this session. We looked at some of the other possibilities and all we're doing is urging to do the same. The motions that we're bringing forward aren't damning to government. What we're saying is we want you to look at what's out there. Let's look at what's out there. It's the start of the broader conversation, whether the minister wants to have it or not, whether the minister wants to recognize it or not. It's being had all around him and we're going to open up the avenue for even more of this conversation to happen because we think that it's important to Islanders.

The only other thing I would really say is when I started to move this motion I talked about the fact that Finland recognized that their system was broken, or wasn't working, or wasn't giving the results that they wanted. Finland recognized that and that's when they started to make the drastic changes that put them in a system that is world-renowned.

I've never once heard the minister take any acknowledgement that the system is broken. He talks about the system was broken in 2005, which is fine. It's broken today and the minister needs to acknowledge that. I think it's an important step in moving this forward. I think it's important. I think that every day that passes and every school year that passes that this isn't addressed, and addressed full scale, we are cheating students out of a proper education here. We have to be able to put our students in a position where they can not only compete on Prince Edward Island, not only compete in

the Maritimes, not only compete in Canada, but internationally.

The students of today understand better than probably most of us do that the world is really small now. I know having children at home their world is a lot smaller than mine was. To talk to people from around the world, which lots of them do growing up on the video game circuit, I mean, it's a different world. That's what their lives are going to be like in the workforce, too. They're going to be competing against people from all over the world for work, for jobs, for contracts, and in order to do that we need to give them the proper footing so that they are on equal footing with all those people from all around the world.

With that, I hope that everybody supports our motion. I think it's a good motion and it's one of many that are to come as we move along.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Hon. members, are you ready for the question?

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

**Speaker:** A recorded division has been requested.

I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to ring the bells.

[The bells were rung]

**Mr. MacKinley:** Madam Speaker, recognition of guests?

**Speaker:** You may, hon. Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development.

**Mr. MacKinley:** I'd just like to recognize Ronnie McPhee, one of the top movers and shakers of the Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island and the president of the Young Liberals. He's involved in many campaigns, whether it be Nova Scotia, and the comeback of the Liberals of Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and there to make sure that PEI stays Liberal after the

next election. It's great seeing Ronnie and I know he'll report back to his organization that is Island-wide.

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

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

**Mr. Aylward:** Madam Speaker, opposition is prepared for the vote.

**Mr. Dumville:** Madam Speaker, government members are ready for the vote.

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. members.

You're voting on Motion No. 27.

Those members not wishing to support the motion please rise at this time.

**Clerk:** The hon. Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development, the hon. Minister of Community Services and Seniors, the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and Deputy Premier, the hon. Premier, the hon. Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs, the hon. Government House Leader, the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, the hon. Minister of Tourism and Culture, the hon. Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, the hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors, the hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville, the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, the hon. Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park, the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River, the hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Sherwood, the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road and the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

**Speaker:** Those supporting Motion No. 27 please stand at this time.

**Clerk:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Opposition House Leader.

**Speaker:** Motion No. 27 has been defeated, hon. members.

The hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

At this time, the opposition would like to call Motion No. 39.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Motion No. 39.

The hon. Opposition House Leader moves, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the following motion:

**WHEREAS** the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown first opened its doors in 1964;

**AND WHEREAS** over the past 50 years, this National Centre has hosted an extraordinary cross-section of cultural events, artworks, National treasures and theatrical performances of the highest standards which have showcased the rich cultural mosaic of our province and our country;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Legislative Assembly acknowledge the important cultural contribution of the Confederation Centre of the Arts and offer our congratulations on its 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

To open debate, I'll call upon the hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

It's certainly a great honour to rise this evening to bring forth our opposition motion that commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Confederation Centre of the Arts. In doing so, I want to say that I do not believe that when the discussions first got underway about the establishment of such a facility in our capital city that anyone would have envisioned the impact that it would have had on the creativity and cultural growth of our greater Island community.

I would suggest that very few Islanders would have ever thought that our centre, which is a national centre for the arts, would blossom and grow into one of the finest creative venues for performing and visual arts in Canada.

It is a facility that I believe all Islanders and indeed all Canadians should be justly proud. It has been an inspiration to so many artists in a wide variety of fields and brought to this province the opportunity for ordinary Islanders to see and hear some of the world's finest artists, writers, musicians, singers, dancers and entertainers.

I believe that without this facility our province and its residents would be the poorer, and that our arts community, in whatever form, would have not flourished and have grown as they have today. We are truly blessed.

I want to read to you an article that appeared in the *Atlantic Business* magazine on October 24, 2013, and it was written by the hon. John C. Crosbie about the Confederation Centre in its entirety.

It is somewhat lengthy, but I believe it conveys the message on the importance of our centre to Islanders and to Canadians in general. It talks about why this facility is worthy of a national celebration, and it is worthy, I believe, of recording this quote in our Legislative Assembly.

And I quote:

“Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, first opened its doors in 1964. It was an ambitious project, with a lofty mandate ‘to engage and empower the imagination of our youth; to honour the vision of the Founders of Canada; to strengthen our national identity; and to increase the cultural wealth of all Canadians.’

“There is no doubt that over the past 49 years, Confederation Centre has successfully fulfilled this mandate. What lessons does it hold for us, as Confederation enters its fourth half-century and the Confederation Centre of the Arts its second? In his forthcoming book *Cradling Confederation: The Founding of Confederation Centre of the Arts*, historian Dr. Ed MacDonald says, ‘Contrary to the famous quote, (history) does not actually repeat itself. But it teaches and informs, entertains and explains, and, now and again, it even inspires.’

“MacDonald recounts a now sacred Island story of how on October 6, 1964, Queen

Elizabeth II herself, ‘looking like a fairy tale Queen,’ (as described by the *Island Magazine*) came for the Royal opening of Confederation Centre. Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson escorted HRM through a regal night of Canadian musical entertainment, including a taste from the Centre’s soon-to-be crown jewel musical, *Anne of Green Gables—The Musical*<sup>TM</sup>. During the official remarks, Pearson declared the complex to be ‘a tribute to those famous men who founded our Confederation. But it is dedicated also to the fostering of those things that enrich the mind and delight the heart, those intangible but precious things that give meaning to a society and help create from it a civilization and a culture.’

“MacDonald remarks, ‘It was the conjunction of those two touchstones, culture and heritage, that soon coined the catch-phrase ‘a living memorial to Confederation.’

“However, when a national arts centre is situated in a regional market and, in this case, Canada’s smallest province, certain challenges become evident. In 1964, when Lester Pearson was Prime Minister, the Government of Canada along with all 10 provinces made the commitment to build this living memorial to the Fathers of Confederation. The formula at the time had the Federal Government paying 50 per cent of the costs and the provinces agreeing to cover the other 50 per cent, contributing their share based on population. Now, nearly 50 years later, only some provinces continue to contribute to the ongoing operation of this national memorial.

“In 2012, a total of \$977,500 was contributed by the provinces: PEI provided \$760,000; Ontario \$200,000; the rest came from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the Yukon Territory. At present, the remaining provinces and territories (including Newfoundland and Labrador) do not contribute anything to Confederation Centre. The Government of Canada continues to contribute, through the Department of Canadian Heritage, to the national monument’s operating expenses each year with at least \$3 million to support various activities at the Centre.

“In order to make ends meet, Confederation Centre of the Arts earns 50 per cent of its

revenue through the work and operations of the Centre itself, in particular through theatre ticket sales. [Fifty] years later and still growing and thriving, Confederation Centre of the Arts has defied the odds by applying creative managements, strong community spirit and a will to succeed. Almost 65,000 tickets were sold to performances at the 2012 Charlottetown Festival with a value of a healthy \$2.5 million.

“In 2012, Confederation Centre invested more than \$12 million into the local community and Canada’s arts industry, while generating revenues of \$13 million. Half of the expenses were spent directly on programming, supporting Canadian performers and artists, creative staff, and crew. The Festival creates 486 jobs, worth \$12.4 million in wages, each summer. It also generates, on average, \$5.1 million in incremental federal income taxes, \$2.7 million in provincial income taxes, and \$130 thousand in municipal taxes.

“Fourteen years ago, in 1999, I was invited to join the board of directors of the Fathers of Confederation Building Trust (also known as the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown). Every country of any stature and significance in the world has a monument or memorial to those who were responsible for creating their particular country. This Centre is our living memorial tribute to Canada’s Fathers of Confederation. It was the roman [*sic*] Cicero who was first given the title of ‘Father of his country’ by the Romans Cato and Catullus and we must continue through our memorial in Charlottetown to honour our own national Fathers.

“While many memorials take the form of a statue or a plaque, Confederation Centre has continued to opt for this engaging role as a living and breathing memorial. Much more than a Centre for arts and culture in P.E.I., this complex is the single memorial to the courageous leaders who first met in Charlottetown in 1864. These same delegates took the germ of an idea – one great nation – and went on to create this country in 1867 with the passage of the BNA Act, our constitutional document, signed originally by Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

“Memory is the treasury and guardian of all things, and Confederation Centre of the Arts is an institution that reminds Canadians of the process involved in creating a country, all the way from the first discussions in 1864 to the last entry on March 31, 1949. Although Newfoundland did not join our Confederation until 1949, both Sir Frederick Carter and Sir Ambrose Shea of Newfoundland attended the second meeting in Quebec and became Confederates (but were unsuccessful in a later election in persuading the electorate in our province to authorize joining Confederation at that time).

“As a living memorial to the founding of the nation, Confederation Centre of the Arts, under the direction of current CEO Jessie Inman, has embraced cultural sustainability as a major priority. The Centre seeks to engage local, provincial, and national governments to explicitly include a solid cultural policy (culture as a driver of development) and to advocate for a cultural dimension in all public policies (culture as an enabler of development). The Centre fulfills the pillars of cultural identity through its commitment to celebrating place; acting as a living monument to the Fathers of Confederation and the founding of Confederation; and forming an integral and dynamic part of the cultural fabric of Canada.

“We have a fine living memorial to the Fathers of Confederation in Charlottetown. This is not just a P.E.I. asset. Rather, this is a national asset and all 10 provinces should contribute accordingly, as they originally agreed to in 1964. To renege on that commitment is regrettable, and hopefully will be reversed.”

I believe that the hon. Mr. Crosby outlined the objectives and dreams that led to the founding of our national centre. But, I would be remiss not to mention that it was 50 years ago that the prime minister, Lester B. Pearson, made front-page news in the *Guardian* on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1963, when he laid the cornerstone at Confederation Centre of the Arts and called for Canadian unity and spirit of compromise. It was also the former prime minister, John Diefenbaker, who first committed the federal investment to the project in the years leading up to 1963.

There is so much more that could be said about this living memorial that contributes so greatly to the vibrancy and life of our capital city. I am sure that members of this House today will offer their own insights, and I will allow the seconder of this motion to expand upon the many contributions and programs at this centre, and the lives of all Islanders, Canadians, and the many visitors to our tiny province from around the world.

I am sure that members of our House today will also offer their own insight in support of our motion.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

To second Motion No. 39, I'll upon the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

It is a privilege today to rise and second the opposition motion which commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Confederation Centre of the Arts.

As stated by the mover of this motion, Confederation Centre of the Arts was founded in 1964 as Canada's national memorial to the Fathers of Confederation. The Confederation Centre's website attributes every Canadian as having played a part in the establishment of the centre as each province and federal government committed 15 cents per capita for a total of \$5.6 million to construct the huge building. In other words, each Canadian contributed 30 cents each. This was the first time that all provinces agreed to give money for an institution outside of their own boundaries.

The Confederation Centre itself stands in one of the most historic areas of our province, the site of the old Charlottetown marketplace. I also want to refer to the words of historian, Dr. Frank MacKinnon, who led the movement to create the memorial. He states in his book, *Honour the Founders! Enjoy the Arts!*, that: Confederation Centre commemorates all Canadian achievements and potential featuring the cultural frontier and those engaged in pushing it back. The building

stands as an architectural work of art and showcase honouring Canada's traditions.

It is stated: the Confederation Centre is the result of a dream shared by all Canadians to create a place where our country's history and multicultural character is celebrated, and where the talents of its people are nurtured and showcased. Frankly, I could not imagine a more perfect location for such a facility, considering the rich history of Prince Edward Island and its significant role in the creation of our great nation.

The Confederation Centre of the Arts was designated as a National Historic Site of Canada in 2002 by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Several reasons outline the selection, including the fact that as one of a number of cultural complexes built in the 1960s and 1970s in Canada and as a memorial to the Fathers of Confederation, it is an outstanding example of a national institute dedicated to the performing arts.

Also, when it was built in 1964 it was highly innovative in its stage design and acoustics, and featured state-of-the-art lighting and construction techniques. It's also a distinguished example of architecture in Canada which in its era was well integrated with the (Indistinct). The centre was constructed between 1963 and 1965 and boasts the largest theatre main stage in Canada east of Montreal.

His Excellency Right Hon. David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, officially opened the Confederation Centre's newly modernized Homburg Theatre in June. The \$7 million renovation to the centre's 1,100-seat theatre took place over the past two years adding two new isles, 900 seats, new acoustic paneling, as well as new rails and stairs.

The winter of 2013 saw the construction of a theatre pavilion which included the reshaping of the balcony, the addition of two new balconies, and a new control booth location for the technicians. Renovations also saw the installation of catwalks, new acoustically treated sidewalls, orchestra seating and new entrance isles.

The centre has also carried out a number of programs aimed at its anniversary

celebration. For example, the art gallery featured an ambitious art exhibit called *Oh, Canada*. Also, in celebration of 50 years, many programs offered at the centre have been enhanced and expanded, including the Confederation Players, the Young Company and the Symonds Lecture. As part of its mandate to showcase the best in Canadian visual and performing arts, the centre has played host to the Charlottetown Festival every summer since 1965 by playing Canada's most popular and longest running main stage musical, *Anne of Green Gables – The Musical*<sup>TM</sup>.

**Premier Ghiz:** Sing us a song.

**Leader of the Opposition:** I've only seen it once. I couldn't get all the way through a song.

This production has been officially recognized as the longest-running annual musical theatre production in the world and has achieved a new Guinness World Record title. Confederation Centre CEO Jessie Inman stated that: This major accolade reminds Canadians of the timeless charm and whimsy of one of the greatest musicals ever produced in the country.

I would dare say that everyone in the Legislative Assembly has seen *Anne of Green Gables – The Musical*<sup>TM</sup> at least once in their lifetime and I know many Islanders who do attend this every year.

The production had its official opening night on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1965, and there have since been 2,837 performances at the centre. *Anne of Green Gables – The Musical*<sup>TM</sup> celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> season this summer.

Last year the Charlottetown Festival staged the world premiere of the musical epic *Evangeline*, and this year the Confederation Centre of the Arts has captured the music of *Evangeline* in an album featuring the songs and stars of the hit summer production as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

We must not forget the Centre's other three stages, The Mack, Studio 1 and Studio 2, that have helped to carve the Confederation Centre of the Arts as our cultural Mecca for artistic presentation for many forms for many areas around the world.

The Confederation Centre offers so much to our province and to Islanders that it's difficult to include everything that goes on there and how it affects our community. While our stage performances capture most of our attention and imagination, I believe that one of its most influential venues is the Confederation Centre Art Gallery which hosts numerous travelling art exhibits and its own permanent collection. It offers Islanders and businesses alike a glimpse of some of the finest works of arts in the world.

It was 50 years ago in June that the Confederation Centre's Art Gallery and Museum was officially opened by the Right Hon. Vincent Massey, former Governor General of Canada.

The June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1964 opening was significant for many reasons, not only because this exhibition space was, at the time, the largest in the region. Over the past five decades it has presented more than 1,000 exhibitions in its four primary gallery spaces and concourse locations, as well as outdoor sculptures on the plaza.

The success of the various programs at the Centre can be attributed not only to the professionalism of its artistic staff, the top quality performers and directors, but to a large group of individuals who volunteer their time and efforts to reach out to our community through various programs and events.

The Friends of Confederation Centre must be commended for their hard work and initiatives on behalf of the Confederation Centre. According to the Centre's website description: The Friends encourage participation, interest and education in the arts. Their mission states that: They act as a bridge between the community and the Confederation Centre.

The Friends volunteer their talents, time and energy to promote and stimulate interest in the centre, making Islanders aware that the centre is for everyone. This hardworking group of Islanders support and promote programs and raise funds for the Confederation Centre of the Arts.

Some of the programs developed through their efforts include Art to the Schools, the Art Appreciation Group, the Festive Wreath

Contest and Exhibit, the Mayflower Fundraiser and the Pinch Penny Fair.

In addition to donating funds to the Maud Whitmore Committee, the art gallery and into the spotlight, the Friends provide financial support to the Charlottetown Festival, Young Company, the Confederation Players and the Youth Chorus.

What is so important to our Island community is the thousands of youth and adults, who, because of the unique programs offered through the Confederation Centre, get to participate in a wide variety of public programs including educational gallery tours and studio classes.

As part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Confederation Centre of the Arts also launched a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative book, which is a retrospective publication entitled *The Centre for All Canadians*. The 200-page book is a collection of stories and rich images that celebrate the history of the memorial to the Fathers of Confederation. The publication includes a wealth of content contributed by 50 outstanding Canadians.

The centre is continuing to expand its role in our Island community and to ensure the continued growth of the arts in our province. It now collaborates with the Holland College School of Performing Arts, and in 2014 we saw the first-ever graduating classes of the Dance Performance and Theatre Performance programs, as well as the 2014 Class of the Performing Arts Foundation program.

The centre is renowned for featuring artists from all across our great nation as well as our own home grown. This year “Searching for Abegweit: The Island Songs & Stories of Lennie Gallant,” our own nationally acclaimed artist, were featured and sold out performances all summer long.

There is so much that we could say about the various programs available to Islanders and visitors alike and to all Canadians. But I think the best that we can say today is that it has more than fulfilled its goal as a cultural centre to showcase Canadian talent and as a permanent memorial to the founders of our great country.

Thank you, Madame Speaker.

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

Other speakers to this motion?

Are there any further speakers to this motion?

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

Speaking on Motion No. 39, hon. member.

**Mr. Brown:** We never had speech writers in opposition. We did our own research.

Thirty-nine or 38?

**Speaker:** Thirty-nine, hon. member.

**Mr. Brown:** Madam Speaker, the Confederation Centre of the Arts, it's in my district, and it is a great economic driver for the district.

A tremendous amount of people use the facilities. Not only the theatre itself, but a lot of people use the library and other events.

Growing up in the district and coming as a young person and a lot of young people, we remember going to the libraries quite a bit and spending a lot of days in the libraries. Yes, oh, no. Then we'd go up to the gallery and see the new art. It was a great way to keep warm.

No, Madam Speaker, it's a great facility and I'm pleased to have it in my district. The number of people who visit the facility year in and year out is increasing.

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

**Mr. Brown:** Yes, anything that's good on Prince Edward Island is in District 12.

Oh, that's a bad one.

I remember when it was first opening and that, we were just little kids at that time, but a lot of people used – well, Gerard – I mean the member from Summerside probably spent a lot of time in the library there, too.

You could go there – growing up in downtown Charlottetown, the modern houses today, every kid has a room the size of a bed and everything in it. When I grew up there were three bedrooms in our house. The parents slept in the middle one, five boys in one and four girls in the other. You talk about negotiations and getting space to keep warm. That's why these facilities were of great use to the children of the neighbourhoods, and that's why you'd spend your time between the Confederation Centre and the rec centre and the YMCA.

I walk up to the Legislature each and every day and you can see the number of people that are (Indistinct), but you can also – the newcomers association has a great summer event each year around the Confederation Centre, and the whole place is transformed into – basically, when you go to the Confederation Centre area, it's transformed into 27 or 30 countries along Victoria Row, and then all around the facility. The newcomers have really added a lot of life to the Confederation Centre and the Confederation Centre grounds. It's phenomenal in the summer. Then they have the art in the night and they do a lot of great presentations on that.

A lot of people that come to Prince Edward Island and see this facility wonder how such a nice facility is here, and that leads me into the Premier's comments about the museum and 1864. This facility was built to commemorate Confederation. I notice that the federal government has just built a museum of humanities out west. Why can't we have a museum of Confederation, a museum that recognizes Confederation and all of the different confederations and all of the different democracies of the world, and have a showcase in this new museum that would show all of the different democracies and how democracies were formed?

A lot of people don't realize how wonderful our democracy is, and a lot of people don't realize how difficult it was to create our democracy. It would be a great idea to extend into the new museum the museum of Confederation, the museum of democracy, a museum that would show people that – you think the United States had a good and easy time in forming its country? They went through two revolutions, the Civil War, before the country was solidified and made

one of the greatest countries in the world. Which also brings me to the attention that our country was formed and the Confederation should recognize that.

We're one of the very few countries I'd say in the world, if not the only country in the world, that was formed without a battle, without a war, without a civil war. It was not formed on the battlefield, but it was formed at the negotiation table down the halls in the Confederation room. What country in the world can be defined was formed that way? I ask the question to my colleagues. None, I would say. None was formed the way Canada was formed, so we should be proud of it.

This new museum could be a facility to show people around the world – new countries or countries that are being formed, the United Nations would bring people here that want to form a new country or a country that's in civil war – to show and to teach the leaders of that community, or that country, how it should be done and how it can be done, how it was done for Canada and how it can be done for them.

That's why the Confederation Centre is a model that I think a lot of people recognize its uniqueness in this country. I think we should expand upon that model and have a museum of the confederations.

I thank the opposition for putting this motion forward. It's a good motion. It's a good motion anytime we want to recognize Canada and its greatness because we do have a great country. We have a country that has tremendous amount of resources, a phenomenal amount of resources. We have more oil than Saudi Arabia. Most people wouldn't realize that, but on top of the oil we have the most electric power. We have the most minerals. We have the most land. Can you imagine, as the Premier has said so many times in the past, people from around the world are looking to Canada and saying: It is the Garden of Eden. You have everything: water, land, electricity, hydro and great croplands, great food, you have more food than anybody (Indistinct), and that's why people look towards Canada, for its leadership.

What a wonderful way to celebrate our leadership in 2017 than other to have a new

museum named after the Fathers of Confederation, and named for democracy, the learning of democracy, the learning of Confederation, Madam Speaker.

Thank you very much.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Tourism and Culture.

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

I do want to also speak to this motion, the Confederation Centre's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This year being Prince Edward Island's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Confederation Centre's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary certainly made memorable milestones on Prince Edward Island.

The Confederation Centre, in my opinion, is the single most important cultural institution in the Province of Prince Edward Island. It's the home of many great artistic endeavours including the Charlottetown Festival which produces Canada's longest running musical play, *Anne of Green Gables*. Also there are a number of other plays that go on there from time to time. Last year they had *Evangeline*, it was an extremely popular and successful play. Myself, I like to go to the classic albums live when they have them on in the fall. It's kind of advertised as cut for cut, note for note, and if you're a real musical enthusiast, most people would enjoy that significantly.

I know I went to one here last winter, I think it was, called Fleetwood Mac, and I also went to Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin. The festival's also – yeah, Led's –

**Premier Ghiz:** The real thing was here?

**Mr. Henderson:** No, it's classic albums. It's a band that takes the album and plays it note for note, cut for cut, and it's quite enjoyable.

The festival also is home to the Young Company where young performers from all over Canada come together to hone their skills by acting in a variety of musicals, including regular summer lunchtime performances. The festival also produces the

shows at the MacKenzie Theatre, and there have been some memorable performances there over the years as well: A Closer Walk with Patsy Klein, The Battle of Stompin' Tom was quite enjoyable, and this year had the smash hit "Searching for Abegweit: The Songs & Stories" by Lennie Gallant. I'm sure there are lots of fun stories about the Rustico area there. I'm sure you'd enjoy that.

Outside the confines of the Charlottetown Festival, the Centre's main stage and MacKenzie Theatre are also two Island – the most popular music and performance venues. These venues host world-class performers from across Canada and around the world every year.

Confederation Centre is also home to Prince Edward Island's only national art gallery. The Confederation Centre Art Gallery features exhibits from some of Canada's most highly regarded visual artists. I know I had the opportunity to launch a book in the – I think it was called *Born* – a story about Confederation, and had the chance to look at some of the Robert Harris paintings at the art gallery. There's a couple of very famous paintings in there – the School Teacher is one of their more famous paintings that's quite interesting to take a look at.

Many of these exhibits could not be displayed anywhere else on Prince Edward Island based on the value and the importance of those particular pictures. They allow Islanders to expose their works internationally. Acclaimed artists from across Canada as well.

So that's just a snapshot of the artist side of the Confederation Centre of the Arts. The Confederation Centre is also home to the Confederation Centre Public Library. I remember when I was going to college at Holland College I used to stop into the library quite frequently, mostly to read the magazines – hockey magazines and whatnot – but had to do a little studying as well, research, those kinds of things.

The public library service has maintained a location in the centre for almost as long as the centre has been open. It's the busiest public library in the province and we're happy to be a tenant in that particular building. The province has been an

important partner and supporter of the Confederation Centre since it opened half a century ago.

Since 2009 the province has provided \$4.87 million in operating funds for the centre. During that time we also provided almost \$1 million in support for programming and over the last two years we've been a full partner in the capital renovations for the theatre. We provided \$2.8 million for phase one of the renovations to the theatre. Those renovations saw huge changes to the main stage, theatre, the new seats have replaced the old seats, the balcony has been completely re-done, and the new technology will make the theatre more appealing with better sound and lighting and acoustics.

I've had the chance to tour the Confederation Centre and some of those renovations a number of times throughout the project, and they've done a fabulous job of it. But a lot of the money and a lot of the work is behind the walls, behind the scenes, to provide all those technical advances that I mentioned before. Obviously, more renovations are planned.

This year the centre celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was built in 1964 to mark 100 years since the meeting of the Fathers of Confederation in 1864. This year we are celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that major, important meeting, and the Confederation Centre is an incredibly important partner in the celebrations. It has been the venue for many 2014-related events, exhibits and performances.

Not only that, but the centre maintains the Confederation Players who perform as the Fathers and Mothers of Confederation, who help Islanders and visitors alike understand our small province. It's a very important role that we played in creating one of the greatest countries in the world, Canada.

All that said, as the Minister of Tourism and Culture, I want to congratulate the centre, its board of governors, its staff and all the performers who call it home, on all it has achieved and all it has done for Prince Edward Island over the last half century in promoting arts and culture here on the Province of Prince Edward Island.

With that, I support the motion, as well.

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

I'll call upon the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale to speak to the motion.

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

I'd like to make some brief comments in regards to the Confederation Centre. It's a wonderful facility. We're awful lucky to have it. I can remember 33 years ago, starting off my first introduction to the centre probably is when I came back to Charlottetown and the Rotary club met there in the lecture room. Then through a series over the years. We even met in the lobby when you first go down the stairs beyond the box offices. We used to meet where you go into the theatre.

Now it's all glassed in with shops and everything. It's quite nice. Every time I go by there – we're back in the lecture now, by the way – but every time I go by there I'm looking at all these glass shops and I'm thinking of all the times that we did have our meetings there.

I guess basically thoughts come through my mind hearing my colleagues speak, and it was in regards to just how fantastic a facility this is. Anne of Green Gables has been running for years. We all know how famous the shows are on Broadway in New York City. I'm just wondering, where would Anne of Green Gables, where would that play and all those other plays that these artists and the centre put on, where would they be today if we didn't have the Confederation Centre?

It's just a facility that gives us credibility. It's just like if you were going to have an NHL team – you need a facility, you need a big rink or you're not going to have a team. That Confederation Centre, with the plays that are put on, and the venues are world-class venues, and it puts us on the same stage as Broadway, New York City. It's just the professionalism that we have, and it gives our people a chance to showcase our talents. It's just a facility that I can't imagine Prince Edward Island not having today.

I'd like to speak in favour of this motion and thank those who brought it forward to bring attention to the Confederation Centre of the Arts.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

Speaking next, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point.

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

It's also a pleasure for me to rise and to support this motion.

The Confederation Centre was built as a memorial to the Fathers of Confederation, and their mandate is to inspire Canadians through heritage and the arts and to celebrate the origins and the evolution of Canada as a nation.

I had the pleasure to sit on the board of the Fathers of Confederation building trust for six years, and it was a very unique board. It's national in scope, and representatives from all across the country provide their expertise and experiences to further the direction of the Confederation Centre of the Arts.

Another thing that's very unique about the Confederation Centre is when it opened all provinces contributed monies to building of this tremendous building. I do know that most of these provinces are still contributors outside their borders to the Confederation Centre of the Arts.

What is also interesting, the piece of land that the Confederation Centre of the Arts sits on is a very significant piece of land. Back in 1771 the surveyor, Thomas Wright, laid out the squares for the city of Charlottetown in the very early stages of this great city. Everybody will be familiar with the four squares that are in downtown Charlottetown: Rochford Square, Hillsborough Square, Kings Square and Connaught Square. There's one major square right in the centre of that which was the Market Square, and that is the piece of land that the Confederation Centre of the Arts sits on today.

It's my pleasure to send my congratulations to Jessie Inman, CEO, Wayne Hambly, the chairman of the Fathers Building Trust, and all the members of the board and the staff, to

the Confederation Centre, and congratulations on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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

**Speaker:** Others speakers wishing to speak to the motion?

To close out debate, the hon. Opposition –

I'm sorry, the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and Deputy Premier.

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

It's a privilege, of course, to support this motion on the value that the Confederation Centre of the Arts has provided to this Island and this community. It's outstanding. It's got a long history. It's really the icon of tourism, the icon of PEI, very important. People will have a lot of memories of attending plays there.

Fifteen years ago I happened to be lucky enough to be in New York City and we went to Off-Broadway, and I'm trying to recall – I believe it was Massey House we went into. I think it was *The Lion King* play, if my memory is right. I found it extremely interesting and intriguing. The sets were phenomenal, the characters – beautiful historical building to sit there and see a play of that calibre was pretty much outstanding. That really augers well for Canada, and certainly, for Prince Edward Island as well.

I do support it. I think it's great. As my colleague from Charlottetown-Victoria Park that's not here at the moment – it has a value to him in many ways. He said we should build a new museum, something new, to kind of reinvigorate. That's well and good. It pokes a little thought – if I can say that – at that topic and that's always good.

With that I do support recognition and acknowledgement of the importance of the Confederation Centre of the Arts.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

To close out debate, I'll call upon the mover, the hon. Opposition House Leader.

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

In many ways I feel that I've grown up with the Confederation Centre. I also celebrated my 50<sup>th</sup> year this past year. I don't know if it's through all of the upgrades and renovations that the Confederation Centre has had in recent years, but I think possibly the building itself might be holding up better than I am, but time will tell.

I have great memories from my childhood with regards to the Confederation Centre of the Arts. There's a particular painting – it's one of the murals in the permanent collection of the Confederation of the Arts – it's by Lemieux. Actually, it was displayed in Rideau Hall by governor general at the time, Michelle (Indistinct) –

**Premier:** Michaëlle Jean, (Indistinct).

**Mr. Aylward:** Thank you. She actually came down, toured through our permanent collection at the Confederation Centre in the vault, and selected that piece to display in Rideau Hall.

My first memories of that actual mural would be walking with my mother and my two sisters as we were going to art camps at the Confederation Centre, and it would be on display in the Lower Concourse, the entrance to the gallery. In later years when I actually was lucky enough to be employed at the Confederation Centre of the Arts for a 12-year stint, again, I felt like I was home because I would see that mural, I would be familiar with the building and it was just an overall great experience.

There were some great stories told here tonight about the Confederation Centre of the Arts, a great place to get warmed up in the wintertime, the programming, the Young Company, the musicals, the PEI Presents program that features Classic Albums Live, note for note, cut for cut, and I'm honoured to say that I actually started that program and was the director of it for the first seven years before I left the centre. It continues on under the direction of Darcy Campbell and he continues to do an excellent job with that program. Of course, it's put on during the fall and winter season when the summer festival is not running on the main stage.

The reason for that is in the day, the executive management committee at the Confederation Centre actually went out and did public meetings across Prince Edward Island and asked Islanders in every region what they wanted the Confederation Centre to be in their lives. The number one thing that they came back with was that they said: Once the summer festival concludes for the season, we just feel that there's not enough programming on the stage. There's not enough arts and culture for us to be involved with.

So we went back, we looked at it and we decided – we wouldn't just be a rental facility for touring groups such as the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and various other groups. We decided that we would actually put a program together. As I said, it was a true highlight of my career, organizing that and putting it together every season. I was a little nervous by times. You would be watching the box office for ticket sales, you'd be watching the budget. You knew what ticket number you needed to break even. Some shows weren't as successful as others, but the other part that PEI Presents actually did was helped to develop an audience. There were various shows, various programs that took place on the stage at the Confederation Centre, whether it was the main stage or whether it was the MacKenzie Theatre, that helped to grow an audience base for, whether it be comedy or whether it be dance. Multicultural shows as well.

Another great component of the Confederation Centre of the Arts, and I'm sure a vivid memory for many Islanders from their youth, were the music festivals that took place on the main stage at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. In addition to that, Charlottetown Rural and Colonel Grey in opposing years always do a musical themselves. I fondly remember going there to see my sister in a play when she was at Charlottetown Rural. She was one of the munchkins in *The Wizard of Oz*.

I'll just come back to Anne of Green Gables – The Musical™ for a quick moment. Lots of people talked here about the long run that it's had. Back when I was at the Confederation Centre of the Arts we actually engaged the Guinness Book of World Records and we were trying to get recognition for Anne of Green Gables being

the longest-running musical. At that time there was no category in the Guinness Book of World Records for seasonal production. Unfortunately at that time we couldn't get it, but I'm very proud to say that in latter years the Guinness Book of World Record has incorporated a seasonal production run for a musical and Anne of Green Gables – The Musical™ is indeed the longest-running seasonal musical in the world, and that's something to be very proud of.

I'd also like to talk about some of my favourites that took place at the Confederation Centre of the Arts over the years. Of course, I'm sure everyone here will remember Reveen –

**An Hon. Member:** Yes.

**Mr. Aylward:** There are probably not too many people here in the Legislative Assembly that didn't either go up on stage and be hypnotized or, even better, sit in the audience and watched one of your family members or one of your friends go up on the stage and be hypnotized. It was always a perennial favourite when Reveen came to town.

I would have to say that my absolute favourite musical during the summer festival run would have to be *Johnny Belinda*. It's a true story about a character here on Prince Edward Island, a very moving production, and in my hopes upon hopes, I hope that the Confederation Centre of the Arts decides to remount that production at some stage.

The Confederation Centre of the Arts is much more, of course, than just bricks and mortar. It's a place that people go to to see entertainment. It's a place that people now go to to be educated with the Holland College theatrical program, the partnership that just has taken place in the last couple of years.

I am cognizant of the time this evening, so at this time I'd like to just relinquish the floor to the government. I believe they have a motion that's coming on.

**Speaker:** You're adjourning the debate?

**Mr. Aylward:** I am adjourning the debate.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

I'll now call upon the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

**Mr. Brown:** Madam Speaker, I call Motion No. 50.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

**Clerk:** Motion No.50.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park moves, seconded by the hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter, the following motion:

**WHEREAS** the number of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal women is larger and still growing;

**AND WHEREAS** the relationship between the First Nations People and the Legislative Assembly is one of major importance;

**AND WHEREAS** a National Inquiry will help get answers to help find the missing women, and those who committed the crimes against these women;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly support a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

To open debate on the motion, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

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

The relationship between this House and the Aboriginal people is one that is important and needs to remain strong, and that is why I'm calling on all my colleagues in the House to support the motion, to support a national inquiry into the murdered and missing women.

I know that the members of this House are well aware of this ongoing human rights issue in Canada, and for that today I call on the members of this House to support the motion for a national inquiry for three reasons.

First, while violence against all women worldwide continues to be a major concern that deserves our attention, we must recognize the disproportionate representation of female Aboriginal victims in Canada.

In Canada, the homicide rate is almost seven times higher for Aboriginal women than non-Aboriginal women. In Canada, Aboriginal women are 3.5 times more likely to be victims of violence than non-Aboriginal women. In Canada, Aboriginal women are almost three times more likely to be killed by a stranger than non-Aboriginal women.

From 2005 to 2010 the Native Women's Association of Canada's Sisters in Spirit Initiative uncovered 582 cases of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and children. In May of this year the RCMP released their own report which examined the issue across all jurisdictions in Canada.

The report found 1,181 police-recorded incidents of Aboriginal female homicides and missing Aboriginal females between 1980 and 2012, more than double the initial NWAC findings.

The RCMP research shows that 16% of all female homicide victims are Aboriginal. Astonishing when one considers that the Aboriginal women represent only 4% of the national female population.

The NWAC report shows that just over half of these homicides involve women and girls under the age of 31: 17% are aged 18 years or younger, 88% are mothers. So much loss, so many people left without a mother.

Second, this issue transcends communities, provincial borders, and partisan lines, and as such we must address it as a nation. The federal government must close the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians in health care, housing, education, employment, and social services.

We sought to assimilate Aboriginal peoples into our own image, to eliminate their individual identities and shame their culture as inferior to ours, yet, Aboriginals remain strong, resilient, and proud.

A national inquiry will begin to rebuild Canada's international reputation in the realm of human rights. A national inquiry would help determine the impact of each factor and identify how those factors produce or reinforce the economic, social and political marginalization of Aboriginal women in Canada.

Third, a national inquiry will give voice to Aboriginal families by providing them an opportunity to share their stories and learn from their experiences in a public forum. Listening to the testimony of the families, the service and the care agencies, the police, and the input of advocacy groups, will help to identify where mistakes have been made and begin the discussions on the necessary long-term solutions that are needed.

Revealing the underlying causes of Aboriginal women's vulnerability to violence can also help raise public awareness and increase political will. Ultimately, it can result in meaningful action focused on providing resources that mitigate the circumstances that lead to violence against Aboriginal women and girls. It can help begin to break down the mistrust that exists between Aboriginal communities and our public institutions.

A national public inquiry will provide a degree of closure to the families of the victims and will help facilitate healing and reconciliation.

It is time to provide Aboriginal women and girls safety and address the underlying causes that increase their vulnerability and exposure to violence.

Each one of us here, as policy-makers has a responsibility to take action on this extremely important issue. Begin by taking action here today. It is imperative that we show strong leadership on this issue as a country. No one has a monopoly on caring for their constituents. Since being in this House, I have always been so impressed with how all members from all parties care for their constituents. Join me today and show leadership by supporting the National Aboriginal Organization's call for our federal government for a meaningful and inclusive national public inquiry that seeks the counsel of the Aboriginal people and examines the underlying causes that increase

Aboriginal women's vulnerability to violence.

If this issue was around white people or the general population, non-Aboriginals, it would be a national inquiry. It would be a public outcry. But, as in many places, if we don't see it, we don't hear about it, we don't care about it. We shouldn't have that attitude.

These are First Nations people. They were here in Canada first. They deserve the support of our nation and all of us. So I ask my fellow members to support the motion, to support a national inquiry into this very important issue. Not only will it focus on these murders, but it'll also focus on the need for changes to occur in the federal government and its treatment of Aboriginal people. They are a part of the country, they shouldn't be treated any less than any one of us here in this facility or any less than anyone else in Canada. They're an equal part in Canada, our Aboriginal people. They must stay to be an equal partner in Canada.

We have to stop – as many reports have shown – treating them as not equal partners. Changes have to be made on the national level and that's why this inquiry is important. Not only the inquiry into the deaths or the murders, but also an inquiry into what has been done wrong, why we treat them so differently, why we isolate them, and ways that we can improve to bring them as equal partners in our country.

Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

Seconding the motion, the hon. Deputy Speaker.

Would you like the podium, hon. Deputy Speaker?

**Ms. Biggar:** No, Madam Speaker, I'm fine, thank you very much.

It's my privilege to rise today in the Legislature and to support and second the motion that was put before you.

An Aboriginal girl born in Canada today will die up to 10 years earlier than the national average. She is more likely to live in a crowded home without access to clean running water. She is more likely to be sexually and physically abused and stands a far greater chance to become addicted to alcohol and drugs and more prone to life-threatening illnesses. But worse yet, as a recent RCMP report shows, she is five times more likely than her non-Aboriginal counterparts to die a violent death.

These statistics alone should warrant an investigation beyond what police are able to do. It's a national tragedy, and Canadians have raised their voices to call for an inquiry, but it has fallen on deaf ears. Our premiers, Aboriginal leaders, women's groups and health organizations have called for an inquiry, without action from the federal government.

I know this past summer that our premiers, again, have called in unanimity for an inquiry and have taken first steps in their discussions to having a roundtable discussion. I want to congratulate our Premier Ghiz for leading that as first minister responsible.

Over the past few years, as the member who also represents the Lennox Island First Nations in my community, I've had the opportunity to work with the Aboriginal women's associations across Prince Edward Island and also to attend several national Aboriginal women's associations' national conferences. I've had the opportunity to sit and listen at their prayer meetings and their conferences to the challenges of women in their communities, and how many mothers have been lost, how many young women have been lost. We need to start listening more to those stories to put a personal face on the issue. What more personal would be Tina Fontaine, the young woman, 15, who, in a foster home, ran away, was picked up by the police and yet released and back into the community.

Without the supports in the communities to assist these young women when they do face those challenges or they do encounter law enforcement, the police force needs more support to have special units and support to do that. Also, more supports in our communities to address some of those young

women who are experiencing the previously mentioned statistics that I quoted.

We need, as a community, and I believe as a country, to speak up more and in support of our Aboriginal women. We are blessed to stand here as women in the Legislature and for our daughters and children to be able to go to school, go to bed at night in a warm house, have their education, and that should be afforded to every Canadian that is born each and every moment. Without that, we as a society cannot call ourselves fully, I believe, engaged in all our members and cultures across Canada.

I am very proud to stand here and support and second the motion. I encourage anyone else who wishes to speak to this to do so and to please send a message to the federal government that there should be an inquiry, and that other legislatures across Canada will also do the same.

Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member.

Speaking to the motion, the hon. Minister of Community Services and Seniors.

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

As Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, I've always been extremely supportive of any initiative that involves women and girls who are experiencing violence. Although Prince Edward Island may be Canada's smallest province, our size does not indicate that we don't have any issues here in our own province.

We do have issues. We do have challenges in regards to what Aboriginal women face here on Prince Edward Island. But because our Aboriginal population is not as large we may not realize it is happening the same way.

It's so important to keep women and girls safe and make sure that that priority is one that's front and centre in our province. I do believe that there is great consultation across our government in regards to issues around Aboriginal women and making sure their voices are heard. But we need to continue

that. It's something that cannot be assumed that we've dealt with it and we move on. It is something that we need to pay attention to on a daily basis.

The Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park referred to the RCMP's report and the commission that they had on the number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls in Canada, and the fact that, as he stated, the 1,181 identified female Aboriginals who were either identified as being homicide victims or are missing is 1,181 too many.

Women have a tendency, unfortunately, to suffer far more incidents of violence no matter what it is, but in regards to our Aboriginal population it increases significantly more. That number alone, that 1,181 number of victims, indicates that Aboriginal women are overrepresented when we talk about Canada's murdered and missing women in general. It also concludes the fact that the total number also exceeds what the public ever dreamed there would be.

In regards to Prince Edward Island, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, their Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence that's held here every December, their campaign this year is called Demand a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women. As the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women I support not only their theme, but I support the call for a national inquiry into the missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

This summer our Premier led the conversations with his colleagues from across the country and renewed the support for the national Aboriginal organizations that have been asking for this public inquiry. At that particular meeting the Premier supported the Assembly of First Nations and the Native Women's Association of Canada initiative for a national roundtable discussion with federal ministers about murdered and missing Aboriginal women.

The Native Women's Association of Canada, also known as NWAC, put forward that the goal of the public inquiry should be to identify the factors that are causing these deaths and disappearances so that they are addressed, and not simply the fact that they

are missing, but why is it happening and why is it happening so much more to the Aboriginal population.

To ensure continued success this is not something solely that the premiers in our country, or even the prime minister, is responsible for. It is something that every citizen in Canada needs to work towards. We need to ensure that Aboriginal women and girls' voices are heard. Most importantly, we need to take action to keep Aboriginal women and girls safe in our province and in our country and we need to take that action now.

Like my two colleagues before me, I wholeheartedly support this motion.

Thank you very much.

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

**Speaker:** Also speaking to the motion, the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

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

I am supporting this motion. I'm not sure if people realize, but my own sister-in law is Aboriginal and that makes my nieces Aboriginal as well. I remember when my niece was actually in high school and I was horrified to sometimes hear about the bullying and sometimes hearing about the names she was called and things like that, just because she was Aboriginal. For no other reason.

When the minister of the Status of Women spoke about the 1,181 people that are missing, or actually have been murdered, I was thinking about the communities that I represent; Morrell, Mount Stewart, and if we look east, further to St. Peters Bay. That would mean if we went there tonight nobody would be home. I would really believe that many people who'd be not only outraged but they'd be demanding answers and demanding an inquiry that should have happened a long time ago.

We all, when it's purple ribbon day, or if we have someone come speak about family violence, everybody says yes, we should do something, but in the case of our Aboriginal sisters, grandmothers, mothers, we've all sat back.

I really believe that we need the national inquiry. We needed it yesterday and we really have to show leadership here and support the Aboriginal people across Canada. In Nunavut, too, the rate of family violence is the highest in the country.

If we soon don't stand up and show that it's important that all people are valued, especially our Aboriginal women, just think of what we're missing out and what message we are continuing to give our young people.

With that, I am very happy to support this motion.

Thank you.

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

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

I, too, would like to rise and briefly speak to support this motion. The mover and the seconder certainly came up with a lot of statistics, a lot of valuable information about this subject. They spoke very fluently about the problems that there are. Also, the minister responsible for the Status of Women and the Member from Morell-Mermaid who, she said, has relatives in her family.

There are terrible atrocities that have happened to Aboriginal women and girls across Canada. Not only in the western part, where it seems to be more prevalent, but we have it right here, we have it all across Canada, we have it in every province, on PEI, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick. Wherever there are Aboriginal people it seems to be prevalent, but out in the western provinces it seems worse because that's where we have the heavier populations.

When a highway is named a highway of tears, what does that tell you? The highway of tears I believe is in British Columbia, I think it's Highway 19 is where a number of Aboriginal women had lost their lives. What a terrible thing. Just think about it, to name a highway the highway of tears because so many Aboriginal women and girls had been picked up and murdered, disappeared, on that highway.

The time has come when the federal government has got to open their eyes, they have to give in, they have to see the light, they have to order a national inquiry into the reason for the disappearance. Is that reason because people think that they're dealing with an inferior race, a weaker race of people, that they can do this just because they can? That's terrible, and that's what a lot of people think. But they are not. Aboriginals are not an inferior race. They're not. They're the same as we are. Everybody was created equal. We're all born equal. So nobody should think less of Aboriginal people.

When I first started getting acquainted with people in my own district, the Abegweit band in Scotchfort when I was campaigning in 2003, I started to get to know those people, and then I got to know them better in 2007, and now that I represent them, they are a beautiful race of people. You couldn't meet any better. They take you into their home. They treat you the best, they offer you tea or whatever. They're just a great race of people to know. In fact, some of my own relatives are working on our ancestry and they have found out that in fact some of my ancestors are Aboriginals. I do have some Aboriginal traces in me and I'm proud of that.

I have no problem supporting this motion. It's high time that the federal government has ordered a national inquiry into the death and disappearance, about the deaths and murders and atrocities of our Aboriginal women and girls.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Speaking to the motion, the hon. Premier.

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

I'll be very brief, but I want to thank to mover, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park, and the seconder, the hon. Member from Tyne Valley-Linkletter, and all of the speakers for endorsing it this evening.

Of course, two years ago Canada's premiers, made up of 13 from all across the country, called on the federal government to support the call from our Aboriginal leaders for this inquiry. It is, as the Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park said, a tragedy across our nation and is something that we need to look for answers on, and I believe that an inquiry is a way to do that. It will provide some answers. It will provide, hopefully, some healing, opening up the issue, and I want to commend the members who all spoke this evening.

Also mention that if you look at Canada's premiers made up across the country, we all come from different political (Indistinct) and different political backgrounds but we've all supported this. I'll be very proud to stand up and support this and send off this motion from our Legislative Assembly calling on this important work to be done to help such a tragedy in our country.

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.

Just to follow on the theme that the Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park talked about, when I was first elected, I, like many others in this House, got invited to a lot of events. I know a lot of the First Nations events, particularly in the last couple of years, I've taken in from powwows to Aboriginal days and whatnot. I've certainly got a great appreciation for the culture and what it brings to Prince Edward Island.

This summer I had the opportunity – I spoke, and the Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park spoke at it as well, at the National Aboriginal Day celebrations that happened down in Victoria Park. That day I talked about some of these things and how I had the opportunity to explore the Aboriginal culture through some of the events that I had been invited to. I basically said: If you have anything that you think I'd be interested in, come see me.

I had an invitation before I left there that day to go to a sweat lodge the next day, which I also went to, and it was out at John Joe Sark's sweat lodge out in Johnstons River. I went out on a Sunday afternoon to participate in that, not really knowing what I was in for. It was quite an experience, I'll tell you, if you ever have the opportunity to go, but bring a towel. Be prepared to be really, really hot. It was like probably the hottest thing I've ever done in my entire life, but it was quite an experience.

There was a good group of people there, there was probably eight or nine people there, and for anyone who has ever been in a sweat lodge it really is quite an experience. I feel like this summer I've even expanded myself a little bit further by putting myself out there to be a part of any events that may be of interest.

On the motion, I know that I was reading some information about the RCMP report that came out in 2013 and it talked about a very serious subject, about missing Aboriginal females. Some of the stats are stunning. There are 164 missing and 1,017 homicide victims, and that is a very large number for a nation that doesn't have a really large homicide rate in comparison to other nations. There are 225 unsolved cases of either missing or murdered Aboriginal females; 105 missing more than 30 days as of November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The cause of disappearance was categorized at the time as unknown or foul play suspected. There were 120 unsolved homicides between 1980 and 2012.

The total indicated that Aboriginal women were over-represented amongst Canada's murdered and missing women so that is, in itself, an interesting statistic. I think somebody mentioned here tonight about the need for increased policing. I don't think that that's wrong. I think in the situations where you have rising crime rates – particularly when the crime is homicide – one of the major ways to address it would be by policing. I think that's something that we, as a province, have talked about when it comes to some of the crimes that we face here. We talked about it in drugs. I know that the homicide rate isn't high here in the province. In any given year we have more than we probably should have. It needs to be addressed – how do we grapple on to the

crime rate not only in Canada, but certainly in Prince Edward Island?

The majority of all female homicides are solved. There is close to 90% and there is little difference in the solve rate between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal victims. Basically what the RCMP was saying at the time was that the rates of solving the cases really are equal. One of the most interesting stats was the one from before where it said that we had a much higher homicide rate amongst Aboriginal women than women in general across the province.

There's definitely interesting information in the report that the RCMP had, and it doesn't paint a pretty picture of our society, it doesn't paint a pretty picture of how this problem has been addressed.

I think that it's important that something happens here. I'm sure what the answer is, I'm not an expert when it comes to law enforcement or laws or how to fix major social problems like that in a country, but it definitely can't be ignored because the statistics are there to show that it's just too damning to ignore.

I think it's important, the work that's been done to date and some of the information that's been brought forward by a group. I know there was a really big movement there particularly back in the early fall. There was a really big movement in the – the information became front-page news and it became the lead story on our national news programs on television. It was a way to get the information or get Canadians aware that there were problems, and they at some level need to be addressed and acknowledged.

Anyway, with that, I think that something has to be done. I'm not sure if it's a national inquiry or not, but I don't think that ignoring it is working either.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Are there any other speakers wishing to speak to this motion?

To close out debate, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park.

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

The Member from Tracadie-Hillsborough Park said it right: We were all created equal, and that shouldn't stop anytime through life. The other discussion was: This is not an inquiry of an investigation to solve the crimes as much as it is an inquiry in why, why and what can we do to stop it?

There is a lot of information out there that – it's a policing investigation, it's a public inquiry taking over the police role. No, it's not that. It's an inquiry into why such a high rate in the Aboriginal community, and I think we all know why, and I think the inquiry will make it clear and provide solutions.

I want to thank all of my fellow members here tonight. I hope that it passes and I hope it goes on to the federal government, and I hope the federal government in its wisdom – instead of hiding behind its notion that everything is great and everything is wonderful, and if we don't talk about our responsibility – and it's a federal responsibility, the Aboriginal people. If the federal bureaucracy wants to think that it can just send the word out that everything is great, nothing is a problem – because the inquiry is not only going to be about the murders. It's going to be about how federal bureaucrats and the federal government treat our Aboriginal people, Madam Speaker.

Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** Are you ready for the question, hon. members?

**Some Hon. Members:** Question!

**Speaker:** Those in favour of Motion No. 60, please say 'yea.'

**Some Hon. Members:** Yea!

**Speaker:** Contrary, 'nay.'

Carried.

**Mr. Brown:** (Indistinct) unanimous?

**Speaker:** Carried unanimously, hon. members.

**Mr. Greenan:** Call the hour.

**Speaker:** The hour has been called.

The hon. Government House Leader.

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

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River, that this House adjourn until Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.

**Speaker:** Shall it carry? Carried.

Have a good evening, everyone.

The Legislature adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 2:00 p.m.