

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts

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The Legislature met at 2:00 p.m.

Speaker (Watts): Once again, good afternoon everybody.

I wish to welcome everybody back here to the continuation of the 1st Session of the 65th General Assembly. I look forward to a very productive, co-operative, and successful session. May we all work in harmony during this portion of this session.

Appointment of Pages and Assistant
Sergeant-At-Arms

Speaker: Now, before we get down to any further business, I will ask the hon. Premier to come forward with the motions to introduce our Pages and to introduce our Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Might I say this is a special pleasure, having been a Page for two sittings of this Legislature myself several decades ago?

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that the following students be appointed as Pages for the continuation of the first session of the 65th General Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island:

Janette Kerry, Kensington Intermediate Senior High School; John Ployer, Montague Regional High School; Annie Compton, Bluefield High School; and Rachel Hamilton, Grace Christian School. The continuing Pages will be: Ethan Craig, Morell Regional High School; Samantha Clark, Colonel Gray High School; Lilly Hickox, Charlottetown Rural High School; Alex Phillips, Kinkora Regional High School; Robert Larsen, Three Oaks Senior High School; and Abbey Turnbull, École François-Buote.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

I would just like to take the opportunity, too, myself and offer congratulations to our new Pages on your selection and appointment to this House. We certainly look forward to

working with you during this upcoming session. It is a great honour for you to be a part of this process of dealing with the affairs and operations of the Government of Prince Edward Island. Not everybody gets the chance to be a Page, and you will have many fond memories after your term as a Page has ended and you will look back on your life with very fond memories. It looks pretty good on your resume, too, I might add.

But just remember, the business of dealing with the government is serious business, but you can have fun at it too. So enjoy yourselves. You're going to do very well so we'll just carry on and – oh yeah, did I mention I take milk in my tea?

The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition the following motion:

Whereas Fred Fordham was appointed as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly of PEI on 15 November 2012 and whereas Mr. Fordham resigned as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms effective 5 November 2015, and whereas Mr. Brian D. Weldon of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, successfully applied for the position of Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms;

Therefore be it resolved that Brian D. Weldon of Charlottetown be appointed Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island effective 12 November 2015.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!\

Speaker: I want to offer my congratulations to the new Sergeant-at-Arms. I know Brian will perform his new duties in a very professional manner because his experience and expertise is certainly going to be a great asset in the field of security, and we can rest assured that we are all going to be in good hands with his knowledge of his work.

Enjoy the day, Brian.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'll start, of course, by welcoming all hon. members back to the continuation of this sitting of the Legislature, and a special welcome to the hon. Leader of the Opposition with his new responsibilities, and to welcome everyone who has joined us in the gallery today, and who is watching via television or other media platforms.

I want to say a special welcome to my good friend Keptin John Joe Sark who is with us today, and to everyone in the gallery. There are a number of people here who make a great contribution to the affairs of the Legislature and the public debate in Prince Edward Island. It's invidious to name them one by one, but I want to welcome back Eddie Lund who has been with us pretty much every day that he can make it for a number of years now. And welcome, of course, to everyone else who is with us. We can look forward to the deliberations in this important Chamber over the next weeks.

As we look out and recognize what a beautiful days it is, mid-fall, mid November, I'm reminded of course that yesterday, within a few steps of this place, we had thousands of Islanders gathered around the cenotaph here on the square, and that throughout the province there were many such gatherings in local communities and where Islanders came together to recognize the contributions, services, and sacrifices of our veterans and of men and women who currently serve in our Canadian military.

I want to say a special thanks to our Sergeant-At-Arms, Al MacDonald, who accompanied me yesterday and made sure that everything went according to plan, and then to acknowledge the great work that everyone did who organized the event on Tuesday night to support the True Patriot Love Foundation and to contribute to the services and the programs that they offer to Prince Edward Islanders.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

Welcome back to hon. members. It's a great pleasure in my new role that I have the support of caucus, and I appreciate the confidence they've put in me and so on.

Also I'd like to recognize Keptin John Joe Sark who blessed us a little while ago with his presence on the third floor and said prayer with us. I really appreciate being presented with an eagle's feather. And also to his son, Andrew.

Today I have to actually have to be a little bit on the behaving side. I'm very honoured to be joined by my mother, Edna, in the back, my wife Debbie, Aunt Donna from British Columbia who's visiting us, and also a constituent, Geraldine MacConnell, who is a great friend to me and I talk to her fairly frequently.

Thank you very much to all veterans, also, that we celebrated yesterday and we honoured and what they provided for us and the opportunities they've given this country, and helped us in a way we can actually present and represent the people throughout this great land.

Also, thank you very much to all the gallery guests of all of us who've attended here today.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, would like to welcome all hon. members back to the House and a special welcome to my friend, the Member from Borden-Kinkora, and congratulate him on his success.

I'd like to welcome everybody in the gallery, and particularly Keptin John Joe Sark – nice to see you again, John Joe – and to the new Pages and to our Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

There have been several stories in the news recently which have inspired Islanders and which I hope could inspire us here in the Legislature for this session. A couple of weeks ago an Island woman had a badly leaking roof and a group of neighbours rallied together, and she's now going to spend the rest of the winter in her house.

Just today we heard of Jackson Saunders, a six-year-old Island boy whose piggybank was stolen during a break-in. People from all over the Island, in fact, beyond, came and sent him gifts and money and it was a really lovely outpouring of support.

Of course, we all know about the plight of the Syrian refugees and how they are being taken in in many countries across the world, including here in our own province.

Each of these stories is a version of how a sense of belonging in a community is something that we all crave and something that we all admire. I believe that the art of politics when it's practiced well is also about bringing people together, about taking care of the less fortunate in our midst, and improving the overall well-being of our community.

I want to encourage us all to make governance here on Prince Edward Island something that can evoke the same sorts of positive feeling that those stories I recited earlier have done.

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

We'll call on the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point.

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, would like to welcome everyone back to this session of the House and to all of those who have joined us in the gallery today.

I'd like to congratulate all those who are involved. I'd like to draw everybody's attention to the Clerks' Table that the Mace has been refurbished. I'd like to congratulate the Sergeant-At-Arms and all those who had their hand in refurbishing the Mace.

A special hello to all watching from Charlottetown-Lewis Point. I always appreciate their advice and their support.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Next will be the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale.

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

I, too, would like to welcome all the guests here and our friends in the gallery. Also a special welcome to our media, they do a great job.

Congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition on your elevated position and your responsibility to your caucus, and all colleagues here today.

I'd also like to express my appreciation for Melvin Ling of Wheatley River, who – 40 years he's been organizing the Armistice Day celebrations for Wheatley River and it's turned into a wonderful group of people out there. The attendance this year was beyond – it was hard to believe. It spilled right out onto the road.

I'd also like to say hello to all residents of West Royalty-Springvale.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Next will be the hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors.

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's great to be back. I'd also like to welcome all those in the viewing gallery and those at home.

A particular warm welcome to District 22 supporter Kevin Barbour in the back there. It's good to see you here.

I'd also like to congratulate the leader of the official opposition. I look forward to you steering the ship this term and see how we make out.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the city of Summerside and the Summerside Legion for the beautiful service that they put on at Credit Union Place yesterday, a Remembrance Day service. I'm not sure of the numbers but it looked like upwards of 4,000 people might have been in attendance. It was a great turnout and it was great to see so many veterans of World War II still alive and still attending.

I'd also like to put a warm welcome and a heartfelt welcome out to all the veterans and families who have served and are continuing to serve this great country. There is one particular veteran I'd like to point out at home today, a veteran 37 years serving his country. All the while doing it while raising two little girls at home. I'd like to thank Don Moore for his commitment and his passion to his country, and I'd also like to thank him for shaping me into the woman that I've become today. I love you, Dad.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise and welcome all the folks in the public gallery. Congratulations to the new Leader of the Opposition. Welcome back to all my colleagues and the media.

I would say, Mr. Leader of the Opposition, you better recognize all your family members when you recognize them.

I'd like to recognize a former member of my district, Kevin Barbour, and a former

neighbour of my district, Mr. David Wedge, which may have some connection to the Leader of the Opposition.

I'd like to also welcome all the good people of Alberton-Roseville that are home watching. I'd like to say what a pleasant feeling it was yesterday to attend the Remembrance Day service in Alberton. It was a huge crowd out and it grows each year. I know there's a lot of talk about it disintegrating, the services, but I think the young people are getting more and more involved. In Alberton this year there was definitely the largest turnout there in years.

With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's great to be back here for a fall session in the Legislative Assembly.

A few things to note. I want to welcome all the Pages here, in particular John Ployer, who's a neighbour of my mom and dad's. That's where I grew up of course, but his family has farmed in that area for a number of years. I remember well his father in the field, his grandfather in the field, and his great-grandfather in the field. When I was a young lad, I used to –

Mr. LaVie: How old are you?

Mr. Myers: I'm old enough.

Mr. LaVie: How old are you?

Mr. Myers: When I was a young lad I used to bike down the road and his grandmother Marion used to give me cookies. That's going back quite a few years.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Lawrence MacAulay on his appointment to Cabinet. Without question, the best choice for Prince Edward Island.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Myers: He, of course, resides in the district of Morell-Mermaid. Not my district,

but I do see him at a lot of my events. I do wish him well in his new role and I'm sure he'll be looking out for us in Ottawa.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I really am very pleased to be back here for the fall sitting of the Legislature.

I, too, want to welcome all of the guests that are here, and the media, especially Keptin John Joe Sark having a book launch this Saturday at 2:00 at the Confederation Centre. His son, Andrew, who is a constituent of mine, we had a discussion. He's got a new business as well, Eagle Isle Tours. If you're looking for a limousine tour of the lights in North Rustico he's the man to call. Tour in style. Speaking of the North Shore, there's a couple of chances of Chase the Ace there if you want to help raise money for – for example, on Saturday nights there's a group of the North Star arena, North Rustico and New Glasgow fire departments, the Hunter River and Cymbria Lions clubs and the North Rustico Lions club. You can go and they've got a pot starting at \$5,000 dollars.

Mr. LaVie: You can't pay for advertisers.

Mr. Trivers: On Friday nights you can go to the New London community complex where they've been chasing the ace for a couple weeks. Definitely come and visit the beautiful District 18 Rustico-Emerald.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you for that, hon. Member.

Now we will hear from the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to welcome everyone here today in the gallery, everyone from District 4 who is watching from home.

I want to say what a wonderful summer it was, and fall, up until today when we're meeting in the House, and how great it is to be out in the district. Yesterday was a wonderful Remembrance Day. Four wonderful events in our district and they were all very well attended. Lots of young people.

On that I would like to congratulate the Pages. Welcome to the House, and we're glad to have you. I'd like to welcome everyone in the gallery including John Joe Sark and his son. Thank you for the smudging ceremony before we sat. To our hon. Leader of the Opposition's family as well, welcome.

I'd also like to just shout out to all the farmers and the fishermen across the Island. I think the farmers are probably – I know in our field they cleared the corn this week so we have a view again, which I'm very thankful for. I'm guessing maybe the fishers are out scalloping, it's a beautiful day for that

Lastly, I'd just like to welcome and wish all my colleagues a great session as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

I will call on the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche and the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's always a pleasure to rise in the Legislature and it's nice to be back for the fall session. I'd like to welcome everyone here.

Very special welcome to our folks in the gallery – Keptin John Joe Sark and his son, and I'd also like to welcome Mr. Wedge all the way from a tip of the Island, western part of the Island. Welcome, David.

I'd also like to say a hello to all the folks back in District 24, especially my mother-in-law and father-in-law, Mary and Robert Morris, who watch the proceedings when they can and it's pretty well every day we're in session, except for Friday morning.

I know a few members alluded to the wonderful services yesterday. I want to commend the Miscouche legion and the Wellington legion for the services they put on and thank people for coming out and celebrating in this day of remembrance.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I will now call on the hon. Leader from Stratford-Kinlock and the Opposition House Leader.

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

A pleasure for me to rise in the House today and welcome back all my colleagues as well for what already looks like will be a very productive fall session with the Legislative Assembly.

In addition to welcoming our guests in the gallery today and of course the media that our learned colleague across the hall also alluded to, it's great to have them here.

I'd also like to send out a special greeting to all of the residents in Stratford-Kinlock and in particular, two of the newest residents of Stratford-Kinlock, Bill and Elizabeth Aylward, who just moved over to the wonderful district three weeks ago.

Mr. Myers: Moved for the MLA.

Mr. Aylward: There you go.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize the legions and the cadets and the firefighters and the RCMP and particularly the veterans – everybody that took part in the various services across the Island – and in particular also I'd like to single out the seniors' homes who over the last approximately half a week have been holding services of their own in their own communities so that the veterans, if they do want to get out to their home communities and acknowledge Remembrance Day services, they can.

In particular, Joyce Paynter. Joyce is 90 years old. She wouldn't fault me for telling her age. She is a staple at many of the services around Charlottetown – matter of fact, across PEI when it comes to Remembrance Day. She's a wonderful

individual. We get to hear her recite "In Flanders Fields" many times over.

Just in closing I'd also like to welcome the new Pages and congratulate our new Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: We'll now call upon the hon. Member from Souris-Elmira and the Opposition Whip.

Mr. LaVie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to welcome everyone in the gallery here today too, and all my colleagues back for another session, and the Pages. I'd like to welcome the Pages here and I think they'll have a great time. They'll learn a lot here.

I'd like to say hello to all of my constituents back in Souris-Elmira. I had a lot of phone calls in the last week over Route 2 and Route 4 intersections, better known as Dingwells Mills turn. There were a lot of collisions there. I'm a first responder and I responded to them. People are looking to get some safety done on that turn. I do assure the people from Souris-Elmira that I had some consultations and the turn is going to be looked at and there is going to be probably some amber lights to mark the intersection. Just have patience in District 1 and the intersection is being looked at. The minister and her department are looking at it as we speak.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Now we'll call upon the hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's great to be back in the House today with all of my colleagues. I'd like to welcome everyone in the gallery. I'd like to again extend best wishes to everyone in District 3 Montague-Kilmuir.

Like many, or most, in the House I had the opportunity to attend Remembrance Day yesterday with our veterans. I was extremely

pleased to see the number of families from the area that came out as family and brought their children. I think one of the things that struck me is I had the opportunity to have my four-year-old grandson. Prior to going to Remembrance Day he proceeded to tell me all about Remembrance Day and what it was all about and what it meant. That goes back to early childhood learning. They're being taught this in the schools and I think it's just a fantastic thing that you have kids that are that young that can come up and be pretty accurate about what Remembrance Day is all about.

I want to thank those who bring that to the table.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Next we'll hear from the hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to welcome all my fellow colleagues on both sides of the room back today, as well as everyone in the gallery. I also was going to recognize David Wedge and bail the opposition leader out of that, but the MLA from Alberton-Roseville beat me to the punch. Welcome, David.

As well, I would like to welcome everybody that is watching in District 20 Kensington-Malpeque, and especially my mom and sister that are, I'm sure, tuned in in front of the computer at home.

Talk to you later.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Now we'll hear from the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton and he's also the Government Whip.

Mr. J. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I would also like to welcome everybody back and welcome those in the gallery here today, in particular Mr. Fraser, originally from my district.

I would like to also make a note of and thank and congratulate the staff from the Legislature in helping out with our Special Committee on Democratic Renewal's work over the course of the summer break and into the fall. They've done yeoman's service to democracy in our province and I expect they will continue to do that as they do every day. I thank them very much for it.

To the hon. Leader of the Third Party's comments earlier, I think the members of the committee, which include the hon. Leader of the Third Party, the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid, and the hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot, in addition to myself, I think we've done a great job of putting the interests of the people of Prince Edward Island ahead of all political interests that we may have in making that committee work for the benefit of all Islanders. I would think that might be one such example, in terms of this Legislature, that we can all look to to continue to strive towards.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture.

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise today and welcome to the gallery Ray Brow. He is well known in the cultural sector. Also, two former constituents of District 27, David Wedge and Debbie Fox, welcome.

I also want to say I attended two ceremonies in my district yesterday. One was in Tignish and the other was in Palmer Road. Very well attended. It was mentioned here twice today about the amount of youth that have turned out to participate in these ceremonies, and it is a credit to our Island schools and the staff and the educators within those schools who are taking the time to educate our kids on the importance of remembrance and what our veterans did for this country.

I attended the banquet at the Royal Canadian Legion in Tignish last night and I just want to send congratulations out to members of the year, Juanita Gaudet and Ralph Richard.

Also, a 70-year pin was awarded to Roy McLeod who was a veteran of WWII. Congratulations to all of those.

I also have to send out a huge congratulation to our newest MP, Bobby Morrissey. Bobby brings a lot to Prince County –

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Perry: – and I look forward to working with Bobby for the betterment of not only my district but all of PEI.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Next, we will call on the hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to welcome everybody here in the gallery and all of the colleagues. As a first-time go around Cabinet minister, I got to visit with some of my colleagues in the opposition and, of course, colleagues in our own party. Attending the Remembrance Day celebrations yesterday was really touching for me as my sister was – what is it?

An Hon. Member: Silver (Indistinct).

Mr. MacDonald: A Silver Cross Mother, thank you. I always have a hard time with that.

It was an interesting venture for her, of course. Her husband died when he was 32 years old. The plane crashed in Alaska and she brought her two children up alone. Shortly after he died one child was diagnosed with leukemia. Anyway, things worked out and they are both very successful children today, and interesting enough, the gentleman that was sitting in the seat beside my brother-in-law at the time attended the rally yesterday as well, so it was very touching for me.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

Speaker: The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche and the Deputy Speaker.

Remembrance Day

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday, thousands of Islanders took time to express our collective gratitude to the women and men who have defended Canada.

Remembrance Day is a remarkably moving event, and the willingness of Islanders to attend commemorative services across our province is a great testament to our strength as a society.

During these services we acutely remember those who placed themselves in terrible danger, and those were killed and wounded because of that commitment.

Nous n'oublierons jamais le courage de ces braves hommes et femmes et les services qu'ils ont rendu à notre pays.

We shall never forget the courage of these brave men and women, and the services they have rendered to our country.

Like many others, I ask myself where they found that courage. To pack one's bags, leave one's family and enter into the unknown is an amazing bravery. To put oneself in harm's way in favour of an idea is an incredible concept, and to receive a letter informing of a loved one's wartime death is an incomprehensibly sad situation.

Thousands of young Canadians went to war, and I know they did so with a pride in our past and a faith in our future. They did this for those who came before us and they continue to do this for those who will be here long after we are gone. To the thousands who never returned, to the ladies and gentlemen who did return, as well as the thousands who continue in our nation's service today, *je me à tous les Insulaires pour dire: Merci.* I join every Islander in saying: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, I would ask that we rise and have a moment of silence.

[There was a moment of silence]

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point.

Red Cross Humanitarian Award Recipients

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is a pleasure to rise today and recognize and congratulate Reagh Ellis who was recently named the 2015 Prince Edward Island Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year, and Allyson Trainer, the Red Cross Young Humanitarian of the Year.

Reagh embodies what it means to be an active and engaged Islander. He started his first business at age 16 and bought his first Mark's Work Warehouse franchise at age 27. Today, Charlottetown Mark's Work Warehouse is one of the most successful in Canada with almost 100 employees. Although now retired, Reagh will tell you one of his greatest pleasures is mentoring young entrepreneurs.

He is a member of the capital campaign cabinet that helped the Canadian Red Cross raise over \$1 million to construct a new provincial headquarters and disaster operations and training centre for the Island. His involvement with not-for-profit organizations speaks volumes of his passion for the Island and its people.

He is a true supporter of sport on Prince Edward Island, mostly notably as the title sponsor of the Mark's Work Warehouse Spud Minor Hockey Tournament. No child has been left behind in sport with Reagh Ellis on their side.

Also honoured that evening was Allyson Trainer who was named the Young Humanitarian of the Year for her extensive local and international volunteer work.

Listening to Allyson deliver her passionate acceptance speech and hearing from her parents, former teachers, and friends speak of this accomplished young woman was very motivating. Our future is bright with young leaders like Allyson Trainer.

I would ask the House to join me in congratulating Mr. Reagh Ellis and Allyson Trainer as this year's Red Cross Humanitarians of the Year.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira and the Opposition Whip.

Brandon O'Brien

Mr. LaVie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I stand today to recognize a young leader from my community, Brandon O'Brien.

Brandon is a very active member of the Souris area and our greater Island community. He attends Souris Regional High School, and this week is in Ottawa attending a Remembrance Day ceremony and participating in the Encounters with Canada Program.

Encounters with Canada is a program of Historica Canada, which runs weekly-themed programming for young leaders from across Canada to discover their country. This week, Brandon and his fellow participants are taking part in Canada Remembers week.

Brandon has a special perspective on Remembrance Day as he is a proud member of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets. He first joined the Kent Corp in 2011 and has undertaken summer training at HMCS Acadia in Nova Scotia. He was named the Top General Training Cadet his first summer. He currently holds the rank of Petty Officer, First Class.

Brandon is also active in the Duke of Edinburgh Award program, having achieved bronze and silver and now working on his gold level.

This past summer I was thrilled to see Brandon be named Souris Youth of the Year, and being recognized during our Canada Day celebrations in Souris.

I want to thank Brandon for representing our province and his proud hometown so well during Remembrance Day ceremonies in

Ottawa, and as well as his school, at Encounters with Canada.

He is a great, young leader of Souris and a wonderful young ambassador for our province, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Questions by Members, starting with Responses to Questions Taken as Notice.

Sorry.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party for a statement. Sorry about that.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I apologize to the press for delaying your first Question Period even further.

I would like to embark on this new session with a renewed commitment to work collaboratively, to seek shared solutions, and to behave respectfully at all times in this House. To that end, I'd like this member's statement to commend my colleagues on some of the announcements that have been made since we last met.

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate again my friend the hon. Leader of the Opposition on his appointment as leader of the party.

Before we on this side of the House get down to holding government to account, I wish to commend the governing party on a series of what I consider to be potentially exciting and progressive initiatives that were announced over the summer.

Firstly, the commitment to renewable energy. While this is not a new commitment, it seems to have arrived with a vigour and sincere intentions.

The notice just last week on the reorganization of the educational bureaucracy. While its implications may not yet be clear, it's a commitment to action in an area that was clearly needed and was quite dysfunctional. So I thank you for that.

The expansion of the use of biomass heating in our public buildings.

A new whistleblower policy which is a step in the right direction, and I look forward to this becoming legislation rather than policy in the future.

The release of ministerial mandate letters, the rolling out of the democratic renewal and water act community meetings.

All of these things, in my mind, are positive. While I will reserve my unqualified praise for them until I see all of the details, I'm encouraged by the general direction and the tone of much of what I have heard and seen.

I wish us all an industrious, harmonious, and productive session.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

Questions by Members

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Environmentally sustainable infrastructure

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Infrastructure is vital to both the sustainability of our Island and the growth of our economy. As we all know, there is a lot of work required to make sure that the infrastructure is environmentally sustainable and economically productive.

A question to the Premier: Does the Premier agree that there are benefits to having our public infrastructure as environmentally friendly and sustainable as possible?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the question to the Leader of the Opposition.

We are quite committed to continually enhancing the infrastructure of the province,

and we'll learn more about that when the capital plan is presented later in this session. Beyond that there will be, we believe, opportunities for further and expedited infrastructure investments through programs initiated by the new federal government on which we remain to hear details.

Of course, we always proceed with the most sensible and engaged and environmentally astute planning.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Infrastructure and growth

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question to the Premier: Does the Premier also agree that public infrastructure projects work towards an economical – and drive our growth within the province?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, infrastructure investments have over time, and in particular at critical times, been important to stimulate our economy, and then at all times to invest in sustainable growth, which is a principle for which we stand as a government in all of our endeavours.

I think it's really important, in that sense, to be looking at our opportunities to invest in infrastructure so that they will achieve the greatest contribution to growth over time for our communities and for our province and for our economy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Okay.

The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Infrastructure and federal funding

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a question to the minister of transportation.

The new federal government has signaled its intention to increase federal investment in infrastructure. We know the minister travelled to Ottawa recently and assume she met with her federal counterpart.

Minister, what will this increased federal investment for PEI look like?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. member, yes, I did have an opportunity to meet personally with the new minister while I was there on personal business. But I also have a conference call with him this evening as well. I'll have the opportunity to further discuss our infrastructure priorities here for Prince Edward Island.

Specifically under the New Build Canada Fund is where we'll be concentrating on our priorities. At the present time we're allocated \$227 million from the New Build Canada Fund. One of our priorities and one of the issues with the New Build Canada Fund is that we do not qualify for one portion of that under the criteria, the collector roads. That is going to be our priority in speaking first and foremost with the new minister. I've already actually mentioned it on the first night that he was sworn in, and we've also had discussions prior to the new prime minister being sworn in, but also continuing discussions with the new prime minister, that that is one of the priorities for Prince Edward Island.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, minister.

As you know, we have many potential projects that could benefit from more infrastructure investment, not just collector roads. On this side of the House we think that this new federal infrastructure investment can provide an unprecedented opportunity to look at infrastructure through a sustainable lens, engage stakeholders in an open and transparent fashion, and

proactively create a prioritized comprehensive infrastructure plan.

Has the minister been in contact with key infrastructure stakeholders, including local governments, industry groups, environment groups, and community organizations to discuss additional infrastructure spending?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously, I think it's a week yesterday since the new minister and the new prime minister and his Cabinet was sworn in. In the meantime we've been concentrating, obviously, on getting our priorities detailed for that particular minister.

In our discussions ongoing with municipalities we will be working with them on what their infrastructure priorities will be as well, and we'll continue to have those discussions, whether it's municipalities or other areas that can benefit from any new funds that do come through.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Infrastructure summit

Mr. Trivers: I'm glad you're working on the priorities. Now, you have been elected since May so hopefully you've talked with some of these stakeholders a bit since then.

Ad hoc consultations are fine. But on this side of the House, I mean, we believe that a formal infrastructure summit could bring together representatives of local governments, industry, environmental groups, and community organizations to identify projects that could make our infrastructure more sustainable environmentally and also enable more economic growth. Holding an infrastructure summit would be a more comprehensive and collaborative approach that's also more open and transparent. Going this route could be more fiscally prudent than previous stimulus investments that lacked that focused planned approach. After all, we all remember the hills of Borden.

Does this minister agree that using an infrastructure summit approach would be more collaborative and transparent than the current approach and the approach that has been used in the past?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously, I misinterpreted your former question as to if I had discussed anything in the past week with anyone. Obviously, since the day I was elected I continue to work in collaboration with the small communities. Through the small communities fund with municipalities we have already done 12 projects this year within communities right across Prince Edward Island on what their priorities were. For those particular projects that was approximately \$9 million which has gone out into the small communities across Prince Edward Island.

We will continue to work with them through our infrastructure secretariat and work together with them in looking forward on what infrastructure projects are important to them.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Again, using an infrastructure summit approach would help ensure that projects are identified that would bring the highest return on investment to enhance our environment and grow our economy.

Taking a fiscally prudent approach like this would stretch any dollars coming down the pipe – that may be coming down the pipe – as far as possible. Do you agree that using an infrastructure summit approach would be a good thing to do going forward? Pointed question.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That's a great question, hon. member. I would like to point out, too, as well – and I think it's a great idea. I have no adversity to

meeting at any time with any of those particular groups and pulling together a collaborative approach. We work very closely with the Federation of PEI Municipalities. Through that collaboration they do bring to us a list of what their priorities are and we certainly work collaboratively and will continue to do that as we go forward.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. LaVie: You missed that question, too.

Mr. Trivers: We appreciate that.

Ad hoc consultations are fine. Here in the opposition we feel that having an infrastructure summit, bringing all of the groups together in the same room, would be a more positive step forward, and that's why we've tabled a motion urging the government to convene an infrastructure summit as soon as possible to get that conversation started. This is a motion that we hope all parties in the house can support.

Will the Minister consider holding an infrastructure summit to develop a focused plan before any new federal investments come online and give our motion full consideration based on its merit?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If you're putting forward a motion I'm sure we'll have lots of time in the upcoming session to discuss –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct).

Ms. Biggar: – that particular motion. But we're not adverse, as I said, to having meetings –

Mr. Myers: Give her one of those things that you put in your ear (Indistinct).

Ms. Biggar: – so we will consider that and bring it forward, and thank you for the suggestion.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Exports

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Our provincial exports contribute greatly to our economy. Does the Minister agree that encouraging greater provincial exports is a good thing?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Mr. MacDonald: Yes.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. Aylward: Now we're getting somewhere.

Infrastructure and exports

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We export a lot of goods from this province by land, sea, and air. Does the minister agree that having quality infrastructure allows for the safe and efficient movement of goods to off -Island markets?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Mr. MacDonald: Yes.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Trade groups and exports

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Growing our economy long term requires partnership between all levels of government and the private sector. Does the minister think it would be a good idea to work with our key trade groups to identify projects that would enhance trade and export opportunities?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Mr. MacDonald: Yes.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Infrastructure summit (further)

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That's where we see the value of an infrastructure summit on this side of the house. Bringing all the players to agree on a common plan going forward.

Does the minister agree that an infrastructure summit could help with the development of a common plan for our province?

Mr. LaVie: Yes.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'll take that particular question again, if I may.

Speaker: Go ahead, minister.

Ms. Biggar: Just to answer that question again, hon. member, I would also point out that every year the Cabinet does meet with municipalities to discuss, through the federation, their infrastructure priorities, and we will continue to have those meetings.

I would also point out that I believe this Saturday there are meetings as well with municipalities that the Communities, Lands and Environment minister will also be attending. But on a regular basis every year the Cabinet meets with municipality through the Federation of PEI Municipalities. We do have a great collaboration and discussion, and also, within their own municipalities, they represent certainly and bring forward a lot of the needs in the outlying areas and we will continue to work with them as well.

Mr. Trivers: Be a good start for an infrastructure summit.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That was a great answer, but I'd like for the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism to answer that question as well.

Does the minister agree that an infrastructure summit could help with the development of a common plan for our province? Yes or no?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism.

Mr. MacDonald: I think we have to talk to all our partners, Mr. Speaker, in regards to collaboration and coordination and working together on any infrastructure projects that PEI takes on.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Infrastructure and water quality

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the minister of the environment. Minister, improved infrastructure for water quality can have great benefits for communities and for the public. Do you agree with this?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

Mr. Mitchell: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Absolutely, those are very important discussions that have taken place with stakeholders of all watershed environmental groups over the past summer.

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

Infrastructure and water resources

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again to the minister. The more efficient our water infrastructure is the more opportunities there are for our water resources to be managed more effectively. Would the minister agree with point?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

Mr. Mitchell: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Those are discussions that take place every time that we meet with our groups in all sectors of environmental concerning (Indistinct) issues.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Improved infrastructure for our water would also assist efforts to improve conservation of our water resources. Does the minister agree that supporting greater conservation of our water resources is a worthy objective?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, yes indeed.

That's a very worthy cause that all watershed groups work towards continuously.

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

Infrastructure summit (further)

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again to the minister, I'm glad to hear that you agree with this and I'm glad to know that water consultations are now underway and that you're identifying the quality and quantity of the water issues that we have and what needs to be considered.

Does the minister agree that having an infrastructure summit would be a good chance to discuss some of these issues and to help identify projects that could advance these goals?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I certainly would appreciate the opportunity, of course, to speak towards the water act consultations that have been ongoing over Prince Edward Island over the past couple of months. We're now surpassed the halfway point of those consultations, and I must say that I am very pleased and impressed with

the attendance, first of all, and with the input that has come from all of those meetings.

Currently over 33 presentations have been made from a wide, broad range of presenters and we look forward to continuing that on over the next month or so.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Infrastructure and products

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the minister of transportation. A great part of our GDP comes from the output of our primary industries. The bulk of these industries are located in rural communities around, as the minister would know.

Does the minister think it's important to have the right infrastructure in place to get these products to market?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Absolutely, hon. member, and that is why we are encouraging and encouraged by the discussions that we are having in regard to our connector roads, our roads to resources, if you will. It's very important that we have the infrastructure on Prince Edward Island and continue to work towards that with the federal government.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

With all the emphasis on Canada's Food Island it's obvious that these goods are essential to our future prosperity.

Does the minister think that funding the rural infrastructure projects that help us further Canada's Food Island would be a good thing?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think any time we can fund anything in rural PEI is good for Prince Edward Island.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Infrastructure money

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that we have under spent our infrastructure money for the past year and it was mentioned here that there was \$227 million available this year. Will we be accessing all of that money?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We spent, as I mentioned, \$9 million this year. We cost shared with municipalities on those projects and we'll continue to work with them to see what projects are coming forward.

Speaker: Now we will go back to the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Paladin Security

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question to the minister of health. Recently your government entered into a new contract for security services with Paladin Security in British Columbia, a company outside of this province. What was the main reason why you changed contractors?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services.

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

Health PEI in this province takes the responsibility of providing safe, secure security in all our hospitals. On a daily basis approximately 3,000 Islanders are coming through the doors at our main referral hospital, so security and the services that we provide to keep our staff and our patients safe is a top priority, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Okay, now we're going to revert to questions from members, and we're going to start with the hon. Leader of the Third Party for his first question.

Psychiatrist's salary

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is also to the minister of health and wellness.

We learned recently that a psychiatrist on Prince Edward Island received a salary of \$1.13 million last year. At a time when the average salary for a psychiatrist in Canada is a small fraction of this amount and when almost every other facet of health care is crying out for more funding, can the minister please explain how one individual can possibly justify such a salary? More importantly, how does his department measure the effectiveness of this individual?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services.

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

I've had the opportunity to be through two Master Agreements. Currently we are in negotiations right now with the Medical Society of Prince Edward Island to negotiate a third Master Agreement. I can't speak specifically about the individual, but I do know that currently under the Master Agreement, which is a contractual arrangement, physicians in this province have the ability to work fee-for-service, they have the ability to work as salaried, and do contract work.

As the minister I'm very concerned with the current growth of medical services here in the Province of Prince Edward Island. Currently our budget is approximately \$110 million. In negotiations – I can't speak specifics, but we have expectations in how we can continue to get good value for the envelope of money that we do have and continue to provide the best access we possibly can for all Islanders who are requiring medical services here in the Province of Prince Edward Island as well as out-of-province, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party for your first supplementary question.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to talk about this specific individual. Was this psychiatrist on a fee-for-service remuneration schedule, and if so, are there audit mechanisms in place within Health PEI to ensure value for taxpayers' dollars?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services.

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

Under the *Medical Services Act* Health PEI does have the ability – and do random audits on physicians who are under a contract or fee-for-service or salaries physicians. I will bring back specifics to the questions. I can't speak specifically about his entire package, but as the minister, I know that back in 2007 when we came into government we were in a situation where we were struggling to attract physicians, particularly specialty physicians, to our province. As a result of the latest CIHI data we've seen that we are very competitive now in the region in respect to attracting and retaining physicians, particularly specialists here in the province. But would be more than glad to bring back that information in detail to the member.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party for your second supplementary.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At full-time, 40 hours a week, working 52 weeks of the year with no vacation, this psychiatrist would have made \$543 per hour. A mid-end or a mid- to high-end MRI machine costs about the same amount as the salary of this physician and you can get cheaper models for half of that price.

Given that Islanders still have to wait several months in certain cases, or even travel to Halifax for some diagnostic testing, could the minister please explain to the House how Health PEI prioritizes resources and how it managed to set a higher priority

on paying a single psychiatrist rather than purchasing new testing equipment?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family & Human Services.

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

I do want to allude, too, that we do have a contractual arrangement and an agreement that is negotiated between the province, the medical society, and Health PEI in respect to the pay structure and pay fees here in our province.

I said earlier that I had the opportunity to be part of two of those negotiations. We are currently right in the middle of Master Agreement discussions and negotiations. My expectation is that we continue to get the best value and continue to expand and provide the best access for every dollar that we have. We're currently in discussions with Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland who have recently signed contracts with their physicians.

But our priority as government is to make sure that we get the best value for every health care dollar we have in the entire envelope and we'll continue to work to that goal. I will bring that information back specifically for the member.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton and the Government Whip.

Premier's priorities re: federal government

Mr. J. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Premier and minister responsible for intergovernmental affairs.

Last month millions of Canadians cast their ballots during a federal election and a new government was elected by Canadians. Here on Prince Edward Island and across Canada, there is great hope for this new government and that it will bring more and pay more

attention to the finely attuned needs of our province.

Will the Premier please outline the priorities he has set for dealing with this new federal government?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I might preface my remarks by saying that I realize all members of the House have followed the federal election closely. In my own case I was successful in winning a pool where you had to predict the outcome of all 338 seats across the country. Now, I don't think that gives us any extra advantage in dealing with the new government, but in any event, we have to keep following these things.

Mr. Aylward: You guys like to gamble.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Premier MacLauchlan: I might add that the winnings were donated to the United Way, Mr. Speaker.

We have been, of course, following the program of the new government in the course of the campaign and have had various interactions including a meeting that the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy and I had with our now-prime minister while the campaign was under way.

On Friday of last week I wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau – and I will put my hands on that letter and table it in the House tomorrow for the information of members – but in that letter we identified four areas where we have priorities in our relations with the federal government and where we intend to move forward with sustainable growth and benefits for Prince Edward Islanders.

The first of those is jobs and the economy, where we are committed to continuing to build on the success that Prince Edward Island has in growth in exports. I might note that to date, that is to say to the end of September in this year, Prince Edward Island leads the country, among other

provinces, in our export growth. We intend to be at that point at the end of the year, and we build on a successful year the previous year.

The second item is that we –

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Premier MacLauchlan: The second item where we intend to pursue our relations with the federal government: health care and indeed our fiscal transfers. Third, the hon. members opposite will be pleased to hear, infrastructure. The fourth, climate change. The fifth, immigration and refugees.

On that note, I might add that it's envisaged that there will be a First Ministers' conference sometime within the current month. It's likely that the two priorities for those discussions will be to deal with refugees on the one hand and climate change. That will be the first time in seven years that there's been a First Ministers' conference.

Speaker: The hon. member from Charlottetown-Brighton and the Government Whip with first supplementary.

Mr. J. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think I just have the one supplementary question subject to anything that may come out of it.

Mr. LaVie: Something's going to come out of it.

Mr. J. Brown: Second question to the Premier and minister of intergovernmental affairs.

Recognizing the response to the first, it seemed like the previous administration in Ottawa neglected the interests of Islanders in many of their decision-making processes.

I'm wondering if you've had any indication yet, recognizing that you've sent a letter and that we've been in contact with the new government, when we might expect to see a response in terms of what their plans are for the Island.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We, of course, will be engaged in various conversations with ministerial counterparts in the new Cabinet and indeed will be working very closely with the four Members of Parliament who've been elected to represent our province.

I know there were congratulations earlier to Lawrence MacAulay and to Bobby Morrissey. Of course we have Sean Casey elected in Charlottetown and Wayne Easter in Malpeque. We've met with all of our MPs since the election and we look forward to working very closely with them as well as with all members of the national government.

As I said, there will be a First Ministers' conference, and I'm under the understanding that there are a number of other ministerial or national minister's meetings that will take place between now and Christmas. Generally what we expect is a heightened and a much more engaged relationship with all aspects of the federal government, and we look forward to that working out to the benefit of Prince Edward Islanders.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Potato disinfection

Mr. Henderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Last week, minister, your department announced the pending closure of the PEI disinfection services as of December 31st, 2015.

Internationally there are numerous quarantinable potato pests that can limit access to international marketplaces.

With the recent signing by the Canadian government of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement trade deals are possibly going to open for numerous potato markets for export.

Canada is the seventh-largest potato exporter in a competitive global market place. Minister, is this the time to limit the opportunities of Canada's Food Island where we can have a competitive advantage by offering reputable potato disinfection services on PEI to boost our exports and to reduce the PEI trade deficit?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Government House Leader.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and an excellent question.

As we all know, agriculture is the number one industry in this province and the potato industry is certainly the biggest driver of that. We as a province count on our natural resources in agriculture and fisheries to drive our economy. It's been the request of the Premier that we do that.

In no way are we, in any way, shape or form going to do away with that. We're going to work strongly and very hard at and we are going to maintain the integrity of our potato industry.

We have met with the potato board on several occasions since the suggested changes that were due to a financial budget we put through last time. Out of those discussions we actually ended up saving our producers some money. We realized there were many of those potatoes that the disinfection did not need to occur with through and we eliminated that, saving dollars for the producers.

We want to concentrate on the seed, which is fundamental to the future of our industry, and we are going to do that. We will work and continue on with the integrity of our disinfection system. It may have changed in somewhat way, but we will work with the potato board. We have a good relationship. We're going to have minor disagreements, discussions, time to time but I think we will see through this that we can fully maintain the integrity of our seed stock and our whole industry going forward. We're very excited about the opportunities through TPP for our potato industry and many other of our commodities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Phytosanitary rules re: CETA and TPP

Mr. Henderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Supplemental to the same minister.

Minister, in past when a quarantinable contagion has been identified, competing market places can take advantage of the phytosanitary situations, and I'm sure there will be bilateral agreements within these trade partnerships.

The potato crop is Canada's and PEI's largest horticultural crop. In fact, we have seen increasing imports of seed potatoes to PEI. We also have limited access to our borders should an outbreak from a quarantinable pest be evident on Prince Edward Island.

Are you aware of any phytosanitary rules that will be implemented by either the CETA or TPP that will impact our potato industry?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Government House Leader.

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

We just received the final text on the TPP just within the last few days, a very thick document. We have a staff member going through that at the present time. I've looked at it partially myself as well. We're looking at delving right in to see exactly what is in that.

On the CETA agreement it is before the 22 countries in the European market at the translation stage. There's a lot of work that has to be done with that. TPP may well come into place before the CETA or somewhat around the same time. It'll likely be 2017 at the earliest.

But we're looking at those to see how we can benefit our province, grow our markets, grow our exports through those two trade deals, all in the same time protecting the

supply management commodities that mean so much to our province. We are looking at maintaining the integrity of all our commodities here and building upon our trade.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness for your second supplementary question.

Potato disinfection and marketplace

Mr. Henderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Minister, when the incidence of potato wart was found on PEI a few years back the US marketplace was willing to open its borders because PEI had a disinfection service in place that was able to control the issue fairly quickly, as well as it was able to apply the proper phytosanitary protocols to contain this spread of this contagion, thus to the satisfaction of the US government, thus permitting PEI's access to a vital US marketplace.

Minister, by doing away with this service on December 31st, what happens if some future pathogen was found on PEI? Would we be able to respond quickly to get that disease under control to the satisfaction of our competing marketplaces?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Government House Leader.

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

Maybe we need to do a little bit of history here. When we met with the potato board we looked at: What do we really need to do with regards to the disinfection services that we have in place? When the board came forward and spoke with us the first time they said: You know what? We've never really believed that we had to do disinfection for our table stock and our small bit of export that is going out of province. I said: If that's the case why are we even doing that? Let's check the science on it. That's what we want to focus on is the science. We had in a former or a retired plant pathologist. We worked with CFIA to get the information from him, and two of my staff met with staff

from the potato board and the retired scientist to actually look at what we have in place and what we need.

He said: For those potatoes we don't really need to do this inspection, but we should concentrate more on the seed side. So we've eliminated the disinfection from that side and we are concentrating on the seed side.

We sat down to discuss: How would this be funded? The decision was we could have two things. We could either work together on this – I promised that we would put up 120 of the \$286,000 needed if the – we would put up 120 if the potato board and the producers would put up the other 166. We were putting up 42%, we're asking them to put up 50.

We did not come to an agreement on that so we are changing the focus of that. Not in any way lessening the integrity of the system. In my riding alone we have some of the largest potato producers on the Island that do a fantastic job of disinfection on their own site and we're going to continue that. We have dollars that we can use through Growing Forward 2 to help each and every producer who wants to set up the disinfection system on the farm – if they don't have it in place already, and many of them do from my understanding – and we will improve upon or at least come very close, I think, in many ways every bit as good a job in the new system that we had in the past.

But that's what we want to do, focus on keeping the integrity of our seed stock because we need that for the TPP, for the CETA, whatever it may be down the road, and I look forward to working with the potato board to continue that system.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Paladin Security (further)

Leader of the Opposition: Back a minute or two ago the minister of health alluded that everything was great within the contract or the people that were providing the service in the past in regards with the hospitals. In the wisdom of Health PEI you guys went and

switched, went to an out-of-province contractor.

Can you confirm that the difference in what the commissionaires gave for a contract price and what Paladin Security gave was less than \$80,000 a year?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services.

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

I can confirm that the security contract that was awarded has a total value of 4.2 million over the life of the four-year contract with a possible year extension. I can confirm that in the life of the contract it's approximately \$500,000 in savings. I will confirm that 27 out of the 32 commissionaires that were working at the QEH, 27 were offered positions back. I will guarantee Islanders that we'll continue to get quality, friendly, safe service from the organization.

I had friends and individuals I knew quite well, as the minister, that were impacted. As the minister I have to adhere to Treasury Board policies, trade agreements. This is a substantial volume of money that is public money and we have to adhere to the policies and the practices and an open, transparent tendering process.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: So, it came down to money. That's all it came down to. Came down to a little bit of bucks and you could have spread that over the other departments.

Can you confirm, or deny, that you awarded the contract to Paladin Security and then they came back and they asked for more? Yes or no, was the contract renegotiated after they already signed it the first time?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services.

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

I can confirm that the process to award the contract was followed under Treasury Board policy, met all requirements. As the minister I do not get involved and run interference on contracts. We respect the Treasury Board policies that guide the direction of public funds in this province. I have valued the work of our corp commissioners, particularly at our main referral hospital, the QEH, and the PCH.

But if you look at the volume there was set criteria that was selected and chosen to award the contracts, and I will go back and bring information. I have total confidence that all requirements and protocols were met under the Treasury Board and trade agreements regarding the procurement process.

Thank you.

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

Leader of the Opposition: You lost me after that one.

I'll ask this question again. You awarded the contract to Paladin Security. Did they come back after the contract was awarded and signed and ask for more money and you gave it to them? Did that happen?

Mr. Aylward: Yes or no.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services.

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

I'll take that question under advisement. I wasn't directly involved with the contact and awarding the contract.

I do know that it's a substantial contract valued at 4.2 million. I do know that the savings of the five years of the contract is approximately \$500,000. I do know that this company is in 200 health care facilities across Canada. I do know that all employees that will be working with this company will all be Islanders. But I will go back and find out and take the question specifically under advisement.

Thank you.

Speaker: That ends Question Period for today.

Speaker's Comment

Members, I find that we started asking Questions by Members at 3:00 p.m. and it took us to about two minutes before 3:20. That in my mind is spending a little too much time. I think your questions are too long, and in a lot of cases the answers are too long.

In all fairness to everybody here, let's make it a little more to the point for those asking the questions and for those answering the questions.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Speaker: So we do have – we went over two or three minutes today, but in all fairness to the opposition, I think they need their time too.

Statements by Ministers

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Special Olympics Month

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to make a statement to recognize Special Olympics Awareness Month which we are celebrating in the month of November.

I'm pleased that we have some very special guests in the gallery joining us today for the proclamation. I recognize: Brad Colwell, who's the chair of the board for Prince Edward Island; Charity Sheehan, who's executive director; Matthew McNally, who's a Special Olympics program director; and Michael Morris who's a member of Team PEI in cross-country skiing; and Michael's mother Judy McDonald. Welcome to our guests for this recognition of Special Olympics and what it contributes to our province.

During Special Olympics month, we celebrate 300 athletes and the many coaches and volunteers who donate their time and talent so that we can offer 65 quality training and competition events year round.

Special Olympics Prince Edward Island has come a long way since it was established back in 1987 and it enriches the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities through sport. Being involved in sports improves the athlete's health and wellness and has a lasting positive impact on the families, the communities, and on all of us.

The Special Olympics program has a far reaching impact. It provides athletes with an enriching and valuable experience and a great sense of inclusion. Our athletes are wonderful ambassadors for our province and their sense of community, passion, and spirit is unmatched.

Special Olympics brings 4.2 million athletes in 170 countries together to make the world a more respectful and accepting space. The spirit of Special Olympics inspires us all. This was evident last week at the Special Olympics Fun Day when our Special Olympic athletes gathered with 400 fellow students to welcome his Royal Highness, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.

I am pleased to advise that Special Olympics Awareness Month in Prince Edward Island has been officially proclaimed by our minister of health and wellness, the hon. Doug Currie.

I encourage Islanders to celebrate our fantastic athletes by taking in some of the many activities planned for Special Olympics this month.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier.

Responding to the Premier's statement will be the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: First of all, I'd like to welcome you all here today. I believe whole-heartedly in Special Olympics. Back about a month ago I was able, Mr. Speaker, to attend the awards banquet held at the Delta. My wife attended with me. It was quite amazing to see these individuals and what they provide to our community, and I think they provide a great service to our community because they are part of our community. Very much so, whether they're friends of ours or they're members of our

families. I believe whole-heartedly in what they do, and my sincere thanks to them and I wish them all the well.

Speaker: Also responding to the Premier's statement will be the hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We know that healthy communities are inclusive and supportive and they allow all Islanders to reach their full potential and contribute to our communities. That's something that we have to celebrate, and Special Olympics is one aspect, one facet, of that. I wish you well and I thank you for the, thank you for your statement, Mr. Premier, and again, I support you whole-heartedly.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Energy.

New License Plate for Veterans

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Canada's veterans have made incredible contributions to the safety of Canadians and the quality of life of people around the world. As a token of thanks to the veterans of Prince Edward Island, my department offers a special veterans license plate. This allows veterans recognition as they travel the roads of Prince Edward Island and abroad.

Today I am proud to announce a newly redesigned veteran's plate will soon be available at Access PEI sites across the province. With a prominent poppy design, flags of both Canada and Prince Edward Island, and the word "veteran" prominently displayed, this plate allows us to say thank you to those who have served our country.

This new plate was designed by Floyd Gaudet, a member of the Tignish Legion, in cooperation with the veterans groups who wanted an up-to-date design that resembles the design of the other Prince Edward Island license plates.

Veterans can choose from our current veteran's plate design or from the new plates which will be available next month.

Also, two other people who I had the pleasure of meeting with to unveil the new license plate were Claus Brodersen, chairman of the PEI Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, and John Yeo, president of the PEI Command of the Royal Canadian Legion. I want to thank John and Claus also for their help with the project, and to thank all veterans for their service.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Responding to the minister's statement will be the hon. Member from Souris-Elmira and the Opposition Whip.

Mr. LaVie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I heard in opening remarks in the House here earlier today how much we attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies and thanked our veterans, and any time we get a chance to thank our veterans in any way for what they sacrificed for us for not only a great country we live in, what a great province we live in – we live in the best country in the world, right here, and this is what our veterans have done for us, so I thank the minister.

Anyway you can stand up in this House and thank the veterans of Canada I applaud you for it, and I applaud you for what you did for our veterans here today.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Also responding to the minister's statement will be the hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: It's certainly nice that this announcement be made the day after Remembrance Day. What I like most about this is, of course, on November 11th we all stop and remember our veterans, but this is something which is visible every minute of every day of the year.

I would also like to concur with what my hon. friend said. The more we do to recognize and celebrate and thank our veterans for their contributions to what we

enjoy today, the better. Thank you for your initiative.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table the petition from the Campaign Life Coalition containing over 4,000 names and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Souris-Elmira, that the said document be now received and do lie on the table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, by Command of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table information required pursuant to subsection 5 sub 1 of the *Public Departments Act* since the last session of the House and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, that the said document be now received and do lie on the table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Hon. members, pursuant to section 119 of the *Election Act*, I beg leave to present the report of the Chief Electoral Officer for the Province of Prince Edward Island General Election held on May 4th, 2015. I move that the report be received and do lie on the table.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Go ahead, Clerk.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, please be advised that, pursuant to Rule 80(k) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, the following documents were received by the Office of the Clerk and tabled intersessionally since the House last met on July 10, 2015 during this, the 1st Session of the 65th General Assembly:

1) 2011-2012 & 2012-2013 Annual Reports for the Civil Service Superannuation Fund

2) PEI Lotteries Commission Annual Report for 2013-2014

3) Island Waste Management Corporation Annual Report for 2014

4) Island Regulatory & Appeals Commission Annual Report for 2013-2014

5) 2014-2015 Annual Report for the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

6) Answers to written questions Nos. 3 & 4

7) 2013-2014 Annual Report for the PEI Housing Corporation

8) 2013-2014 Annual Report for the PEI Public Service Commission

9) 2014-2015 Annual Report for the RCMP L Division

10) 2014-2015 Annual Report for the Island Investment Development Fund

11) 2014-2015 Annual Report for Finance PEI

12) 2014-2015 Annual Report for Innovation PEI

13) Volumes I, II, and III of the Public Accounts of the Province of Prince Edward Island for the year end of March 31, 2015

and,

14) 2014-2015 Annual Report for the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Reports by Committees.

Introduction of Government Bills

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled, *An Act to Amend the Sherriff's Act*, and I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Economic

Development and Tourism, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Sherriff's Act*, Bill No. 33, read a first time.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, this is a minor housekeeping amendment that will clarify the process for the appointment of deputy sheriffs.

Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2015* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and Government House Leader, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2015*, Bill No. 31, read a first time.

Speaker: A brief explanation please, Mr. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, this act will correct minor errors in approximately 60 statutes.

Most of the corrections are typographical, grammatical or numbering errors. None of the corrections are substantive in nature.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Jury Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Jury Act*, Bill No. 29, read a first time.

Speaker: A brief explanation, please, hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, this amendment will correct an inconsistency between the fees paid to juries under the jury act and those paid under the *Court Fees Act*.

Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Off-Highway Vehicle Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Off-Highway Vehicle Act*, Bill No. 32, read a first time.

Speaker: A brief explanation, please, Madam Minister.

Ms. Biggar: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

This is a bill, an amendment that has been in consultation with the Prince Edward Island Snowmobile Association to increase the fines from \$225 to \$500 without a permit on the trail.

Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 2)* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 2)*, Bill No. 26, read a first time.

Speaker: A brief explanation, please, Madam Minister.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is an amendment to the act in consultation with MADD Canada and it has been implemented in six Canadian jurisdictions. It's an amendment to increase the look-back period from two years to three years for short-term roadside suspensions as a result of alcohol.

Speaker: Thank you, minister.

The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *Government Reorganization Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *Government Reorganization Act*, Bill No. 27, read a first time.

Speaker: A brief explanation please, Mr. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, this act will update the government department names, ministerial responsibilities, and titles of ministers to reflect the May 2015 government reorganization.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: I got one more.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Chartered Professional Accounts and Public Accounting Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Workforce 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 Chartered Professional Accounts and Public*

Accounting Act, Bill No. 22, read a first time.

Speaker: Brief explanation please, hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

These are minor housekeeping amendments to correct a few typographical errors in this new act which was proclaimed in the spring of 2015.

Speaker: Thank you, hon. Premier.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Workforce 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 Liquor Control Act*, Bill No. 30, read a first time.

Speaker: Could you give us a brief explanation, hon. minister?

Mr. Roach: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

With these amendments mandatory beverage service training requirements for licensees and for those responsible for the sale and distribution of liquor in licensed premises would become part of the act instead of the regulations. The transfer would give the liquor control commission clear authority to enforce this training.

These amendments would also eliminate the 30-day grace period to successfully complete this beverage service training program and to obtain a certificate.

Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act (No. 2)* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act (No. 2)*, Bill No. 40, read a first time.

Speaker: Brief explanation please, hon. minister.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This really brings vessels and boats into the same legislation with respect to liquor aboard a vessel. It brings us online with the other provinces across Canada. It's very similar to what you have if you have a motor home or a trailer and you bring it to a trailer park, and when it's stopped there for the night it allows the occupants to legally possess and consume alcohol as if they were in their residence.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Communities, Land and Environment, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act*, Bill No. 41, read a first time.

Speaker: Brief explanation please, hon. minister.

Mr. Currie: The changes give the minister more power and addresses a number of labour mobility provisions, and it also gives regulation authority to the PEI psychologists as well.

Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act*, Bill No. 25, read a first time.

Speaker: Could we have a brief explanation please, Mr. Minister?

Mr. Currie: What we're looking at is repealing the *Dietitians Act*, the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act*, the *Occupational Therapists Act*, who have all applied for in transitioning to the *Regulated Health Professionals Act*.

Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture.

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act*, Bill No. 20, read a first time.

Speaker: Brief explanation please, hon. minister.

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This bill amends the *Archives and Records Act* to improve wording to certain definitions in the act to clarify the application of the act to certain public bodies, and also to provide for the application of the act to the Legislative Counsel office which will better enable that office to manage the retention and

disposition of its records, and to improve the wording in the regulation making authority to designate certain types of bodies as public bodies for the purposes of the act and regulations.

Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Motions Other Than Government

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Mr. Speaker, at this time the opposition would like to call our motion acknowledging the 10th anniversary of Camp Triumph.

Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent of the House to proceed with this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Speaker: Go ahead, hon. Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Aylward: He's the mover.

Speaker: We'll call upon the Member from Kensington-Malpeque to move (Indistinct).

Clerk: It's been moved by the hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque, seconded by the hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald, the following motion:

WHEREAS Camp Triumph is a summer camp program aimed at meeting the complex needs of children who are living with the impact of chronic illness;

AND WHEREAS Camp Triumph helps siblings and children of the chronically ill or disabled to develop coping strategies to deal with the stresses and challenges involved in these often life-changing situations;

AND WHEREAS this is a free program that provides participants with an adventure-based summer residential camp where friendships are developed with those who can truly understand each other's experiences;

AND WHEREAS Camp Triumph helps participants to develop a network of support to help families deal with their hardships as well as enhancing positive self-esteem;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly acknowledge the valuable contribution of Camp Triumph in the lives of those who are dealing with the many challenges of chronic illness and disabilities in their families and daily lives;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Legislative Assembly extend its best wishes and congratulations to Camp Triumph for its 10 years of service to children and youth in our province.

Speaker: Now we'll call on the hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque to move the motion.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to acknowledge the contribution that Camp Triumph has made in the lives of so many of its campers.

I believe that Camp Triumph plays a very important role in the lives of Canadian children and youth who live daily with the anxiety and stress of a terminally ill family member.

Many of us in the Legislative Assembly have perhaps dealt with a situation in our own lives where a parent or family member was suffering from a chronic illness or disability. I am sure we have all faced some of the typical emotions involved such as sorrow, anxiety, anger, acceptance, depression, denial. Some of those feelings we may understand, some we may not understand at all.

But what we all recognize is that these situations have a significant impact on the family unit. Often we may know of a family member that is going through difficult times due to illness in the family and we wish there was more we could do to help.

What is unique about Camp Triumph is that it offers a place where children and youth can go and have a chance to meet other children going through similar experiences. It provides a week free of stress and worry. It allows children to be children and to simply have fun.

Camp Triumph itself was piloted in 2005. At the time there was 41 campers who attended the camp which was held at the Old Great Island Science and Adventure Park in

Cavendish. According to the Camp Triumph website, campers and staff slept in two big wedding tents packed in like sardines.

Over the next three summers the camp continued to expand, which meant it had to move to different facilities that could handle a group of their size. By 2008 Camp Triumph had expanded to offer three week-long camps plus a leadership camp welcoming over 60 campers a week.

With registration filling up earlier each year and the waiting list growing longer, Camp Triumph needed to find a permanent location. In February of 2009 the PEI government came on board with a grant of land for Camp Triumph to call home, which was located in Malpeque.

The facility now has seven camper cabins that are fully insulated and heated. These each sleep 10 campers and two counsellors. Washroom facilities are located next to the cabins and include separate staff and campers facilities as well as outdoor/indoor showers.

The dining hall and kitchen accommodates up to 150 people and the camp's many volunteers prepare meals with ingredients grown in the camp's own gardens and donated vegetables. The facility also includes a new lodge which includes arts and crafts, indoor programs and, when necessary, indoor campfires take place. There are also staff offices, accommodations, and First Aid.

Staff are also housed in a staff cabin located next to the main lodge. In 2012 a multipurpose surface was built for basketball, tennis and road hockey. The camp also provides a high and low ropes challenge course complete with climbing tower and zip-line. Camp Triumph is located near the beautiful beach of Cabot Beach Provincial Park where kayaking, swimming, and sandcastle building take place.

With a permanent facility in place Camp Triumph will continue to expand to meet the tremendous needs across the Atlantic provinces and the rest of Canada for this program.

I want to read to you the excerpts from those who first saw the need of this program and

set about this great determination to ensure that it would happen. It was written by Kathi Sheriko, the current camp coordinator.

“My boys and I have been fortunate to have many gifts in our lives. We have each other and through adversity we have been given the gift of not taking anything for granted. We know that although it is a challenging way to acquire insight, chronic illness has a positive side to it. My soul-mate and the boy’s father was diagnosed with a brain tumor when Jordan was turning 4, Jeffrey was 20 months and we were expecting our third son Matthew. He was told by the neurosurgeon in Halifax that there was nothing that could be done and he had less than 2 months to live. We were also involved in a serious car accident within a month of Tom’s first seizure. The accident left me with mobility issues and chronic pain. It also created some moments of comic relief. It was a task to convince the nurses at the Montreal Neurological Hospital that the tall healthy looking guy was the one checking into the hospital, and not the pregnant woman in the wheelchair with two full leg casts.

“By the time Matthew was born, I had graduated to two crutches and Tom was in the middle of radiation therapy. It was a challenging time, but with the support of family and friends we were able to make the most of the opportunities we had. For the trips to see Tom’s surgeon in Montreal, we would focus in on the opportunity to see the Expos play and not the dire predictions of the course of his illness. Jordan’s primary teacher chuckled as she showed us his drawing of his family – complete with a daddy who had a very interesting head (as a result of the uneven hair re-growth from radiation). A vendor in the Montreal subway once asked Tom where he had his hair done! It must have been strange if it stood out in downtown Montreal. Tom lived almost 19 years with the disease, until August 30, 2007.

“Living with the unpredictability and effects of illness, the treatments, and its outcome has given us an opportunity. My sons are unique individuals with big hearts who are extraordinarily close and supportive of one another. They have strived to reach their potential and have valued all the opportunities they have been given.

“Jordan and I conceived the idea of a camp and were developing it when I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer. This helped to give us focus and determination throughout my treatment. In fact, we received support from the nurses in the chemotherapy unit at the cancer centre as we drew them into our idea. Despite the uncertainty and challenges the boys have had, they are never bitter but have accomplished much with their young lives because of their circumstances and not in spite of it. That is the premise of Camp Triumph.

“The camp provides an opportunity for children dealing with a family member who has a chronic illness to come together in an environment of support and understanding and to develop a positive outlook on their circumstance. They are exposed to role models who lead by example. They gain relief from knowing that there are others who truly understand the conflicting emotions and the strain of worry and uncertainty and the sacrifices not faced by most of their peers.

“To launch the camp was to follow an idea; the desire and effort to develop it and make it sustainable has been validated by those who have been involved. It has been truly amazing to watch young people, some of whom I’ve known since they were toddlers, jump in wholeheartedly to give of themselves. The unselfish commitment they have given to make Camp Triumph a reality is extraordinary. Equally amazing are the adults who gave their vacation time to work long, demanding hours under challenging conditions. For these remarkable gifts, we are forever thankful. We know that they are also valued by the children for which the camp serves. One 14-year-old brought that point home to me when she asked if we were getting new T-shirts for the next year’s camp. When I assured her that we were, she said emphatically, ‘That’s good because mine is up on the wall of my bedroom and it is never coming down.’”

Mr. Speaker, I doubt if I could outline to you in any better words what this camp is about.

Obviously all those involved, remarkable people, have endured much pain, much sacrifice, and yet they’ve created something

wonderful to change the world of these children.

I would ask that we here in this Legislative Assembly support this motion and acknowledge the remarkable work that is carried out at Camp Triumph and offer our support in ensuring that the legacy of Camp Triumph endures into the future of generations to come.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: We will call upon the hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald to second the motion.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am proud to stand today in our Legislative Assembly to acknowledge the tremendous contribution to our province and to society that the establishment of Camp Triumph has brought.

I believe that the hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque has outlined to you the important work that is carried out by this organization. I would like to acknowledge the spirit of volunteerism that has led to this camp's great success.

In doing so I will refer to the director's report of 2009 by Jordan Sheriko, camp co-director. He noted in that report that since its beginning in 2005 – so this is from 2005 to 2009 – 325 children had been able to experience Camp Triumph. He also outlined the fact that the "...camp is the first in Atlantic Canada to offer a free camp specifically to children who have a family member with a chronic illness or disability. Families who are dealing with chronic illness continually tell us how overjoyed they are that the impact of chronic illness on the whole family is finally being recognized. The enthusiasm of everyone who has been involved in Camp Triumph over the years has affirmed the need to make this camp sustainable," is one quote.

He suggests that Camp Triumph was relatively unknown throughout the Maritimes so in 2008, in "an effort to get the word out to the many families across the region who live with chronic illness

everyday [*sic*]," they met with "guidance counsellors, doctors, nurses, and social workers." They ended up with many more inquiries than they could accommodate.

Again I quote:

"Not being able to meet the needs of those families inquiring about camp and knowing that there are many more families that we haven't reached is one reason that has spurred us on to achieve sustainability.

"Another factor that keeps us going and keeps pushing us to make this happen, [*sic*] is the feedback from parents and campers. Being able to witness the transformations in campers in just one week is an incredible experience... They are more happy, more willing to talk about difficult things, are making new friends, and doing better in school. As staff we are lucky enough to see the impact our camp has on these children... They meet other children that are going through the same things and they realize for the first time they are not alone."

Camp Triumph has met the criteria and has passed the evaluations to receive accreditation, meeting the highest standards of operation set by the camping association of Canada, but it has taken a lot of hard work, donations by the community, and many volunteer hours.

The camp, which started out with roughly 40 campers, has now welcomed over 1,424 children in its first nine years. In 2013 Camp Triumph provided an additional week of camp, bringing the total to five weeks, including the leadership camp. A leadership program was expanded to include 18 youth.

As in all things the generosity of a giving public plays such an important role in ensuring that good projects receive the resources and support they need to succeed.

Examples of community support are Howard Murchison, owner of Sealand Freezers, who completed a new walk-in cooler and freezer for the camp. With assistance from Mike James of Spring Valley Building Centre and Kohler Windows the dining hall was renovated with the upper window areas replaced with permanent windows, keeping the weather out, allowing for better ventilation.

Now, the Malpeque Bay Credit Union took on the job of bringing a crew out to the camp and doing the spring cleanup. The credit union also held an event at the facility in May and generously donated the proceeds to Camp Triumph. Despite the unseasonably cold long weekend in May this year, the camp hosted the executive of the 21 Leaders Inc. who were – as stated on their website – very impressed with our facility in what we have to offer our groups.

The camp has also benefitted from many fundraisers, and the Canaccord Curling Challenge, which took place in March, saw 10 teams participating. The third annual kayak relay held in August was sponsored by Spring Valley Building Centre. Despite less than ideal weather 10 teams participated. In fact, I was able to participate with the hon. Member from Malpeque-Kensington on his team, and the St. Eleanors Lions Club assisted with the barbeque.

A gala took place on September 21st with entertainers who donated their talents. J. Leroy Gallant Insurance covered the cost of the band and the sound technician. Numerous individuals and companies donated to the silent auction, and the Insurance Institute of Nova Scotia donated the funds they received from their golf tournament and also at their softball tournament.

Some more fundraisers. The Dalhousie University Medical School Family Residence hosted a walk-run as part of their retreat in September, and they raised enough funds to send five children to Camp Triumph. For the third straight year the Acadia University basketball teams held a campaign in support of Camp Triumph and plan to make this an annual effort.

Chris MacNearney and Carol Evans donated fresh veggies and meals were prepared with a kitchen crew made up of many on- and off-Island volunteers.

These are just a few examples of the wonderful support that Camp Triumph has received recently from our local and off-Island communities. We know that parents of these children have provided many volunteer efforts as well.

I understand that even the Canadian military took part in getting this project off the ground by providing tents. Six cabins for the campers and councillors were built during the winter of 2010 by Holland College and the School of Carpentry was supporting the project by the electrical and cabinet making programs. Quite an effort all around. Phase 3 of the project was supported by a grant by Aviva Community Fund to build the main lodge.

I believe that Camp Triumph has not only served to meet the needs of these families and children in need, but has helped to bring communities together in the collective spirit of good will and harmony.

I am proud to second this motion and to express thanks to the many individuals over the years who have poured their hearts and souls into making this project a reality. I commend their perseverance and hard work, it's truly amazing.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Next to speak on the motion will be the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock and the Opposition House Leader.

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

It's certainly an extreme privilege of mine to get up and speak today on the accomplishments and the 10th anniversary of Camp Triumph.

The first two speakers, of course, our mover and our seconder, they talked a lot about the history of this wonderful camp, they talked about the generosity of Islanders as a whole, the corporate supporters, of course, that came out and can be relied on time and time again.

There's many great organizations across PEI that provide essential services for our young people, our children, but there's no greater cause, I feel, than giving children the opportunity to be children, even if it's just for a short period of time during the summer along with their siblings, just to forget about their illness or what might be causing them pain or infliction within their life.

Camp Triumph does this and has done this now for the past 10 years. As one of the speakers alluded to, I believe it was 40 campers they had in the first year and they have grown exponentially since then.

I would encourage all MLAs here in the Legislative Assembly to support this motion. Without Camp Triumph there would be one less avenue, one less opportunity for children of PEI to actually be children, if only for a short period of time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Now speaking to the motion will be the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services.

Mr. Currie: I'd like to rise and acknowledge and support this motion by the Member from Kensington-Malpeque. I think it's a tremendous motion.

I had the opportunity as part of my 20-year career in public education, prior to coming into public life, of working in the area of children with unique needs. I know the value of these experiences and these opportunities for children in our communities all across Prince Edward Island. I am aware of the success of Camp Triumph and the commitment that they have made, not only working with the camp participants, but the support they provide the families, and what this summer experience does to youth with struggling and dealing with chronic illness and disabilities.

I am extremely impressed at the number of children that have been impacted. I'm overwhelmed and extremely impressed with the succession planning with their leadership program at Camp Triumph as they continue to work with youth that want to be part of the experience for children and families.

We can't say enough about those opportunities that children get being away from their families, having that sense of freedom and independence in a very warm supportive summer fun environment. It's a very powerful camp, there's no question. As the Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services, obviously we are involved with a lot of children that have

the opportunity to participate in Camp Triumph.

I just want to congratulate Kathi and Jordan Sheriko, the camp directors, for what they do and their innovation and their leadership in strengthening Camp Triumph as it celebrates, not only its 10th year, but I know that it will continue to have a lasting impact on children and families.

I want to thank the Member from Kensington-Malpeque once again for the motion, and the opposition, I think it's a strong motion and I'm absolutely delighted to stand here today to support it.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Do we have any other members who would like to speak to the motion?

If not, we'll go back to the mover to close debate on the motion.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just on that note, I got to spend quite a bit of time out at Camp Triumph this summer, which I had a couple of our MLAs out as well. It's such an impressive facility and the work that they put into it.

As the MLA from Rustico-Emerald said we got ourselves in a kayak race there. It doesn't look that hard but let me tell you it is. I was grasping for air fairly well in the home stretch.

Going back to some of the volunteers out there, they had an awards gala banquet out there and Catherine MacLellan, ECMA Award Winner, donated her time. She went out and played music there for the night which was truly remarkable to do that.

As well, I got to spend some time in the kitchen out there doing some dishes and to see these kids out there and what they're going through, and you see a smile on their face out there.

In saying that, I hope all members of the Legislature will support this motion.

Thank you.

Speaker: Are we ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Aylward: Mr. Speaker, I call for a standing vote.

Speaker: Standing vote. Thank you, hon. member.

A recorded division has been requested.

Sergeant-at-Arms can you ring the bell?

[The bells were rung]

Mr. J. Brown: Mr. Speaker, government members are present for the vote.

Speaker: Thank you, Government Whip.

Mr. LaVie: Mr. Speaker, opposition is ready for the vote.

Speaker: Thank you, Opposition Whip.

All those voting against the motion, please stand.

All those supporting the motion, please stand.

Clerk: The hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning, the hon. Minister of Finance, the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, the hon. Premier, the hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services, the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture, the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, the hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness, the hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot, the hon. Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, the hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, the hon. Leader of the Third Party, the hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the hon. Opposition House Leader, the hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque, the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River, the hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville, the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton, the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid, the

hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, the hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald, and the hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

Speaker: The motion is carried and it is unanimous.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Now I'll call upon the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock and the Opposition House Leader.

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

At this time opposition would like to call our next motion acknowledging the reign of Queen Elizabeth II as Britain's longest reigning monarch.

Speaker: Do we have consensus in the House on this? Okay, thank you.

Clerk: Motion No. 35.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition moves, seconded by the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River, the following motion:

WHEREAS on September 9, 2015 Queen Elizabeth II became Britain's longest reigning Monarch;

AND WHEREAS Prince Edward Islanders have had the honour and privilege of welcoming Her Royal Highness to our red shores on many occasions during the Queen's 63 years of rule;

AND WHEREAS Queen Elizabeth II holds a special place in the hearts of many Prince Edward Islanders as subjects of the Commonwealth of Nations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Members of this Legislative Assembly acknowledge on behalf of all Prince Edward Islanders the truly historic and remarkable accomplishments and contributions to our province, our country and the world, of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II.

Speaker: We will now ask the mover of the motion, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a great honour and privilege to rise today in support of our motion which commemorates Queen Elizabeth II as Britain's longest-serving monarch.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on September 9, 2015, at approximately 5.30 p.m., surpassed Queen Victoria's record of 63 years. Our 89-year-old Queen is not only the longest-reigning monarch in British history, but is the longest-reigning female monarch in world history. I believe that fact alone is a remarkable feat.

Queen Elizabeth II has, over the years, achieved many milestones. In December 2007 she became the longest-living British monarch, overtaking Victoria who died when she was 81, and in May 2011 Queen Elizabeth became the second-longest reigning monarch in British history when she overtook George III.

Much of our history as a nation and as a province revolves around our connection to the British Commonwealth and the Royal Family. Queen Elizabeth, perhaps, has reigned over most of the years for most of us in this Legislative Assembly.

Christened Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, Queen Elizabeth II is the elder daughter of King George VI, then the Duke of York, and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. Princess Elizabeth's early years were spent at 145 Piccadilly, the London house taken by her parents shortly after her birth, and at White Lodge in Richmond Park. She also spent time at the country homes of her paternal grandparents, King George V and Queen Mary, and her mother's parents, the Earl and Countess of Strathmore.

In 1930 Princess Elizabeth gained a sister with the birth of Princess Margaret Rose. In 1942 Princess Elizabeth was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Grenadier Guards, and on her sixteenth birthday she carried out her first public engagement when she inspected the regiment. A quote from her 21st birthday speech perhaps exemplifies best the dedication to duty for which Queen Elizabeth is so renowned. She is quoted as having stated: I declare before you all that my life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and to the service of our great Imperial Family to which we all belong.

It was shortly after the Royal Family returned from South Africa in 1947 that the Princess's engagement to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten was announced. The couple, who had known each other for many years, were married in Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947. According to one of the many articles relating to the Royals, the event was fairly simple, as Britain was still recovering from the war, and Princess Elizabeth had to collect clothing coupons for her dress like any other young bride.

Lieutenant Mountbatten, now His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was the son of Prince Andrew of Greece and a great-great-grandson of Queen Victoria. It was on February 6, 1952, while visiting Kenya, that Princess Elizabeth received the news of the death of her father, King George VI. Her coronation took place in Westminster Abbey on June 2nd, 1953. She was just 25. After the coronation Elizabeth and Philip moved to Buckingham Palace, although it is said that the Queen prefers Windsor Castle as her home.

I am not sure that there are many of us that could take on such an extraordinary responsibility at such a young age, with such sustained dignity, and under many difficult situations both personal and in relation to her duty as the Queen. The year she became Queen the Korean War was raging, Joseph Stalin was leader of the Soviet Union, and Britain announced it had the atom bomb. We look around the world today with all of its turmoil, but I think it is important to remember that there have been many troubled years in our past. Fortunately, the British Commonwealth has found a bond that we have been able to share during troubled times, and I believe that relationship will serve us well as we move into an uncertain future.

The Queen and Prince Philip went on to have four children: Charles, Anne, Andrew, and Edward. She is now a grand-mother and a great-grandmother. Our Queen is the most widely-travelled head of state in history. From 1953 to 1954 she and Philip made a six-month around-the-world tour becoming the first monarch to circumnavigate the globe. She also became the first reigning monarch of Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji to visit those nations.

The Golden Jubilee of 2002 marked the 50th anniversary of the Queen's Accession in 1952, although it began with personal sadness for the Queen, when her sister, Princess Margaret, died at the age of 71, following a stroke. Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, died only a few weeks later. She was 101.

The Queen celebrated her 80th birthday on April 21st, 2006 when she became the third-oldest reigning monarch in British and Commonwealth history. In compiling information on our Queen, I have gleaned information from various sources, mostly on the Internet including the British Broadcasting Corporation, our Lieutenant Governor's official website, numerous newspaper articles in Canada, Britain, and in PEI. It has been a fascinating and educating project.

Our article talks about the unique relationship and the role the Queen plays as the Queen of Canada. I was 12 years old when I first swore allegiance to the Queen when I joined 318 Woodstock army cadet corps in Woodstock, New Brunswick. It points out that as the Queen of Canada, Queen Elizabeth II is a constitutional monarch acting entirely on the advice of the Canadian government ministers. She is fully briefed by means of regular communications from ministers and has face-to-face audiences with them whenever possible.

The Queen personifies the state and is a personal symbol of allegiance, unity, and authority for all Canadians. Legislators, ministers, public services and members of the military and police all swear allegiance to the Queen. All new Canadian citizens swear allegiance to the Queen of Canada. Elections are called and laws are promulgated in the Queen's name.

The Queen is represented in Canada on a day-to-day basis by the Governor General at the federal level and by the Lieutenant Governor in each of its 10 provinces. The Governor General is appointed by the Queen upon the recommendation of the prime minister in Canada while the Lieutenant Governors are appointed by the Governor General upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

The Royal Family's service to the world community is legendary although unfortunately is often overshadowed by the more sensationalist coverage of the paparazzi. The Queen is known primarily for her dedication to service for those less privileged and she is a patron of more than 600 charities and other organizations. The Queen's patronage in Canada includes: the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Nurses Association, the Canadian Red Cross, the Royal Canadian Humane Association and Save the Children Canada. The Queen also retains a special relationship with the Canadian Armed Forces, acting Colonel-in-Chief of various regiments including the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery – I was a member of that – the Queen's Own Calgary Regiment, *Le Royale 22nd* Regiment, the Governor General's Foot Guards, the Governor General's Horse Guards, the Canadian Grenadier Guards, *Le Régiment de La Chaudière*, the Calgary Highlanders, the Royal New Brunswick Regiment, the 48th Highlanders of Canada, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, the Canadian Military Engineers Branch, the Air Reserve and the Canadian Armed Forces legal services branch.

I believe, as members of the Commonwealth and with our special connection with the Royal Family, that we have shared many of the joys and sorrows, the intrigue and the interest in their lives. I believe it is this Royal connection and the Royal influence that gives our country a uniqueness and a special pride which we need to nurture and grow for future generations.

I would ask members of this Legislative Assembly to support our motion and offer, on behalf of all Islanders, our congratulations and thanks to Queen Elizabeth II on her 63 years of service to our country and to our province.

Thank you, and God Save the Queen.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: I now ask the seconder of the motion to speak.

The hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's my pleasure and honour to stand today to second the motion of our opposition commemorating the occasion of Queen Elizabeth II having achieved the status of the longest serving monarch in British history.

The celebration of this milestone I believe provides an occasion for Islanders and all Canadians to reflect upon the role of royalty and our connection to our fellow British subjects from the 53 member countries of the Commonwealth of Nations, formerly the British Commonwealth. It represents 2 billion citizens and almost 30% of the world's population. It is the world's oldest political association of sovereign states.

Canada is a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy with the Queen as our sovereign. An outline of the role of the Commonwealth on the Commonwealth website indicates that the Commonwealth sees itself as an advocate for small and vulnerable states, helping to strengthen their resilience and inclusion in a global economy.

Prince Edward Islanders are much more than just Royal watchers. Our history is well-rooted and intertwined with that of the Royal Family. Our connection with the British Royal Family goes back hundreds of years when our province was named Prince Edward Island, after Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, the fourth son of King George III and the father of Queen Victoria.

Many Island landmarks are named after royalty, such as the Prince Edward battery, Kent College – established in 1804 by Lieutenant Governor Edmund Fanning and his legislative counsel, which is now known as the University of Prince Edward Island – Kent Street, West Kent Elementary School, Kent Street in Georgetown, which was named in honour of King George III, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Victoria. The list is long.

Charlottetown, for example, is named after Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Queen Consort of the United Kingdom. Our Queen Elizabeth Hospital was named in honour of Queen Elizabeth II. Even our counties are named for royalty: Kings, Queens, and Prince.

Our Queen is diligent in her desire to know her subjects. Over the course of more than 63 years and over 22 royal tours, Her Majesty's Canadian tours have included stops in each of the provinces and territories.

Our province has had the honour of having hosted royal tours by many members of the Royal Family and I believe these royal tours help to strengthen the bonds between Canadians and their Queen.

The Queen and members of the Royal Family frequently use such tours to associate themselves with worthy causes. For example, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Earl of Wessex are strong supporters of the Duke of Edinburgh awards which encourage young people to excel to the best of their abilities and talents.

It was only recently that Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex and the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II, came to our province at the invitation of the Prince Edward Island regiment to take part in its 140th anniversary celebrations. He also attended the second annual Special Olympics PEI Fun Day at the University of Prince Edward Island. This was Prince Edward's fifth visit to the Island and his 37th to Canada.

The Royal Family is a supporter of many charities and educational organizations in our country. For example, the Prince of Wales charities in Canada work to identify and deliver programs such as the Prince's Seeing is Believing that is engaging corporate Canada with community organizations to improve the lives of young Canadians. The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, is president of Save the Children Fund and fosters a great understanding among all the people of the plight of disadvantaged children.

While in Canada the Queen and members of the Royal Family often lend their support to other noteworthy causes in such areas as a need for environment preservation, the plight of socially disadvantaged people, the role of volunteerism and community service, the promise of scientific and medical research, and the creation of new educational skills.

The list of Royal visits is quite long and started way back in 1860 when an 18-year-

old Prince Albert Edward, son of Queen Victoria and heir to the throne, toured what was then British North America, including a stop on Prince Edward Island. Prior to Confederation, I might add. The Royal visit lasted 48 hours. It is interesting to note that the Prince on this tour laid the cornerstone for the Parliament buildings in Ottawa, which was then called Bytown.

While several members of the Royal Family visited after that, it wasn't until 1951 that our province welcomed to its shores a young Princess Elizabeth and Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The then-Princess Elizabeth attended a state banquet at the Charlottetown hotel on November 9th.

I want to read to you the following address from the premier of the day, the hon. Walter Jones:

Your Royal Highness, the honour falls to me of welcoming you and your royal consort, Prince Philip, to Prince Edward Island, the smallest but by no means the least distinctive province of Canada. Our people have ever borne a warm attachment to the throne and, in peace and war, have cherished our ties of British kin

Prince Edward Island also welcomed Queen Elizabeth II and Philip, Duke of Edinburgh for the official opening of the Confederation Centre of the Arts, October 6th, 1964. Queen Elizabeth II herself, and I quote: 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 was her escort, and among the Canadian musical entertainment provided that night there was a brief glimpse by the Queen of our province's most popular production, *Anne of Green Gables*TM.

In 1973 Queen Elizabeth II and Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, arrived on our shores again to celebrate the centennial of Prince Edward Island's entry into Confederation. I believe that Royal visits help to bond our country and our province to our nation and to those of the Commonwealth. If one has travelled to other Commonwealth countries it is comforting to note that we have a common link, a common bond, and share in the protection provided as a citizen of the

British Commonwealth. We share many traditions and values.

Canada is the country most visited by the Queen over her reign of over sixty years. She has often stated that it was her second home, feeling totally at ease in Canada, meeting as many Canadians as possible from all walks of life and backgrounds in the communities where they live. I am sure that many of you here in this Legislative Assembly have attended the various functions or stood in line along the streets to catch a glimpse of Royalty.

I am sure that we have been glued to our television sets and surfed the Internet in sharing the excitement of Royal marriages and Royal births. I would be remiss if I did not mention my own aunt, (Indistinct), probably the biggest Royal enthusiast and Royal watcher that I know – followed her on many trips, including to Nova Scotia where we trudged through the rain to see the Queen. I remember back when Charles and Diana came to Prince Edward Island and we waited, when my daughter was a young girl, behind the lobster shanty in Montague – and that wasn't yesterday – just to get a glimpse of the Royals. I guess we all have some kind of connection to the Queen. I've had the opportunity to see the thrill and the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. I've had the opportunity to go and the pleasure to visit Balmoral Castle, the Scottish home of the Queen and her Royal family in Royal Deeside in Scotland.

I believe that if we refresh our memories and review our history as a province, and as a nation, we will see the impact of royalty in our daily lives almost everywhere. I believe we should be proud of that history of the Queen, proud of the Queen. I would ask members of this Legislative Assembly to join in our motion by offering their own words of thanks and congratulations on this historic milestone for our Sovereign.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: We will now call on the hon. Minister of Finance to speak to the motion.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is an honour for me to stand and speak to this motion, and I would like to give a

slightly different, I guess, position when I'm talking about the Queen. Personally, I have had the opportunity to meet the Queen. I had the opportunity to be on her security detail in 1973 when she initially came to Ottawa and was presented with an RCMP horse, Centennial.

Prior to that she had received a horse by the name of Burmese and each year they have a troop inspection ceremony in London and, for the life of Burmese, the Queen rode Burmese to do that inspection year after year. When Burmese was taken out of service the Queen never rode another horse for that troop inspection. She then began to ride a carriage and just had that relationship with the horse. I guess, just to go back further, when the Queen was four-years-old she received her first horse, which was a Shetland pony, and by the time she was six she had learned to ride that particular horse, and by the time she was 18 years old she was very-well documented and a solid horse rider of the day. That remained a passion of hers and she still rides today. There has always been a very special relationship between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Queen, and that carries on to today. Many occasions over those years – the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride has been in the UK and the horses have, in fact, been stabled on her farm.

I guess just an interesting point for myself, the Queen – she became Queen the same year that I was born. I guess she heard there was a guy from Souris born, she figured I better take this job and look after him, so I thank her for that. But I think that as we look over the time it's been since the Queen has assumed that role, there have been many challenges that have reached her family, and I think that she has clearly shown her incredible leadership in her role, her incredible leadership over all of those years. I think probably the strongest and one of the most memorable female leaders this world, I think, has seen in the time that we've been watching that sort of thing.

It's a real honour and a privilege for me to be here today. There was also another famous painter by the name of Arnold Friberg. Arnold Friberg was an American and he did a lot of paintings for a company called the Northwest Paper Company. He painted for years for that – it was actually

calendars that he started painting with them. He has done – I guess I would be guessing if I said the number of paintings that he has done for the Royal Family over those years – and he has done a couple of paintings, three that I know of, for the family. He did one with Prince Charles on Centennial, he did one with the Queen on Burmese, and another with the Queen on Centennial. Those are life-size paintings that hang with some of the most celebrated painters throughout history.

I appreciate all of the wonderful things that have been said talking about our monarchy and how important it is to those of us around the world who were a part of that monarchy, but I just wanted to bring her other great passion just for information to the House. It's always a pleasure when I hear from friends of mine who are on the musical ride and who have had the pleasure to be in the UK with the musical ride and the horses, and to hear the stories that they tell. At 6:00 a.m. they're out and they're mucking out the stables and the first thing, you know, they get a tap on the shoulder and it's the Queen in her riding gear and speaking to them as fellow riders, as fellow people who have a passion for the horses.

That's just another little piece of history I wanted to bring to this Legislature when we're talking about our Queen.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you to the movers and seconders for bringing forward this motion to recognize Her Majesty the Queen, and through this Legislature ensure that we express our fidelity, and our respect and our appreciation, for what it means to have a Queen who has served the mandate that Queen Elizabeth II has served since she was crowned, or since she assumed office in 1952, and to recognize that in what will soon be 64 years she has served with great grace and aplomb and dignity, and intelligence.

It's particularly useful as we consider and support this motion to recognize the constitutional significance to have the monarchy in place and to have a Queen who has been on the throne for the number of years that Queen Elizabeth II has served.

We recently had a national election in Canada. We take for granted our peaceful constitutional order in this country, but it's a remarkable thing in most parts of the world to change a government without a harsh word, or certainly without a shot being spoken or fired. It's really because we have the Queen on the Throne, and then in turn, the vice-regal representatives and the Governor General and, in our province, the Lieutenant Governor, that we are able to enjoy many of the civic benefits that we have and that we have, in effect, peace, order, and good government.

I might say, in the case of Queen Elizabeth, she has favoured Prince Edward Island, as the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River has said, with four visits, one prior to her time as Queen. In fact, that would have been, up until the recent visit of her son, Prince Edward Earl of Wessex, a record for the number of Royal visits to Prince Edward Island with Prince Edward having visited our province and the province with which he shares a name now five times. We have there an indication of the great fondness and the regularity of the relationship that Prince Edward Islanders enjoy with the Royal Family.

I had the privilege as a youngster in 1959 to see the Queen at Dalvay, not far from where you started out, Mr. Speaker, then in 1964 as a Wolf Cub when she came in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference. There was a great gathering at the – what was in the Kennedy Coliseum. There are lots of ways – I know our Sergeant-at-Arms has seen and presented the Queen on parade in Ottawa when she visited Canada in 1973, and met with her and was present for her visits on several occasions while he was posted with the Canadian forces in West Germany.

I might tell a story that is probably not known to many in Prince Edward Island that gives an indication of how the Queen performs under stress that I had a chance to

relate to the Earl of Wessex when he was here last week and that he greatly enjoyed.

In the lead-up to the Royal Visit in 1973 there were many preparations being made because it coincided with the 100th anniversary of Prince Edward Island entering into Confederation. There were on the order of three years' worth of preparations made. That included the establishment of the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation, and in particular, the fitting up renovation, then what would be the opening of Beaconsfield on Kent Street, which continues to serve as the headquarters, or the main base of operation for the museum and heritage foundation.

The group that was making plans for that were prepared well ahead, to the point where they were discussing what scissors they would acquire to give to the Queen to cut the ribbon for the official opening of Beaconsfield. Our great cultural maven, Catherine Hennessey, was in Montreal and in an antique shop where she was going through everything and came across this fancy pair of silver scissors that seemed to be just the thing. She asked about them from the guy who ran the antique shop and he explained that these were grape scissors. Madam Hennessey thought that was perfect for the occasion, brought them home, explained to her organizing committee and everyone was enthusiastic.

When the day came – and there were photos of this – Queen Elizabeth took her place in front of the ribbon, Prince Phillip standing behind as he does, and when the scissors were passed to Her Majesty she with great aplomb proceeded with the task. Prince Phillip was heard to say in the hearing of about 10 or 12 people nearby: Grape scissors, she can't use those. But she went ahead and somehow managed to cut the ribbon.

When I told this to the Earl of Wessex last week he started laughing before he even heard the punch line because he could see the whole setup.

Since 1973, while Queen Elizabeth has not visited Prince Edward Island in those intervening years, she has certainly maintained her role and her contribution

through her dignity, or constitutional position, and the way in which she stands as an example to all of us. I expect many members – if not all members of the House – look forward to those annual Christmas Day messages which are remarkable creations and remarkable messages and ways in which we all can learn from Her Majesty.

I had the honour last year and into the previous year of participating in the committee that founded – or that was an inaugural organizing committee for what are known as the Queen Elizabeth Scholarships where Canadians, including governments and our own, have contributed to create a fund that was initially \$30 million and will grow to celebrate Her Majesty's 60 years on the throne and to have a continuing recognition and vehicle to have relations throughout the Commonwealth by students who will come with quite generous scholarships funded through this fund to come to universities in Canada and for Canadian students to go abroad in partnership to Commonwealth countries.

In fact, one of the first awards under that Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Scholarship Program was to the University of Prince Edward Island, in particular, to recognize the work that's been done between Prince Edward Island and Kenya, and notably through animal health and the work that's done among the farmers, with Farmers Helping Farmers in the lead. There we have an example of the way that we have so many benefits from the Queen's longevity and from her example and leadership, and indeed, a project that will continue for the duration of her reign and beyond.

Thank you again, Mr. Speaker, to those who have taken the initiative to bring this motion forward.

It's a very worthy motion that is being put and we wholeheartedly support it.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: We will now call upon the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy to speak to the motion.

Ms. Beggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I support this motion and must say I'm an ardent monarchist. I've had the opportunity, I guess, to looking back in my childhood when we were in school and I guess it would be 1964, I was just a young student at that time. I remember being all bundled up from our little one-room school house in Victoria West and we took a big trip to Summerside because the Queen was coming.

What I remember most in contrast to when monarchy comes today, we were all standing lined up along and I remember exactly where I was standing. I probably was only in grade 3. We were standing on the corner by Crocketts Jewelers in Summerside – and I'm sure the hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot remembers as well. All we saw was the black car going by and the hand going like this. It was certainly different than the opportunity I subsequently had to meet Prince Charles and Prince Diana when they came to Summerside. I was a Girl Guide leader at that time and we took all our Girl Guides with us, and we were fortunate because that was the focus of youth with Princess Diana and Prince Charles. We were in the front line, and I can still remember Princess Diana coming across and shaking hands, and my two daughters were with me, and having the opportunity to pass them one of our Girl Guide pins and have a little chat with the Princess and then subsequently later to meet her son, Prince William, when they came here to Prince Edward Island. Those are memories that I certainly will always take away with me, and I know my two children, my two daughters, will have those memories going forward as well.

When we look at the Queen and think back to her young beginning as a young wife at the time when this reign of hers was put on her shoulders, one can only perhaps have a little imagination of the enormity of it as a young wife and having that put on her, and the grace and the responsibility that she has held in her role as our Queen and instilled in her children the responsibility of leadership and service to their country and to the Commonwealth across the world. I will certainly always remember those moments. I do have a coronation plate at home as well, and I'm sure there's lots of them tucked away in cupboards across Prince Edward

Island. So I still have that as well. That was passed on to me from my mother, someone had given it to her, so that will be also something that I also cherish.

I'm very pleased to support this motion, and God bless the Queen.

Speaker: Before we go to our next speaker, I'd just like to take the opportunity to welcome a visitor to our visitors' gallery.

The newly re-elected Member of Parliament from Charlottetown, Mr. Sean Casey, is joining us.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Myers: Mr. Henderson, nice to see you in the gallery.

Speaker: Okay, now our next speaker to speak to the motion will be the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point.

Ms. Casey: Great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, would like to support this motion and congratulate her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, on her long reign as our monarch. I enjoy listening to the many stories and the respect that we all have for the Queen of Canada and I'm sure everybody in the House probably has a favourite story of their favourite royal.

A few years ago I had the pleasure to be the vice-chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, which is a association representing 17,000 parliamentarians of the Commonwealth, and celebrate a Commonwealth Day at Westminster Abbey with the Queen. All of the countries of the Commonwealth were represented, and they said on that day that all of the religions of the world were represented and all of the religious leaders from around the Commonwealth did a reading, so it was quite an impressive array and display of different religions from around the Commonwealth. I'll never forget the mass that was celebrated that day on Commonwealth Day.

I've also enjoyed a private audience with the Queen at Marlborough House, and the group that I was with had a private audience with her. I always love to hear stories of friends

who have been in the presence of royalty. They situated the group, they wanted us to have a group photo with her, and I have it in my office if anybody wants to see it. But we were in a circle and she went around the room to speak with everybody. The representative from the British Commonwealth Parliamentary Association who was introducing her to all of the members of the executive happened to say – and I was the Speaker at the time – that I was delayed on my trip to Britain by 24 hours because we had one of the famous Prince Edward Island snowstorms. She loves Prince Edward Island and she knows a lot about Prince Edward Island. She did say: I do understand you get a lot of snow, and asked me how much snow we had, so in the middle of this big ballroom were the two of us standing there, because I happened to be the last person in the group and the rest were ready for this photo, and she didn't seem to want to go and get in the photo. So we had this great conversation with everybody else looking on. She was asking all kinds of questions about the snowstorms of Prince Edward Island.

Do you know that there's an active Royal Commonwealth Society here on Prince Edward Island that meets regularly and is open for new members? If there's any members of the House who would like to join or anybody who's listening online, if you're interested in becoming a member of the Prince Edward Island Royal Commonwealth Society, I'm sure you'd be very welcome to do that. They host early in March of each year Commonwealth Day, a letter is read from the Queen on this day. It's a wonderful display, and it's a wonderful gathering where they display 53 flags of all the Commonwealth countries. They're all read out and the young cadet corp from around the Island carry these 53 flags and put them on display. It's a magnificent display of all the Commonwealth flags.

I would encourage – and I know we're all invited to go to that. It's early in March, around March 8th, and it's hosted at one of the churches here in Charlottetown. It's a not-miss opportunity to see all of the flags of 53 Commonwealth countries displayed, and it's a wonderful evening put on by the Royal Commonwealth Society. At that, during that Royal Commonwealth Society celebration, there are students from UPEI – and I know

the Premier has alluded to the scholarships – but the Royal Commonwealth Society also gives scholarships to students and international students from some Commonwealth countries, and they usually take part in the ceremony where they do readings and offer the greetings from their countries. It's a great way to meet some students from other Commonwealth countries who are here studying in Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure for me to stand and support this motion and congratulate Queen Elizabeth on her 63 years of reign.

Thank you.

Speaker: Next speaking to the motion will be the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale.

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, would like to support this motion. Most of us grew up with the Queen as a reigning monarch and Canada has always been better off for the monarchy and what it stands for. The minister spoke about his interaction with the Queen in regards to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I didn't have as much interaction as he did. I did with former Prime Minister Trudeau in both Toronto and Saint John, but I was honoured in 1973 to be one of the officers from New Brunswick. What they did was they asked former Prince Edward Island members of the force to come over here for the 1973 visit because we knew the lay of the land. It was a great honour to be picked and to be here in red serge and be of service to Her Majesty that year.

Going forward, Her Majesty has gone through many prime ministers and world leaders and she's the one constant glue that holds our dominion together. Canada's a proud partner in that dominion and I just dread the day when she's no longer there to guide us because she's been such a wonderful reigning monarch for this country and for the world.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: If there are no other members wanting to speak to the motion, we will call on the mover of the motion to close the date.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's so great to hear such kind words from everybody on this. I think she quoted it – I think one point has to be made. When she was 21 and she made this statement, and I went back to the second one and read it, she declared: I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family to which we all belong.

That's quite a statement for a 21-year-old to make. We listen to the stories the ministers over there talk about. I can remember back in 1983 when she, the *Britannia*, docked into Saint John and I was there.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Speaker: The hour has been called.

An Hon. Member: Extend the hour.

Speaker: Are we in agreement to extend the hour?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Speaker: Okay, we'll extend the hour.

Leader of the Opposition: I can remember back in 1983 when the *Britannia* came into Saint John harbour. I watched Princess Di and Prince Charles walk off the ship. I was a young gunner in the gun crew and we were all so scared to move. The royal family was here.

With that, I'll close debate. I would ask for one amendment to the motion as such:

Whereas on September 9, 2015, Queen Elizabeth II became Britain's and Canada's longest reigning Monarch.

I'd like to make that a motion and add the words "and Canada's" longest reigning monarch.

Thank you.

Speaker: Do we have a seconder for that motion?

Seconded by the hon. Premier.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: (Indistinct) agreement.

Are we ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question!

Speaker: All those in favour of the amendment, say “yea”.

Some Hon. Members: Yea!

Speaker: All those opposed to the amendment, say “nay”.

Are we ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Speaker: All those in favour of the amended motion, say “yea”.

Some Hon. Members: Yea!

Speaker: All those against the amended motion, say “nay”.

Motion is carried and it’s unanimous.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: We will now recess until 7:00 p.m.

The Legislature recessed until 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: You may be seated.

Government Motions

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

I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services, that Motion No. 23 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Motion No. 23.

The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services moves, seconded by the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, the following motion:

WHEREAS seniors are one of the fastest growing segments of the population in Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS many Islanders do not plan for future age related changes that may arise, specifically for those who would prefer to stay in their own homes;

AND WHEREAS recognition that planning for future needs is something that all Islanders, not just seniors, should do to ensure that they have a say in where and how they age;

AND WHEREAS some Islanders may not be aware of existing services available to assist them with this planning;

AND WHEREAS planning for aging in place can help individuals make appropriate choices now to set the stage for greater control over one’s independence, quality of life and dignity in the future;

AND WHEREAS the option of aging in place is possible and can benefit the individual, families and the Island economy so that Island seniors continue to play an active role in their communities;

AND WHEREAS the province has a number of programs and services available to help with this important planning process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Prince Edward Island continue to promote the programs and services available to Islanders to help them plan for their future;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of this Assembly, colleagues and guests in the gallery today consider their individual plans and encourage all Islanders to begin the important process of planning for the future to ensure the continued strength of Island communities, businesses and families.

Speaker: We’ll now call on the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services to move the motion.

Mr. Currie: Mr. Speaker, I’m pleased to move this motion to encourage and support planning for aging in place in Prince Edward Island.

We must strive to put in place collaborative efforts in order to develop caring, dignified, beneficial programs, services and support with older adults on Prince Edward Island.

We know that most adults would prefer to age in place. Seniors deserve to wait, safely, independently and comfortably for as long as they are able in the home in which they have lived and in the community where they have contributed for many years and, in some cases, where they've lived their whole lives.

As a government one of our goals – and more importantly, our responsibility – is to work with our citizens and non-government organizations and others to improve the quality of life for all Islanders.

To that end, my department is proud to partner with seniors organizations including *Le Comité bel âge*, the PEI Seniors College, and the PEI Seniors Federation, amongst others. Together we strive to improve the quality of life with Island seniors.

The Seniors Secretariat of Prince Edward Island is an advisory body that was created to develop and support plans, policies and programs to improve the quality of life for seniors.

The Seniors' Secretariat is also responsible for developing and supporting public education efforts for seniors about issues that are important to them, and we are proud to work closely with them on these endeavors.

Research shows that while many older adults prefer to age in place they are unaware of the services available to them. In fact, many do not plan for the future age-related changes that may become necessary to facilitate aging in place and, as a result, may have fewer choices, less control and independence.

The concept of aging in place is not new nor is it unique to Prince Edward Island. Each month 1 million people across the world turn 60, and according to the United Nations Population Fund, by 2050 the 60-plus population will have more than tripled to about 2 billion.

This issue is important throughout our nation as Canada adapts to our changing population demographic, but this issue is also very important to Island communities, organizations, businesses, families and individuals. Older adults contribute significantly to community life through paid and unpaid work, leadership positions, and as role models for people of all ages.

Older adults also contribute significantly to family life by supporting caregiving and maintaining connections with those around them, including neighbours, friends, and family members. Aging in place planning can help people look ahead to where and how they want to live, the steps needed to achieve that lifestyle, and to what they might do if something unexpected happens such as illness or a change in finances.

There are approximately five Islanders turning 65 every day on Prince Edward Island, and in the coming years many people may be experiencing or anticipating significant changes in their lives. Considering options now and making choices now can set the stage for greater control over one's independence, quality of life, and dignity in the future.

To support this planning, the Department of Family and Human Services, in collaboration with our FPT colleagues, has developed a new pamphlet to support Islanders to plan for aging in place. Thinking about aging in place presents useful information that can help people of all ages begin to think about their futures and how they may better prepare to age in place.

Through a series of thought-provoking questions on housing, transportation, health, finances, safety, and caregiving, readers are encouraged to think about how they may want to live in the future and take steps now to prepare for what that future may look like.

The pamphlet is available from our office and an electronic version is available as a download from our departmental website. I am pleased that the PEI Seniors' Secretariat will take a lead role in distributing these materials at upcoming events, including the upcoming Senior Town Hall sessions in

O'Leary and Montague which will be taking place later this month.

There are a number of programs in place that help seniors to accommodate some of the changes that may be necessary to stay in their homes. The new Seniors Safe @ Home program supports Island seniors who require accessibility related renovations, such as ramps or renovations to kitchens and bathrooms which will enable them to stay in their home.

Also, specifically for seniors, the Seniors Home Repair Program is helping those seniors who are healthy, able and want to remain in their own home by providing grants to make necessary repairs to ensure they can do just that. Repairs most often consist of windows, doors, heating systems, and oil tank replacements.

The programs provide more options for seniors who would prefer to, and are able to, remain in their own home maintaining their independence and reducing their need for seniors housing, community care and long-term care.

As well, there is the new PEI Home Repair Program, which is available to Islanders of all ages, including seniors. This program will provide a grant of up to \$6,000 for necessary repairs to individual's homes. This program is based on need, and applications are assessed by income. All of these programs are helping seniors who are healthy, able, and want to remain in their home by providing grants to make necessary repairs to ensure they can do just that.

I truly hope that all members of this Assembly will commit to working together to plan for the services and supports that are appropriate, timely, respectful, and informed by best practices.

I encourage you, Mr. Speaker, our hon. colleagues, and all adult Islanders to actively plan for aging in place, both on a personal level and in support of collaborative efforts to develop caring, dignified, and beneficial programs, services, and supports with older adults of Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Before I go to the mover, I would like to recognize a young constituent of mine who is just visiting our gallery here, Sam Ferguson. Welcome, Sam.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Now we'll go to the seconder of the motion, the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale.

Oh, okay. The hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River for recognition of guests.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to just beg your indulgence. I have a young gentleman behind me here, William MacGuigan. He is a student at UPEI and he is a great supporter in the district. He works very hard and we have a lot of fun, don't we?

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Trivers: Good fiddler, too.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Compton: Yeah, a good fiddler.

Speaker: Okay.

You may proceed, hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale.

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to support the motion that the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services has brought to the floor today.

Island seniors age 65 and older represent about 18.5% of the population. PEI has the third-largest population proportion of seniors in Canada after New Brunswick, which is 18.9%, and Nova Scotia, which is 18.8%. This is significantly higher than the overall Canadian average of 16% of the population.

Seniors play a very important role in Island society. They provide a link to the past that help us prepare for the future. They support their families and play an invaluable role in the volunteering community of Prince Edward Island.

According to Statistics Canada, 8.1 million Canadians reported providing care for a friend or loved one. Of these, 20% of these caregivers were near seniors aged 55 to 64 years of age. In recognition of this, the Prince Edward Island Seniors' Guide was updated to include a new chapter focused on caregiving programs, services, and information. Seniors' guides are available through the Department of Family and Human Services as well as on their website.

We know that most adults would prefer to remain in their own home and community, but it is important to plan for any future arrangements which may be needed. I have received the new guide, *Thinking About Your Future?*, which is now available to help all Islanders remain healthy and independent as they grow older, and I can tell you that this planning is not just for seniors. It's something that every adult should consider as part of their responsibility to their family and themselves.

The guide, *Thinking About Your Future? Plan now to Age in Place*, was prepared by the Forum of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors. It includes a step-by-step process that can be followed when making long-term plans for living arrangements. It is based on experiences of individuals who have shared their thoughts about planning and developing their own plan to age in place. The guide can help people begin thinking what they can do now to maintain more control over their lives as they age – including making an advanced care plan, identifying safety risks in the home, addressing financial affairs, and considering social connections and supports and services available in their community.

I also encourage everyone here today to consider their personal plan for the future and to pick up the guides and materials that are available through the Department of Family and Human Services and the Seniors' Secretariat.

Society is only as good as its treatment of their seniors. Many seniors need a partner to live a long and fruitful life. Many seniors are valuable resources to young families. A lot of us know, in here, the valuable services that we provide for the love of our

grandchildren when it's helping our sons and daughters go to the rinks and go to the soccer field, etc. Many seniors serve in many community organizations, volunteer organizations, and give up their time so that this community can be as great as it is.

Government has to be there for seniors and we will be well served by doing so. I just encourage everybody in this Legislature and everybody out there to take a perspective of the value of seniors in our society today and enjoy that they are there to help us and to serve this great community of Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker (Gallant): Thank you, hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale.

We will now hear from the hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Before I begin I, too, would like to welcome Sam Ferguson into the gallery tonight. Sam and I have a long-time, friendly relationship. Sam has been a member of the Liberal Youth and a member of the group that I often go out to talk to at UPEI in the political science class and always have some great conversation. They have some great ideas of their vision for the Island in the future and they do a lot of work together, and I know the Island will be a good place for many years in the future with folks like Sam leading the charge.

I won't speak very long to the motion tonight, but I would like to stand and lend my voice. We, as politicians on the floor of this Legislature, probably each and every one of us have a contact from a senior in our district or from a family member of a senior looking for advice and support on various programs to enhance the lives of this group. Quite often it could be as simple as a home repair program that they're looking for assistance with.

As was mentioned by the minister, a program was put in place to keep seniors in their homes as long as possible, and these

are excellent programs, but it is important that family members take the time with their parents, their older parents, the senior group, to have a quite frank discussion on how they see themselves beyond the day where they're unable to stay in their homes.

I know my mom recently moved into one of the facilities in our own district, The Mount, and she's in the community care facility there. I see firsthand, from all of her neighbours on the wing that she is in, they have had very great lives in the communities. But there does come a time where this is now a facility where it's a great place to be, they have great connections. The medical staff that's there provides a very valuable service to people at certain stages in their life, and I know that it's difficult. It's a difficult move for families to work with their parents, to see them go into facilities like this, but it's a very big step and a very important and secure move for that senior.

As a politician in PEI I intend to work with those seniors that would like to stay in their own home, to help them and their families get the needs that they need through the program, such as Seniors' Home Repair Program and others, and I look forward to working with all families in the community in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you.

We will now hear from the hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, first of all, I want to applaud this initiative. I think it's a long time overdue. I think that letting seniors age in their home is the best way to go, especially when it comes to communities. A lot of time I think we undervalue the impact that seniors have on their communities and we need to recognize the value that they add. They are really core community members, they're the ones who are the main volunteers at church, in seniors clubs, a lot of the community organizations like the Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, things like that. They're out there, as was

mentioned, really helping raise their grandchildren. Looking after them after school, like you said—

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct).

Mr. Trivers: — taking them to the rink, that sort of thing. Even, in fact, they are the elders who are showing the younger generation the way. For example, in volunteer firefighters we see that as well.

So this is very important. I think, in fact, probably in the end there's probably a cost saving to be had. I'm not sure if you alluded to that with the seniors staying in their homes as long as possible. Now, this said, there's a couple of caveats I do want to mention and that's one. We can't forget that there is a transition, as was mentioned, to community care facilities, and especially nursing facilities once you get to level 4, level 5 nursing. We have to make sure we're there as they do that and we continuously work on that process so we don't end up with situations where you have couples that have been married for, you know, five or six or seven decades that end up in different homes. That's a huge problem. It's a challenging and complex issue and I recognize that.

I know there's a long waiting list of those people waiting to get into nursing homes, but we need to make sure we don't lose sight of that. Also, we need to make sure that we not only look at seniors aging in their own homes, but that there are people that have disabilities where they have needs similar to seniors in their own homes. I think we can't forget about them as well. These are people that want to stay in their home, they don't want to go into some institution to be looked after, but we should allow home care to accommodate them as well. Those are just two cases I just don't want to forget about.

Finally, I mean, the home repair type programs are right up front the thing to do and possibly, you know, that's something (Indistinct) make sure we get to seniors groups at the future infrastructure summit that we see.

Thank you, sir.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to rise also in support of this motion. My previous career as an administrator at a health care facility, I saw firsthand the impact of seniors having to leave their own home, and realize how important it is not for their quality of life but also for the fiscal quality of life that they have and also the fiscal responsibility that we as a government have.

We know that from now until, I think, I end up in a seniors' home, which is the end of the baby boomers, the need is going to increase, and I think whatever we can do as a government and as a society to ensure that the supports are in place for our seniors – it's very important. We all, as the minister alluded to, get calls on an almost weekly basis, if not daily, about seniors who want to stay in their homes. Any supports that are out there, especially financial, that can help them adjust and adapt their own home so they can stay there is a huge cost saving to the province, but also a huge cost savings to themselves, both financially and mentally.

Saw firsthand the almost devastation that a senior feels having to leave their home. I know we talked about it during Budget estimates the fact that a lot of families want their senior family members to move closer to Charlottetown or Summerside, and I beg to differ in that. I know a lot of the seniors that come to the facility that I worked at at the Gillis Lodge may have moved to Stratford or close to a centre, but when the opportunity arose for them to move closer to home they wanted to come back home. I think any efforts that we can put forward to make sure that they get to stay in their own home as long as they can is wonderful for the individual, and I fully support the motion.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Next speaker will be the hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors.

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It gives me great pleasure as well to rise and support this motion. District 22 has many

active seniors and I've seen their impact in our schools and our not-for-profit organizations, as well as our communities. We need to be cognizant, although seniors may be certain of age, they may have very different experiences well into their late adulthood. We have some working, we have some retired, many are active volunteers, and some even find themselves primary caregivers.

I had the privilege of meeting such a group not too long ago and heard many of their stories, how they find themselves now well into their retirement years now raising their children's children whether it be through addictions, mental health issues, or death. Later on in this session I will be speaking a little bit more about that.

We have many government programs in our community centres, such as Credit Union Place in Summerside, and they provide many opportunities for social wellness for our seniors. We also have various support groups and seniors' initiatives that my constituents take part in at Credit Union Place, such as the East Prince Seniors Initiative which was a Summerside Rotary project. It's a place where seniors can go and they can find information and take courses on things like how to work their iPad or computers, how to shop for a single – you know, if they now find themselves as a single family just cooking for one. There's many courses that they can take through this valuable resource centre.

It's very important, I feel, that we continue to allow these types of programs to continue so that we can continue to have active, engaged seniors in our society and to also avoid social isolation. With more seniors living at home there could be potentially an increase in developing feelings of isolation or loneliness and ultimately social isolation in our senior communities.

No Islander should ever feel alone or isolated, so I feel strongly that we need to continue to promote and expand these community events and programming that are dedicated to our seniors to ensure that Island seniors are aware of these programs and they are indeed thinking about their future. I applaud the minister for this initiative and I am totally in favor and fully support the motion, as I believe Prince Edward Island

has exceptional supports in place and has ample opportunity to increase those services to allow our seniors in our communities to remain active citizens and to successfully plan for their future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Next speaker will be the hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

Mr. LaVie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is a great topic when we talk about our seniors on Prince Edward Island and trying to keep these seniors in their own homes. I have my own experience in my own family with my father living in his own home. He wanted to live in his own home, and no senior wants to leave their home. As the member from Rustico says, if you live there for a decade or four decades or six decades, it's hard to tell a senior that he has to leave his home. I had to do that with my wife's grandmother. It's hard to take them out of the home and she did get used to it, but it's hard at first.

The home repair program – I know we worked with the minister on this and this is what it's all about. It's working together on this program. We worked with the minister on this and we came out with a plan. It's a good plan but not every plan is perfect. It has its challenges, as the minister always says. There are always challenges and there's only so much money to go and you can only go so far. But sometimes we have to look at it – the last time I was campaigning I was at a senior's home and their income was over the allowed amount. But seniors – not all seniors, but some seniors – they don't plan for the future. There's no money management. With the cost of living and everything – and it's hard to live day to day for a senior today with the cost of living rising. So, come time to fill out the application they're over their allowed figure, but sometimes we have to look – when I was campaigning there with a leaky roof and an oil barrel gone and cutting the pine trees down in the back yard to burn in the kitchen. I was there probably well over the hour and I was cold myself.

Sometimes we got to look at different situations, like these seniors, yes, they're over their allowed amount, but there's a reason for that. Both their health wasn't very good, but they want to stay in their home. They're determined to stay in their home as long as they can.

I do applaud the minister for working with us to come up with a plan. I know he said there are challenges out there and they're working to go beyond these challenges, and we'll be happy to work with the minister when he revisits the Seniors Home Repair Program again, which I'm sure he'll look at.

As the member from Rustico here made me feel like I was 66 years old with his statement there and –

Mr. Trivers: Are you 64?

Mr. LaVie: Yeah. On a serious note it is a great program to keep our seniors in their home because that's – we're going to be there someday and the seniors today gave us what we have. We have our churches, we have our schools, we have our local areas. It was the seniors that did that for us, and it's us that are doing it for our kids today, and hopefully when we get to be a senior looking to stay in our own home there will be somebody there to look after us to make sure that we can stay in our own homes.

Even seniors in government housing, the ones that do go into the seniors in the government housing units, they enjoy them. They're happy to move out of their homes. Some are happy to move out. They just can't do it when they're living on one income. It's hard to keep a house going on one income. Sometimes you have to make a crucial decision: Do I live in my own home and can't afford the food or medication? There are a lot of times when a senior can't afford medication. That's usually the last thing they purchase.

I went through it with my father when he was living by himself in his own home, one income. With heat and oil and food medication is the last thing you buy. He had heart problems and he struggled. He was in a pattern. Every three or four months he would end up in the hospital because he couldn't afford his medication. They'd get him in the hospital, they'd get him levelled

out with the fluid on the heart, and by the time the third or fourth month rolled around he just couldn't afford it and that's the trend he was in.

I do support the motion that the minister has got on the floor this evening. I pretty well have to support it. We worked with him (Indistinct) to get this program out there. What it's all about is working together on programs like this to make sure it works, whether it be for seniors, for our students, or whatever. This is exactly what government should be about is working together, admit these programs work.

I do support this motion, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker (Watts): We will now go to the hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

Mr. R. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I support the motion. It's a really good motion. I think there are a lot of great seniors out there. Some of them are rink managers and they do an awful good job, I say.

Just imagine a number of programs here on Prince Edward Island if it wasn't for the senior population of Prince Edward Island and in their volunteer efforts. I don't think Prince Edward Island would have a breakfast program in its school today if it wasn't for the seniors of Prince Edward Island.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. R. Brown: Mr. Speaker, our seniors provide reading coaches to a lot of our young people and help out in the education system a tremendous amount.

Seniors is a hard thing to define. I've seen some people 80, 85, 90, really active, more active than some of us in this room, a lot more active. You take Joyce Paynter, close to 90 years old, out and about yesterday at the legion and at the cenotaph. Very active person in her community.

It was great when the city of Charlottetown and the University of Prince Edward Island joined together to build the CARI Complex. When the CARI Complex was being built a big seniors' facility was included in the facility which allows a lot of activities for the seniors.

I'm going to move on. It's also the communities out there. The seniors want to be in their communities, in their homes, and it's great to be having community activities. It was a great program over the last several years which the government had in upgrading community facilities throughout Prince Edward Island. A lot of community centres were improved throughout Prince Edward Island that allowed our seniors to get together with each other and to bond with each other and just to communicate.

I come from a big family of nine kids. My mother used to stay home, and at any given time you'd go in the house there would be one or two of us there. I think a lot of the time she locked the doors so we couldn't get in.

But they are really important. I want to commend the new federal government in recognizing the importance of seniors. A very bad thing was proposed when we were increasing the old age from 65 to 67. That was going to be devastating to a lot of seniors and the new government is going to reverse that back to 65. I think that's really important.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. R. Brown: Another thing I think is really important that we have to continue on this side as well as your side, we will continue to force the federal government to live up to its commitments.

The GIS increase by \$1,000. That's the Guaranteed Income Supplement. There's a tremendous amount of seniors that are becoming seniors now that, in our age and our time, a lot of them stayed home to bring up their families. When their husband dies, the breadwinner, they have basically nothing to live on because they don't have Canada Pension or things like that. They only have the Old Age Security and the GIS to live on. I know there's a lot of seniors in my district, that's all they live on. It was good to see that

the new federal government is going to increase that by \$1,000.

Also, we got to recognize the other organizations that help out here, our seniors. The Seniors' Federation of Prince Edward Island is a great federation. They get together every quarter to meet and they have different groups throughout the province, and they do a tremendous job in also assisting seniors. They have a home visit program which I commend them for. They run a home visit program that seniors can have someone come to their home at least once a week or (Indistinct) that's really important to make sure that that communication is still in place and that sense of community is still in place. Pat and the Elephant, a tremendous help on Prince Edward Island.

There are a lot of people working together here in order to support our seniors. But we also have a program at my department called Passport to Employment that helps seniors re-enter the workforce. Let's face it, our workforce is aging and a lot of the seniors will be required to continue to work longer, but that's good. We are living longer and the longer the senior can feel needed, important, I think the better it is for our community.

I want to thank all the groups. I want to thank the minister's department. But I also want to thank a lot of other groups out there that help in developing senior programs and help with our seniors. As I said earlier – I think a lot of us in this room will think that our seniors are our biggest resource. They build the community; they are continuing to support the community. Again, I reiterate, I think if we didn't have the seniors and a lot of the volunteer programs we wouldn't have a lot of volunteer programs on Prince Edward Island, especially some rink managers.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Next, we will go to the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche and the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is a pleasure to rise and speak to this motion. I want to thank the minister of health for bringing this forward. I want to thank all members that have spoken on it thus far.

I had the pleasure back a week ago yesterday to attend the PEI Senior Citizens' Federation's annual general meeting at the Miscouche Legion where there was about 160 or 170 people. I had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the province and I was very overwhelmed by the fellowship and the camaraderie. There were groups there from Souris to Tignish. They identified them all. Some of them brought gifts for other federations and it was just wonderful. They talked about important issues all morning. But one thing they remembered to do, they had fun. They had entertainment.

As a matter of fact, at lunch time I got on the stage with the local lady from Miscouche that made a song for seniors of the Miscouche club. I held the mic and I sang along with her with about 10 other people from Miscouche and it was a lot of fun.

I hate to correct anybody in the House here but the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale said 65. Seniors in that room said they were there from 55 to 75 and up. I class myself as a senior although I don't get the discount very often. I have to ask for it.

There's a lot of things I can say that were said earlier. But we can never forget. Yesterday we remembered our veterans and we thanked them for everything we do. Maybe we should remember our seniors. Maybe we should have a seniors' day on PEI.

If it wasn't for our veterans we wouldn't have the freedom we have. If it wasn't for the seniors we wouldn't have a lot of the programs we have. We wouldn't have a lot of the foundations they laid for us over the years. We all have our seniors that we respect dearly in our communities, but I know in this House we respect them all across the province and around the country.

Saying that I just wanted to say: anything we can do for seniors to keep them in their home or help them – as I said earlier, when one of them passes on after they live together for 60 years it becomes difficult for

the other one. Anything we can do to help seniors provincially or federally, I support. I certainly support this motion.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also would like to commend the minister of health for bringing this motion to the floor. It's a great motion and certainly well-deserved. Believe it or not, I'm probably just as excited as my colleagues across the floor because I'm really looking forward to the new federal government and how Prince Edward Island is going to prosper, which we're really looking forward to it, and hopefully to see quite a bit of results come through there for the seniors.

Another thing I want to point out there that we probably all tend to forget is that the seniors built this Island as well as this great country. No senior in their last years of their lives should have to stress or worry or be upset and they should be enjoying life. I'm certainly in support of this motion.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton and Government Whip.

Mr. J. Brown: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I just wanted to add some personal insight into this motion which I think is a great motion. My own grandmother on my father's side lived in Wood Islands from the time I was a boy and ultimately lived to be 97 years of age. Perhaps the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River would recall her as she resided in the Gillis Lodge for the last few years of her life.

Prior to that she lived at home until the age of 94. My grandmother was very sharp mentally right through until the end, but unfortunately for her by the time she was

about 85 she started to have severe mobility restrictions due to arthritis and other things.

The small community of Wood Islands, being what it is, is perhaps a prime example or an analogy of what a good seniors in their home strategy could potentially do, in that there were a number of people in that community that were aged, I will say, and continued on in their homes. They were enabled to do that through things like their church, who would make sure that there were people that would go out and help them to get their mail and to shovel off their steps and do all those sorts of little things.

I remember, yet, there was a family from up the road called the Pantings that would first take my grandmother to get her groceries every week or two weeks and then later would go get the groceries themselves for her. They also did it for a couple from across the road as well.

It's the little things like that that make a huge difference in terms of people being able to stay. The ultimate reality is that, as I've said, my grandmother ended up in the Gillis Lodge, and my recollection is a portion of her time there was there kind of in the in-between stages, but finally she ended up with some nursing care. Obviously just given the fact that she stayed in her home as long as she did, her preference was not to be in the Gillis Lodge – not that there's anything wrong with the Gillis Lodge, as she would always say to us, but it wasn't her home and she much preferred to stay there.

It's those little things that make the big difference, the somebody to help with the steps, somebody to help with the groceries, somebody to help get the mail and so on and so forth. It makes every kind of sense, financial sense, community sense in the holistic sense of the word, and sense to each Islander that they be allowed every opportunity to stay in their home as long as they feel that they are safe in doing so and wish to be there.

I think it's a great initiative of government here or anywhere to be able to look into that further and to support that type of thing.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Next speaking to the motion will be the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I support this motion wholeheartedly. I think one of the greatest joys in this job is being able to talk to seniors and going out and visiting them in their homes.

One thing that always amazes me, down through the Eastern seaboard, and you stop in the stores and see how active the seniors are. They're being productive and they're out working. That's what they want to do. They want to be in their homes and they want to be around their families.

I think it's great when, as a government, we can keep them in their homes and make sure that they have the support of the families and people around them. Because that's what they want. They want to be part of the community. They want to be part of their families, and they're an important part of our society. I wholeheartedly support this motion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock and the Opposition House Leader.

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

I'm happy to rise today in support of Motion 23, supporting seniors and planning with aging in place.

There is a time, I believe, when individuals get to the stage where they begin thinking about their futures. They begin to wonder what their life will be when they are seniors. Some think about possibly going south for the winter months and staying in our beautiful province for the summer. Some want to sell their homes and travel the world while others may want to stay in their own home for the rest of their lives.

Others want to downsize and find a place that is on one floor and not quite so demanding in terms of costs for repairs and upkeep of the property. Some will also look

to condo living and still others will seek seniors' housing. Unfortunately, some will be seeking nursing homes.

Many, no doubt, will have their bucket lists that they someday hope to have the time to get to, like writing that book or climbing a mountain. Some may retire but they want to take on work a few days of the week to keep themselves busy. Others fear they will live in poverty. Others will have no choice but to keep on working beyond 65 to try to make ends meet. Others will choose to work until the age of 70 or beyond because their work is their life.

I believe it's very important for individuals to begin planning for their retirement at an early age financially for their retirement years. When you look specifically at the motion and where it comes down to the third 'whereas': "And whereas recognition that planning for future needs is something that all Islanders, not just seniors, should do to ensure that they have a say in where and how they age." I think right there that's very important.

My father, when I was 17 years old, he taught me a very valuable lesson. He sat down and explained: You need to start putting a little bit of money away, even if it's just \$25 a month, to plan for down the road. I thought it was going to be a terrible hardship. I did it. Rode the roller-coaster. It's not quite what I had hoped for when I was 17 years old. But you know what? If I didn't start then, I wouldn't have that little nest egg there now that I can look forward to in my later years to help me.

I think of one of my constituents in Stratford-Kinlock. This individual is just in her early sixties. She actually has a monthly income of \$718 a month. The first \$300 of that goes to rent. Three hundred dollars for rent sounds like a pretty reasonable amount to pay and it is, especially for the accommodation she has. It is a great facility, St. John House, I'm speaking about.

But this individual needs to buy groceries, she needs to buy medications and so on and so forth, so \$718 take away \$300 is \$418. How many of us here in the House could even begin to really contemplate living on \$418 a month? Now, I have met with the minister's deputy minister, Teresa

Hennebery, and we are working to find a solution to give this individual assistance, a solution, if it is possible.

But that's one example. I wonder how many seniors are out there across Prince Edward Island that are in a similar situation, if not worse. I think when we talk about our seniors, and it is very important that we talk about our seniors – but we need to talk about our youth too, and that's why the opposition had a motion back in the summer where we talked about having financial instruction in high schools, at the high school level, so that our young people understood at an early age that they need to start preparing for life, and to understand finances.

We're going to do what we can now for our seniors, but the more we can invest in our youth moving forward – because our youth someday, believe it or not, and they don't, but believe it or not, they will be seniors someday. I think we need to not only invest in our seniors, but we need to invest in our youth as well.

One of the other things that, since the day I was elected, I've risen in the House many times and talked about here is immediate things that government could do to assist seniors – Islanders at large, but in particular, seniors. There is their lobby to have the age exemption increased because last recollection I think it hasn't been adjusted for close to 10 years. There's a basic, personal tax exemption which we all know Prince Edward Island has the very lowest basic personal tax exemption in all of Canada. The previous finance minister continually stated every time I brought it up that: You're talking about the wrong thing, you're talking about money that Islanders don't need, and it's only going to benefit a few. What that minister didn't understand is that there are Islanders out there that need the money. They're not going to put it in a tin can and bury it in the back yard. They're actually going to spend it because they need it. They need it to buy groceries. They need it to buy their medicines. They need it to pay rent. So we really need to start looking at the taxes that Islanders are paying, and in particular what seniors are paying and how we can give them a break.

It is often a difficult process and it is important for us to all have trusted advice

and solid advice. Unfortunately, today there are many instances where those who have taken initiative to provide for their retirement have found that their hard-earned dollars were not invested in trusted institutions. The investments do react sometimes negatively to the marketplace and no matter what you do, eventually when you cash it all in those dollars are most likely taxable income.

There is no doubt that in our province many of our seniors prefer to stay at home as they get older. The Chief Provincial Health Officer's Report for 2014 projects that by 2020 one in five Islanders will be over 65. PEI needs to prepare for this, and encouraging all to make plans for the future is always a positive thing. However, obtaining the financial ability to meet our needs can be difficult in our province.

I must call to attention the tight budget that many seniors live on here on PEI. Again I go back to what I already discussed with the one example of one of my constituents. I also go back to a round-table discussion that the mayor of Charlottetown, Clifford Lee, had back a number of years ago. I know the minister responsible for workplace and advanced learning attended that as well. It was about the housing situation in Charlottetown and what some people actually had to live in. It was deplorable when they actually showed slides of the decrepit housing conditions that many lived in. There were literally blankets over windows because there were no glass panes there, or if they were there they were broken. There were foundations that were missing bricks. There was mould. There were rodent infestations.

This is 2015. To think that we have Islanders living in those substandard conditions is deplorable. We're talking about bringing 25,000 Syrians to Canada and yes, I agree, these individuals need help and they are coming from a war-torn country, but we also have to continually look in our own backyard and see where and how our own neighbours are living.

Encouraging people to plan for aging in place is a great idea, as adults can start saving now before retirement for where they wish to age. However, we must start now as well by helping these Islanders that sit far

below the median annual income of \$23,300. Seniors are a vital part of every community and spend countless hours volunteering and sharing their knowledge with younger generations. I'm aware of the programs put in place to help seniors already, such as the Seniors' Drug Cost Assistance Program and the Seniors' Home Repair Program, but there needs to be even more invested over the next few years as more and more Islanders reach the age of 65 and beyond.

With seniors staying at home and many of them living on less than the average income of working adults it is important to ensure that supports are in place to help them pay bills associated with living at home. Electricity, heat, and more are all additional bills that household owners need to pay. Homeowners who now rely on themselves to make repairs may not be able to do so in the future and will find it impossible to pay the costs of home renovations.

It is important for this government to realize that there are large numbers of Islanders who care for their loved ones as they age at home. About 30% of Islanders do this, many of them children, spouses or siblings turned into caregivers for the seniors in their lives. Sometimes these caregivers are stuck footing the bill, and often they, too, cannot afford the additional bills. We should commend them and give them the recognition they deserve for caring for their aging loved ones, as well as create more programs to help alleviate some of those financial pressures and the pressures of homecare so these seniors may stay in their homes as long as possible.

I commend the premise of this motion. I agree that we should all be planning for the future and making decisions now that will help make the aging process as comfortable as possible. Yet we must also ensure that we have the supports in place for those who are seniors right now and did not have the opportunity to make such plans. They need our help and they need it now.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Are there any other members who would like to speak to the motion?

If not, then I will ask the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services to close debate on the motion.

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

I value the discussion we're having this evening in the assembly. We all recognize, as elected officials in this Assembly, that government today and governments in the future need to work together, whether it be the municipal governments, whether it be the provincial governments or the federal government. Currently today in our province our baby boomers are between the ages of 50 and 70.

If you look at sort of where we've gone, particularly in the last 10 years in the province, we're seeing the population change dramatically. When I came into government in 2007 I had the responsibility of minister of health, social services and seniors and it was my first experience, after coming out of the public school system, really learning and understanding the challenges that we as a province, as a small jurisdiction of 145,000 people, were facing and will continue to face moving forward.

If you look at our provincial health care budget, in 2007 we came in with a budget, I believe, of \$360 million. Today that budget will exceed \$600 million. The challenge facing the Province of Prince Edward Island is we embrace and create opportunities to keep our communities well, keep seniors in their homes, support them, and keep them vibrant. Initiatives, like I referred to, the seniors' college which is a very popular program which has seen dramatic growth since its inception. The message that sends us is as people age they want to be active, they want to be busy in their communities, they want to keep learning, and they want to be lifelong learners.

As government continues to embrace the challenges – you'll hear me often talk about the challenge about sustaining our system. As we continue to contain health care costs and make sure that we provide services, particularly for our most sick Islanders, we also need to pay attention and support Islanders in their communities to keep them well.

We launched, last year, the wellness strategy. One of those initiatives was the grants. The grants were very well received by community organizations. A lot of those organizations were organizations that worked with seniors in their communities. A lot of the themes were mental wellness, physical activity, getting people out of their homes, getting people out of their apartments, getting people engaged socially and interacting with one another.

Obviously there's tremendous opportunity. I think that we've made some positive inroads. There were a lot of positive comments tonight about initiatives like the renovation programs, the Seniors Safe @ Home, the seniors' home repair. These programs are very popular and will be finishing wrapping up an application date tomorrow.

There's a strong message in that application process that the demand outweighs the supply. That's a strong message to all of us as elected officials, that there's a keen interest that seniors want to stay in their homes.

As a government we've been actively pursuing wellness strategies, we've been looking at programs to encourage seniors to renovate, from an accessibility perspective, repair various aspects of their home, to keep them in their homes because that's where they want to be. That's where their neighbours are, that's where they raised their families. It's truly important.

I know that when we go door to door we often have conversations with seniors and how much they value the opportunity and they just want to stay (Indistinct) home. I'm very fortunate. I've got my – both parents are both 78 and 77. They're still on Confederation Street. They moved in there in 1961 and they're both very healthy, they're very active. My dad, if you're in the neighbourhood on Queen Street, you can find him on the lower level repairing shoes.

I asked him recently, I said: When are you going to retire? He says: What would I do? I don't golf. He wants to stay working. He wants to stay active. He does, probably, more talking than fixing. I tease him.

An Hon. Member: Like his son.

Mr. Currie: Make sure that when you bring your shoes in – yeah.

Mr. LaVie: Know where you got it.

Mr. Currie: That's right.

An Hon. Member: It's hereditary.

Mr. Currie: I worked side by side with him for years, so he taught me well.

The social interaction, I think, is the key to why he wants to keep working. It keeps him youthful, it keeps him entertained, and it keeps him young. That's a representation.

I mean, 80 is the new 70 and that's the reality of what we have in our communities. We as elected officials in government and policy makers have to continue to embrace that. We know that as the population ages the workforce will decline, the tax base will continue to erode, and we need to continue to find ways to keep our seniors active. I know that the MLA from Charlottetown-Victoria Park has initiatives and programs to offer our seniors to re-engage them back in the workforce.

There are all kinds of individuals who are leaving their careers and are still wanting to work, still wanting to be socially active, want to be contributing. I think that we as policy makers and government and opposition have to continue to look at ways that we can continue to embrace that.

Mr. LaVie: Working together.

Mr. Currie: We often have conversations. As government we've had the opportunity to rebuild all the public manors here on the Province of Prince Edward Island. We've been able to reduce the length of stays in our long-term care facilities. We have made progress in the wait times for access to long-term care beds. I think that we as government have to recognize that is the last and the final stages of where people want to be.

There's a tremendous opportunity to keep people out of long-term care facilities and make sure that we've got supports, we've got programs. If you can see in the initiatives in the programs we have announced and launched there's a

tremendous appetite in communities to take advantage of those.

We as government will continue to pay close attention, will continue to work on the behalf of seniors. I do know, from my perspective as the minister but also as an MLA in Charlottetown-Parkdale, we've got seniors that want to be active, they want to be engaged. I'm also very concerned about the level of social isolation in our communities because it is a detrimental reality to a lot of seniors.

We have to continue to educate. We have to continue to work with the seniors' organizations to support their initiatives, their programs. As minister I'm committed to doing the best job that I can and to work with all of my colleagues here in this Assembly.

With that, I want to thank all the Members of Legislative Assembly for their support. I think this is a very important motion and it's a motion that continues to support the policy in the direction that we need to go in as a province.

I'm excited that in Atlantic Canada we could potentially have four provincial Liberal governments. We've got a federal government. I think there's a tremendous opportunity. The stars are aligning. As the Member from Kensington-Malpeque alluded to, we all respect the partisan politics of the work we do but most importantly it's about getting results and building strong, healthy communities for the people that we represent.

We're optimistic. We recognize that we do have lots of challenges, not only in the province but in the region. We've embraced some really progressive conversations with our colleagues in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland about ways that we can work together with a population of 2.4 million to be the best we can be for Atlantic Canada and make sure that we're punching above our weight and showing the rest of Canada that we can do some great things here, not only in Prince Edward Island but in Atlantic Canada.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

Members, are we ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question!

Speaker: All those in favour of the motion, signify by saying "aye."

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Speaker: All those voting against the motion, say nay.

Motion is carried and it is unanimous.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. LaVie: That's working together.

Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture, that Motion No. 24 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees: Motion No. 24.

The Honourable Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture moves, seconded by the Honourable Member from Charlottetown-Brighton, the following motion:

WHEREAS creativity is the prime source of innovation;

AND WHEREAS innovation is the main driver of growth and prosperity;

AND WHEREAS supporting our youth to be creative and innovative thinkers and doers is a vital component of our cultural and economic success and sustainability;

AND WHEREAS creativity and innovation for all learners enables students to be the designers of their preferred future in an ever evolving complex world;

AND WHEREAS world renowned education systems foster creativity and

inventive thinking through their curricula, including Singapore, Finland, and Korea;

AND WHEREAS Prince Edward Island has updated the senior high school graduation requirements to encourage students to pursue course credits that foster creativity or innovation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island support and encourage the provincial government to take further steps to foster creativity and innovation in all our learners, from the early years to post-secondary and beyond.

Speaker: We will now call upon the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture to move the motion.

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In March of this year my department introduced new graduation requirements to help ensure all Island students are prepared to transition to go to post-secondary education and to the labour force when we heard from Islanders that we need to make sure our students are graduating with the skills they need to succeed in today's economy. Enhancing high school graduation requirements will better support our students to graduate with the right blend of skill and creativity.

Before we get into that, I'd like to talk about some of the changes to our education system. Part of our goal is to position learning as a pillar to prosperity. Learning happens from birth through public education, post-secondary and beyond.

Our new Learning Partners Advisory Council will include education and community partners and they will provide advice on how we can improve learning as a whole. Again, from birth, through public education, post-secondary and beyond. This group will take an active role in shaping learning here in our province. The hon. Premier will serve as an inaugural co-chair with a community representative. UPEI professor Bill Whelan, co-chair of the former education governance commission, will serve as inaugural community co-chair.

I look forward to hearing from this group and the other advisory councils on how we can make a better education system to support all our learners, no matter what the age.

Part of my role as minister of education is to ensure our high school students graduate with the skills that they need to become active contributing citizens. We need ambitious change if schools are to prepare students to face these significant challenges and problems of this fast changing world.

As I said earlier, my department introduced new graduation requirements to help ensure all Island students are prepared to transition to post-secondary education and the labour force. The new graduation requirements include career education and personal development, physical education, creativity and innovation, and the new CEO course includes financial literacy.

Today we'll be discussing our new creativity and innovation requirements and why they are so important to preparing students for their future. Students who enter grade 10 this fall will be the first cohort of students who must meet the new graduation requirements. Part of this requirement will be that they complete a course that fosters creativity and innovation or a French language course.

Fostering and supporting our youth in creativity and innovation is a vital component to society's cultural and economic success and sustainability. Developing these skills is essential in addressing global changes in a fast-paced, changing world. Fostering creativity in youth helps develop well-rounded learners who can express ideas, thoughts, and knowledge in new and innovative ways.

Courses on this list are designed to develop higher level thinkers and doers, develop problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, inspire imagination, exploration and construction of new knowledge, encourages openness to new experiences, encourage learners to explore possibilities without fearing failure or judgment.

These courses value expression and appreciation of the creative and innovative work of others, rekindle a sense of wonder

and play, develop students' ability to apply and transfer knowledge, skills and thinking processes, encourage learners to making unexpected connections.

It's in the best interest of society to foster and support learners to be creative and innovative thinkers and doers so they dare to dream. Young Islanders need to be prepared to make what seems impossible possible. Creativity is the prime source of innovation, which in turn, is acknowledged as the main driver of growth and prosperity.

Students are taking courses in things like drama where they learn a specific skill, but they also may be asked to come up with an idea for a play, write it, act it out, direct it, and present it to an audience.

The robotics course would ask students to work in small groups to design and build a device that could navigate an obstacle course. They work as a team, they design, they build, they test, and then they present their creation. Through all of this they learn what they need to learn in that course, but they approach their learning in a very creative way. You can see how the skill set would pay off in their future careers.

Fostering and supporting our youth in creativity and innovation is increasingly being seen as a vital component to society's cultural and economic success and sustainability. Creativity and innovation are essential in addressing global challenges.

In our IB programs in high schools some students are asked to figure out a science question that they'd like to study. They work as a group to pick a science question to study. They come up with ideas on how they can answer that question. They design experiments to test their ideas. In essence, they guide their own learning supported by teachers. With creativity and innovation curriculum this approach has great power in linking aspects of the curriculum, writing with science, math with English, and business with art.

At one school the art class created works of art and then they auctioned off the art for charity. They raised money for a local health care initiative. It was truly an inspired way to learn, to practice, and also to benefit the community.

These skills prepare students for a complex and a rapidly evolving world. The skills generate new and dynamic ideas, techniques and products. These skills enable students to compete intellectually, culturally, and economically on a global level. These skills develop a society of satisfied and successful citizens who can sustain and support their culture and their economy.

The fundamental purpose is to develop a mindset within our young students in which creative problem-solving is simply a way of approaching life. It becomes fundamental to the way they think.

Education can play a fundamental role in the development of creative and innovative capacities. Starting that school level, education systems need to combine the development of specific knowledge and skills together with that of generic capabilities like creativity. These capacities include curiosity, intuition, critical and lateral thinking, problem-solving, experimentation, risk-taking and the ability to learn from a failure, use of imagination, and a sense of entrepreneurship.

There is a need for skills that enable people to embrace change as an opportunity to remain receptive to new ideas and to respect and appreciate the values of others.

There is a precedence for supporting creativity and innovation in the curriculum in some of the leading school systems around the world. In Korea 10% of the overall school time to projects and other activities foster creativity. In Singapore desired outcomes of education include critical and inventive thinking as well as social and emotional components. In Finland incorporation of arts education and teacher training programs has strengthened the creative capacity of teachers. In India promoting creativity and innovations through educational institutions is a first step towards broadening and deepening the impact of innovations in our society and in our economy. In the UK the National Advisory Committee on Creative and Cultural Education has published a range of recommendations for actions.

Others put the learners as our focus. Providing these skills will enable students to

be the designers of their own preferred future in an ever-evolving complex world.

In our school system we are doing some great things in project-based learning. They take a problem, they get together to decide how to look at the problem and brain storm solutions. They design solutions. For example, in one high school there was a project-based learning session. The question was put to the group: How would you make school more welcoming? One of the suggestions from the student groups was simply add seating areas in the halls so that people can sit and talk. A simple idea but not easy to execute. The students' team went out and designed benches. They called the carpenters to price out the project. They came back with a budget. They presented the idea to the principal for consideration. They took an idea from the concept stage through to its finish. The principal was very impressed with the ability of these students to connect many ideas and tasks into one cohesive, innovative project.

Creativity and innovation is about not just computers, robots and arts. It can be applied to any subject as long as it includes researching, writing, speaking, presenting, working in a group, collaborating on a solution, and working together to use innovation and creativity to solve a problem. You can see how this skill set is essential for success later in life.

What I have described here is essential for any business owner, for any manager, and for any entrepreneur. It's about more than economic prosperity. As part of my portfolio I'm the minister responsible for the cultural sector. The cultural sector does benefit our economy and obviously we need arts and cultural groups to improve our quality of life within our communities. Artists tell us stories, they show us who we are and who we can aim to be. They help us learn about our diverse community. From music and dance to our Island culinary delights and our historical buildings and museums, Island artists are an integral part of what it means to be part of this community. It is clear that we have many talented Islanders now and it is my hope that our education system will continue to inspire students to be artists.

We have talented writers on the Island. We are world-famous for one of our talented

writers. We all know the impact that Lucy Maud Montgomery has had on our culture and also on our economy. Writing is an essential skill and all young writers need to be able to consider how their writing skills can contribute to the future of their careers, whether as an author or any other profession. Writing is also a great pastime and I hope our students continue to explore their creativity and innovation through poetry, fiction or other artistic pursuits for the rest of their lives.

We are lifelong learners. If we are creative and innovative in our approach to lifelong learning we can use our talents, whatever they may be, to improve our own lives, contribute to our community, and benefit our economy. We need to ensure our students are prepared for this creative and innovative approach to lifelong learning. We will all be richer for this experience.

It is my sincere hope that the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island will support and encourage steps to foster creativity and innovation in all our learners, from the early years to post secondary and beyond.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton and the Government Whip to second the motion.

Mr. J. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm pleased to rise today in support of creativity and innovation for our learners in this province. This is a subject that's near and dear to myself, perhaps in a bit of a different context, but through my involvement with 21 Inc., which I've spoken about here previously.

It's essentially, at its base, what we attempt or what, when I was inherently involved with 21 Inc., were attempting to do in the Atlantic region. I think if we can get right to the root of a way of looking at how we learn and how we build our future leaders through a continual learning process it is something that can drive advances in every aspect of our lives. For that reason it's fundamentally important to the growth of this province as a

whole. As I've said here before, the youth of this province really are its future so we really need to ensure a focus on them.

I think it's essential that all Island students are prepared to transition to post-secondary education and to the labour force. We need to make sure our students are graduating with the skills they need to succeed in today's economy.

Learning and practicing creativity and innovation is so important to preparing students for their future careers. Creativity is a prime source of innovation which is the main driver of economic growth and prosperity. Creativity and innovation help develop students who can express ideas, thoughts, and knowledge in new and innovative ways. Courses on this list are designed to develop problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, encourage appropriate collaboration and self-direction, prepare students for a complex, rapidly-evolving world, and generate new and dynamic ideas, techniques, and products.

These are attributes that are often associated with entrepreneurship which, in some ways, is great news. Some of our major entrepreneurial initiatives within the education system are happening around the grade 11 entrepreneurship course, especially with teachers who have chosen to align with junior development.

Student teams are combining creativity, innovation, and their entrepreneurial spirit to implement business plans within their schools and communities. I know there's also a career exploration and opportunities course which will now be a high school graduation requirement. I'm pleased to hear that this course has been revised to include a unit on financial literacy.

I'd note, in saying that, that one of the most recent cohorts of the 21 Inc. group by the name of Steven Jackson actually did a community project on financial literacy and the impact that it can have, or not have if it's not done properly, on students. He runs a business in the construction industry here and in Nova Scotia. He's seen firsthand the issues that can be created where employees with a lack of financial literacy get in a perpetual cycle of working here where they're close to family and friends and

where they want to be and then running into financial issues and having to go west looking for work to get their feet back under them, coming back and having to start from square one looking for work back here on Prince Edward Island.

The converse effect of that is that he spends a bunch of his time training employees that ultimately aren't able to stay with him for prolonged periods of time because they have to go someplace else looking for work. It's something that we need to get a handle on, the interconnectedness of these things, and we really need to start to focus on a bigger picture as we move forward.

It's very important that all Island students build a strong foundation of knowledge and skills related to financial literacy. The career exploration and opportunities course will help students to develop the skills they need to become self-directed individuals who set goals, make thoughtful decisions, and take responsibility for pursuing their career goals throughout their life.

Students will learn to think critically about issues. They will consider their passions and interests and they will begin planning for life after high school. It is in the best interest of society to foster and support learners to be creative and innovative thinkers and doers so that they can go on to make great futures for themselves.

Hopefully, entrepreneurship is in the future of many of these students. Creativity is the prime source of innovation, which in turn drives economic growth and prosperity. It is a matter of our economic success and sustainability so I also hope that the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island will support and encourage steps to foster creativity and innovation in all our learners from the early years to post-secondary and beyond.

I would add to that, again, back to my personal experience as it relates to the group of people that I'm now alumni with from 21 Inc., who have made a concerted effort to focus on this aspect of their lives and the lives of those in the Atlantic provinces. What we have really learned through the work that has been done is that there are a number of individuals out there with great ideas that have little pieces of the puzzle

that, if you look at them in their solidarity, are essentially like that thousand-piece puzzle you get at Christmastime, which is a bunch of little cardboard pieces in a box that don't look like very much. But if you can take them and put them together with somebody who has got another piece of the puzzle and another piece of the puzzle and another piece of the puzzle, and give them the support that they need to grow, eventually that develops into what essentially what would be a spirit that is more – the sum of the parts are more as a whole than they would have been each individual part.

You start to see how a little bit of direction starting at an early age and essentially just showing people and students what they can do from an early age can make as you take that and expand that out over a number of different years.

We have to realize that the old days of building a number of core competencies and saying: Here you go, you're ready for the rest of your life, have come and gone. We really need to be developing individuals that are better equipped to deal with modern life, which is really to say that you need to collaborate and you need to be open to exploring ideas in groups. You do need to have core levels of competency across various skill sets, but you need to have more than that. You need to have a willingness to work with others and to develop yourself. I think the more we can strive to do that the better off we'll be.

The Premier at the Premier's panel at our recent 21 Inc. event last week called that incubation, and we've heard that term used a number of different ways. But it's really a change in mindset, I would say, from something that we've seen in the past as being, as I said, the development of a number of core competencies that, you would say, a leader or a CEO or an entrepreneur or whatever would require to be set out into the public. That's changed more to the competencies plus a change in mindset such that people are willing to get out there and adapt and collaborate and show people that they can do things.

I think (Indistinct) that to say, this is a great initiative, it's a great step in that direction. I think every day that we sit there not doing as

much as others are doing we're falling behind. I think it's a change in mindset that's required and I think this is a step in the right direction towards that mindset shift, and the further we can chase that down the path, the better off we'll all be, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I really am pleased to stand today and speak to this motion which urges greater creativity and innovation for all learners. I believe we are entering a new world where education is lifelong and that creativity can create venture and interest for all ages, whether it be through the various forms of creative art or new places and challenges.

It is interesting that this motion was brought to the floor on a day when just this morning CBC Charlottetown featured an article on the possibility of introducing computer coding with children starting as young as the age of kindergarten. I wanted to give a personal anecdote on that.

When I was in grade 6 back in 1982 my grade 6 teacher brought a TRS 80 from Radio Shack into the classroom and typed up some pages on a flip chart. We could stay in at recess if we wanted to and practice doing our (Indistinct) and x loops and typing in print statements and making words scroll through the screen and things like this. But that was innovative thinking for the time. It really did –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)?

Mr. Trivers: Pardon me? (Indistinct), absolutely. I think he was a colleague of my teacher's at the time.

At any rate, it was innovative thinking for the time. It really did give the foundation of coding. I eventually became a web developer and I like to credit part of that. I think it's important we do think outside the box and we should focus on teachers having creativity and innovation as well.

I believe we all know that our educational world is changing greatly and that we need to give up a lot of our traditional thinking and put action to the words of thinking outside the box. We need to abandon our comfort zones and look to a new future where our grandchildren may not even have to learn to drive a car. We've seen Google with the self-driving cars because it will drive itself or transportation by air may be as slick as slipping into a suit.

This is a new world we are entering and our children are not afraid to embrace that change. They are looking forward and that's where our vision needs to be. Just the other day we had the famous Rubik's Cube from back in that same 1980s era and my daughter in grade 4 was really curious about how to solve it. I knew how to do one side and we went on to the Internet and we figured out the rest of it, and now she's able to go to school and she's teaching her friends how to solve the Rubik's Cube. I think that's another example of being creative and it's a type of learning that you don't think of as being taught in schools. We need to start being a leader rather than a follower on these issues.

For example, according to the CBC Nova Scotia has just announced that it's making computer coding a part of the curriculum. (Indistinct) adds to what happened in grade 6. Not at recess time though. Teachers will cover the basics of computers with students in grade primary to 3 while older students will learn how to write computer programs or code just starting next year already.

What was particularly interesting to read was that in Nova Scotia the introduction of coding as part of the curriculum was part of a strategic plan, something that has been worked on by our former English school board. Now, are Islanders going to see this work? Seems unsure at the moment, but I think we'll learn more about that in the future. At any rate, the CBC report interviewed several children and they were excited about the possibilities of learning this new technology.

I'm sure there are many of us in this Legislature tonight that have no idea what coding is, but as legislators we need to ensure that our children are not held back in our new world because of our lack of

understanding new age technology. We need to move over and let the progress begin.

Another example I want to use is going back to the same grade 6 class. The teacher – Mickey Patterson was his name – he created a way to go through the math curriculum that was guided by the student. You would do a set of exercises, take a set of pretests, and you would self-assess where you were at and when you were ready to take that test and move to the next level, that's when you went to the teacher and said: I'm ready. There were students that went through the entire curriculum of grade 6 in five weeks, for example. This allowed the high achievers in the class not to be held back. It allowed the teacher, then, to focus on the students that needed help. Again, that's innovation on the teacher side of things. But again, it's moving over to let progress begin.

Other jurisdictions that already include computer coding in the curriculum include the UK and part of the US. This is just one example of where creativity and innovation can work together to improve the educational needs of our children.

Our opposition in the fall of 2014 put forth several motions that stressed the need for our system to change. We looked at models from various parts of the world such as Finland, which has a great success in learning. But I would suggest that all our nations are struggling to keep up with the many innovations in technology, both from a creativity angle and in terms of academics such as sciences and math. Technology is exploding around the world and our learning institutions at all ages need to keep up.

Education is the foundation of a successful economy and a thriving engaged population. I think there is particularly a great opportunity to apply technology when it comes to self-assessed learning and, again, benefitting especially those high-achieving learners allowing them to move forward at their own pace, and again, freeing up the teacher to focus on the students that need more help.

For far too long our education system has failed students and Islanders. Teachers and students who are bogged down by standardized tests, teachers trying to cope with overcrowded classrooms, teaching

positions being cut each year, and a system that places more emphasis on bureaucracy than on frontline services.

This approach over the past number of years has meant our students continue to fall short. As the motion addresses, we need to get creative and address these concerns. Clearly a new approach is needed, and it's important that those involved in developing our future curriculum are well versed on the potential that new technologies will and are having on society today.

Choosing the leadership on our education file is crucial and thank you for putting this motion forward.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. R. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Steve Jobs, in his book and in his – has said: The innovators, they're criticized, they're mocked, they're put down, but they keep on going. The innovators are the ones that change the world and I believe in that. It's the innovators, it's the inventors, it's the people that invent things and put things together that change the world, and change it for the better a lot of the time.

We see now with the Internet how it's changing the world, and how Facebook and the Internet are changing the world. Google – its patent, seven pages long. That's all it is. Seven pages as the idea and it's one of the biggest companies in the world today. The hon. member from Hunter River talks about the TRS-80, keying things in. I remember hitting the switches at the university computer to fire it up in 1972 and I remember I used to, at the Duffy Science Centre – you had to go to the Duffy Science Centre and punch your cards and at 9:00 p.m. you're running back over to the library to get them into the computer to make sure they will run. It was pretty hard when those cards, 1,000 cards, flipped out of your hands in the middle of the night and you had to try to get them together and put them all back in place, but you know what? That was a great time. That was an innovative time. That was

fun. That was drive. That's what we need today.

We need our young people to drive and keep on driving. We need our young people – like Vicki Allen-Cook's new program, creativity in the schools. I think it's phenomenal. We are so busy in making our children be a robot, more or less, into doing things (Indistinct). We just have to let them go sometimes and let them innovate and let them have fun. Throw a bag of Lego on the floor to your kids and let them have fun. I know I may be criticized here, but I think maybe sometimes we're too much organized sports on Prince Edward Island. We should just let our kids have some fun. Let our kids get together –

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. R. Brown: – let them build things and let them just have some fun.

I know when I was growing up as a young fellow, downtown Charlottetown, 10,000 kids in downtown Charlottetown, and you built things, you played –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. R. Brown: You had to be pretty innovative or you got beat up.

That's what it's all about. It's all about letting our kids have some fun in their lives, have some fun in creating things, and you know what? We shouldn't discourage them from failing. Number one, we should never discourage them from failing. And we should never always make them strive for total excellence. Because in the strive for total excellence it makes them feel unwanted sometimes: If I fail, well, I'm done, I'm no good. Failure's okay. We've all failed in life in one way or another, and it's good, we live from it.

Inventions. There's always an invention, but there's a tremendous amount of innovation from an invention. You take electricity – it was invented, but how many innovations have developed from electricity? The motors, all of the computers and all of the things we have today. All of the innovation from that. We have to always be on the outlook of an invention, and then we, in our school system and our governments and

things like that, to take that invention and make better things out of that invention.

Like the Internet, for example. I remember walking by computers when the Internet first came out and people were communicating back and forth and you look at it and you say: What would that ever amount to? I remember that, walking by computers and looking at it and saying: What would that thing ever amount to, that Internet stuff? But look at it today. No one can live without it, I think, today and it is freeing up a lot of the world.

Just to be creative, just to allow our kids the opportunity to do that, but we also have to help our school system to allow that. But we also have to make our universities and our colleges also allow that to happen too. I'm extremely proud of the University of Prince Edward Island over the last number of years, how much innovation has come out of it and how much – at one time the university was just – you got your bachelors' degree and that was it. You had to move on to some other place, but now we have masters' degrees out there and we have PhDs out there, and they let the other students strive for those other degrees and to allow them to work harder to see what can be done with a further degree.

I think UPEI and Holland College, but also the private sector – I was out to DME the other day, Diversified Metal Engineering Ltd. You want to talk about innovation? A tremendous amount of innovation out there, and it's not always the innovation that's in somebody designing, it's the innovation that's on the floor of the manufacturing facility. It's the innovation of the person that's working with their hands and making a product better. It's not always the genius in the back room that always does it. A lot of the time it's the person on the floor that says: Hey, have you thought about this idea to make the thing better? Then you allow – and I think Peter Toombs is allowing his employees to do that. He has set up a tremendous program out there to educate and to advance his people. And through the department of innovation or the Department of Workforce and Advance Learning, we put some money up, and I commend the previous federal government for putting in the job grant program that allowed on-training within the companies, because

that's where the most of the innovation occurs.

The better we work towards that and the better we support our people, the better I think we get a lot more innovation. As Albert Einstein said: 95% of his inventions were hard work. It's not the invention you see in your head. There are all kinds of inventions that are made every night and every day in somebody's head, but it's getting it from your head onto the platform or into the product. Tremendous amount of work. You just look at people like Steve Jobs and these people.

I remember one time in a computer program I was working on, I went – 48 hours going at it, and you know what? It was just the matter of one little single comma, but I wouldn't give up until I got it and when I got it, it was a great feeling. It's a great feeling and we've got to allow that to grow in our people.

I've just got to say that this is a great motion, and I have to commend the department. I always thought to create activity: Ah, you know, what's that? But Vicki Allen-Cook, she explained it so well, and if we allow that I think we'll have a lot more innovators in Prince Edward Island, and I know we will because we have a great education system and it's going to get better. But at the end of the day it's just allowing kids to be kids and allowing them to invent things and allowing them to have a lot of fun and allowing – and I think a lot more will come out of that and I think Prince Edward Island will be a much better place for it.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: We will now call upon the hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy to speak to the motion.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to add a few thoughts to this great motion, and I commend the minister for bringing it forward.

As in my previous career I worked with youth in employment programs, youth in the schools, and some of the things that are listed in this I concur with. One of the areas

that our House whip mentioned about financial management – I whole-heartedly agree that financial management is a key point that we should be promoting and I'm glad to see that is a core program.

I also think that we should start that earlier. I think it's very important, whether it's elementary and right up, that they have those skills going forward so they transition into the workplace and through university. It's very important. I would encourage us to also implement that more into the earlier grades as well, but I'm really supportive of it being a core subject that all students should take while they're in the school system because it's very vital for them.

But I also want to mention a couple of programs that I think also promote that. I think the Young Millionaires Program PEI is a great program that we see all across PEI in the summer, our youth there, and I think that's a program that's very important that we continue to support. I know the Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning's department is very supportive of that and I congratulate them, but I really think we need to foster that and we can promote entrepreneurship through that program, as well as the Junior Achievement Prince Edward Island program. That's a great program as well.

A couple of other things that were notes are in writing skills. I really, from the youth that I've worked with in schools, see that as a vital skill that students need to foster and we need to keep developing that and putting their thoughts out there. I'm an adamant person for cursive writing, but I think it's important. I know we promote technology as well in writing, I think that's important, but I think we also need to promote our writing skills.

Yesterday at the Remembrance Day service in Ellerslie there were two legion essays that were read from our students at Ellerslie Elementary School, grade 6 students. The first place for Prince Edward Island was read as a student from Ellerslie school. It was a phenomenal essay. Also, Ellerslie Elementary School received third place in Prince Edward Island's legion essay competition. I want to congratulate the teachers, and in particular Barb Newcombe and her class, but all the teachers at Ellerslie

Elementary School for promoting those writing and essay skills. It's very important for them going forward and I'm sure that we'll see more from their writing abilities in the future.

In regards to innovation, I want to go back and give kudos to George Charchuk from Westisle High School who started the robotics class up there. It has gained great acclaim over the years and I really want to give kudos to him. He's a retired teacher but he really instilled a passion in those students and the innovation that came out of that particular program was wonderful to see.

The minister talked about throwing Legos out there for kids. I want to give kudos to Greenfield Elementary School because they're starting a six-week program after school called Bricks for Kids and they do use Legos. They look at how things are built and how things developed and then they develop their own design. It starts with the kids from kindergarten right to grade 6. It's open to all of them. I really want to give kudos to that school for implementing that program. In fact, my grandson who goes to Greenfield Elementary School will be taking that program so I'm very excited to see what he comes home with and what skills that he will pick up as a young kindergarten student.

I think that's where we really need to start this innovation and learning skills and creativity because it will be those students that are our future going forward on Prince Edward Island who will take that creativity and take it out into the world.

I want to give some credit as well to my own department. When I was touring around at the government garage I went into the department in welding and they were showing the skills and the equipment that they use, but they're able to take their skills and come up with a solution that maybe they don't have the part or they can't get the part, but they have the skills to take that and build the part that they need for that machine. It's absolutely phenomenal the skills that they have in order to do that. I think we need to teach that in those welding programs as well, how to be innovative in solving a problem – I can't get the part from the parts department today or they don't have that part anymore – but to promote that through our welding programs.

I know the minister from workforce development and our department will be working on implementing a new apprenticeship area in our new government garage that's being built. It's very important for us to collaborate with the high schools and the welding programs to promote and enhance the ability for those students to get on-the-job experience while they're taking their program. We're looking very forward to that, but I wanted to give kudos to my own department in the skills that they are using on a day-to-day basis as well.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly support this motion and thank the minister for bringing it forward.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, thank the hon. Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture for bringing this forward and begin by echoing his words that learning is a pillar of prosperity, and I may say, a pathway to prosperity.

When we consider the various ways in which we are encouraged to be creative and to be innovative, I believe it's important to start with what we're already doing that encourages that mode of learning or that creates an environment where students are able to be creative and innovative. To give some examples, I've had some wonderful experiences at the Heritage Fair for students in younger years. The science fair, if one ever needs to be uplifted about what our students and younger people are capable of, obviously with some help and guidance, is a tremendous experience. On Tuesday of last week I took part in a Special Olympics fun day where you could see the learning that was taking place there and, of course, the achievement and sense of accomplishment for the Special Olympians or the students who were on that path, but how they were all learning from each other. In a sense it really was in a context where they were being asked to cast off their conventions or to be more inclusive and to really see the world through a different set of eyes.

Another great organization over the years that has encouraged a lot of the skills that we've heard spoken about here this evening is 4-H.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Premier MacLauchlan: Whether that's in presentation or communication or hands-on learning.

Maybe one of the most uplifting experiences I've had recently was on Monday of this week I went and spent some time with a group of young people who've arrived here within the past 12 months or so – some of them much more recently than that – as refugees. They are taking part in a U-FIT Program at Spring Park School on Monday evening's and they're all in their kind of middle years in school.

I'll tell you for starters, they're fit. To see how they're getting along – they're from Nepal and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and some very recently arrived from Syria – to see how they're getting along with each other, to how they're adjusting to a new environment, and only possibly imagine what they're come through and how resilient they are to get there. Which leads me to what's been said – and I see the clock, I'll finish by 9.

The point that's being made here about risk-taking I think is absolutely essential. One of my main concerns about how we can get from where we need to be to be in a more entrepreneurial mode or in a more innovative and creative society is to encourage our young people to have an intelligent approach and a seasoned approach, but a willing approach to take risk.

My own father would tell us – and there were probably more days than I care to remember when he had to tell us this: Every knock is a boost. I think people that kind of really embrace that as a way of life or a way to kind of approach the world are going to undoubtedly end up being entrepreneurs and innovators and creators.

Say a word about – writing's been mentioned. Absolutely essential. In the creative aspect and what I call the effective aspect. I'll be taking part tomorrow at a

presentation of a number of awards at UPEI that are called the Awards for Effective Writing. I think that starts with knowing that you got an audience, knowing that you got to get a point across, knowing that you got something to sell, which is another key aspect of a successful and innovative and creative and prosperous society.

When you put all of these elements together, problem-solving, independent thinking, critical thinking, none of them is foreign to our current school system. One of the things that has been really encouraging to me over the past 10 days is to see the good will – and that's the word – the spontaneous good will and widespread good will that is out there in the community, and in all parts of the educational system, for the opportunity to work together that was opened up by the changes that were presented by the minister a week ago Thursday.

To my mind that's where we have an opportunity right now in Prince Edward Island, to work together to be sure that we recognize that this is about competitive excellence. I see that this motion refers to Singapore and Finland and so on, places that we should be comparing ourselves to because we've got to see ourselves in a global world preparing citizens for this ability to succeed and to take the opportunities that are open to us and to not accept anything less.

I think that's exactly where we are with our education system on Prince Edward Island today and what we need to do, and I thank the minister again for bringing forward this motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Sherry: Call the hour.

Speaker: We have a couple of minutes.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Speaker: Okay, the hour has been called.

You're right, the clock is slow.

The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors, that this House adjourn until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, November 13th.

Speaker: Have a good evening.

The Legislature adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, at 10:00 a.m.