

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts

Hansard, Published by Order of the Legislature

First Session of the Sixty-fifth General Assembly

Wednesday, 2 December 2015

MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS	1939
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS	1940
SUMMERSIDE-ST. ELEANORS (Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Outreach Program).....	1940
CHARLOTTETOWN-LEWIS POINT (Christmas Charitable Giving)	1940
STRATFORD-KINLOCK (Stratford PEI Brewing Company Athletics)	1941
ORAL QUESTIONS.....	1941
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Premier's Overhaul of School Governance)	1941
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Premier's Commitment to Elected School Boards)	1942
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (EELC Minister's Knowledge of School Board Plan).....	1942
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Caucus and School Board Plan).....	1942
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Cabinet Education Ministry Experience)	1943
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Advice from Advisory Councils)	1943
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Selection of Advisory Council Representatives)	1943
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (French Language Learners and Advisory Council Numbers)	1944
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Teachers on Advisory Councils)	1944
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (EAs on Advisory Councils)	1945
BELFAST-MURRAY RIVER (School Rezoning).....	1945
BELFAST-MURRAY RIVER (School Rezoning and Buses).....	1947
BELFAST-MURRAY RIVER (Advisory Council Actions).....	1947
LEADER OF THE THIRD PARTY (Crapaud Clinic)	1948
LEADER OF THE THIRD PARTY (Community-based Clinics)	1949
ALBERTON-ROSEVILLE (Bloomfield Roundabout)	1949
EVANGELINE-MISCOUCHE (Amalgamation and Role of CLE Minister).....	1950
EVANGELINE-MISCOUCHE ((Amalgamation Timeline)	1951
EVANGELINE-MISCOUCHE (Amalgamation Process and Island Voices)	1951
RUSTICO-EMERALD (Student Enrolment)	1951
RUSTICO-EMERALD (Student Enrolment Number Shift).....	1952
RUSTICO-EMERALD (Class Sizes)	1953
RUSTICO-EMERALD (Classroom Caps-further)	1953
RUSTICO-EMERALD (EELC Remaining in Holman Building)	1953

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	1954
WORKFORCE AND ADVANCED LEARNING (PEI Association of Community Schools)	1954
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS.....	1955
REPORTS BY COMMITTEES	1955
RULES, REGULATIONS, PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVILEGES (First Report – Bill 201, An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate Amalgamated Dairies Ltd.).....	1955
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (First Report – Committee Activities).....	1956
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY (First Report – Committee Activities).....	1956
GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.....	1956
MOTION 70 (Consideration of the Well-being Measurement Act).....	1957
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.....	1957
SUMMERSIDE-ST. ELEANORS.....	1957
LEADER OF THE THIRD PARTY	1957
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS	1957
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.....	1958
ORDERS OF THE DAY (GOVERNMENT)	1958
COMMITTEE	1958
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES	1958
SECOND READING AND COMMITTEE	1962
BILL 48 – Supplementary Appropriations Act (No. 2) 2015).....	1962
BILL 41 – An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act	1963
BILL 25 – Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act	1964
COMMITTEE	1965
BILL 47 – An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act	1965
THIRD READING	1976
BILL 33 – An Act to Amend the Sheriffs Act	
BILL 31 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2015	
BILL 29 – An Act to Amend the Jury Act	
BILL 32 – An Act to Amend the Off- Highway Vehicle Act	
BILL 26 – An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 2)	
BILL 27 – Government Reorganization Act	
BILL 22 – An Act to Amend the Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accounting	
BILL 30 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act	
BILL 41 – An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act	
BILL 25 – Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act	
BILL 20 – An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act	
BILL 34 – An Act to Amend the Workers Compensation Act	
BILL 35 – An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act	
BILL 36 – An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act	
BILL 37 – An Act to Amend the Regulations Revision Act	
BILL 39 – An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act	
BILL 23 – An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act	
BILL 21 – An Act to Amend the Beverage Containers Act	
BILL 42 – An Act to Amend the School Act	
BILL 38 – An Act to Amend the Early Learning and Child Care Act	
BILL 43 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (No. 2)	
BILL 24 – Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2016	
BILL 44 – An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act (No. 2)	
BILL 45 – An Act to Amend the Medical Act	

BILL 46 – An Act to Amend the Electric Power Act
BILL 48 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2015

ROYAL ASSENT.....1977

BILL 20 – An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act.....1977
BILL 21 – An Act to Amend the Beverage Containers Act1978
BILL 22 – An Act to Amend the Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accounting Act
BILL 23 – An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act
BILL 25 – Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act
BILL 26 – An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 2)
BILL 27 – Government Reorganization Act
BILL 29 – An Act to Amend the Jury Act
BILL 30 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act
BILL 31 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2015
BILL 32 – An Act to Amend the Off-Highway Vehicle Act
BILL 33 – An Act to Amend the Sheriffs Act
BILL 34 – An Act to Amend the Workers Compensation Act
BILL 35 – An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act
BILL 36 – An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act
BILL 37 – An Act to Amend the Regulations Revision Act
BILL 38 – An Act to Amend the Early Learning and Child Care Act
BILL 39 – An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act
BILL 41 – An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act
BILL 42 – An Act to Amend the School Act
BILL 43 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (No. 2)
BILL 44 – An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act (No. 2)
BILL 45 – An Act to Amend the Medical Act
BILL 46 – An Act to Amend the Electric Power Act
BILL 48 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2015
BILL 24 – Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2016

ADJOURNED.....1979

The Legislature sat at 2:00 p.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to everyone in the gallery and to those viewing at home.

I would like to recognize some special guests in the gallery today who are with us from the Canadian University of Dubai, Dr. Karim Chelli is the president of the Canadian University of Dubai, Mr. Buti Al Ghandi is the chancellor of the University of Dubai, and Aldea Landry is a member of the board of directors. Maybe I will ask you to stand and be recognized.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Premier MacLauchlan: They are here today for meetings with Holland College and the University of Prince Edward Island in exploring linkages with Prince Edward Island.

I want to recognize the delegation that is here from the community schools today.

On the way in I had a chat with our regular member of the gallery, Eddie Lund, and I asked him if he had any predictions and he said 4:15 p.m. but I didn't ask him what day. But just in case he meant today I'll be the only one who will speak from the government side in recognition today, and in the spirit of the season, may I, on behalf of all of us, wish to our viewers at home and to all Islanders, to those here in the gallery, to our colleagues here in the House, to the staff of the Legislative Assembly, and to you, Mr. Speaker, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and all the best in 2016.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Welcome to everybody in the gallery, especially our special guests from out of the country.

I would also like to welcome all of our members back today and everybody watching on EastLink.

I think the hon. Premier has alluded to something. I will say that we will be following the same step over here and wish that all members of caucus and all MLAs have a great Christmastime and be able to spend time with their families and friends and loved ones, and also that everybody in this province and around the world enjoys a little bit of Christmas.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party

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

It's a pleasure to rise today. I would particularly like to welcome my friend, Bill MacFadyen, the actor who is sitting in the gallery this afternoon.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Following on from the cues of my hon. friends, I would also like to wish everybody the season's greetings and, of course, when you're sitting in my corner of the House you're not just hoping for no snow for a green Christmas. There are other reasons to wish for a green Christmas.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to welcome everyone here in the gallery, our visitors from Dubai, *As-salamu alaykum* – Peace be unto you.

We have a couple of gentlemen joining us here today. Ralph Billard, he is a former resident of Murray Harbour. He's probably known as a great Tory supporter by most people and the former barber for the premier, Pat Binns, and also Mr. Keith MacDougall joining us as a farmer of 42 years from Springfield West. He is a seed potato farmer. I think he's going to be celebrating his 69th anniversary in March so I just want to welcome you both to the gallery.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

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

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Outreach Program

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to rise in the House today and speak about a wonderful week I spent with fellow female politicians in Ontario at the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Outreach Program last month. I also want to sincerely thank the Speaker for the honour of being appointed as a representative to this organization.

Created in 2005, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians-Canadian Region is comprised of women parliamentarians of the provincial, federal, and territorial legislatures. The aims and objectives are to increase female representation in our own parliaments, to foster closer relationships between Canadian women parliamentarians, and to discuss, strategize, and act on gender-related issues in Canada and internationally.

According to the United Nations, a threshold of at least 30% of female legislators is required to ensure that public policy reflects the needs of women. Women bring a unique experience to the political arena. Their life experiences are different from men's and their perspectives on issues can be different. This serves to enhance the quality of debate and broaden and balance policy perspectives on a wide range of issues. It does not mean

that women have a better perspective than men, just a different one.

When I embarked on this Outreach initiative the goal was to inspire and engage woman to find their voice but at the end of the weekend it was me that was inspired and engaged by each and every one of them.

The take home message from all of the women in attendance was that we as women need to support and be kinder to one another. Strong women empower each other. You can always tell who the strong women are. They are the ones you see building each other up instead of tearing each other down.

Mr. Speaker, here's to strong women: may we celebrate them, may we raise them, and may we be them.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Christmas Charitable Giving

Ms. Casey: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

Islanders are known for their generosity in supporting an array of causes here at home and elsewhere.

Statistics Canada reports that Islanders have one of the highest donor rates in Canada. It is a hallmark of our province that truly makes this a great place to live.

With the holiday season upon us, it is important to recognize the generous spirit that often marks the season. Community organizations will be appealing to Islanders to give to a number of causes aimed at making this season a joyous one.

Among the more high profile fundraising efforts will be the Salvation Army kettle campaign, the CBC turkey drive, and Santa's Angels.

This year marks the 125th year of the Salvation Army kettle campaign. Funds raised through donations made at Christmas kettles, together with other sources of funds, help provide direct, compassionate, hands-

on service to 1.6 million people each year in Canada, restoring hope and dignity to those who might otherwise remain invisible in society.

Started in 1987, this year will represent the 28th annual CBC turkey drive. The turkey drive will begin next Monday, December 7th, and conclude on Friday, December 18th. There'll be 13 drop-off locations across the province.

Since 2004 Santa's Angels have been organizing, fundraising, and carrying out a surprise Christmas morning for hundreds of children and families in the Charlottetown area, providing food and gifts for those in need.

I am confident Islanders will continue to support these valuable charities.

Islanders' generosity will also be demonstrated through financial and volunteer support for various other church and community charitable organizations. I am sure I speak for all members of this House in commending the generosity of Islanders and in urging a season of giving to the many worthy causes throughout our Island community. A little act of kindness goes a long way, especially at this time of year.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Stratford PEI Brewing Company Athletics

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

It was with great pleasure to acknowledge the accomplishments of an Island championship team hailing from the great District of Stratford-Kinlock.

This fall the Stratford PEI Brewing Company Athletics were once again crowned champions of the Kings County Baseball League. Stratford repeated as back-to-back champions, beating the Peakes Tee Bombers four games to two in the KCBL

finals. Stratford clinched the deciding game six in extra innings winning 3-2, thanks to Shawn MacDougall's solo home run with two outs.

I'm extremely proud of the Athletics' achievements in repeating as KCBL champions. They are proud, three-time champions also having won the title in 2012.

Members of the 2015 championship include Randy Taylor, Shawn MacDougall, Jonathan Arsenault, Dominique Ryan, Allister Smith, Ronny De La Cruz, Curtis MacGregor, Andrew Bryanton, Greg Taylor, playoff MVP Corey Douguay, Josh Kirkpatrick, Jacob Smith, Adam Smith, and manager Ed Taylor.

My sincerest congratulations go out to the team and I fully expect that we will see them do the three-peat this coming KCBL season.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!
Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

Questions by Members

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Premier's overhaul of school governance

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

Question to the Premier.

When did you decide that you were going to launch your overhaul of the school governance program?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I just need to be sure what – the question referred to a school governance program?

So I assume the Leader of the Opposition is referring to the changes that were announced in early November? That work started after the session closed this past spring and summer with some exploratory considerations and the work was completed by early November, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Question to the Premier. Your campaign platform this spring floated the idea that these district advisory councils – was your plan to blow up the English school board on the back of your mind while doing so or after your government implemented or attempted to fire 35 teachers this spring?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: There are a number of premises to that question, of course, with which I don't concur. But let me do my best to answer the core of the question, which is whether, when the district councils were announced as part of our platform, it was our intention at that time to make the changes that were made to the English Language School Board.

The answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, is no.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Premier's commitment to elected school boards

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

Question to the Premier. Back during your platform you committed to elected school boards. Did you ever really plan to follow through on that promise if you were already planning to blow up the board?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, since that phrase has been repeated twice, let me say that what took place in early November is that we asked a single trustee to take the place of the existing English Language School Board and for that to lead through a transitional process which, as members will know, will go through until approximately May of 2016.

So I don't think there's any part of that that I would call blowing up anything. What we're

doing is making changes that will allow parents and teachers and learners to work together to have a better school system that's focused on the outcomes for the learner.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

EELC minister's knowledge of school board plan

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

Question to the Premier: When did you first let the education minister know of your plan in regards to the school boards?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, it doesn't quite work that way when you're developing initiatives in government.

The minister is very much a part of it, as was our deputy minister who assumed her office shortly after the first of July. As for various others in government who discussed these things including, I might say, reflecting on some of the discussion back and forth across the floor in the spring and summer session of the Legislature.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Caucus and school board plan

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

Question to the Premier: How much discussion did you have with your caucus about the plan before you announced it?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, there would be discussions in both Cabinet and caucus leading up to the November announcement.

But just to clarify the previous question, the way things work when new initiatives are

being developed in government, they get developed through officials, through discussions, and then they get brought to the Premier for my consideration and direction, or my agreement to proceed in that direction. It's at that stage that you have those discussions with Cabinet and with caucus.

So that's exactly how it goes. It's not that the Premier shows up and tells everybody what their marching orders are.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Cabinet education ministry experience

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

I'd like to point out that in the previous government in that Cabinet, you have over four caucus members over there that had previous education minister experience. Four of them. How much were they involved in that process or how much confidence did you bestow on what experience they had in bringing forth these decisions?

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I have confidence in all members of our caucus.

I'm very happy to take their advice and work in a fashion that's collaborative and to lead the team in that way.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Advice from advisory councils

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Staying on the seam of education here I have a couple of questions to the education minister. Based on the department information that we've been able to obtain so far, there's probably about 220 people

that are going to sit on advisory committees reporting to you.

Question to the minister: If you weren't prepared to take advice from 12 school board members, what are the chances you're willing to take advice from 220 people?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What's great about this is that our focus now is on our learner and on our student. We're going to take all our resources and put them together. Instead of working separately, we're all going to work together to help our students.

We have many people now that will be involved in these councils providing information to shape the future of education system on Prince Edward Island and we're very happy to move forward in a very collaborative and engaging effort with the community, with all stakeholders, to help our students achieve and to prosper.

Thank you.

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

Selection of advisory council representatives

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So, 220 people on an advisory committee is a lot of people. I mean anybody who sat on a community board anywhere on Prince Edward Island that had eight or nine people knows how hard it is to get your voice heard amongst eight or nine people. I don't know how you'd ever expect 220 people to get a clear voice to government.

Question to the minister: Have you figured out yet how you will select these 220 people to advise you?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's been mentioned many times in here before and I'll say it again. Our selection process for the family of schools district council will be made up of a parent or representative from a parent organization, within the school, also from two high school students within that family of schools, and the regional rep for the home and school association.

Each school will have representation, each family of schools will have representation on them, and the selection process for the principals obviously will be the principal of each school.

Thank you.

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

French language learners and advisory council numbers

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When the minister was on the floor for the *School Act* bill here he mentioned to the House that he planned to have a seat at the table for the French language learners.

Question to the minister of education: How many extra bodies will this add to your council of 220?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We're very proud to engage both the English and French on the Island. We will have someone representing the French Language School Board on the learning partners. We'll also have representation with the district of families advisory and on the principals' council. We want their active participation. Their information is very valuable, as where our focus is on the learner, whether it be English or French.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Adding the French learners voice seemed to be an afterthought that actually came because the opposition here was questioning why you weren't doing it right here on the floor of the Legislature.

Can you tell the House why the French language learners were an afterthought?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

They were absolutely not an afterthought. We, on this side, would never consider our French language to be an afterthought. We included them from the very beginning. There are conditions that we cannot bring them in the same way as the English Language School Board, but we are engaging them. They do have a seat on the learning partners advisory and they're more than welcome to sit on our other councils.

Thank you.

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

Teachers on advisory councils

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So we're on the topic of who has a seat at these councils. We've heard that principals will have a seat, we've heard that schools will have a seat, which means parents will have a seat, and students will have a seat. I've yet to hear that teachers will have a seat.

Question to the minister: We know that on the council of 220 there will be principals, but what about the regular teachers in the classroom? Why do you not make room for them to have a seat?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Member from Georgetown-St. Peters is trying to give the impression that we're going to have this big council of 220 people in the room trying to give direction. That's not how it works.

Each school will have representation and they will meet and they will forward their asks to me. I will also be meeting with each family of schools district advisory councils at least once a year personally.

The teachers will have a voice, they do have representation. Someone from the teachers' federation will be sitting on the Learning Partners Advisory Council to represent the teachers. I know the opposition says they're only there for union work, but now today he's saying: Who's going to represent the teachers and why didn't we ask the teachers' federation? We did ask the teachers' federation. A rep will be sitting on that Learning Partners Advisory Council.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I didn't talk about the teachers' federation at all, I talked about regular teachers who don't have a voice at the table, who don't have a seat at the table. We have schools right across Prince Edward Island that are going to be represented locally by students, locally by principals, locally by parents, but not locally by teachers, if you can imagine. The very front lines, the people who have the frontline experience delivering education in this province, do not have a seat at any council of the 220.

Mr. Trivers: Shame, shame!

Mr. Myers: Question to the minister: Isn't this a worthwhile avenue to have teachers at these tables?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the principals' council principals are the instructional leaders of their schools. They will represent the teachers. We also have the teachers' federation represented on the Learning Partners Advisory Council. We know how important it is to hear from our frontline and that's why we have these organizations and individuals represented well.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I don't feel like the teachers are well represented at all at the local level because you're not giving any teacher a chance to have a voice and it's something that teachers have been crying for. If you've been listening to the debate of the Legislature here for the past four years you would know that teachers are frustrated because they don't feel like they're listened to. Again, you've set up a whole system where they won't be listened to.

EAs on advisory councils

There are many learners in our schools that struggle with learning disabilities and special needs. These learners rely heavily on educational assistants.

Question to the minister: Where's the voice for EAs on your council of 200?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

EAs have a very important role to play in our education system and we value their role. In fact, this year we put in more positions, eight full-time equivalents back in, to help our frontlines and to help our students learn, to help our students achieve. They will have a voice again through the parents of the students that have special needs or need some assistance in the classroom on the family of schools district advisory council. They will also have representation on the principals' council with the CEO of their school.

Thank you.

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

School rezoning

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A major part of our planned overhaul here for education for our schools is rezoning. Minister of education: When will you begin the rezoning business?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, rezoning has been an issue. It's something that we have committed to look into, something that the English Language School Board has committed to look into and build policy upon. We'll integrate their policy with the work that we've done within our department moving forward to make sure that rezoning is a priority within our education system.

Thank you.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The minister struggled this whole session to answer questions, just the simplest questions, on his department. Teachers, parents and students want some answers.

Question to the minister: What timeline do you have to start rezoning and what is the date of completion?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The transition team is in place and we're moving forward. We are getting input from everyone at this time and this process does take some time. As your member from Morell said the other night, don't rush into things. Make sure when you do it, do it right, take your time.

Thank you.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We're assuming the minister does have a plan. Each day Islanders learn something

new about this proposed plan, or lack thereof of a plan.

Question to the minister: Will the rezoning process begin in January with the new advisory councils?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We definitely do have a plan. Our plan is to engage Islanders in the process of developing an education system that is focused on our learners, on student achievement, and excellence in education. We are starting that with the development of new advisory councils which will bring in the input that we need and the direction that we need to shape our education system to help our students achieve.

Thank you.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear again that there is a plan. I'm sure you're going to collaborate on that plan. Could you explain the outline that you have that you are giving to the advisory council, or you're collaborating with the advisory council, on rezoning?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, we've had hundreds of questions on education this session. We've always had an answer for them. We do have a plan. It has been endorsed by the opposition.

I'm not sure what their point is here today with getting specific timelines, but we do have a transition team in place. I'm very confident of the experience and the knowledge that they have that they will carry this through in the most effective way possible.

Thank you.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm glad there is a plan. I'm sorry that we're asking for a timeline. I don't think it's too much to ask. We're going into the Christmas season, there is going to be a break. The advisory councils are set up for January. We do need to have a plan. We would like to know the details.

School rezoning and buses

To the minister. Part of the rezoning process will be buses and rezoning the buses. Can you explain to me what the travel times will be like and will they increase with the rezoning?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When we have our advisory councils up and running they will give us the much-needed input and they can share their concerns with us so we can, again, develop a better strategy for transportation and for rezoning for our Island students.

Thank you.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So there is no plan.

Question, again, to the minister. The buck stops with you, minister, on all issues regarding education. What are your recommendations? What recommendations will you be giving to the advisory councils about rezoning and about bus rezoning?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Our plan is to work in a collaborative effort making sure that we hear from all stakeholders. Now is an opportunity for our parents, for our community, for our students, and for our educators to address these concerns, to give us some input. We can put the question to them, they will give us what

they think we should – what direction we need to take, and we take all of their advice and we'll make decisions at that time.

Thank you.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm happy to hear the word collaborate. I was going to be disappointed if I didn't hear it today when I asked the questions before we recess sometime.

I'm hearing from Islanders that six-year-olds could be on the bus for an hour-and-a-half, two hours. It's a big concern.

Minister, can you give me some kind of indication about your plan and whether bus routes will be longer or shorter?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, that is a challenge that maybe some students may see. If you have a particular student that is on the bus for an hour-and-a-half, please let me know. I would like to hear from them personally and see what I can do to help them out.

But in the meanwhile, we are working, again, in the transition team. We have our advisory councils that will meet in January. This information will be a question I can actually put to them myself, to ask them for input, and we will develop a plan, a strategy, to help alleviate some of these pressures and some of these challenges that our Island students face.

Thank you.

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

Advisory council actions

Ms. Compton: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Fairly confusing roadmap as we move forward. I hope the advisory councils,

although I've heard they know – the prospective members know less than I do.

So, moving forward, how can appointed advisory councils who are on these boards do something an appointed board couldn't do? You've had an appointed board before. Now we've got an advisory council board. Can you explain to me how this is going to be different and how you're going to collaborate with them?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a great opportunity for all stakeholders, as I said many times, to have an opportunity to speak regarding their own particular schools, their own challenges that they have within these schools or challenges that students – whether it be their students or someone else's students, depending on the perspective – that we can develop a system of education to – better than the system that we have now moving forward by doing it, again – and I won't disappoint you – collaboratively because we are a government that believes in listening to people, taking their input, and shaping the future of the education system on Prince Edward Island.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Crapaud clinic

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

The Liberal Party platform in the most recent election stated its support for primary care facilities to be established utilizing health providers such as nurse practitioners. Exactly such a clinic has been proposed for Crapaud where the local GP, Dr. Hank Visser, has announced his intention to retire over the next few years.

Can the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services give this House an update on the proposal, please?

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

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

Government is very committed. In our mandate letter it's clearly stated that two of our seven initiatives – one is enhancing primary health care in the Province of Prince Edward Island and two is strengthening rural health care as well.

I'm very familiar with Dr. Visser who has presented an exceptional proposal. We have currently given direction to Health PEI to add four nurse practitioners to the complement of nurse practitioners which currently sits at 14. We're working with the group from Crapaud looking at ways that we can be cost-neutral, looking at ways that we can continue to be part of a broader conversation as we continue to enhance primary health care, which is being worked on currently as we speak.

Very pleased. Have to be very conscientious of the fiscal, but an exceptional model and we hope to be successful in the near future.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party, first supplementary.

Mr. Aylward: Mr. Speaker, can I speak to that ministerial statement?

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

The community of Crapaud is considering financing renovations to a community-owned building in order to accommodate this facility, and budgets drawn up by the proponents of this clinic show that not only will it be revenue-neutral but it could save the government money by removing 500 patients from the waiting list, moving to adjunctive providers such as nurse practitioners, and reducing emergency visits at our hospitals.

I have over 800 signatures here from residents of the south shore area in support of the establishment of such a health clinic. A question to the minister: What more do the people of the Crapaud area have to do in order to make this clinic a reality?

Mr. Aylward: Elect a Liberal MLA.

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

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

As we look at the future of sustaining the provincial health care system, primary health care will be a pillar of a health care system that provides timely and appropriate access by the right provider in the right situation at the right time.

Very respectful of the question from the Leader of the Third Party. We did meet with the Leader of the Third Party, with the committee from Crapaud. We really like the model that's being presented. We recognize that Dr. Visser has a very large practice and is very much engaged. I really respect the fact that this is a model that shows innovation and a model that is sustainable in the area.

We currently are working with Treasury Board, we're currently working with Health PEI, to look at making sure that we're effective and we're cost-neutral, to make sure that this will be part of a broader, sustainable primary health care model for the province.

Thank you.

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

Community-based clinics

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

Does the department have other plans for expanding these sorts of community-based, multi-disciplinarian health care clinics across rural Prince Edward Island?

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

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

When we came into government in 2007 the nurse practitioner was not very common in communities. Since then we've built primary health care networks. We're currently at approximately 14 nurse practitioners. We're working with the

Medical Society of Prince Edward Island. We currently have a Master Agreement which is part-and-parcel to conversations in building these models. We have some very successful models, but we see this as a model to provide timely access to health care professionals. It continues to build on our commitment to expanding the scope of practice, whether it be with the nurse practitioners, whether it be with pharmacists, whether it be with paramedics.

So yes, very committed, and this will be the way of health care delivery into the future, particularly in rural Prince Edward Island.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

Bloomfield roundabout

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question for the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy. I've raised the issue here in the House several times about the need for a roundabout at the intersection at Bloomfield corner.

This is a busy intersection and scene of many accidents. Unlike other communities that were opposed to a roundabout in their area, our community welcomes the installation of a roundabout at Bloomfield corner intersection.

Minister, will a roundabout be constructed at Bloomfield corner intersection?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. member, I'm very familiar with that particular corner being from West Prince area myself, and it's a busy commercial area as well as a lot of traffic on that main highway. Our engineers have been up and looked at the area. Are aware that it's an area of concern for the community in general. We're looking at a number of different options that we feel may work there, but we will be going back out to the community and discussing that with the

landowners in the area and the residents in the area.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville, first supplementary.

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Could you put a timeline on that, on when they'll be going out and when the construction will actually begin on the roundabout?

Mr. Myers: Tell them you want one by spring.

An Hon. Member: They're not very good (Indistinct).

An Hon. Member: February 2016, it worked for us.

Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Murphy: Madam Minister, could you put a timeline to that project, please?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Our department has done a lot of different roundabouts across Prince Edward Island. They're very unique in a number of designs. During our TAC conference that was here we had a variety of engineers from across Canada who had an opportunity to go out and look at our rural areas. Our urban roundabouts were showcased while they were here. We have done a lot of great design work around roundabouts as part of our Road to Zero.

Mr. Aylward: Just looking for a timeframe.

Ms. Biggar: Engineering design, safety's very important.

Mr. Myers: That's the last (Indistinct).

Ms. Biggar: We will be working on the plans as I had noted and we'll come back out to the community we hope in the early new year to start discussions with what options might work best in that particular busy area of the highway. We will not be

doing anything until we discuss it with the community.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

Amalgamation and role of CLE minister

Mr. Gallant: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

My question today is for the Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

We have heard many times in this House of the proposed amalgamation of various communities across Prince Edward Island. My District of Evangeline-Miscouche has also been engaged in these discussions.

Can the minister give an overview of his role and the role of government in these amalgamations?

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

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly appreciate the question.

As the hon. member mentioned, his community and the Miscouche area are working towards discussions, and in fact I did have the opportunity to sit and speak with members of that council.

I know they are very engaged in their community and are fully aware of the Thompson report that said 73 municipalities of Prince Edward Island are not sustainable or cannot be viable into the future.

Of course, that covers only 30% of PEI's landmass. We know that these discussions have to take place. I as minister, and my department of municipalities, are willing to discuss with these municipal leaders any information or any questions that are concerns that they have.

I know that the federation is also doing a lot of work. It was mentioned in the *Guardian* last week that the federation is looking at putting forward – forming a toolbox to help in these areas. I as minister and my department will assist in any way with the federation on that issue.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, first supplementary.

Amalgamation timeline

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Supplementary question to the same minister. I believe there are many more important discussions needed around this topic, and I have been approached by some constituents who are worried that this process could be fast-tracked within the next two years.

Will the minister update this House on the potential timeline for these amalgamations?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mitchell: Certainly, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much.

I can assure the hon. member that this is not a fast-track process that we are dealing with here in regards to municipalities amalgamating or forming larger regions. This is not an overnight process. This will take time, although interest and focus on this has become heightened a little more since the spring election of this year. But the reality is the Thompson report was released in 2010, written in 2009, and communities have been working towards this since around the 2010 level. Some have been in talks and negotiations for well over a year and a half.

This is certainly not a fast process, but we will work with all municipal leaders and all communities of incorporated areas that have questions or concerns to help them to deal with the process of regionalization.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, second supplementary.

Amalgamation process and Island voices

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The minister has stated that ideally this will happen with communities working together and taking the lead on these initiatives. I

also imagine there are some that are not interested in partaking in these discussions at all.

My question: What will the minister do to ensure that voices of every Islander in our rural communities that are facing potential amalgamation are heard during this process?

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

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

Since becoming minister of the department I have had many conversations with municipalities and the unincorporated areas in discussions of how the process will work.

As I said, it's not a fast process. It's one that we will continue to work with these areas on. We understand that there will be a sense of fear and possible resistance from some areas, but we will work in a very collaborative way to bring forward all pieces of information that we know should be put forward. It'll be as open and transparent as possible, and the department is quite willing to sit and work with any communities as they (Indistinct) further discussion in this area, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Student enrolment

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a question to the minister responsible for education. When the minister tied to cut teachers this June one of his reasons was that enrollment had dropped by 300. When he reversed himself in July he said new enrollment figures showed an increase of 120. Now, just the other day, government announced new enrollment figures saying it was down 271.

Why are you all over the pond on how many students are in Island schools?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

We're not all over the place with our students. There is a process in place. Our numbers are given to us by the English Language School Board and we waited for those confirmed numbers. When they were confirmed we released them.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A supplementary question, Now that the English Language School Board is gone and the minister and the Premier have eliminated it, you are now taking charge of the school system and I hope you'll have a better handle on how many students you're responsible for.

Minister, do you have any plans in your new vision to get a more accurate picture on student enrollment?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, there is a process in place. Our old system wasn't working. We were all working in separate silos to help ensure that our students learn. This way we're taking all our resources, we're combining our resources, to help ensure that our students achieve.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Another question for the minister of education: Now that the school board is gone, how will your department collect consistent data on student enrollment?

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

Mr. Perry: Mr. Speaker, the school board still exists.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Really, the question is now that you're doing away with the school board, how will your department collect consistent data on student enrollment, but since you don't want to answer that question I'll ask another one.

Student enrolment number shift

First the enrollment was down 300, then it was up 20, then it was down 271. That's a lot of change over a short few months. What do you think is causing these big shifts?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There's always projection of what the potential enrollment numbers are, but we don't want to make any decisions until we have confirmed numbers. That's why this fall we waited until the numbers were confirmed by the English Language School Board, what the official numbers were for the enrolment of the 2015-2016 school year.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: To the minister of education: Are we seeing a spike in the number of students enrolled in private schools and going down the home schooling path right now?

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

Mr. Perry: Mr. Speaker, I think we're staying on par with those numbers at this time.

I think it's great that there's options on the Island for parents who either want to home school their children or send their students to either a private or one of our public school systems on the Island.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Class sizes

Mr. Trivers: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to switch gears a little bit, although this is another question for the minister of education.

In the official opposition we believe that a key tenet of open and transparent government should be open data and class sizes are a great example of data that should be readily available. But because it's not, I need to ask this next question.

Will the minister please table all individual class sizes broken down by school for the Legislature and Island taxpayers to access?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's great that the opposition are asking many questions on education. They know that education is important on Prince Edward Island, and I'm very thankful to the opposition for endorsing our new system that we're approaching.

We will get that information for you and I will make sure that you have it in your hands.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Classroom caps (further)

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the minister of education: Can the minister tell the House when he plans to introduce caps on class sizes?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Caps in our classroom has been brought to my attention on a couple of occasions. There are people that are for it, there are also others that are against it. But this is an opportunity now, with the formation of our advisory councils, to have input from all stakeholders so that they can discuss this issue and we can make a decision afterwards.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Mr. Speaker, just wanted to clarify to the minister, we're not talking about baseball caps here, we're talking about caps on class sizes.

Last week in the House the minister indicated that he supported capping class sizes, something that we campaigned on, especially in the early grades. Again, you can work in your collaboration with the advisory councils, but will the minister commit to bringing in legislation to make this change?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am committed to listening to Islanders, to listening to everyone, to help shape a better education system that will help our students on Prince Edward Island achieve and I'm committed to that.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald, your final question.

EELC remaining in Holman building

Mr. Trivers: This is again to the minister of education.

Minister of education, will you confirm that the department of education facility and the people located in the Holman building are not being moved back to Charlottetown as a centralization of services with the elimination of the English Language School Board?

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We have no intentions of moving the department of education from Summerside back to Charlottetown.

Thank you.

Speaker: That ends Question Period.

Statements by Ministers

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

PEI Association of Community Schools

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

I am pleased to rise in the House this afternoon to extend congratulations to the PEI Association of Community Schools on their 50th anniversary. The association recently celebrated this milestone and I had the opportunity to join them in the celebrations.

For those of you who are unfamiliar, the association provides affordable and community-based life-long learning options to all Islanders in both rural and urban locations across Prince Edward Island. It continues to play a significant role in local community development across the province.

I would like to recognize and welcome a few special guests from the association who are seated in the gallery today: Barb MacFarlane, Shirley Moore and Blair Strongman, and I'd like to make note of Susan Rodgers who is the author of the new book, a special anniversary history book, *The Golden Years*, which was launched at last month's event. The book celebrates Prince Edward Island's community schools from 1965 to 2015.

I recently attended a community school course in the winter of 2014. The course was facilitated by a dynamic and passionate team of action-oriented individuals, including farmers, researchers, educators, entrepreneurs, and other visionaries, and

even the Leader of the Third Party was there.

The community school program is a beloved program and a great initiative to encourage life-long learning. It is my hope that others will get involved with the association, be it through teaching, volunteering or learning.

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the countless volunteers who make the association all that it is; 700 Islanders volunteer each year and without each of you the program would not be here today.

It is a great way for Islanders to get out in the middle of the winter to learn something new and meet new friends. It's a great program and I'd encourage everyone over the winter months to get out, have some learning, and have some fun because it's a great association.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I, too, I wanted to echo those comments, and on behalf of the official opposition I wanted to thank the Prince Edward Island community schools group for all they've done since 1965.

I wanted to recognize a constituent of mine, Shirley Moore, who has been the coordinator since 1994, I believe. Does just a fantastic job. I know they're coming up with a new semester here starting in January, so make sure you get that handout. You can get it in your newspapers and I believe it will also be on the website. We'll get that figured out.

Take a look at what community schools might benefit you. I know it's impacted my family. My sister-in-law is going to graduate from her guitar group coming up very soon. It's one of those things that really builds communities and allows communities to grow. This is part of where the real culture of Prince Edward Island comes from. I think that's one reason, for example, we see so much great music in our community is

because of programs like the PEI community schools.

Thank you very much again.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

I would like to extend my congratulations on this 50th anniversary. As the minister stated, we sat together in a class last winter in the community school and it was just grand. A few years ago I taught a community school program of my own. Community school programs are often musical, as the hon. member had said, or you might go to learn weaving or something like that. But I taught a course on happiness.

I'm pleased to report to the members that I'm continuing to pursue and accelerate my pursuit of happiness here with the work of all these deeply content members in this House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

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

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

Mr. Speaker, by Command of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table the Annual Report of Holland College for the period ending March 31st, 2014 and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

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

Mr. Speaker, by Command of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table the Annual Report for the PEI Student Financial Assistance Corporation for the period ending March 31st, 2015 and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, by Command of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I beg leave to table the 2014 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Environmental Advisory Council for the period ending March 31st, 2014 and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from O'Leary-Inverness, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table a petition containing 850 signatures supporting a proposed medical clinic in Crapaud and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Hon. member, pursuant to Section 46 of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, I wish to advise that I have received the 2015 Report of the Indemnities & Allowances Commission. I move that the report of the commission be received and do lie on the Table.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Reports by Committees

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

Ms. Casey: Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules, Regulations, Private Bills and Privileges, I beg leave to introduce the report of the said committee

and I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, that the same now be received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Ms. Casey: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche, that the report of the committee be adopted and that consideration of Private Bill 201, *An Act to Amend An Act to Incorporate Amalgamated Dairies Ltd.*, be added to the Orders Other Than Government of this House.

The committee has considered Private Bill 201, finds it to be private in nature, and its recommendation a fee of \$80 pursuant to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from O'Leary-Inverness.

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, I beg leave to introduce the report of the said committee and I move, seconded by the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, that the same now be received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, that the report of the committee be adopted.

This report is an account of committee activities since last reporting to the Assembly. It contains the following recommendations:

1. Your committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the PEI Potato Board resume discussions on the potato disinfection services, and that both be more flexible in an effort to maintain the service, while being sensitive to the date of the intended termination.

2. Your committee recommends that expansion of the Alternative Land Use Services 2 (ALUS 2) Program and the Sustainable Agriculture Resource Division be considered to further assist farmers in

undertaking measures to conserve soil, to protect watercourses and wetlands, and to farm in a sustainable manner.

3. As refugees and other newcomers arrive and look to make a living in Prince Edward Island, your committee recommends that government, newcomers' organizations and industry organizations partner to inform these new Islanders of PEI's agriculture and fishery industries and encourage them to pursue careers in these areas.

Your committee thanks the individuals and groups that shared their views on agriculture and fisheries with the committee.

Respectfully submitted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Energy, I beg leave to introduce the report of the said committee and I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors, that the same now be received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Gallant: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors, that the report of the committee be adopted.

This report is an account of committee activities since last reporting to the Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Introduction of Government Bills.

Government Motions

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from

Summerside-St. Eleanors, that Motion No. 70 be now called.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Moved by the hon. Government House Leader, seconded by the hon. Member from Summerside-St. Eleanors, the following motion:

WHEREAS the Leader of the Third Party has introduced a bill entitled the Well-being Measurement Act (Bill 101);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Well-being Measurement Act (Bill 101) be referred to the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness for further consideration.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and move this motion, and we appreciate the work of the hon. Leader of the Third Party in raising this issue.

It's an important one and the intent of which everyone in this House likely supports. We support what he is trying to do to ensure that we have a means to track the economic, social, and environmental well-being of peoples, communities, and ecosystems in the province. I appreciate the level of his civility and his ideas are helpful in providing this House with deeper insight into the issues of wellness and sustainability. He, like all members of the House, is willing to collaborate in the best interest of Islanders. Much of this information being collected in the bill has already been collected by government in the *Statistics Act*, and the PEI Statistics Bureau could be directed to undertake this work within the mandate of the *Statistics Act* and provide briefings to the standing committee as appropriate.

As the intent behind this legislation is worthwhile, we think it warrants further consideration and would direct the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness to consider the merits and financial implications of this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We had some very positive debate on this bill the other night in the House and therefore I am very pleased to stand here today and second this motion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

I am delighted to rise in support of this motion, and I welcome the opportunity for what I consider to be a really important bill to have some further discussion around the committee table. I encourage all members of this House to support this motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I get a kick out of government here. They're patting themselves on the back for the work that the hon. Leader of the Third Party did here today. Everybody in this House knows that all the information that he's talking about is readily available. If you read the reports that the health minister has tabled, the countless reports that he's tabled here in the last four or five years, you would see that there are numerous indicators that everybody chooses to ignore every single day. I'm not opposed to looking at them at all, but I get a real kick out of the way government handles business.

Where last night they were standing on the floor of the Legislature changing a motion when we were asking that people don't have to pay to park to see their loved ones who are sick in the hospital if they are there under an hour they couldn't cooperate with

us on that, and the minister of agriculture gets up here and pats himself on the back like he is some kind of hero because he's going to send a bill to committee. It's really quite comical to see the way the government operates when it comes to the work that we're trying to do. Not taking anything away from the Leader of the Third Party and the good work that he's trying to do, but it's quite obvious that they look at the two of us quite differently.

I'm not sure what their mandate is over there. These are the guys that said they wanted to do things differently. These are the guys that said they wanted to collaborate. They don't want to collaborate with us at all. They want to collaborate with the hon. Leader of the Third Party and that's fine, and good on him for being able to do that. But we've brought countless things to the floor of this Legislature. The Leader of the Opposition had a bill on the floor that was killed soundly – no mention of sending that to committee – killed soundly by this government.

Anytime we have ever had legislation on the floor this government has killed it soundly and never sent anything to committee to be looked at, never once tried to cooperate with us, and it's a silly game that they're playing over there. They want to talk about the higher level that they brought this Legislature to, and quite frankly, it's a joke.

Speaker: Is there anybody else who would like to speak to the motion?

If not, I will go back to the mover to close debate on the motion.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

I think it's very relevant and very worthwhile looking into this. Be pleased to wait and see what assessment that the committee of health and wellness gives to this, and so we look forward to their report in the spring session or whenever they bring that back.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Are we ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question!

Speaker: All those voting in favour of the amendment, say "yea."

Some Hon. Members: Yea!

Speaker: All those voting against the motion say "nay."

The motion is carried and it is unanimous.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Orders of the Day (Government)

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Finance, that Order No. 1 be now called.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 1, Consideration of the Supplementary Estimates, in Committee.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that this House do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration the grant of supplementary supply to Her Majesty.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Would everyone like to turn to page 7?

Mr. Aylward: Chair?

Chair: Yes?

Mr. Aylward: We haven't actually received the book.

Chair: Okay. We'll have a moment here for the books to be handed out.

Mr. Roach: I'd like to bring a staff member to the floor.

Chair: The minister would like to bring a staff member on. Is that okay?

Mr. Aylward: Granted.

Chair: You're welcome to come on.

Mr. Roach: I'd like a book, too.

Ms. Biggar: Did you say page 7, hon. Chair?

Chair: Yes, page 7.

[Recess]

Chair: On the top of page 7, there's a schedule: 2015-16 Supplementary Estimates, Summary of Special Warrants.

Is it the wish that I read the whole page?

Mr. Aylward: No, Chair –

An Hon. Member: What page?

Mr. Aylward: Page 7.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock. Question?

Mr. Aylward: Yeah. I just have some questions to start with.

Chair: Okay.

Mr. Aylward: Under the special warrant for Environment, Labour and Justice-Capital, October 6, 2015, when I looked this up on the government website I found within that 3,309,000, there was 170,000 set aside for professional services.

Mr. Roach: Yes.

Mr. Aylward: Can you explain what the professional services would have been for?

Mr. Roach: That's the installation and the programming costs when they – it's one thing to buy the radios, but they all have to be programmed and there's an installation process. That's what the 170,000 covers.

Mr. Aylward: Okay. Chair.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: How many radios in total were purchased?

Mr. Roach: Eleven hundred, I believe, 1,182.

Mr. Aylward: Eleven hundred and eighty-two. I'm not going to do the math in my head, but do you know offhand what per unit cost would be?

Chair: The hon. Premier, (Indistinct) the answer to the question?

Mr. Roach: Thirty-three hundred per unit.

Mr. Aylward: Thirty-three hundred per unit? Okay.

Mr. Roach: Twenty-three. Sorry, 2,300.

Mr. Aylward: Twenty-three hundred. Okay.

Chair: Further question, the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock?

Mr. Aylward: No. I just wanted to ensure that all the professional services was in fact associated with the radios and it wasn't legal fees for something else that we may have –

Mr. Roach: No, it's the installation and the programming that has to –

Mr. Aylward: – discussed here in the House.

Mr. Roach: – go into the radios.

Mr. Aylward: Okay. Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: (Indistinct) per unit cost would set you more than 2,500.

Mr. Aylward: It's what?

Premier MacLauchlan: Set you more than 2,500. So the total –

Ms. Biggar: Per unit.

Premier MacLauchlan: Twenty-five hundred per unit.

Mr. Aylward: Starting to sound like I'm talking about the school enrolment again.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Aylward: Really?

Chair: Any further questions?

Mr. Aylward: Not for me at this time on that section.

Chair: Environment, Labour Justice-Capital: 3,309,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

The next section is Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal-Capital estimates.

Any questions on that, hon. member?

Mr. Aylward: Chair.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: So for the bridge, is that specifically for the Souris bridge that the Member from Souris-Elmira fought so diligently for?

Mr. Roach: Yes. It's the Souris bridge, plus it's the repairs to the bridges up west.

Mr. Aylward: After the –

Mr. Roach: After the flood.

Mr. Aylward: – flood.

Mr. Roach: Yes.

Mr. Aylward: Okay. All right. Perfect.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you.

With the \$2.6 million spent on heavy equipment, is there a breakdown of what exactly was bought? I know the minister of transportation has talked about buying some snow blowers, and –

Mr. Roach: Sure.

Mr. Aylward: – things like that. Obviously, after last winter, we need them.

Mr. Roach: Yes. I guess the big reason there was it was very hard on the equipment and some of the older stuff just didn't – it was pretty much beaten up by the end of the year. But it does include six new truck plows, four loaders, and the blowers that are required to maintain the level of service this winter.

Mr. Aylward: Okay. Chair.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you. Under capital improvements, buildings, a new building construction, the 2.1 million. Is that specifically for the new highway depot?

Mr. Roach: Yes, it is. That's a carry-over of phase one plus some additional costs.

Mr. Aylward: Okay. So –

Mr. Roach: But that's exactly what it's for.

Mr. Aylward: On that project itself, where are we at now with it?

Ms. Biggar: We're –

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

Ms. Biggar: Actually, hon. member, we just completed the salt shed that's out there. We moved the scale out there. We'll be operating out of that area this particular winter in regard to our salt storage and our scales. That phase has been completed and we'll be moving into the next phase next fiscal.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Then moving forward, the current highway depot, the maintenance garage which was originally, I believe, a World War II hangar, across from the Irving tanks, is it going to be eventually relocated out there as well?

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

Ms. Biggar: We'll be coordinating everything out of that particular site including, as you say, the maintenance garage, the salt storage. Everything will be coordinated out of that site in the future. It'll be more efficient in running operations.

Chair: Further question from the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Chair.

It's quite obvious to anybody that there are plans already, sort of, off in the future for the land where the current transportation depot is by the Hillsborough bridge. I know the city of Charlottetown would love to get their hands on it.

I guess I'm more curious about the land that's currently, or was currently, being used for the salt and sand storage out by the hospital. I mean, if one was only to drive out there and take a walk, it's extremely valuable real estate. I'm just wondering if your department or if the government has any plans for that land in the future.

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

Ms. Biggar: We haven't had any discussions, hon. member. It just barely got moved out of there. There will have to be a cleanup of the site and to look at what options are there. But there hasn't been discussion, hon. member.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Chair.

How much land does the government own in that area?

Ms. Biggar: I could get you that information, hon. member. Off the top of my

head, I'm sorry, I don't have it but I'll be happy to get it to you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock. Question.

Mr. Aylward: I'm just wondering if it actually goes right down to the water, right down to the Hillsborough River.

Ms. Biggar: I'd have to go back and get that information. I certainly can do that for you.

Mr. Aylward: Okay. No, I'd really be interested in seeing that information, because –

Ms. Biggar: No problem.

Mr. Aylward: – it is, as we know, particularly in the Charlottetown area, and becoming so in Summerside too – we have a very limited amount of waterfront property left that's not developed.

To me, this is just a very pristine area that – and I'm sure the Leader of the Third Party would agree that we should ensure that we maintain a certain amount of green space. Particularly when it borders on historic Hillsborough River. If you could bring that information back, I'd be very appreciative.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you. I'd just like to go back to the money that was spent repairing the bridges up west. Am I right in thinking, because that was as the result of a natural disaster, that money will be recovered from the federal government at a later date?

Mr. Roach: Thank you, that's a good question. A portion of that may be eligible and we apply to the federal government under disaster fund relief, but generally if it is approved it may take upwards to four, five or six years before we see that money returned into our budget.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Do you have any sense as to how much of that might be recovered or is that entirely dependent on the circumstances?

Mr. Roach: We simply put in the paperwork and send it forward, but it's really up to them to determine what would qualify, and the new government may take a little longer before they get up and running. But the first opportunity I get I will be asking to reduce those numbers of years for the waiting to try and get those dollars back in our economy.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Great, thank you, Chair.

Chair: Any further questions?

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal-Capital: 9,848,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Total Special Warrants: 13,157,000.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Roach: Mr. Chair, I move that the Speaker take the chair and that the Chair make report to the Speaker.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Roach: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services, that the report of the committee be now received.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Chair: Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee be now adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Finance, that the 30th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 30, *Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2015*, Bill No. 48, ordered for second reading.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2015*, Bill No. 48, read a second time.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche.

Chair (Gallant): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

Mr. Aylward: No.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Shall the schedule carry? Carried.

Mr. Roach: I move the title.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2015.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Roach: I move the enacting clause.

Chair: May it please Your Honour:

Be it therefore enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intituled *Supplementary Appropriation Act (No.2) 2015*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services, that the 11th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 11, *An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act*, Bill No. 41, ordered for second reading.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Alberton-Roseville.

Chair (Murphy): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

Mr. Aylward: Chair, if we could have an overview from the minister, perhaps, to start?

Mr. Currie: Yeah, so basically what this is is just – it adds ministerial power and labour mobility provisions. It also provides regulation making authority to the PEI Psychologists Registration Board to limit the scope of practice of a class of registered – and this was discussed by the psychologists and has been supported.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you. Just wondering, Chair, is there anything in particular that has happened in recent history that the board or your office has acted upon this?

Mr. Currie: I'll ask for permission to bring Nichola Hewitt from the department to come up.

Chair: Permission to bring a stranger on the floor?

Mr. Aylward: Granted.

Chair: Please state your name for the record.

Nichola Hewitt Solicitor: Nichola Hewitt, solicitor and legislative specialist with the Department of Health and Wellness.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Sure. I'm just wondering, was there something in particular that happened in recent history that caused the board and/or the minister's office to look at these changes?

Nichola Hewitt Solicitor: The registrar of the board had approached us requesting the ability – there are two different classes of psychologists on Prince Edward Island. There's the full psychologist and then there's psychological associates. The difference between them is psychologists have a PhD and psychological associates have a master's degree, and so they wanted to have the ability to put parameters around practices based on education levels.

That's why we've put in the regulation-making authority. While we were putting that in we updated the act to put in the ministerial powers, the same as we were talking medical act yesterday, and also to insert the labour mobility provisions because this act was passed before labour mobility came in. Whenever we update any of our legislation now we're putting in ministerial powers and labour mobility provisions.

Mr. Aylward: I just wanted to clarify that there wasn't something that happened, an issue with a client and a psychologist or anything.

Nichola Hewitt Solicitor: This was done at the request of the board.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Currie: I move the title.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act.*

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Currie: I move the enacting clause.

Chair: Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intitled *An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services, that the 12th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 12, *Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act*, Bill No. 25, ordered for second reading.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness and Family and Human Services, that the said bill be now read a second time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot to chair the Committee of the Whole House.

Chair (Sherry): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intitled *Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

Mr. Aylward: Chair, perhaps if we have an overview from the minister and then we can go from there?

Chair: Minister, a brief overview please?

Mr. Currie: What this bill does, the bill repeals the *Dietitians Act*, the *Licensed Practical Nurses Act*, the *Occupational Therapists Act*, the *Optometry Act*, as these professions have all applied for and are transitioning to the *Regulated Health Professions Act*. They've all asked to come in under the *Regulated Health Professions Act*. This is repealing the original acts.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Thanks, Chair.

This is something that the individual professions have been asking for and it's not something that's being thrust on them by government.

Mr. Currie: No.

Mr. Aylward: All right, thank you.

Chair: Any other questions?

Some Hon. Members: Carried.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Currie: I move the title.

Chair: *Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act*.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Currie: I move the enacting clause.

Chair: Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of

the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows.

Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intitled *Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Finance, that the 28th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 28, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*, Bill No. 47, in Committee.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Evangeline-Miscouche to chair the Committee of the Whole House.

Chair (Gallant): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intitled *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

Mr. MacKay: Question, chair.

Chair: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Can a staff member come on the floor?

Some Hon. Members: Granted.

Chair: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Chair.

Minister, a few questions here. As the Auditor General proposed to go back to 2005, why can't we go and bring this retroactive back to 2005?

Mr. Roach: Actually, the Auditor General made one recommendation, and the Auditor General's recommendation was that the minister of finance and energy should clarify the authorization requirements for write-offs and cancellations of amounts owing to the province.

Chair: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Minister, this new legislation is not starting till next year. How come this government hasn't brought it back to when the Premier took over back last February? Why can't we back date that till last February?

Mr. Roach: We can go back to February 23rd, and at that time the government made it very clear they were going to be open and transparent and respond to this. Therefore, we had made the commitment that from February 23rd, from that date when the current Premier took over, that there would be no loan write-offs or cancellations.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, minister. I realize that and I do think it's great that this government is going to be open and transparent, and that's why I think it should go back and any loan that was wrote off this following year should be open to the public as well.

Mr. Roach: Any loan that was written off when?

Mr. MacKay: Over the last year, back to when the Premier started.

Mr. Roach: The Premier started on February 23rd –

Mr. MacKay: Right.

Mr. Roach: – and I'm telling you that any loans – there has been no loans.

In the spirit of what we were trying to achieve, there'll be no cancellations of loans with Finance PEI or IIDI that will be done during that period of time. There's none that's happened. Anything that will take place will not – that will be released once this legislation comes into place.

Chair: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Chair.

Minister, when I asked questions in Question Period a couple of times, when I went back to bring it back to the previous government and the loan write-offs, it was said that you had legal advice and you couldn't do it. I was wondering if you could table that legal advice for us to view, where the advice came from.

Mr. Roach: Certainly. I don't have it, but –

Mr. MacKay: That's great.

Mr. Roach: – I'll clearly see what I can find and bring it back.

Mr. MacKay: Okay, another question, Chair?

Chair: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Have any previous candidates that ran in the last election received any loans from the government this year?

Mr. Roach: Have any previous candidates from –

Mr. MacKay: That ran in the last election, have they received any loans of any kind?

Mr. Roach: Not that I'm aware of, but I don't see the loans that would go through here. But I'd have a look at that and –

Mr. MacKay: One last question, Chair.

In the bill it says "...Council may disclose..." I would like to do an amendment on that and change that word "may" into shall disclose. Is that something

Chair: Which section are you on?

Mr. MacKay: Oh, 26.1 and 26.2.

Mr. Roach: Mr. Chair, have we moved to clause by clause or are we still –

Chair: We're still in just (Indistinct).

Mr. Aylward: (Indistinct) you're in questions in general.

Chair: Does the committee wish to hear the amendment now or commence with clause by clause?

An Hon. Member: Clause by clause.

Chair: Clause by clause?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Chair: We'll read it clause by clause and then (Indistinct).

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Mr. Trivers: I don't think we need to go clause by clause.

Mr. Roach: We can hear it now.

Chair: (Indistinct) go clause by clause?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Chair: Before we go any further could I please get the staff member to identify himself for the Hansard? Sorry, Mr. MacFadyen.

Gordon MacFadyen Comptroller: Gordon MacFadyen, provincial comptroller.

Chair: Thank you, Mr. MacFadyen.

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct) you explain that?

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

Ms. Biggar: Do you want to explain what you're –

Chair: What we're doing?

Ms. Biggar: Yeah.

Chair: They want to amend 26.1 and 26.2.

Ms. Biggar: Okay.

Chair: So we were suggesting we go back and read it clause by clause and do it when we get there, but they want to do it now.

Ms. Biggar: That's fine.

Chair: The hon. member will make his amendment now.

Mr. MacKay: Thanks, Chair.

In section 4, amending act, I want to delete the word "may" and insert the word "shall".

Mr. Roach: He wants to take out the word may and put in shall?

Mr. MacKay: That's right. I move the amendment.

Chair: Is there any discussion on the amendment?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I want to start off by saying that I'm no legal expert and this is an incredibly complicated issue that we're dealing with here, both in terms of timeline and acts which cross each other and overlap, and it's taken me a long time to work through this and I don't think that I'm fully there, even with all of the work that I've put in.

Given the importance of what we're talking about today and the public interest in this particular issue, I think it's incumbent upon this government to make sure that I and the rest of the public of Prince Edward Island fully understand what's being proposed here. I want to start off by saying that.

In terms of the may versus shall, again, I'm speaking here not as a legal person at all, but

it's clear to me that the difference between may and shall – and I stand to be corrected by the hon. Premier – is that may is discretionary and shall is mandatory. That there's no wiggle room in shall but in may there is.

I absolutely agree with the amendment. I think given the instance in which it's being inserted here, and particularly because it's preceded by “Notwithstanding anything to the contrary respecting disclosure” under FOIPP – which offers protection, and then of course we have the commissioner of FOIPP which offers another level of protection – that there's no reason why this shouldn't be a mandatory thing.

I absolutely agree that that should be changed from may to shall.

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Question for the minister: Was it not our understanding that the reason for using the word may is because there are exceptional cases that are to be addressed where it might be the – it would be prudent or it would be fair in the circumstances to not disclose the name of the debtor or the amount of the debt?

Mr. Roach: Yes, Mr. Premier. With discussion with legal on this issue, if you put the word shall disclose, then that says that every person, no matter what their circumstance, it's going to get disclosed. One of the key reasons why – may is in a lot of legislation. The reason why may is there in this particular case has to do with the fact that we have a number of vulnerable clients out there that fall within social services, that fall within – for example, students that may have disabilities where there are monies that they owe will not be paid back and there may be a cancellation of those. This goes a long way to protecting those individuals, and if we use the word shall that takes away any discretion in those cases.

The intent of this legislation is to bring back those cancellations with respect to those instances specifically identified by the Auditor General in her report, in the entire report.

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Chair, as I read 26.2 – in effect it is 26.1(2) – that would constitute the exemption or the scope of the exemption from 26.2(1). In other words, the word may in 26.2(1) is, in effect, circumscribed by or the scope of the discretion, as the Leader of the Third Party has called it, would in effect be defined through the regulation that is identified in 26.2(2). Is that correct?

Mr. Roach: That's correct.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock and then the hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Chair.

I appreciate what the Premier is saying with regards to there could be special circumstances and vulnerable debtors and so on and so forth, and I think to protect an extremely small percentage of cases that may or shall occur, I think we could add a clause in to protect those individuals.

But I think what we really need to understand here, ladies and gentlemen, is we're talking about taxpayers' dollars. We're talking about ensuring that Islanders, whose taxes are collected and are paid through hard-working Islanders, are protected and if there are loans being written off to companies, etc., that there is a level of transparency.

This government, this Premier, you've campaigned heavily on this. You talk about it continually in every one of your announcements, but yet when we get to something as vitally important as this, that speaks volumes about transparency, I think you need to stand up and show what you're all about. If you're transparent, let's be transparent. If you're not, then stop using the word.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Chair, the whole purpose in bringing forward this legislation is the interest of transparency.

If it weren't for this legislation, the loans wouldn't be disclosed or the write-offs or

cancellations would not be disclosed. It's to respond to the report of the Auditor General and in our overall commitment to openness and transparency that this is coming forward.

The difference between shall and may in 26.2(1) is indeed related to what is in 26.1(2) which is to make exceptions where it would not be appropriate to publish the name of the debtor or the amount of the debt. In fact, those regulations will be public documents. There's no lack of transparency in any regulations that are made in this province.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Roach: Yes. I assure you that our staff has had conversation with the Auditor General with respect to this legislation and to the words that are contained in the legislation. The Auditor General, at this time, is satisfied with the wording and with the legislation and is confident that it will achieve her recommendation that was clearly outlined in 5.29 of her recommendations.

The Auditor General, of course, at any point in time, has the option once this legislation is in place to come back to this group if she requests any further changes.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

If the intent of this bill is to have full disclosure, then 26.2(1), with the specific mention of FOIPP, the protections are there for these vulnerable people in circumstances that you've cited. I understand why we need to have protections there. But with the insertion of the notwithstanding FOIPP, the protections are already there, and there's absolutely no argument that would support the use of the word may following that.

With those protections already there in regulation and in FOIPP, the protections are there. This has to be shall. I don't understand the argument against that.

Chair: The hon. Premier for comment.

Premier MacLauchlan: I'd have to say I read 26.2(1) in exactly the opposite sense from the hon. Leader of the Third Party.

The opening words of 26.2(1) – “Notwithstanding anything to the contrary respecting disclosure in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*” – in effect is to override the protection of privacy that would otherwise be in place because of the FOIPP legislation.

In effect, those first two lines mean that, in effect, pave the way for the following permission to the Lieutenant Governor in Council to disclose the name of the debtor and the amount of the debt. So if the word shall goes in here, every debt that is cancelled, discharged, or released or written off will be made public, the full details.

Chair: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Just two questions for right now. Going back to what we're talking about specifically, the first question is: Can you give an example, a specific example, of a case where you would not want to release the name, amount, the name of the debtor and the amount of the debt and possibly other information?

Mr. Roach: Back to 26.2(1). If a debtor comes and says: Look, I don't want my name released then, notwithstanding FOIPP, your name is going to get released.

Mr. Trivers: Yes. That's right.

Mr. Roach: That's what 26.2 does.

Mr. Trivers: So –

Mr. Roach: Regardless if the individual says: I don't want my name released, it doesn't make any difference. It's going to get released.

Chair: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald, question.

Mr. Trivers: I'm just looking for an example, just to make sure we understand.

Chair: The hon. Premier to clarify.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Chair, I can give an example that in fact has arisen within the past year and that's overpayments to social assistance clients, where rather than treat it as a debt, the province, in the circumstances, felt it was better to leave things as they were.

If the word shall goes in here rather than may, then the name and the amount of that overpayment will be published as a matter of an obligation under 26.2(1).

Let me say, again, that the scope of those exemptions will be made public and the circumstances that will be the exemptions will be made public, transparent, and open through the making of regulation under 26.2(2).

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you.

I was just concerned that at times there are medical situations, also, that debts are incurred by an individual. I would be very concerned as well to protect them.

Mr. Aylward: So somebody's taking a loan out to get –

Ms. Biggar: No.

Mr. Aylward: – heart surgery on PEI?

Ms. Biggar: I'm talking about somebody that would be in hospital, perhaps. I know there are situations where family members that get – and the minister of health, perhaps, can be more exact on this. But if they are deemed to be in a long-term care bed and they don't have the funds to offset that, then sometimes that does go towards a bill that may be charged to that person that the family members may not have the difference to pay that bill. That would be incurred through Health PEI.

I would just be concerned that something like that may occur where those individual family members' names are released that their loved one was in care, perhaps, and weren't able to cover it all.

Chair: Final question, the hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald, then we'll go to the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River.

Mr. Trivers: Yes. Thank you, Chair.

I was understanding what the Premier said as well. To read this properly, so this is section 26.1(2): "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may by regulation..." That means if we added shall in section 26.1(1): The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall disclose – it would be contingent on the regulations in 2, right? Is that not right?

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Mr. Trivers: Or do we need –

Premier MacLauchlan: I think – maybe the minister has a different answer than I have. But I believe if we include the word shall in 26.2(1), then the reference to types of debts or classes of debts that may be exempted would actually be overridden by the language of shall rather than may. That's really why may is here, is to open the way for these exemptions as specified through regulation.

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

Ms. Compton: Maybe my questions have been answered. I'm not sure that they've been sufficiently.

I think all Islanders are concerned about the write-offs that this government is doing, and it's not about vulnerable clients. Maybe I suggest that there could be a dollar value placed on anything below a certain amount. I can't imagine anyone, for health reasons or social services, is going to have anything more than \$50,000 or \$100,000.

My question would be to the finance minister, is: Is that something that was looked at?

Mr. Roach: That's certainly something that has been discussed. That's certainly something that 26.2 would allow us to consider would be a – you'd have a threshold of payments. Certainly yes. Good question.

Ms. Compton: Chair.

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

Ms. Compton: On that note, again, the amendment that has already been mentioned could be shall at that point rather than may with an amendment to: under a certain dollar value.

Mr. Roach: Once you say shall in subsection 26.1(1), that discretion is gone. You shall disclose. That –

Mr. Trivers: But in 26.1(2) it still says (Indistinct) –

Mr. Roach: Regulation – if I could point this out, the act overrides the regulations. The regulations cannot override the act.

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

Ms. Compton: So I'd just like to maybe mention again that we are talking about taxpayers' money here. So, you know –

Mr. Roach: And we're not disputing that.

Ms. Compton: And so we as opposition are quite concerned that taxpayers want to know where those funds are going.

Mr. Roach: This will clearly allow that to take place.

Ms. Compton: So the amendment shall rather than may is something we should consider.

Mr. Roach: If you put “shall” in there –

Ms. Compton: Yeah.

Mr. Roach: – then the vulnerable groups –

Ms. Compton: (Indistinct).

Mr. Roach: – and those are only a few to mention, then those debts shall be released. That's not something that I don't think anybody in this Legislature would care to do.

Chair: Thank you.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Chair.

It strikes me that the way this clause is written is not clear, and it actually should be reversed. The way I look at it – again, I'm looking for clarity here, and I'm looking for assurance on behalf of Islanders that they are going to have full disclosure of all loans that are forgiven or cancelled or written off. With the way this is written, I'm not assured that that's going to happen.

For me this should be reversed. It should be that the Lieutenant Governor in Council shall disclose unless the regulations for FOIPP were to be in place. That way the act would still supersede the regulations.

Mr. Roach: I will say that in terms of how this legislation was written, there is a legislative group that looked at this, lawyers, and we sat down – our staff did – with the Auditor General. The Auditor General is satisfied that this legislation, the way that it is written, will confirm and fall in line with the recommendation that she made with respect to the authorization requirements for write-offs and cancellations in amounts owing to the province.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Okay, I'll be back.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Thanks very much, Chair.

I just want to go back to what the minister and the Premier have talked about, and the minister of transportation, with a strong emphasis on the vulnerable groups and your extreme compassion for these individuals.

Yes, I agree that overpayments to clients receiving social service payments would be an exception, but how far are we going on this? Where's the compassion when you pick up the *Guardian* newspaper and start reading through it and see Islanders' names listed in a tax sale that's been put in by the government? So all of a sudden you've got somebody that has fallen on hard times, is in arrears in their taxes, and you're showing them absolutely no compassion.

Mr. Myers: All the time.

Mr. Aylward: You're printing them in the *Guardian*.

Mr. Myers: You do it all the time.

An Hon. Member: Rural farmers (Indistinct)

Mr. Roach: And that's a different act –

Mr. Myers: Rural farmers –

Mr. Aylward: I –

Mr. Roach: It has nothing to do with this act.

Mr. Myers: You take farmers to a courthouse and you stand them on the steps and sell their house.

Chair: Order, please!

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Chair.

You can say it's a different act, but it's the same argument. Your argument that you're using right now does not stand up because you're using a double standard against the other act.

The other point I wanted to make is, again, it goes back to what you've talked about over and over again about being transparent and doing things differently. How can you be actually frank and honest about being transparent when you're forcing Islanders to pay for FOIPP? You're actually asking Islanders to pay for you to be transparent. When we're talking about taxpayers' dollars they shouldn't have to pay to find out where their dollars have gone to.

Mr. Roach: Okay, there were two questions there, and the first one I'll address is asking the taxpayers to pay for FOIPP when in fact with 26.2 you don't have to FOIPP for those cancellations or write-offs. You don't have to FOIPP it. It's going to become public knowledge with respect to those write-offs and –

Mr. Aylward: They may, but shall they?

Mr. Roach: No, what that section says is notwithstanding FOIPP. FOIPP doesn't matter. We're going to release that

information anyway. It's going to get released.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. Roach: You don't have to FOIPP it.

Mr. Myers: That's not what that –

Mr. Roach: It's going to get released.

Mr. Myers: That's not what that section says at all. Read it.

Mr. Aylward: Chair.

Chair: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock –

Mr. Myers: That's not what it says.

Chair: – has questions.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Chair.

A perfect example about what we're talking about here in transparency and having to use the FOIPP process and pay for the FOIPP process is we've asked the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism for information and he stood and said: Sure, you can get that, why don't you just FOIPP it? Where's the transparency?

Again, all we're asking you to do is man up and do what you campaigned on and what was in your platform. If you're going to be transparent, then let's be transparent, folks, not when it suits you.

Mr. Roach: Again I'll go back to 26.2, and it says notwithstanding FOIPP, those cancellations and the requirements for write-offs and cancellations of amounts on loans, you don't have to FOIPP, you don't have – and the dollar value on FOIPP is \$5. If you had to go that way on another issue with respect to these loans, write-offs and cancellations in the amounts owing to the province, there's no requirement for FOIPP. The act will provide that those will be made public through the process as outlined in the act.

Chair: Thank you, minister.

The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Chair.

Obviously, this comes from the taxpayers of Prince Edward Island that have cried for years over government loan write-offs and have expressed their concerns. At the end of the day I don't see why it's a big issue to know what money has been written off.

No matter where you are, you look how it's done and the hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock made a good point. Yes, there's going to be some circumstances, and if there is circumstances put that in the legislation, but don't leave it as vague as may because that's going to make it look that: Well, if we choose to, we will, if not – you know where that's going to end up. It's going to end up with what happened over the last eight years, and there's going to be loan write-offs that nobody's going to know about and not one thing will change.

Mr. Roach: Thank you for the question. I believe that the government has responded in a very positive way to the one recommendation that was made by the Auditor General to the minister of finance, and we've reviewed this clause 26.1 and reviewed it with counsel and reviewed it with our legislative counsel and reviewed it with the Auditor General, and the Auditor General is satisfied that this will provide the transparency that she was seeking when she made her recommendation.

I believe that the legislation is solid in that regard, and in fact we've also committed that on February 23rd there would be no cancellations with respect to those loans until this act came into place. So there's no one that's trying to run about and hide anything. Clearly the government is prepared, and has responded to the Auditor General's recommendation, and with her concurrence on this legislation.

Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Chair.

With such an important piece of legislation, do you not think the taxpayers and the public should have some input in this instead of being voted? We all know how

this is going to be voted here shortly, but with such a major piece of legislation, Islanders and taxpayers should have had a voice in this.

Mr. Roach: Yes. I think the Auditor General in her report recognized that around 2002 the transparency eroded and brought it to the point where it is today. We feel certain that this legislation, with the advice that we've received from legal counsel and from Legislative Counsel, and from the Auditor General, that this is going to correct what started to take place around 2002.

Chair: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: In saying that minister, if that is the case, why don't we go right back to 2002? Let's open the books to Islanders and let's start a new plate. Let's start from a fresh start. If we go back to that 2002, we're more than happy to go back to – so just throwing that out there, minister. If you want to do that, you certainly got us on side.

Mr. Roach: Thank you for the question. The Auditor General made it clear what she wanted, we worked with her through the legislation. Going forward, if the Auditor General comes back with other recommendations we'd be more than prepared to sit down and speak with the Auditor General on that. The advice that we have at this time is to provide this legislative change.

We've made as a government our own commitment that we're prepared to go back and ensure that nothing is rushed through while this process is taking place, that there will be no write-offs of anything until such time as this legislation is in effect and we'll move forward from there.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: We talk about transparency and, I don't care what colours in parties, if the government of the day wants to be transparent and open up the books back years back, I got no problem with that.

If the Auditor General comes out and makes a statement or makes a recommendation, there's nothing that says that we cannot

build on that recommendation. There's nothing that says that we cannot build on that recommendation and expand it. She said: This is the bar; this is where it should be. We're not saying go below it, we're saying let's expand on it and go from the may and shall.

On that amendment: "... the Lieutenant Governor in Council may disclose...". Why not: The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall disclose except for medial documents or medical loans? It's very simple. You could add that in there and then that would get rid of your special interest groups, but still the intent would be there and it protects those people and so on.

I have to agree with the Member from Stratford-Kinlock. We're very forward in putting the names of people that can't afford to stay in their homes and put it out there in the newspaper, but it seems like we're hiding behind it.

Mr. Roach: Appreciate the question, good question. But I don't think you'll find any legislation anywhere in this country that's going to point out classes of individuals with respect to their ability to pay or not pay. You won't see that in legislation anywhere in this country.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Chair.

Heard the Premier say that by adding may to shall basically would mean that they would have to release every one.

If I read 26.2(2) it says:

The Lieutenant Governor in Council may by regulation

(a) exempt specified types of debts or classes of debts from the operation of subsection (1); and

(b) specify additional information in respect of a debtor or a debt that may be disclosed under subsection (1).

By Order in Council the government and the Premier can say: I'm not going to do social services ones. By the legislation – and we're not changing that part of it. We're changing the part that we want you to be transparent, we want to hold you to your word, and we want you to do what you said you were going to do. Not just at election time, but the four years afterwards. Because this is why the electorate is upset with politics is because it sounded really good in April and May, but today it doesn't sound so good because you have to do it.

We want you to do it, and we're going to help you do it, just by adding the word may. You still have protection in 26.2 that's –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Mr. Myers: – going to allow you through – don't shake your head. You're the transportation minister, you'd do well to get a roundabout built in the next four years, let alone worry about this bill.

The Lieutenant Governor in Council shall by regulation. On any Tuesday Cabinet could meet and say: The social services ones we're not touching.

I don't know why you think this is some major change that's going to take that away. You're still able to protect the people who need to be protected while being transparent to Islanders like you said you were.

Chair: Is there a question there or you just want to comment?

Mr. Myers: No. I don't need a question when I'm right.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you.

If we look at the one recommendation that the Auditor General indeed made on page 58 of her report here, what she wants from this government is for them to clarify the process for the cancellation of loans. What we're talking about here is whether we release the information, whether government chooses to release the information. Another important issue, but that's not what she asked for in her report. She asked to clarify the process for the cancellation of these loans.

It strikes me that if we want clarity here, then what we should do is set the rules for the exemptions and then, after that, remove the discretion of the minister or the council to make exemptions. It will be much better written the other way around.

Can I ask, if it makes sense to the official opposition, and if it makes sense to the third party to do it that way, and it makes it clearer, why not do that?

Mr. Roach: To respond to your question which I think I heard in there somewhere –

Dr. Bevan-Baker: It was at the very end.

Mr. Roach: – is that you made reference to what the Auditor General has asked us to do. We clarified her recommendation with her in discussion.

Mr. Myers: We make legislation in this province (Indistinct) general, we (Indistinct)

–

Mr. Roach: We clarified the discussions that we had with respect to – when we wrote this up we went back to the Auditor General and had discussions around that. The Auditor General felt that the clarification was there.

When you use the word shall – if you use the word shall in 26.2(1) with respect to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, then in subsection (2) may cannot apply. Because you're talking about a piece of legislation that's called an act, and in section (2) you're talking about regulations. The act supersedes the regulations.

I don't know how much clearer I can –

Chair: The hon. Premier.

Mr. Myers: I think you should agree with what we're saying over here and work together with us.

Chair: Order, please!

The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Chair, it seems to be that there are really some questions being asked here that may require – as one hon. member suggested – some further

consultation with the public and another that may require some clarification as to the significance of changing the word may to shall.

In the circumstances perhaps what the hon. members opposite are suggesting is that we not proceed with the bill today.

An Hon. Member: Send it to committee.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: Is it the wish of –

Premier MacLauchlan: Leave it on the order paper.

Chair: Would the committee like to proceed with the amendment or would you like to recall the Speaker and report progress? Which would you like to do?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct).

Chair: What are the wishes?

Ms. Biggar: Report progress.

Chair: Okay, report progress.

Mr. Roach: Mr. Chair, I move the Speaker take the chair and the Chair report progress and beg leave to sit again.

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intitled *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act*, I beg leave to report that the committee has made some progress and begs leave to sit again. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier that the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 27th, 29th, and 30th orders of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The following bills were ordered for third reading:

Order No. 2, *An Act to Amend the Sheriffs Act* (Bill No. 33);

Order No. 3, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2015* (Bill No. 31);

Order No. 4, *An Act to Amend the Jury Act* (Bill No. 29);

Order No. 5, *An Act to Amend the Off-Highway Vehicle Act* (Bill No. 32);

Order No. 6, *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 2)* (Bill No. 26);

Order No. 7, *Government Reorganization Act* (Bill No. 27);

Order No. 8, *An Act to Amend the Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accounting Act* (Bill No. 22);

Order No. 9, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act* (Bill No. 30);

Order No. 11, *An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act* (Bill No. 41);

Order No. 12, *Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act* (Bill No. 25);

Order No. 13, *An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act* (Bill No. 20);

Order No. 14, *An Act to Amend the Workers Compensation Act* (Bill No. 34);

Order No. 15, *An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act* (Bill No. 35);

Order No. 16, *An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act* (Bill No. 36);

Order No. 17, *An Act to Amend the Regulations Revision Act* (Bill No. 37);

Order No. 18, *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act* (Bill No. 39);

Order No. 19, *An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act* (Bill No. 23);

Order No. 20, *An Act to Amend the Beverage Containers Act* (Bill No. 21);

Order No. 21, *An Act to Amend the School Act* (Bill No. 42);

Order No. 22, *An Act to Amend the Early Learning and Child Care Act* (Bill No. 38);

Order No. 23, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (No. 2)* (Bill No. 43);

Order No. 24, *Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2016* (Bill No. 24);

Order No. 25, *An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act (No. 2)* (Bill No. 44);

Order No. 27, *An Act to Amend the Medical Act* (Bill No. 45);

Order No. 29, *An Act to Amend the Electric Power Act* (Bill No. 46); and

Order No. 30, *Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2015* (Bill No. 48).

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that the said bills be now read a third time with unanimous consent where required.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The following bills read a third time:

An Act to Amend the Sheriffs Act (Bill No. 33);

Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2015 (Bill No. 31);

An Act to Amend the Jury Act (Bill No. 29);

An Act to Amend the Off-Highway Vehicle Act (Bill No. 32);

An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 26);

Government Reorganization Act (Bill No. 27);

An Act to Amend the Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accounting Act (Bill No. 22);

An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act (Bill No. 30);

An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act (Bill No. 41);

Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act (Bill No. 25);

An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act (Bill No. 20);

An Act to Amend the Workers Compensation Act (Bill No. 34);

An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Bill No. 35);

An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act (Bill No. 36);

An Act to Amend the Regulations Revision Act (Bill No. 37);

An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act (Bill No. 39);

An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act (Bill No. 23);

An Act to Amend the Beverage Containers Act (Bill No. 21);

An Act to Amend the School Act (Bill No. 42);

An Act to Amend the Early Learning and Child Care Act (Bill No. 38);

An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 43);

Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2016 (Bill No. 24);

An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 44);

An Act to Amend the Medical Act (Bill No. 45);

An Act to Amend the Electric Power Act (Bill No. 46); and

Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2015 (Bill No. 48).

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that the said bills do now pass.

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

All those in favour, say “yea.”

Some Hon. Members: Yea!

Speaker: Contrary, “nay.”

Carried.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, this concludes the business of government.

Speaker: Hon. members, I am advised that His Honour the Honourable Lieutenant Governor has arrived at Province House to consider the grant of Royal Assent to additional bills passed today during this, the 1st Session of the 65th General Assembly. I now propose to leave the Chair in anticipation of His Honour’s arrival.

[Recess]

Clerk: Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has passed certain additional bills during this, the 1st session of the 65th General Assembly, and now begs Your Honour’s consideration of the grant of Royal Assent for the following bills:

An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act (Bill No. 20);

An Act to Amend the Beverage Containers Act (Bill No. 21);

An Act to Amend the Chartered Professional Accountants and Public Accounting Act (Bill No. 22);

An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act (Bill No. 23);

Health Professions Statutes Repeal Act (Bill No. 25);

An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 26);

Government Reorganization Act (Bill No. 27);

An Act to Amend the Jury Act (Bill No. 29);

An Act to Amend the Liquor Control Act (Bill No. 30);

Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2015 (Bill No. 31);

An Act to Amend the Off-Highway Vehicle Act (Bill No. 32);

An Act to Amend the Sheriffs Act (Bill No. 33);

An Act to Amend the Workers Compensation Act (Bill No. 34);

An Act to Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Bill No. 35);

An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act (Bill No. 36);

An Act to Amend the Regulations Revision Act (Bill No. 37);

An Act to Amend the Early Learning and Child Care Act (Bill No. 38);

An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act (Bill No. 39);

An Act to Amend the Psychologists Act (Bill No. 41);

An Act to Amend the School Act (Bill No. 42);

An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 43);

An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 44);

An Act to Amend the Medical Act (Bill No. 45);

An Act to Amend the Electric Power Act (Bill No. 46); and

Supplementary Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2015 (Bill No. 48).

His Honour Lieutenant Governor H. Frank Lewis: In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

Speaker: May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island in session assembled, approach Your Honour at the close of our labours with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government. We do humbly beg for Your Honour's acceptance of a bill to be intituled *Appropriation Act (Capital Expenditures) 2016*, thus placing at the disposal of the Crown, the means by which government can be made efficient for the service and welfare of the province.

Clerk: His Honour, the hon. Lieutenant Governor, doth thank Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill in Her Majesty's name.

His Honour Lieutenant Governor H. Frank Lewis: I wish to commend all hon. members for the conscientious manner in which you have conducted your deliberations at this point of the 1st Session of the 65th General Assembly of Prince Edward Island. At this time, I pray that until the Legislative Assembly again meets, each of you enjoy good health and prosperity and the peace and freedom for all people shall be more clearly achieved.

Clerk: Thank you, Your Honour.

His Honour Lieutenant Governor H. Frank Lewis: Have a good holiday. I'll see most of you anyway.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move that this House adjourn and stand adjourned until the call of the Speaker.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

At this time, I would just like to thank everybody, all members, for participating in what I would call a pretty successful session.

I also want to thank the Clerk, the Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees, for their help, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and everybody who participated, and in particular the Deputy Speaker who gave yeoman's service.

Thank you very much to everybody and enjoy the holidays.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Legislature adjourned until the call of the Speaker