

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts

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MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS .....	393
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS .....	398
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK (Donation to Family Violence Prevention Services) .....	398
CHARLOTTETOWN-LEWIS POINT (Kim Dolan-PEI Sports Hall of Fame) .....	398
BELFAST-MURRAY RIVER (Point Prim Lighthouse Society).....	399
ORAL QUESTIONS.....	399
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (New funding for teachers).....	399
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Permanent or one-off positions for teachers) .....	400
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Review of instructional staffing models).....	401
RUSTICO-EMERALD (Timeline for replacement of Sherwood school) .....	402
RUSTICO-EMERALD (Contingency plans in dealing with issues at Sherwood school).....	403
RUSTICO-EMERALD (Accessibility lift for Birchwood school students with disabilities) .....	404
RUSTICO-EMERALD (Accessibility lift for Prince Street school students with disabilities).....	404
RUSTICO-EMERALD (HVAC replacement at Parkdale school) .....	404
RUSTICO-EMERALD (List of priorities for school infrastructure).....	405
RUSTICO-EMERALD (Boiler replacement at Parkdale school) .....	405
RUSTICO-EMERALD (Sherwood school replacement) .....	406
RUSTICO-EMERALD (School upgrades) .....	407
LEADER OF THE THIRD PARTY (Collaborative discourse among parties) .....	408
LEADER OF THE THIRD PARTY (Campaign finance reform (further) .....	408
LEADER OF THE THIRD PARTY (Collaborative discourse among parties (further).....	409
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK (Roof replacement at St. Jean school).....	409
CHARLOTTETOWN-VICTORIA PARK (Population growth in schools) .....	410
TIGNISH-PALMER ROAD (PEI music hall of fame) .....	410
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Lawyer added to e-gaming defense team).....	412
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Spencer Campbell coordinating e-gaming defense).....	413
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Rates charged to taxpayers for Crazy Town lawyer) .....	413
GEORGETOWN-ST. PETERS (Files worked on by Crazy Town lawyer).....	415
POINT OF ORDER (Minister of Finance).....	415

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS .....	415
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL (Violence Against Women Prevention Grants) .....	415
HEALTH AND WELLNESS (Wellness Grants) .....	417
FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES (Seniors Independence Program).....	418
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS.....	420
ORDERS OF THE DAY (GOVERNMENT) .....	420
COMMITTEE .....	420
Capital Estimates .....	420
ADJOURNED.....	443

The Legislature sat at 10:00 a.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of  
Guests

**Speaker:** Before I call on the hon. Premier, I just want to rise on a point of privilege.

I'd like to remind everyone that 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Youth Parliament will be held this afternoon, here in the Chamber, starting at approximately 1:45 p.m. with the Speech from the Throne by Her Honour, Antoinette Perry. The session continues through the day until 8:30 this evening, then it resumes again tomorrow morning, around 9:00 a.m. until noon – and students from all across the Island and from far-away places away from PEI are here, too. So, I invite all members if you have a chance, it's probably going to be worth your while to come in and see those young people in action because they are going to be the people that will be occupying those seats and desks in probably the fairly near future. Don't forget to drop in.

The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'll follow on your remarks to add a welcome to the participants in the 30<sup>th</sup> Rotary Youth Parliament and welcome you to your good work. I see three with us today who are also pages in the current session and at least one who happens to be from my district and neighborhood who's back from after participating last year. So, we've got some connections being made here and we welcome everyone and look forward to having an opportunity to drop in on that.

This is our purple ribbon to campaign and time for those of us here in the House, and really, our whole society, to recognize that we have a part to play in preventing violence against women. The motto or the theme for the campaign is: Don't stand by, stand with.

On that note, I acknowledge the good work of the Man Up organization, which has been now in its second year, encouraging men to work together to do our part to stand-up to and to prevent violence against women.

Sunday at 4:00 p.m. at the Guild in Charlottetown, there will be an information session by the Man Up group, followed by a march from the Guild to Murphy's Community Centre and I invite all Islanders to join in that.

Finally, to acknowledge the visit yesterday of our Prime Minister – the great lecture and then exchange in a Q and A, that he left us with a lot of important messages and, certainly, to thank him for the other work that he did in terms of connecting with Islanders while he was here. If anyone hasn't had a chance to hear his interview with Kerri Wynne Macleod, I'd highly recommend it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Everyone have a great weekend.

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

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It's certainly a pleasure for me to rise in the Legislative Assembly here today, too, and to greet many of the participants in the 30<sup>th</sup> Rotary Youth Parliament. You're in for quite a weekend. I've sat in for many years and watched the debate and I was looking through the itinerary and your agenda for the weekend and looking at some of the bills and some of the motions that you have identified that you're looking to bring forward. I'd be very interested to watch and listen to some that I'm available to be here, but rest assured, I'll still be looking at the minutes from your debate and to see how the votes went. I encourage you to remain as active as you can throughout the weekend, but, also, after the weekend to please stay engaged and to reach out to any local politician and voice your concerns; because at the end of the day, that's what we are here for. We're your voice and your part of the democratic process just as we are as well.

Again, congratulations and all the best for the weekend.

I'd also like to wish all Islanders a wonderful weekend. I know there are a lot

of activities happening this weekend. There's the official lighting of the yuletide ceremonies here in Charlottetown tonight. So, Christmas in Charlottetown, in particular, really kicks-off this evening.

I'd also like to point out that there's a very important event taking place at the Confederation Centre of the Arts this evening. There's a lot of wonderful, engaged Islanders that are getting together to join in fellowship and dinner. That, of course, I'm speaking about the Progressive Conservative fall dinner. I thank all the very strong supporters out there for purchasing tickets to support our party.

In closing, again, as I said at the first of the week, our temperatures are fluctuating somewhat now. The road conditions from time to time are a little suspicious, so I just remind all Islanders to please drive safely out there and drive for the conditions.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

I'd like to welcome everybody back and particularly the delegates from the Rotary Youth Parliament who are here with us. I saw Jack Headley downstairs drop you off and Jack is the political science teacher at Bluefield and he taught all of my children political science, but I think they were way too far corrupted by the time he got to them. He couldn't talk them back.

I want to make particular mention of Jacob MacDonald, one of the Pages here in this House. Jacob is currently doing a project on the challenges and the joys of being a Third Party in Prince Edward Island and he's doing a fantastic job. We've done a couple of interviews and I'm really enjoying contributing to that project.

I also want to note that the last weekend of campaigning in District 11 and Hannah Bell, the Green Party candidate was in the Youth Parliament in 1986. She was the speaker at the Rotary Youth Parliament in 1986. She

showed me yesterday a picture of her with the hat on and everything. I don't think she's after your seat, Mr. Speaker, but I know that she would love any seat in this House to occupy.

I'd also, finally, want to welcome Peter Meggs and Darragh Mogan, who I saw walk in and some women from the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Biggar:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

Here we are at the end of a second week of our fall sitting and I want to welcome all our youth parliamentarians. As a former deputy speaker, I've always enjoyed participating in the youth parliament that was here and that we have a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary is quite a milestone, so congratulations to the Rotary clubs that help support that.

Also, I would like to mention: We have a great day out there today and tonight in Summerside is the Santa Claus parade at 6:30 in the city of Summerside. I'd like to send kudos out, as well, to the County Fair Mall. This year they're having a silent Santa. On November 26<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. they're going to be offering an opportunity for children with autism, or sensory issues, or perhaps social anxiety, or just maybe timid – an opportunity for a quite visit with Santa. I want to congratulate them for taking that initiative and recognizing that all families want to participate in the joy and the celebration of that Christmas side of things that children so love and for families to be able to have that opportunity to participate in that is something I'm pleased that they recognized.

I just want to wish everyone a great weekend and best of luck to all the candidates in the upcoming by-election on Monday.

Thank you.

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

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

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

It certainly is great to welcome everybody into our public gallery today. Of course, we have the youth parliamentarians that are with us today. It's great to see them. A couple of our regular youth parliamentarians as well: Eddie Lund and Wayne MacMillan are here today. It's always great to see them in on Friday mornings.

As well, today in our gallery is Peter Meggs, a councilor from Cornwall that I sometimes get involved with in my other portfolio of municipalities, but with him as well today is Darragh Mogan. Darragh is the chair of the Ellen's Creek Watershed Group. Of course, watershed groups all across Prince Edward Island played a vital role in the making and the construction of our *Water Act* that we were able to lay yesterday. So, it's great to have you both in, as well as everybody in the gallery.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to welcome everybody here today. I'd like to welcome the members of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women who are here. I'd like to welcome all the members of the Rotary Youth Parliament. I'm particularly interested in seeing the results of the rural development program motion and also the voting age motion. I'll be interested to see how they turn out.

It was wonderful to hear Scott Morrison, or Scotty Morrison on the radio, CBC Radio, this morning, and the success he's having after many years of putting in the hard work and being the assistant coach with the Boston Celtics. It was just wonderful to hear his voice again, and to see how well they're doing, and to hear more specifics about his role in the assistant coach position.

It's kind of an exciting time, or an honorary time in Morell sports hearing Scotty on the radio this morning. George Morrison, his father, was inducted into the UPEI Sports Hall of Fame very recently.

Of course, that whole family, the mother, Anne, as well, just wonderful people in our community that do so much that nobody really – everybody knows about it, but even more so that people don't realize.

To go even further, a real honour tonight, Kenny Trixie Dunn, is being inducted into the PEI Sports Hall of Fame. Of course, Trixie passed away recently, and just an outstanding individual; a close personal friend of the whole family, a former coach, it's just a wonderful honour for the family that he's going to be inducted tonight. We could on forever about Trixie. It's a really wonderful time in the community of Morell for sports in general. I just wanted to bring your attention to that, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you so much.

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

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

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to be here, again, today. I welcome everyone watching from District 4. Everyone who joined us in the gallery, especially the youth parliament, all the delegates: enjoy today and tomorrow. I'm sure that you'll do us proud sitting here in the chairs that we're able to sit in.

I'd like to recognize the Purple Ribbon Campaign for violence against women, and recognize all the women, strong women, that are joining us in the gallery from the Advisory Council for the Status of Women and the women's secretariat.

Again, as many of us have talked about, it's a very busy time of the year. Tomorrow, the Belfast Historical Society is holding a craft fair at the Belfast Rec Centre, lots of wonderful Christmas gifts to purchase and lots of good food. I encourage everyone to come out for that.

Also, in the district a couple of celebrations; we've got on Sunday; I've been invited to say a few words at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church. It's a monument for them to reach 75 years down in Murray River.

Also, WellSpring Presbyterian Church is having their mortgage burning tomorrow after 18 months building a new church. I want to congratulate Lonnie Atkinson and all the congregation there for their hard work, and welcome everyone to come out to the service.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to welcome everybody in District 19 this morning. I want to say a shout-out to Carly MacLeod up on Route 225 towards Kinkora. Welcome all the youth parliament hearings here today and I'll be joining you tomorrow for the luncheon.

I want to give just a quick shout-out to Kent Croken and the staff at the Boxcar Lounge up in Emerald. The staff, it's all a volunteer organization that put on great food on Friday nights. I encourage anybody, you want a good Friday night evening supper to go up to the Boxcar Lounge in Emerald and see what these people do, all volunteering to support that association.

Thank you.

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

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

**Mr. Dumville:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to welcome Eddie and Derek and Peter here today. It's great to see the youth here with us today. I welcome you. I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

I would like to thank you and your staff for all the hard work you're doing to set-up this Rotary Youth Parliament on behalf of

Rotary. I don't know if many people realize this, but there are three strong Rotary Clubs in the Charlottetown area. I do belong to the Charlottetown Rotary Club for many years, but this initiative is put on by our sister club, Charlottetown Royalty.

Lew Robinson and a few others are very big volunteers in this effort. I know it's a big effort by you, Mr. Speaker, and your staff, and it's a big effort from the Royalty club of Rotary, but I salute you all. It's wonderful to see our young people taking an interest and moving forward with this wonderful event.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

I want to welcome those to the gallery and those watching back home in the riding of O'Leary-Inverness online.

I wanted to inform the House that I had the opportunity yesterday to welcome three new doctors and physicians to the Summerside area –

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

**Mr. Henderson:** – in conjunction with the Summerside Chamber of Commerce. I certainly want to welcome Dr. MacDonald, Dr. Sampson and Dr. Slys in developing their practices in the Prince County Hospital.

I also want to acknowledge I'm going to be going tonight to the sports hall of fame inductees. We have a constituent, Debbie MacMurdo, is going to be inducted in for her great work in figure skating.

Also, I want to mention, back home, is that the O'Leary Lions Club Christmas auction is going to be on, tomorrow, at 1:00 p.m. at the O'Leary Legion and they raise funds from different businesses who donate prizes and gifts and things of that nature to worthy causes.

I also want to acknowledge the youth rotary parliament that's going to be here. I didn't

get a chance to see who is going to be Minister of Health and Wellness, but I just wanted to give them a small bit of warning: I used to look as young as you did one time.

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

**Mr. Henderson:** (Indistinct) months ago and this is what you turn into.

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

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

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

It's my pleasure to rise as Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture to welcome the Rotary Youth Parliamentarians here.

I'd also like to acknowledge Albert Zakem and the crowd at the Hillsborough Rotary Club for the work that they put into putting this together; certainly, Mr. Speaker, yours and the clerk's office, as well, for being very accommodating to them. It's a two-day, or a day-and-a-half conference where our youth parliamentarians come together from across Prince Edward Island. They stay in overnight. It takes a lot of volunteer work to make that happen and to make all the wheels turn.

They have a great agenda when they go through it. Every year there is a spirited debate and so in that spirit I would say, all members should try to be on their best behaviour today and remember: do as we say, not always as we do.

With that, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It gives me great pleasure to rise here today and welcome all those in the viewing gallery today, those viewing at home from District 22 Summerside-St. Eleanors.

On Wednesday evening at The Oval in Summerside, I was very pleased to host our District 22 fundraiser. We had, none other than, downtown Richard Brown as our guest speaker. He did a wonderful job. The district is strong. We also voted in our new executive. As the boundaries are changing we were losing a few of our members.

However, one member, I do want to give a shout-out to, it would be Brenda McAlduff. I know she watches religiously every day and she gives me pointers and tips at the end of the day every day. Brenda will be moving on, now, to District 23 with the new boundary changes. I think, now, we figured it out that she has worked for every Liberal executive west of Summerside in her career. The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy is very lucky to have Brenda join her membership.

As the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, did mention, tonight is the Summerside Santa Claus Parade and it will kick-off at 6:30 p.m. and yours truly is the emcee. Although, I know they are not asking me to be the emcee for my speaking ability, it is more along the lines of comic relief.

Anyway, everybody have a great day; have a great weekend.

Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Rural and Regional Development.

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

Pleasure to rise and welcome all the folks in the public gallery, especially the youth parliamentarians. It's going to be interesting to see what the outcome is for your motion on rural development. I know this government certainly takes rural development serious.

I'd also like to say hello to all the good people out in Alberton-Roseville that may be watching today. And everyone enjoy the weekend and great (Indistinct)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A pleasure to rise today and welcome everyone here and everyone watching from District 18 Rustico-Emerald, and of course everyone from the youth parliament. I was a youth parliamentarian and it's a great venture.

I know a number of the parliamentarians, but I wanted to say a special hello to Thomas Haslam from my district of course. I thought it was interesting that the minister of education said: do as we say, not as we do. I'm not sure if that was a Freudian slip, but they do a lot of talk and don't take a lot of action. So be careful what kind of advice you take here today, youth parliamentarians.

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

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you.

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

#### Statements by Members

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

#### **Donation to Family Violence Prevention Services**

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

I was extremely pleased to have the opportunity to present a community donation to Family Violence Prevention Services on behalf of the Insurance Bureau of Canada. This donation recognizes an organization in the community who is raising awareness about injury prevention.

In an effort to reach a wider audience, Family Violence Prevention Services recently produced a video series aimed at helping people recognize early signs of family violence in everyday settings, and how to take action to safely intervene.

Outreach coordinators also provide presentations to groups and organizations across the province on the subject of

domestic violence and its effects on the community.

Within the organization is Anderson House, which has been operating since 1980 as an emergency shelter for women and children in need of safety because of violence in their lives.

Today is also the beginning of the Purple Ribbon Campaign which helps create public awareness about eliminating violence against women. I am proud to wear a purple ribbon in support of ending violence against women.

I'd like to recognize everyone in our province who is working to end violence against women and children in their commitment to making our community safe for everyone.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Member.

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point.

#### **Kim Dolan-PEI Sports Hall of Fame**

**Ms. Casey:** Morning, Mr. Speaker.

I could not be more proud to stand in the Legislature today to congratulate Kim Dolan from Charlottetown Lewis Point who will be inducted into the PEI Sports Hall of Fame tonight.

Kim Dolan's name is synonymous with curling in our province and in our country. She is considered to be the best female curler ever from Prince Edward Island and has the record to prove it. She has won 10 provincial women's curling championships and holds the record for most provincial curling victories on Prince Edward Island.

Her career began in 1974 at the Charlottetown Curling Club where she won her first of three Prince Edward Island PEI Junior Curling titles. Kim Dolan's first trip to the Nationals was in 1983, and she skipped rinks in 1985, 1987, 1990, 1993, 2012 and 2014. Her best finish was fourth in

the Scotties Tournament of Hearts with the Rebecca Jean MacPhee rink.

Kim Dolan has contributed to the sport of curling off the ice as well, as she chaired two Scotties Tournament of Hearts hosted here in Charlottetown in 1999 and 2011.

Kim Dolan's contributions to curling have been monumental. She has shown true leadership in the sport and will go down in Prince Edward Island sport history as one of the greatest players and supporters of curling. I would ask all members to join me in offering congratulations to Kim Dolan on her induction into the Prince Edward Island Sports Hall of Fame.

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

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

### **Point Prim Lighthouse Society**

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm so proud to rise today and congratulate the Point Prim Lighthouse Society on their hard work and vision in completing major renovations to the Point Prim Lighthouse over the past year. The \$400,000 renovations were completed this summer and promise to offer a significant tourism attraction for our area.

The Point Prim Lighthouse is P.E.I.'s oldest lighthouse, having been built in 1845 on a nine acre site that has since shrunk to three acres due to significant erosion along the shore.

We now have an expanded parking lot, an open-air pavilion for hosting events and new stonework along the shoreline. The lighthouse itself features an area with historical information and an interpretive centre. It also includes a new keeper's cottage that will be able to showcase local artists and entertainment. New washrooms have also been added.

This facility not only preserves and showcases an important part of our Island history, I am especially proud to say that it has been selected as a destination for people visiting P.E.I. on the Disney Cruise Line.

To give credit where credit is due, funding for the upgrades included \$318,042 from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's Innovative Communities Fund and \$74,492 from Heritage Canada's Canada Cultural Spaces Fund.

The residents of my area are very proud of their new facility and I know that the area will benefit greatly from the economic spin off that will be created by this new business through jobs and just really, a lot of new displays and also, showcase of artwork from the area. I want to welcome each and every one of you to come out and visit this important historic site.

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.

### **New funding for teachers**

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I was intrigued the government's recent announcement on the new teachers didn't actually make their throne speech. I suspect many Islanders were keen for the details around this new announcement.

My first question is to the Premier: Is this new funding going to be permanent year-to-year or just a one-time funding?

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

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

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

This funding is a result of the increase in the school population that came post the May-June allocation of teaching resources to schools that occurs every year and is kind of set-in on September 1<sup>st</sup> when school starts. From the May-June time until the September 1<sup>st</sup> time, and indeed right up through to this

point, there was a large influx of students due to the success of our immigration program and our population growth strategy. We reacted with \$2.8 million worth of frontline teaching resources.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

This didn't happen overnight. In fact, Stratford Elementary has 86 pupils in their school, which represents 18% of the school population and these children don't speak English.

The issue with class sizes in our schools in Charlottetown and Stratford aren't going to be fixed overnight.

Again, question to the Premier: If you feel these new positions will make a difference, then why wouldn't you ensure the funding continues past the end of this school year and into future years? Why are you just doing it for one year?

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

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

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

I would advise that since October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and until October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, there were roughly 30 new immigrant children that came into Stratford Elementary. We will continue to work with the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation, the principals of the affected schools, the Public Schools Branch, and the French Language School Board to ensure that our students have the resources that they need on the front lines in the classrooms.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I'm asking some fairly straight-forward questions here and, unfortunately, I'm not getting an answer that I require from the Premier.

**Permanent or one-off positions for teachers**

So, what I'm asking, very clearly, these positions that you announced, are they going to be permanent positions, embedded in our school system, or is this just a one-off for this year?

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

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

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

So, hon. Member, the way this works is that every May-June there is an allocation of teaching resources based on the classroom compositions in the various schools and the make-ups where they're required. This is something that we have been looking to work and collaborate more with the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation to ensure that we are doing the best that we possibly can be on a forward-looking basis, Mr. Speaker. That's what this announcement was all about and as I've indicated –

**Mr. Myers:** Satisfying a union?

**Mr. J. Brown:** – before, we've worked to ensure that there's room to grow with this, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Myers:** Let's worry about classrooms. Let's not worry about unions, Union Man.

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I think that all Islanders can see through this announcement and what it was really about and what it was really about. It was made in haste during a by-election in District 11.

So, we've been hearing from a number of parents both confused and concerned about these positions. As the details for this announcement get fleshed-out, they're learning that: number one, they are not going to be permanent positions past the school year; number two, these positions will not be added to the permanent staffing compliment for these schools.

Question to the Premier: Why are we content with reactive, Band-Aid solutions to structural problems?

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

**Mr. Trivers:** No plan.

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

**Mr. Myers:** (Indistinct) shy today (Indistinct)

**Mr. J. Brown:** Thank you very much –

**Mr. Myers:** – answer some questions.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – Mr. Speaker.

Hon. member, the first thing I would say is that there is no permanent teaching complement for any school. Teachers are allocated at the first of each year. And, indeed, in May, June of each year –

**Mr. Myers:** Even November –

**Mr. J. Brown:** – for the upcoming year –

**Mr. Myers:** – (Indistinct) by-election –

**Mr. J. Brown:** – they are allocated based on the projected enrollment of that school –

**Mr. Myers:** (Indistinct)

**Mr. J. Brown:** – for that upcoming year.

What we've done, is we've allowed for a flexible mechanism here to address an issue that has resulted from a very successful

growth strategy, and we feel that it's a great way to address frontline teaching issues.

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

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

**Leader of the Opposition:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

There was a home and school meeting recently held at Stratford elementary and I just want to read a very short quote. Essentially, what this funding is going to mean to SES is that we will get a 0.5 of a teacher to provide EAL. We currently have two EALs in the school so we will have 2.5 EFTEs for 86 children who don't even speak the language.

This is the quote: We can do better than that. Our kids deserve better than this –

**Mr. Myers:** Believe in better.

**Leader of the Opposition:** – believe in better.

Some of these class sizes and composition issues, as I said before, are structural in nature. Temporary top-ups to staff and complement in these schools are not a viable long-term solution.

### **Review of instructional staffing models**

Again, question to the Premier: Premier, will you commit to reviewing the instructional staffing model to identify a better long-term solution to support our students and our teachers?

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

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

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

As I've indicated, the way the model works right now is that in May, June there is an allocation made based on the resources that are predicated to be required for September of that year.

One of the earliest meetings that I had in this role was to meet with the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation, and to discuss with them what we might be able to do to address classroom composition issues that are arising as a result of our –

**Mr. Myers:** Hope there's a by-election next year –

**Mr. J. Brown:** – very successful population –

**Mr. Myers:** (Indistinct) get them back.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – growth strategy.

That's something that I've committed to work with them on –

**Mr. Myers:** By-election (Indistinct) teachers.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – and we've committed to our principals, to our home and schools and to everybody else that looks to ensure the best education for our students is there to work on together.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

### **Timeline for replacement of Sherwood school**

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

All week we've been having a good discussion about the Capital Budget. Really pulling information out of this government, and I wanted to come back to something said last evening.

A question to the minister of transportation: Minister, what is the timeline for replacement of the Sherwood school?

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

**Mr. Myers:** Good question.

Now we want to hear it again.

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.  
I did, indeed, address this issue last evening. As we had indicated we're going to be setting to work within the next year to get together a committee to look at what that school might look like.

From that point forward, there will be architects that will be engaged to move forward on it. Ultimately, we would expect that we would see students in that school in 2021.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. R. Brown:** Great.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's good to hear that there's going to be a committee to strike a committee to figure out what they're going to do.

We all know that there is, seriously, there's a whole planning process involved with capital projects involving design and other considerations. We know that. It can take a bit of time to get all the pieces together.

Again, a question to the transportation minister: When would be the earliest that students at Sherwood school could see shovels in the ground at work on their new school?

**Mr. Myers:** That's a great question.

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

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

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

I would suggest that the most likely time would be some time in 2019 that we would see construction of that school begin.

As I had indicated last night, the answer to that question depends on what resources are required in terms of land to do it; what can be done on the existing envelope and how that can be done in connection with the school that sits there right now. And any other requirements that are set out through the planning process to address ongoing learning that will need to occur at the premises, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

### **Contingency plans in dealing with issues at Sherwood school**

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is why it's important we ask these questions because, last night, the earliest actual construction on the new school, we ascertained, would happen is 2021. The issues at the current school will still be there this year, next year and so on, until the new school is ready in, say, I don't know 2023?

A question to the education minister: What contingency plans are in place to deal with the issues at Sherwood school in the meantime?

**Mr. Myers:** Good question.

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

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

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

Hon. member, I don't think that I led you astray last night, but if I did, my apologies for that –

**An Hon. Member:** You didn't.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – and I think, clearly, what I had said last night was that the project would be complete in the 2021-2022 budget and students would be in there in that school year, so September of that year.

It takes time, hon. member, to plan properly for this kind of construction. To get the construction underway and to complete the construction and that's why we have it in this five-year \$60 million construction project.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So we haven't heard about what's going to happen in the meantime.

A facilities review of Sherwood school done for the Public Schools Branch school review last November identified major renovations needed in the next five years, i.e.: probably before the new school is built.

The bathrooms, energy management, and humidification systems need upgrading. Oil tanks and boilers need replacing. And a partial roof replacement is required.

A question to the education minister: What is the plan to address issues like these while students wait for a new school?

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

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

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

Yes, as the hon. member has indicated, there are a number of issues with Sherwood school. That's why we have committed the funds required over a five-year planning horizon to deal with those issues. That's exactly what the five-year budget planning process is for, is to make that commitment so that those students and the community around Sherwood school understands our commitment to them and to education in that area, hon. member.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By the time the new school is completed most of the current students will be graduated, and I don't know what they're going to do in the meantime.

The other day the minister told this House about an existing priority list for capital work. That was when the Member from Morell-Mermaid raised the still leaking roof at Mount Stewart.

The minister was asked to table the priority list and the minister refused leaving us all wondering what other projects might be on it.

#### **Accessibility lift for Birchwood school students with disabilities**

A question to the education minister: Where, on the capital priority list, is the accessibility lift for students with disabilities at Birchwood school?

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

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

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

Hon. member, I would take the opportunity again, to correct you as to what my recollection is as to what I said. I had said that it's a Public Schools Branch that's in charge of determining capital priorities that exist outside of new construction –

**Mr. Myers:** Why are you guys announcing it then?

**Mr. J. Brown:** – it's them that maintain the list –

**Mr. Myers:** Why aren't they making (Indistinct)

**Mr. J. Brown:** – and what I committed to the hon. member was not to table that list, it was to go ask for the list and see what we could get. They would continuously prioritize that list based on the requirements that are there today –

**Mr. Myers:** You made the announcement.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – so I would expect that it would be them that would determine when that would come –

**Mr. Myers:** They don't (Indistinct)

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I mean over here we believe in openness and transparency and we would love to see the priorities list.

The Public Schools Branch flagged a number of issues at Charlottetown schools as part of the school review.

#### **Accessibility lift for Prince Street school students with disabilities**

Question to the education minister: Where on the capital priority list is the accessibility lift for students with disabilities at Prince Street School?

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

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

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

I think I've answered that question in relation to a different school. Again, it's the Public Schools Branch that would determine where the needs lie and what the priorities should be. That happened through the school review process, and we're very happy to have had the opportunity to identify those issues, and we will work with the Public Schools Branch to ensure that through their priority budgeting process we can deal with those issues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

#### **HVAC replacement at Parkdale school**

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The last time I checked the legislation, the Public Schools Branch reports to the minister of education. Oh wait, or maybe that's directly to the Premier.

Question to the education minister: Where on the capital priority list is the HVAC replacement at Parkdale school?

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

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

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

As I have previously indicated in this House, it's the Public Schools Branch that determines what their capital priorities are in any given year, and I'm very happy to indicate again that in our Capital Budget this year we've increased capital spending over the next five years on Prince Edward Island schools by the amount of \$500,000 to a total of \$2 million –

**Mr. R. Brown:** Ah great, now that's action.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – to help the Public Schools Branch and the French Language School Board address those issues, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

#### **List of priorities for school infrastructure**

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Sometimes it's frustrating being here in the official opposition. When we're asking questions, the minister of education has the priority list right in front of him on his desk. He did last night in Capital Budgets. Will you please show us the list, be open and transparent?

Thank you.

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

**Mr. Trivers:** Will you show us the list?

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

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

As I've indicated, there are different priorities lists depending on whether we're talking about the Public Schools Branch or the French Language School Board –

**Mr. Fox:** And if there's an election or not.

**Mr. J. Brown:** It's our job to take those and look at them –

**Mr. Myers:** (Indistinct) by-election priority list and an after the by-election priority list.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – and determine what needs to be done within those lists –

**Mr. Myers:** One has stuff in it (Indistinct)

**Mr. J. Brown:** – and it's their jobs to prioritize, and that occurs on an ongoing basis, so we are happy to do what we can to work with those two organizations to address the capital issues that they have –

**Mr. Myers:** (Indistinct)

**Mr. J. Brown:** – within their purview.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

#### **Boiler replacement at Parkdale school**

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question to the education minister: Where on the capital priority list is the boiler replacement at Parkdale school?

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

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

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

I'll reiterate again that in addition to the new construction that we have planned over the five-year time horizon, we have increased the budget for capital repairs to the tune of \$2 million a year for the next five years for a total of \$10 million in capital repairs to Prince Edward Island schools –

**Mr. Myers:** (Indistinct)

**Mr. J. Brown:** – and we're very proud of that –

**Mr. Myers:** But we won't tell you where they are –

**Mr. J. Brown:** – and that's not to say that's going to solve every issue –

**Mr. Myers:** – because it's not your money. Oh wait.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – in Prince Edward Island schools over the next five years, but we're prepared to work with the Public Schools Branch and the French Language School Board –

**Mr. MacKay:** Just not with the public.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – to make sure that we do our level best to address the issues that exist.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

### **Sherwood school replacement**

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm glad to hear you're going to work with the French Language School Board and that you're going to work with the unelected Public Schools Branch. We want the public to have some input here.

When I was at the Cody Banks Arena last weekend for the early-bird tournament, I mean the parents that I talked to assume that the new school would be in 2019. Why was your announcement so unclear?

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

**Mr. Myers:** Good question.

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear the middle part of that question.

**Mr. Trivers:** It was your announcement that was unclear.

**Speaker:** Okay, yeah, would you repeat the question, hon. member?

**Mr. Trivers:** Certainly. Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Speak slow.

**Mr. Trivers:** When I talk to parents, when I am out talking to the public, listening to the people of Prince Edward Island, they're telling me that when you announced the new school in Sherwood, it made it sound like it was going to be ready in 2019.

Why was your announcement – your communication with the people of Prince Edward Island – so unclear?

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

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

**Mr. Myers:** It wasn't convenient to be clear.

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

I wish to advise this House that I am quite certain that I never advised that the school would be ready for occupation in 2019 –

**Mr. Myers:** Nor did you advise it wouldn't be.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – and that's not anything that I ever would have thought was to be the case.

We are well aware, and I indicated to the hon. Leader of the Opposition yesterday in Capital Estimates, that new construction takes significantly longer than an addition to or a renovation of an existing building, and so we have been well aware all along that to do this properly will take roughly somewhere in the envelope of three to five years, and we're committed to –

**Mr. Fox:** Three to five years, no.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – doing it properly and working with the community in Sherwood to ensure that they have the best –

**Mr. Myers:** Take that shovel out of his hand right now.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – resource that they can possibly have within the money that we have to put towards it.

**Mr. Myers:** He can't stop digging his hole.

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

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

### School upgrades

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We'd like to know where on the capital list the elevator upgrade is at Colonel Gray; the roof replacement at Colonel Gray High School, you know there's a roof replacement needed at the Charlottetown Rural High School.

Not only is the minister of education not being open and transparent with the priority list for capital improvements, but he, the minister of transportation, the Minister of Finance, the Premier, and indeed this whole Liberal government is trying to buy votes in a District 11 Charlottetown-Parkdale by-election by announcing a project that won't start for three years and won't be completed for at least five years.

A question for the minister of education, and possibly the Premier, whoever really wants to answer it over there, because you're all responsible: Why are you misleading the voters in the District 11 Charlottetown-Parkdale by-election?

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

**Speaker:** Hon. member, I want to warn you that's bordering, very close to unparliamentary language.

**Ms. Biggar:** Yes.

**Speaker:** Misleading. It's very close.

**Mr. Roach:** Shame.

**Mr. Trivers:** Apologies, Speaker.

**Mr. Myers:** You can't (Indistinct)

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

**Mr. Myers:** That's feigned anger. I recognize that.

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

I would like to kind of address that issue, and we've heard from this opposition on one day that we're spending too much to do capital repairs, and then the next day they're looking for a list as long as my arm of capital repairs.

**Mr. Myers:** Is it that long?

**Mr. Trivers:** We don't even know (Indistinct)

**Mr. J. Brown:** So we really need to determine (Indistinct) and as I indicated previously, we are moving forward very aggressively to address a \$60 million capital improvement plan with our schools over the next five years. Sherwood school, as I've indicated, we're moving very aggressively into the planning process for that –

**Mr. Myers:** You won't make it to February in this job.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – and we are starting that right away. It takes time to do these things right, and that's something that I think the opposition needs to reflect upon, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**An Hon. Member:** You can't (Indistinct)

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

**Mr. Roach:** Good investment

**Mr. Trivers:** (Indistinct)

**Mr. Myers:** It takes a lot of time to be this crooked.

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

**Mr. Roach:** Good investment for our youth and students.

**Speaker:** Order! Okay, let's have some order, members.

The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

### **Collaborative discourse among parties**

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

During recent debates, government has spoken several times about wanting to work in a more collaborative manner in this House, and I agree wholeheartedly of course with this intention, but I fear that there is some confusion over what exactly that means, in particular when it comes to the roles of the government and opposition.

A question to the Premier: Could the Premier please explain what he would like us in opposition to do to achieve this more collaborative discourse?

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

**Mr. Myers:** Good question.

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Mr. Myers:** Be a good student and listen, I would say.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, one of the contexts in which we've been talking about collaboration is collaboration with the community, and we've talked about creating a housing supply taskforce for example, recognizing that there are people and organizations out in the community that do excellent work, that have knowledge of the context, that have to relate to the work that's being done in poverty reduction, and it indeed relates to the work that's being done in education.

We've got our three advisory councils with whom they have approximately 200 people throughout Prince Edward Island who bring

experience, they bring insight, they bring connection to community, and those are examples of what we're doing in collaboration.

I'm not sure if the opposition had a particular context, we might be able to help, but we're certainly here to work together.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

I'll supply some context, Mr. Premier.

On May 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, the Member from Morell-Mermaid and myself sent a joint letter to the chair of the Special Committee on Democratic Renewal, now the Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture, requesting further collaborative discussions on several outstanding issues on the committee's mandate, including campaign finance reform. We never received a response.

### **Campaign finance reform (further)**

A question to the Premier: Why did we not receive a response to our collaborative attempt to reinitiate this committee's discourse?

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, I won't speak for the chair of the committee, but on campaign finance reform I'm quite prepared to say that I wrote to the Leader of the Third Party and the then acting leader of the official opposition in December of last year and invited a comment back and engagement, but it became clear that given what I had heard from the then interim leader of the official opposition – that there was a leadership process underway – that there was great merit in waiting until there was permanent leader of the opposition, at which point, the leaders can have some discussion about where we go with

campaign finance reform and I look forward to that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Trivers:** Less talk and more action.

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

### **Collaborative discourse among parties (further)**

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

I'll be tabling the letter I just referred to later today.

Easily the best example of collaborative work in this Assembly, since I've been here anyway, is the work of that Special Committee on Democratic Renewal. I think all members would agree with that statement. Before government shut it down, we worked by consensus. No one party dominated the proceedings and it was kept, to a large extent, non-partisan.

Several of the issues on which we still require collaborative discussion; campaign finance reform; MLA severance; increasing diversity in this House. All of those things are within this committee's mandate.

A question to the Premier: If this government is so committed to cooperative discourse, why will it not allow this collaborative committee to complete its important work?

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not in a position to speak for the committee, but let me speak on the point of collaboration. That committee brought to this House a report with recommendations that were adopted unanimously by this House to conduct a plebiscite, along the lines that it was done precisely as recommended by the committee. It was very clear to the understanding of all of the members of this House – all 27 of us – that that plebiscite would be non-binding. I can

think of one particular member that, as of 8:00 p.m. on the night of the plebiscite, changed his tune.

**Ms. Biggar:** Yes.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** So, Mr. Speaker, if we're going to have collaboration, we have to stick to the things that we agree to.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Biggar:** Yes.

**Mr. Roach:** There you go; collaboration. The truth hurts.

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

**Mr. R. Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I have a question today. I've got it on my finger.

I have a question to the minister of education.

Before I start, I want to say that I've been out talking to the people of Prince Edward Island and in my community and surrounding communities, and what the people of Prince Edward Island are telling me that this government is doing a great job when it comes to education, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Roof replacement at St. Jean school**

**Mr. R. Brown:** I was right impressed by the \$10 million that was put into the Budget for school repairs and I know during the public consultations last year around Prince Edward Island the request from St. Jean's came up for the replacement of the roof and the boiler at St. Jean's school, which is a priority to them.

Can the minister assure me that these are going to be on the list also or how do they get on the list?

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

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

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

Thank you, hon. Member for the question. This is something that I have been engaged with over the course of time. I do know that it's a very important issue to St. Jean school and I do know that, as other hon. Members have indicated, it's been an issue that's been ongoing for some time at this point in time.

In that context, I do know that the Public Schools Branch is very well aware of it and that's it's a high priority for them and I expect that it will be dealt with in the very near future.

Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Victoria Park, your first supplementary question.

### **Population growth in schools**

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

We've seen over the last couple of years that the population on Prince Edward Island has been increasing at a phenomenal rate. This is good for our community and good for our economy, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister assure me that population growth needs schools and needs good schools? Especially when the city schools were given to the – the city schools were built by the City of Charlottetown and passed over to the government of Prince Edward Island in the early 60s.

Can the minister assure me that if the population – and I know the population is going to grow faster than we are predicting – that funding will be available to improve these schools for the many new students that will be coming to those schools?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Myers:** Longer arm.

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

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

Thank you very much, hon. Member, for the question. As I've indicated, we have what we feel is a very aggressive \$60 million school construction plan that is underway as soon as we can get this Capital Budget passed and we will continue to address the issues that are coming out of those schools – including the Charlottetown schools.

We do recognize that many of our schools are getting to the point where we are going to need to be looking at Capital investment in them and we will continue to be creative and to do the absolute best that we can to address those issues and to provide the best learning that we can provide to Prince Edward Islanders every day.

Thank you.

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

**Mr. R. Brown:** He answered all my questions, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Myers:** Oh boy.

**Mr. MacEwen:** The tone changed, didn't it?

**Mr. Trivers:** Is there even a school in your district?

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

**Mr. Myers:** Here we go.

### **PEI music hall of fame**

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

My question is also to the Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture –

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh.

**An Hon. Member:** Back on the ropes (Indistinct)

**Mr. Perry:** – but a different facet of his responsibilities.

Music is a way of life on Prince Edward Island. In homes every weekend, you'll find friends and neighbors gathering in kitchens playing instruments, singing, and even

dancing. Music icons like Gene MacLellan, Haywire, and of course Stompin' Tom Connors all hail from Prince Edward Island and are known around the country and beyond.

New artists like Meaghan Blanchard, Ten Strings and a Goat Skin, and Vishtèn are touring and getting more and more fans. We have so much talent to be proud of here on Prince Edward Island.

Will the minister consider creating the PEI music hall of fame to recognize our many, many talented Islanders?

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

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

**Mr. R. Brown:** Now there's a good idea that should be (Indistinct)

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

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

Thank you, hon. Member. That is a great idea and very worthy of consideration. It's something that – I'm not sure whether that came up during the consultations for the cultural strategy or not, but definitely something that I'll definitely take back and have a look at.

I think it's worth noting in saying that that we have had some very innovative ways of putting that kind of thing forward here on Prince Edward Island, including with Atlantic Blue – done by Tara MacLean and Catherine MacLellan had a tribute to her father there this summer – both of which were tremendously successful and celebrate Prince Edward Island and Atlantic Canadian artists.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. R. Brown:** Great.

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, your first supplementary question.

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

We all know that our culture attracts visitors from around the world to our Island. In my district, the new Stompin' Tom Centre has been a huge success with locals and with visitors. Everyone who visits the centre can enjoy local music, theatre, food and learn more about Stompin' Tom. Stompin' Tom continues to be recognized right across our country. This month he received a star on the Canada's Walk of Fame.

Given the success of the new centre and the musical legacy of Stompin' Tom Connors, will the minister consider locating the PEI music hall of fame in Skinners Pond?

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

**An Hon. Member:** Is a museum not enough for you?

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

**An Hon. Member:** Good rural development.

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

That's not a bad idea either. Certainly it's not something that I'm prepared to commit to here today, but –

**Mr. Myers:** There's a by-election; however.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – as I indicated, we're seeing tremendous momentum in the cultural sector and particularly in relation to music on Prince Edward Island, Mr. Speaker, and that's stemming out of things like the Festival of Small Halls and other great events that are running across Prince Edward Island that drive a great collaborative interaction between our economic development and tourism department and sectors and our department. We look to continue to collaborate with them to do what we can to build that and I think a hall of fame would be a great way to commemorate that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

I want to thank the minister for that and for the interest. Will you commit today that you will build a new PEI music hall of fame in Skinners Pond?

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

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** Okay, okay.

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't normally take a question directed to the minister of education, but I had the opportunity yesterday in thanking the Prime Minister for the Symon's Lecture to make reference to Stompin' Tom's famous ballad, *Stompin' Ground* where it goes: I've travelled from east to west and I get asked: what's the place I like best. He says: My answer to that is, my stompin' grounds are where the people are the friendliest.

So, maybe we can find some way to have a music hall of fame all across Prince Edward Island where the people are the friendliest.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

### **Lawyer added to e-gaming defense team**

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question to the Premier: Why has government recently scrambled and added Rob Ford's lawyer to your e-gaming defense team?

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** I'd have to ask to hear that question again, Mr. Speaker. I don't (Indistinct)

**Speaker:** Would you repeat the question?

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The question is: Why have you scrambled and suddenly added Rob Ford's lawyer to your e-gaming defense team?

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** I have to say, that's not something that as minister of justice I would normally, and in this case, don't have a hand in. These matters are dealt with by the professionals and by the legal services people in the department of justice. There are good reasons why the minister wouldn't be involved in making those decisions, so I'll have to go back and see if I could find out a bit more if the member is interested to know about it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So, for those of you who recall, back in 2012 Robyn Doolittle wrote a book called *Crazy Town* and in the book *Crazy Town*, she referenced all through the book Gavin Tighe, who is the lawyer that the Premier has recently brought on the e-gaming file.

Premier: When did you agree to bring the *Crazy Town* lawyer to Charlottetown?

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated, the department of justice is organized so there is a legal services team with a director and in turn, would report to a deputy minister and when something is involved in a litigation, I'm sure they determine what resources or what professional expertise, would be required to defend the taxpayer and to look out for whatever the interest is. I'm sure that's what has taken place in this case.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. R. Brown:** Great job.

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You bring up a very good point about these defense teams that coordinate your defense on files, and it's something that perked something in my head because Liberal spokesperson, Spencer Campbell, recently showed up on a paper in the courtroom that he's now involved in coordinating the defense for the e-gaming.

### **Spencer Campbell coordinating e-gaming defense**

Question to the Premier: Why have you never publicly admit it that Liberal spokesperson, Spencer Campbell, is helping coordinate your e-gaming defense?

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, it's not unusual with matters that come into the courts, where the government is either a plaintiff or defendant, to reach outside to outside counsel. We've got a great team in-house at legal services. They're actively involved and if they have determined that it's appropriate to engage outside counsel, they would choose people who have the expertise to represent the interest of Prince Edward Island and –

**Mr. Fox:** For your interest.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** – Prince Edward Island taxpayers effectively, and I'm sure that's what they've done in this case.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Toronto media has referred to Gavin Tighe as: The best legal hot shot money can buy these days.

### **Rates charged to taxpayers for *Crazy Town* lawyer**

Question to the Premier: What was the retainer to bring Rob Ford's *Crazy Town* lawyer into Charlottetown and what hourly rate is he charging Island taxpayers?

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Mr. Speaker, that is certainly not something that I would have at my fingertips, and to tell you the truth, the whole line of questioning is taking us into an area that is normally, and should be, dealt with professionally through the legal services and whatever counsel they engage.

I'm sure that that's what's happening. I'm confident that's what's happening in this case, but I'm quite prepared if members want to ask questions about something of that detail that I can take back and bring responses to the floor of the House, I'd be happy to do that, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Premier is absolutely right. This is the type of information that would be dealt with in a courtroom, but you refuse to file a defense on the claims so it can't be heard in the courtroom, but we'll hear it here instead.

The Premier and the Liberal Party have brought in the big guns and Island taxpayers are paying for it. Gavin Tighe has presented to groups including the Canadian Corporate Counsel Association on the records retention and investigation into deliberate deletion of emails by government staff.

Question to the Premier: Is this what drew you to Rob Ford's *Crazy Town* lawyer?

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

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

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

I think it's important and I want to remind everyone in here and certainly at this side, that this government is representing the people of Prince Edward Island.

Here we have a group who've, yet again, filed another frivolous lawsuit against the Province of Prince Edward Island.

I would like to remind the member across the floor that the court in PEI has already tossed out a previous similar lawsuit.

At that time, and I'm going to quote the court at that time, what they call the statement of claim. The court said: it's –

**Mr. Fox:** Forty seconds.

**Mr. Roach:** – a long rambling narrative –

**Mr. Myers:** Talk about rambling.

**Mr. Roach:** – replete with irrelevant and immaterial facts; evidence, opinion, argument and speculation.

We side with the people in Prince Edward Island on this particular event.

Thank you.

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

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

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's funny to hear the minister read from a court case, which has an auditor's report come after it that proved what you said wasn't even the case. The Auditor General basically said you lied to, and it was proven in the (Indistinct)

If you look at that defense that you guys filed and you look at the auditor's report you'll see glaring, glaring differences.

You know that and that's why the Premier won't file his defense. That's why he brought the *Crazy Town* lawyer to Charlottetown to help defend them. Gavin

Tighe, \$1000-an-hour lawyer from downtown Toronto is here in Charlottetown helping this Premier because he got us in a jam because the defense you filed last time was proved to be wrong by the Auditor General and you don't know what to do and you're scared to death.

Question to the Premier: On whose advice did you bring the *Crazy Town* lawyer to Charlottetown?

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

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

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

You know, based on what the court had said last time with the lawsuit and the individuals that were involved in the lawsuit, I think that we can probably expect the same that took place last time.

We are always here to –

**Mr. Myers:** File it and let's find out then.

**Mr. Roach:** – protect the taxpayers –

**Mr. Myers:** File it.

**Mr. Roach:** – to protect the taxpayers of Prince Edward Island –

**Mr. Fox:** If you want to protect them (Indistinct)

**Mr. Roach:** – and we will continue to do so in the future, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, final question.

**Mr. Myers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If this government is so confident in what the finance minister said; if this government is so confident that they can get this case thrown out again, I don't know why they've waited, what? Ten months now, to file a defense.

They have completely refused to file a defense for 10 months. And, on top of that, coming on the last days where they basically have to file a defense they go to Toronto, they get a hot-shot lawyer that defended Rob Ford, \$1,000-an-hour lawyer and they cart him into Charlottetown to try to save them.

### **Files worked on by *Crazy Town* lawyer**

Question to the Premier: Is Rob Ford's lawyer working with the province on any other files or has he been promised any work from this government in the future?

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

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

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

I note that throughout the questioning by the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, he refers, on many occasions, to the different organizations; to the Auditor General, to legal counsel, to various departments and to processes that are in place.

The courts are in place for a reason. The Auditor General is in place for a reason. All these people are there for a reason. There is a proper process to follow. This government has been engaged in that proper process to follow and we will continue to do that and will be there for the best interests of Island taxpayers. We'll always be there to protect the Island taxpayers.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Point of Order

**Mr. Roach:** I've got a point of order.

**Speaker:** Go ahead, hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Mr. Speaker, I have been in this House and certainly over the last couple of years in my position as the finance minister, the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, on a couple of occasions has referred to me as a liar. He made reference again today along those lines and I think that's due, too, for a Point of Order, finally.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** Hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, if, in fact, you – and did you mention that he was a liar, hon. member?

**Mr. Myers:** I inferred that, I guess, that the defense that was filed was lie, but if you think I called you a liar, then I, by all means, apologize and withdraw.

**Speaker:** Thank you, hon. member. That's the end of this.

### Statements by Ministers

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

### **Violence Against Women Prevention Grants**

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

Tomorrow marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Each year on November 25<sup>th</sup>, individuals and women's groups from all over the world make a collective effort to raise awareness and recognize the important issue of violence against women.

In PEI and in this Legislature today, the day is symbolized by the wearing of a purple ribbon. I'm pleased to see our hon. members wearing this supporting the launch of this year's Purple Ribbon Campaign. The ribbons are worn through to December 6<sup>th</sup>, which is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, as well as worn during Family Violence Prevention Week in February.

Jane Ledwell, the Executive Director, and Mari Basiletti, the Chair of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, are both here with us today. I would like to acknowledge all the amazing work the advisory council does each year with their Purple Ribbon Campaign. The theme this year is: "Don't Stand By. Stand With. Everyone has a part to play in eliminating violence against women."

Indeed, we all do have a part to play whether it is speaking up when you or someone else knows there is a victim of violence or helping to increase education and awareness that violence is never the answer, or when someone is being bullied by the actions or words of another.

This year my department, through the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, announced the creation of a Violence Against Women Prevention Grant. I'd like to recognize and thank Michelle Harris-Genge for the work that she has brought forward on helping put that together on behalf of us.

The objective of this grant is to provide project funding to community organizations for projects that will enhance awareness, education and action towards preventing violence against women in our province.

I'm pleased to say that, today, we are announcing the recipients of these grants and we have the members of each organization with us here today in our gallery. I would like to recognize Lalana Paul of the Native Council of PEI, Taya Nabuurs with PEI Coalition for Women in Government, Lindsay Merrill, PEI Family Violence Prevention Services, and Danya O'Malley, as well, from the Family Violence Prevention Services.

The Native Council of PEI is receiving \$38,000 towards a project to create a women's performance group that will increase awareness of violence against women and empower participants to instigate change throughout PEI.

The PEI Coalition for Women in Government is receiving \$7,000 for a project to engage potential candidates, campaign organizers and members of the public to increase awareness, education and action on harassment and violence against women in political leadership. One, which we certainly know occurs right across PEI and Canada.

Lastly, PEI Family Violence Prevention Services is receiving \$5,000 to create a new series of information resources, as well as to update and redesign the organization's current service resources.

I ask that we all show support and make a commitment to our daughters, granddaughters, nieces, mothers, aunts and loved ones that we will continue to fight for the elimination of violence against women.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's also my pleasure to rise and recognize the Purple Ribbon Campaign. I want to thank the minister for all her work on providing grants for all the organizations that do raise the awareness and help with education for violence against all women.

I'd like to recognize all the strong women joining us today in the gallery, to; Lalana, Taya, Lindsay, Danya, congratulations on the grants.

I would just like to point out to everyone, when you put on the purple ribbon, I want you to think about violence against women and the women in your lives who it affects or could affect. Also, the young women in the future; make them aware that there is awareness out there. There's education and I think, we, as women, and really as every citizen in the province needs to work together to ensure that the violence stops immediately.

Thank you very much.

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

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

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

It is a pleasure to rise. I want to thank the minister for both the statement and for all the hard work that she and her department have done on this issue.

There has been lots, of course, in the news recently about sexual assault, which is just one form of violence against women. While the stories have been horrific, I suppose we can all hope that this increased awareness

may, hopefully, be part of the journey of eradicating violence, all violence against women, sexual and otherwise.

In our communities, and I know these grants, Violence Against Women Prevention Grants are targeted in our communities. Violence has been going on for generations and sometimes that's quiet, sometimes it's deadly, but it's always deeply damaging. It's something that we all have to work to eradicate.

Ending violence starts with each and every one of us in how we approach each other in this House. How we approach our neighbours, how we conduct ourselves on the campaign trail, and how we bring up our children.

I just want to recognize my son, Dan, is in the gallery; the only male, I believe, sitting in the gallery – and how we raise our sons to be respectful of everybody is an enormously important job that every parent must do.

Going back to the campaign trail, I know that both women candidates in District 11 have suffered actions that would never happen to a male candidate. It's so difficult for women to get involved in politics. Again, sometimes the violence is subtle, sometimes it's not so subtle and it's deeply depressing and distressing to me that honourable, wonderful women will come forward and present themselves for public office and still have to put up with the things that they have.

It's time for us to make a concerted effort, a continuing concerted effort each and every one of us to finally put an end to violence against women.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

### Wellness Grants

**Mr. Henderson:** Mr. Speaker, three years ago the PEI Department of Health and Wellness launched the PEI Wellness Strategy as a means to engage Islanders in

wellness activities and to further build a culture of wellness in our province.

The strategy was based on input from Islanders that had identified five priority areas including: physical activity; living tobacco-free; healthy eating; mental health; and consuming alcohol responsibility.

Our department undertakes many programs and initiatives to address these priority areas. One of these activities is awarding our annual wellness grants to community partners that demonstrate the wellness is a priority for their organization.

We all have a role to play in building a culture of wellness, government; schools; communities; organizations and individuals. Over the past two years there have been over 35 projects, which have received wellness grants and today I'm pleased to announce six new initiatives receiving wellness grants this coming year.

They include: A new self-care training program through PEI Hospice Palliative Care Association; a new mothers support program being put on by the PEI Breastfeeding Coalition; an initiative to build on a community garden project at the Morell regional school; an expansion of the LGBTQ + Youth Group being led by PEERS Alliance; a new program with the Miltonvale Park aimed to encourage healthy eating and physical activity for adults and seniors; and the Brackley Women's Institute is hosting a stronger together program focused on improving one's overall health and mental wellbeing and using art as a tool to promote mental resiliency.

With your indulgence, I'd like to welcome in the gallery today Marie Kenny and former Freeland-er, Glenn Younker, and Carol Jenkins from the Brackley Women's Institute.

They have been leading their wellness initiative, Stronger Together, which has brought approximately 30 women out every week to learn about mental health and self-help strategies, and engage in social activities in personal strength and well-being.

Thank you all for joining us here today and work with your leading in your community support the culture of wellness.

Thank you.

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

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's wonderful to hear some of the success stories of these wellness program grants; thank you ladies, for being here today. The Stronger Together program sounds wonderful.

I know there was a program in Morell benefited last year – a seniors' active program. They loved it. There's one thing to be active – just the sense of community getting together all the time was wonderful as well. I know the project that the minister talked about – the community garden in Morell too. It will be another great one. Great work; we love to hear that.

We love to hear the success stories. The key is to keep getting more and more people involved in it because when I talked to the seniors' group last year that took advantage of one of the programs, the word was: We keep adding someone every week and they're like: Wow, I didn't even know this was going on; it's so successful. Great work on it. I know it's never enough. There's always lots of community groups wanting to get involved, but every bit that we can put towards it is a great help.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

I, too, welcome this announcement, but I think we need to also recognize that in a health care budget of over \$600 million, I noticed that there was no reference to any actual dollar figures attached to these wellness grants, but I remember from last year, it's a rather small amount; important

none-the-less. In a health care system which places so much emphasis on fixing problems, rather than being proactive and promotion prevention of disease, this is a small start, but it's a small start. It's a common political tactic to give a small amount of money to an issue in order to shield the government from criticism that they're doing nothing on this file. While I welcome the money, I hope that there will be more in the future.

We need to teach wellness in our schools and I always come back to the World Health Organization definition of health, which is: A state of complete mental, physical, and emotional well-being, not just the absence of disease or infirmity. It's a positive statement. It's saying that health is not just fixing broken bones and dealing with issues as they arise, but that health is something that we have to foster and improve on an ongoing basis for every member of society.

Teaching things like mental wellness in schools – I just heard a story the other day about, I think it was a school in Stratford if I remember right, where a teacher there is promoting wellness by teaching mindfulness and yoga to children in the schools. These are the sorts of things that will provide resilience for young Islanders thorough – not just through their school years, but through their life. We need a system that doesn't just treat disease, but actively promotes wellness and these are exactly the sorts of programs that we need.

Thank you, Minister.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

### **Seniors Independence Program**

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am extremely pleased to rise today to announce that Island seniors will get financial help from government for practical services to enjoy a better quality of life in their own homes. A new seniors' independence program will provide for services such as light housekeeping, meal

preparation, general maintenance, snow removal, and transportation, making it easier for seniors to remain in their own homes and in their own communities. Our government wants to do all we can to ensure our seniors have the assistance they need to remain independent, comfortable, and safe in their own homes for as long as they can.

This program will be a great supplement to supports provided by family members and other existing supports such as home care; seniors home repair program, and the Out of Province Travel Support Program. Since referencing the program in the Speech From the Throne, we have received interest from seniors and I am pleased to provide some details of the program today.

The program will assist seniors 65 and over living alone or with a spouse with a net household income of \$22,150 or less for a single person, or \$31,300 or less for a couple. This is the low-income measure used across the country to help determine supports and these levels are consistent with the Veterans Affairs-related programming. It will help seniors with their unmet daily needs.

The first phase of the program will begin January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and work will continue to develop the final program which will be fully implemented in April 2018. Seniors approved to receive funding can either directly choose service providers, with the exception of immediate family members, or select from a list of agency-approved businesses. This program will be available, as I stated, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, by contacting my department, family and human services.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's always great when we get an announcement for our Island seniors and I look to the minister to ensure that the seniors that need the supports get the supports. That's always been a problem in the past. Announcements are made and then they don't meet the criterion one way or another.

I would really push the minister to ensure that Island seniors that need those supports get them. It sounds like a great program to supplement the family supports and home care. I look forward to the details and the specifics and I look forward to contacting the minister about a number of people in my district who will need those supports.

Thank you.

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

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

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

I welcome this announcement. Thank you, Minister. I echo the comments of Belfast-Murray River of how important it is that we look after our seniors and that they are able to live out as much of their lives as is sensible and possible within their communities; reconnecting with the generations where we've severed, to a large extent, those ties.

I think that's left our communities less resilient, less holistic, just less healthy and strong than they were before. I note, yesterday, in the Prime Minister's Symon's Lecture speech, he told the story of a family here on Prince Edward Island – a couple – who look after their neighbors driveways every winter – and I know that's part of the initiative of this program. I was struck by how, these days, government has to supply money in order to provide those services, whereas in days gone by, the essence of a community and a neighborhood would be that you just did that – you looked after your neighbor.

Of course, that's not entirely disappeared as evidence the story that the Prime Minister told yesterday, but it has and I regret that. I grieve that. I'm glad that the minister has made this program and I look forward to healthier, stronger, more vibrant, more resilient communities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

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

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the letter to the current Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture that I referenced in my comments during Question Period and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

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

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** Thank you.

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table Public Schools Branch Category II Study report recommendations and resolutions, approved by the board of directors on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and I would draw the attention of this House, in particular, to the bottom of page two thereof where there's a discuss as to infrastructure requirements, and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** Mr. Speaker, I have a second document here.

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

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

By leave of the House, I beg leave to table Public Schools Branch, 11<sup>th</sup> public board of directors meeting, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and that's minutes of that meeting and there's a reference on page four thereof to a September the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting where it was moved by Harvey MacEwen and seconded by Dale Sabeau a motion in relation to capital spending related to Stratford, West Royalty, L.M. Montgomery, and Sherwood Elementary School and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Workforce and

Advanced Learning, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

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

Reports by Committees

Introduction of Government Bills

Government Motions

Orders of the Day (Government)

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

**Mr. Gallant:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Minister of Finance, that the 2<sup>nd</sup> order of the day be now read.

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

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

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

**Mr. Gallant:** 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 Capital Estimates.

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

The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point to come and Chair the Capital Estimates.

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

Hon. members, we're on page 11 and minister, would you like to take a stranger to the floor?

**Mr. Roach:** Yes.

**Chair:** Permission to take a stranger to the floor.

**Some Hon. Members:** Granted.

**Chair:** Thank you.

**Mr. Roach:** Thank you.

**Chair:** We'll just wait a few minutes to have the stranger enter the floor.

Please identify yourself and your title for the record.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** Jim Miles, Executive Director of Fiscal Management for the Department of Finance.

**Chair:** Welcome.

Hon. members, as I stated, page 11. We're discussing capital expenditures for education, early learning and culture.

The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Chair and thank you for coming back, minister.

I have a question. I'm wondering where the boiler for the Mount Stewart school is on the priority list.

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** Hon. member, as I had indicated to you in Question Period, I am not currently aware of exactly where that sits. I am aware that that boiler is in need of some work and as recently as today, that is an issue to be addressed and so as I had indicated previously: It's the Public Schools Branch that would typically look at those within the budgetary allocations that we allot to them each year. If we get this Capital Budget passed, they'll have \$2 million between themselves and the French Language School Board to do that and we entrust them with that.

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you, minister.

The boiler is on the PSB priority list, and once we pass the Budget it will fall into queue and get fixed. Now, as I'm sure you're well aware, the children of Mt. Stewart Consolidate School are going home

within the next half hour because of that boiler. This is exactly my point from the other day. You're saying that boiler is on the priority list; it needs some fixing and it'll happen once we approve this Budget and once this Budget rolls out over the next year.

But guess what? Those kids can't go back to school until it's fixed so that's going to be fixed. We know that, so those kids can get back to school on Monday. My question is: Can we fix the roof at Mt. Stewart Consolidated School out of that same budget where you're going to find the money to fix the boiler this weekend?

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** Thank you, hon. member.

There are a few things I should mention about that, hon. member. We do have a capital budgeting process that is set out within our *Education Act* and you kind of have to recognize the context in which you're asking the question.

I suspect that the repair relating to the boiler in that school would likely occur out of an operational fund that would be set aside for that. I can't speak to whether or not that repair was something that was a repair that will now see that boiler good for a period of time, or whether it needs to be replaced on a more permanent basis. I don't know, and I will say just to kind of compare and contrast, I am aware that a very similar incident happened at St. Jean school, I think it was four or five years ago now, and I am aware because, like I had said earlier in Question Period today, I had previously inquired of the principal and of the Public Schools Branch as to where that sat on the priority list and I am aware that it is a priority that that boiler be replaced.

We actually know that that boiler needs to be fully replaced, not repaired or refurbished or whatever. So, I'm not prepared to speak here today as to the condition of the boiler at Mt. Stewart Consolidated School. I suspect that the Public Schools Branch will be looking at that, if they've not already, and they'll be looking at the work that needs to be done to it and how they can allocate funding for that.

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, minister.

I guess that's exactly the point I'm trying to make. I know exactly what you mean about the maintenance budget and the Capital Budget, and we'll keep repairing these things as long as we can until it comes up on the priority list of the Capital Budget.

But, we're nine years of patching the Mt. Stewart school roof. I have numerous pictures of the lobby, of the gym, of the kindergarten classroom. They were playing dodgeball there yesterday; they weren't just dodging the balls. They were actually dodging the buckets in the school. It's worse because of what's going on.

So my question is: I know they're gone home today from Mt. Stewart school because of the boiler. I know they're not going to put a brand-new boiler in this weekend. They're going to patch it up to get through until they've replaced the boiler. Why isn't the roof being fixed up until it's time to replace the roof?

That's the point I'm trying to get across. There's money there. Why isn't it being done? Why is it nine years in a row? Why can't at least we patch it up until we approve the Budget and go through the priority list and replace the roof?

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair and hon. member.

Again, I can use St. Jean as another example by way of an explanation that I'm familiar with. They've had issues with a leaking roof there. They have received small patches to it. It's been leaking for a significant period of time and they've gotten through with it.

There are a number of other schools. The hon. member beside me had indicated that a school in his area is in need of patching on the roof. I recall that there are a number of other schools that need either small or large repairs, both on roofs and boilers and windows that are leaking.

There's all kinds of things that need to be done; but when the Public Schools Branch and TIE look at these capital repairs, they look at a number of different things. They look at what's required to bring the students through their day-to-day schooling, and they look at the impact to those students both on a short term and a long-term basis.

I can tell you as an example in my past life as a lawyer they redid part of the roof at the Dominion Building where I work when we were working there, and it made it nearly impossible to work for the period of time that they were doing it; and when they were doing it, because they actually did that around this time of the year and we had a couple of significant rainfalls and some snow and all the rest of it, we had significant leaks while the work was going on.

**Mr. Trivers:** Christmas break is coming.

**Mr. J. Brown:** There were a couple of times where they had to literally shovel the snow off of the roof to do it, which caused issues in the surrounding premises. So there's all kinds of considerations that we get into, and as I indicated yesterday when we were talking about this, the bulk of that work is typically done in the summertime as a result of those kinds of issues.

So again, I don't know where the Public Schools Branch specifically has that roof on their list of priorities. I don't know what would be recommended by the contractor or TIE in terms of managing that construction along with the school; but as we've discussed here in this House recently, all those are factors that we go into when it needs to be replaced, in addition to actually having the dollars to do it.

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Chair.

The maintenance budget that you speak of, is that the minister of transportation's department or your department?

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** It's – so – it's a cap –

**Mr. MacEwen:** (Indistinct) maintenance to – who’s going to fix the (Indistinct)

**Mr. J. Brown:** Okay.

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

I’ll go back to what I was talking about here a few minutes ago. The answer to that question would probably be that that would come out of the Public Schools Branch operational budget, which is a totally different conversation than we’re having here today.

**Mr. MacEwen:** (Indistinct) Chair?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid?

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you.

That’s all (Indistinct) just a quick answer (Indistinct) that.

Can you call that group today that’s responsible for the maintenance and ask them what can be done to patch the roof until we get – I understand what you’re saying. There’s a list and we can’t rip open the roof today to replace the roof of Mount Stewart School because the children will be affected. Can you call them today to say: Is there anything we can do to patch that roof for another few weeks or a month or whatever it is?

Because what’s going on now is happening every single time it rains, so they want to get something done before the wintertime. The maintenance part, the operating budget, can you just check to see – I understand the last time that it was patched was a year ago – can we go back in and re-patch it again until we come up with a priority list?

Can you call the Public Schools Branch? Your deputy minister is the chair of the board. There’s got to be – you know. Can you call them for me?

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

**Mr. J. Brown:** Madam Chair, thank you.

As we mentioned, it is the PSB that ultimately makes those determinations within the envelope that we give them. As you could do, I’m happy to call over to the PSB –

**Mr. MacEwen:** I did.

**Mr. J. Brown:** – and so you probably know what they’d have to say and I can find out –

**Mr. MacEwen:** (Indistinct)

**Mr. J. Brown:** – likely the same thing that you can find out through them and like I say, we entrust them with the management of the infrastructure at our schools, so it’s really up to them to determine where that sits in the grand scheme of things and to determine when and how much they’re going to allocate towards the repair of that issue.

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thanks, Chair.

Perhaps when you’re walking by the deputy’s desk this afternoon you might just say: Don’t forget about the Mount Stewart School. Seriously, please make a call for us.

**Mr. Myers:** They probably don’t talk.

**Ms. Biggar:** Carry the budget.

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you.

I’m good.

**Chair:** Okay, thank you.

**Ms. Biggar:** Carry the budget.

**Chair:** I don’t see anybody else on the list. Will we carry this budget?

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

**Ms. Biggar:** Carry that section.

**Chair:** Thank you.

We’ll now move on to Capital Expenditures - Family and Human Services.

Hon. members, we are on page 13. I'm going to read through the budget first and then we'll open the floor for discussion.

Capital Expenditure - Family and Human Services

2018-2019 Budget Estimate

Equipment: "Appropriations provided for a decision-making model."

Child Protection Technology: 350,000.

Total Equipment: 350,000.

Capital Improvements: "Appropriations provided for Capital improvements for infrastructure."

Housing Unit Renovations: 735,000.  
Residential Services Renovations: 15,000.

Total Capital Improvements: 750,000.

Total Capital Expenditure - Family and Human Services: 1,100,000.

Do we have any questions?

The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

Minister, the housing unit renovations: Do you have a list of what units and where are being renovated?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you for that question and thank you, Chair.

Yes, we do. We have 2018-2019 estimates on the units that will be receiving repairs and what those repairs will be.

**Mr. MacKay:** Can you table that?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

Can you table that, minister?

**Ms. Mundy:** I can get you a copy, if that's okay. I've got a lot of notes written all over this as well, so yeah, I can get you a copy of that.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

As far as the renovations go, have they gone out to tender yet?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** I'm sorry. I didn't hear.

**Chair:** Could you repeat the question, hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque?

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

Have the –

**Ms. Mundy:** Can he speak up a little?

**Mr. Myers:** Lot of orders (Indistinct)

**Mr. MacKay:** Have any of the tenders gone out yet for any of the renovations?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Chair.

Not for 2018-2019 yet. We are currently completing the renovations that were in the 2017 budget, so we're almost complete those.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

In the 2017 budget, was all the money that was allocated for renovations spent?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** To my knowledge, yes, it will be spent. Those that haven't been spent it's because we haven't been billed yet, and I guess the invoices are still coming in.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

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

**Ms. Compton:** Just a question about the seniors' apartments in Belfast.

I mentioned a couple of times here in the Legislature that there are times when they are not full, and one of the main problems is the fact that you have to leave your apartment to do your laundry, go outside to do your laundry, and there are a number of seniors who, for mobility reasons, cannot do that.

There have been times where, you know, struggle to fill that. There are six apartments there, but I'm just wondering if the minister could look at that issue, because it's a huge concern for everyone who lives there, and as you can all imagine if you're a senior and you're using a walker it's pretty hard to make your way with a laundry basket outside of your apartment, actually outdoors, to get to the laundry room.

If you could just put that task to your department and see if there's something can be done so that – the housing is definitely needed in the community. More housing is needed for seniors in the community, but that is definitely a barrier to filling those apartments.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Chair, and I thank the hon. Member for those comments and I do respect the advocating that you do for your constituency, your community, and I also value these kinds of discussions because we are always looking at ways that we can improve and enhance the –

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Chair.

I thank the hon. member for those comments and I do respect the advocating that you do for your constituency in your community. I also value these kinds of discussions because we are always looking at ways that

we can improve and enhance the lives of Islanders and especially those seniors. If there is something that we can do, I know I have worked with the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora, on issues surrounding Kinkora housing.

If there are ways that we can make changes or we can make improvement to those seniors, I'd certainly welcome – so maybe we can follow-up with a little bit more conversation and we can bring the department in and see what we can do.

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

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you, Chair, and thank you, minister.

As well, if you're providing a copy of the list of renovations if that could be made available to all of our caucus that would be wonderful.

**Ms. Mundy:** Certainly.

**Ms. Compton:** Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

Minister, could you explain the equipment line in the child protection technology, what that is?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Chair, and thank you for your patience with me, as well.

I'm pretty excited to answer questions and I will direct them through the Chair, though –

**Chair:** Thank you.

**Ms. Mundy:** – actually this piece of equipment that we are looking at is – came out of recommendations from the *Child Protection Act* review.

It is a model, or a suite of evidence-based risk-assessment tools called Structured Decision Making® and it's to help our child protection social workers during investigations and when providing child

services. It's a risk-management tool and it identifies persons according to the likelihood of subsequent outcomes for future neglect or abuse. It also helps to produce outcomes for future neglect and abuse, as well.

We're integrating these tools into our Child Protection Services delivery and it will, definitely, help support a better assessment and also data collection for future outcomes, as well.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** I'm sorry, I'm not quite sure what you mean by that. You use the word 'tools.' Is this a computer software program? Is it a –

**Ms. Mundy:** (Indistinct)

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** – that's what it is –

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Yes, it is a computer software.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** Thank you.

I'd like to drop down to the housing unit renovations line in the capital improvements. I see that we're two-and-a-half times over the budget estimate for last year. I'm just wondering why that is.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** There were some emergency situations that we didn't anticipate budgeting for such as; a leaky roof, so things like this we can't necessarily prepare for. Those would be overages based on just emergency measures, or emergency services that had to be provided; repairs.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** Obviously, those are unforeseen circumstances and hard to budget for. Is that an unusual – I don't have previous budgets in front of me, unfortunately, but is it typical that you do

stay on budget for those capital improvements?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Usually, we are on budget. The only times, usually, that the budget may vary is when tenders don't come in as expected. Sometimes, the costs of services are a bit higher, then, in those emergency situations, as well.

I think the Minister of Finance would like to elaborate a little bit more on that, as well.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Yes, we did receive some additional social infrastructure funding from the federal government and I believe, the total on that was \$990,000.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** Which almost makes up the shortfalling. Okay.

Further question, please Chair?

**Chair:** Yes.

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** We were all excited, of course, to hear about the new housing strategy that you announced just a couple of days ago, but I don't see any additional funds budgeted in the coming years.

I'm wondering: What's going on there?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Right. Do you to (Indistinct) –

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Those funds are not capital.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Mr. Roach:** It's operational funding.

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** Okay, interesting.

But it's for building, it's – so there's no actual – we're not building bricks and mortar with that, are we?

**Mr. Roach:** No, we're not. We might be doing, I guess, assisting – I'll let the minister explain what we're doing.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Going into the future, again, with the provincial housing strategy, we have pulled together, or we had, already, initial meetings with a co-design team and this was a group of over 40 invested. When I say invested; people who are passionate about housing; people who fund housing; people who have an interest in housing. We brought them together and they will – and we had a great day, as I mentioned and we shared ideas about identifying trends, where the need was on Prince Edward Island. Now, they will be combining their efforts with the Housing Supply Task Force and moving forward for the development of the provincial housing strategy.

The capital and the spending that will be allocated in future years will come out of what's driven out of that provincial housing strategy. That will determine what kind of a spend because it would be very premature us to say, we're going to invest \$30 million over the next five years when there could be more efficient ways of doing it depending on the outcome. Again, this is going to be a collaborative effort; between community between developers, between the government, between the municipalities, between the federal government. It's going to be a collaborative effort.

Going forward, what comes out of the provincial housing strategy will determine our capital spend over the next five years.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** Thank you.

This confirms my concerns about the housing strategy. We know what the problem is, the Premier described it as a supply issue here in the House just the other day. We know we have a deficiency in the amount of housing units. Clearly, to fix that we're going to have to build, that's a capital expense.

Now, we hear that the housing strategy, at least for the next three or four years has got

no dollar figures attached to that, at all. That really concerns me that we need more than a strategy at this point. I think everybody on this side of the House has been calling for dollars to be attributed.

We know what the problem is. We know we need housing units now, so why are we not applying those dollars in a budget line in this area?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Sure, thank you, hon. Chair.

Yes, we do know that. Prince Edward Island has benefitted in many ways from our growing economy. We've benefitted many ways with our growing population, but we do know that that has also created housing challenges on PEI.

What the Housing Supply Task Force and what the co-design team are going to do is identify emerging trends. They are going to identify partnerships that can be created. They are going to identify where, exactly, on Prince Edward Island the need is and how we can do it most efficiently.

The work of that team is going to inform our future investments. I could sit down and I could say: Yes, we're going to need \$30,000 or \$30 million, let's put that in the budget, but is that really realistic at this point?

However, when helping and collaborating with the federal government on the National Housing Strategy, we knew there would be that little bit of an interim space between when provinces were able to get shovels in the ground and access the funding from the National Housing Strategy and to determine where the new builds were going to be.

That is why they implemented the social infrastructure fund, which is that \$5.2 million. We do have identified needs on Prince Edward Island that we have identified. Very shortly, as I stated earlier, we will be coming out with RFPs for those seniors units that will be going up.

**Chair:** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** Thank you, minister, you just used the phrase: we have identified needs.

Indeed, we are all fully aware of what the needs are here. The terminology of housing task force, I mean, that sounds like an action-oriented group of people to me, but I had hoped that it wouldn't be bureaucrats with pens and clipboards; it would be Islanders with shovels and hammers. That's the sort of task force that I was looking for.

I understand that we have to wait, to a certain extent, there are moving parts here; we have federal dollars involved, and that housing strategy was just announced just a couple of days ago, I think. I understand that.

I guess my concern, my deep worry, is that for the next three years we see dollars attached to his line at all and clearly, that will have to change and I hope that it changes very quickly.

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** If I may, Chair, speak to the point about the housing supply task force.

The first work of the housing supply task force will be to develop an inventory of initiatives that are underway in, principally, the private sector – in some cases at least, I know of one, that it's a charitable organization that has a sizeable project envisaged, but if I can give you the example of a project where there are currently shovels in the ground in Cornwall, I believe it's to be on the order of 70 units or 70 living spaces. It's quite innovative in how it's based on independent living and then a more of a kind of a communal or assisted – not nursing care – living. What government did for that was on the order of \$200,000 for a lift station for the wastewater.

We're not pretending that we're going to get off with that kind of a ratio in all of the ways that we could reasonably envisage would be needed to respond to the total situation, but the work to this point is to say that the housing supply task force is to ensure that, as government, steps further into this space – and we're into quite significantly with existing capacity – the we do it will respond

to the greatest need. I can certainly, as the one who introduced the – through the minister's statement – the housing supply task force, I can assure the House that it will be at work very early in the New Year and we will benefit from their work.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** Thanks, Chair.

Minister, back a couple of weeks ago, it was brought to my attention about – I almost want to call it the unfair practice of considering people that are applying for seniors' housing who suffer from nerve problems and are under treatment for that and with that, they have a small dog and they're being refused access to a unit which is vacant because of the dog.

So, I met with him and I talked to him and he confirmed, though a doctor that this individual suffers from severe nerve problems and this small little dog – it's basically proven from the doctor that if you take the dog away, this guy – he has problems. But yet, members of whoever the group is that allots them units say: No, you've got a dog, you can't come in. But, with that, they don't say anything with anybody who wants to take a cat in.

Can you explain why we would not be trying to take care of these people if a unit is available?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Chair.

I'm not aware of the specific unit you're talking about. I'm not aware of the specific building or the specific case, but I would be willing to look into it for you and gather some background details and get back to you on that.

**Mr. Fox:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** Thanks, Chair.

I'll forward the information to you on it. That's specifically what it is: this individual has a severe nerve problem. He has a very small dog that's been proven to help him, assist him, and to live a comfortable life where he is. They've sold their house because it's too big and the unit is available in Borden area, so I'll send that to you.

One other question, minister, how many units do we totally have across the Island and can you provide a breakdown across the province where they are actually located?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Chair.

We have approximately 1,100 seniors' units across 32 communities and we have approximately 480 family housing units. We also have some garden units and some other units in the rural areas we call small garden units and I can get you those breakdowns, absolutely.

**Mr. Fox:** Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

I just want to go back to a comment the Premier made for a little more clarification. He'd mentioned about seniors' housing in Cornwall. Is that privately-owned, or government loaned?

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** The project about which I was speaking is privately-owned. It's not strictly for seniors, but it's certainly designed for people who are at that downsizing stage of things.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

So, the province had given access for \$200,000 for a lift station. What program would that run through?

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** It might even have been done through the Town of Cornwall. They would likely have done that. I can find out the answer to that, but that was roughly the amount of money that was involved.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** So, was it provincial money?

**Chair:** The hon. Premier.

**Premier MacLauchlan:** Thank you, Chair.

Generally, when we're dealing with wastewater, the province has a part, the municipality owns the system, and there could even be a federal contribution if it's with the infrastructure programs. I would not know the precise details of that situation. We could certainly get the information. I could tell you it was a good deal.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

Actually, that's the reason I asked because there used to be a program, from my understanding, it was a third, a third, a third – provincial, federal, municipal – and that program no longer exists, so I know there was a group of developers, something similar, in my area that had called the province direct to access funding and they were told there was no programs in existence and they couldn't get any help. So, I'm just curious how these private developers could access \$200,000. I just want to guide them in the right direction, I guess.

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

**Ms. Biggar:** I think you might have been referring to the old Island Community Fund, which was, I think at one time, there was partnership there. But, right now, under the – that wasn't under the infrastructure program, that was under rural development at that time, but our infrastructure program – no.

Private developers are not eligible under the new Build Canada Infrastructure fund, but

we have been working very closely with the larger municipalities that have need for updating their storm sewerage and their sewage and water facilities in the community to be able to handle that type of development that is going on in Cornwall, or it's going on in some of the other areas by partnering through our water and wastewater program.

The community has been able to access funding so that when developers like that are coming to them, which is what is happening in Cornwall, as a result of a lot of development applications. I think they've probably tripled since the Trans Canada Highway realignment has been going on. The Town of Cornwall has exponentially received probably triple amount of development applications. By partnering with the Town of Cornwall, we're able to make improvements to that water facility that those developments can then hook on to.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

I think you have confirmed my question, minister. So, the \$200,000, it didn't go directly to a private developer, it's gone to the community of Cornwall and they've – okay.

**Ms. Biggar:** (Indistinct)

**Mr. MacKay:** Perfect. Thank you.

Final question and this is to the Minister of Family and Human Services: Out of the units – the Member from Borden-Kinkora – out of the 485 senior units. Is there any of them vacant right now due to needing renovations?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Chair.

That's a hard question to answer. When you say vacant, there is a period of time where a unit will be vacant, but that is from the time when the previous tenant has moved out and while our team goes in there to turn it over; so painting or any repairs that be needed. So,

it could be vacant for a week to two weeks, but it's not vacant of an owner. There's already somebody's name attached to that.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, minister.

I guess that's what I'm – so other than a week or two, there are not units that are sitting vacant six or eight months at a time?

**Ms. Mundy:** (Indistinct)

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you.

**Ms. Biggar:** Carry the section.

**Chair:** Shall this Budget carry? Carried.

We'll now move onto page 15.

Capital Expenditure - Finance

I'll read the Budget, as the others, and then we'll open the floor for discussion.

Capital Expenditure - Finance

2018-2019 Budget Estimate

Equipment: "Appropriations provided for information technology optimization and system upgrades."

Technology Asset Management: 1,300,000.  
Corporate System Upgrades: 7,668,500.  
Capital Installations: 150,000.

Total Equipment: 9,118,500.

Capital Improvements: "Appropriations provided for Capital improvements."

Facility Improvements: 200,000.

Total Capital Improvements: 200,000.

Total Capital Expenditure - Finance:  
9,318,500.

The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Madam Chair.

Minister, will you table a detailed breakdown of these capital expenditures?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** I can list them out here for you or I can try and get a copy of this and get it to you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you.

I would like, perhaps, you could give an overview here on the floor, but I would love to get a copy of exactly what technology assets you're purchasing, what corporate system upgrades you're purchasing and what capital installations you're doing, as well as the facility improvements.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Sure.

I think the strategy for the replacement for the all of our assets follows industry standards and that would be five years for desktop services, four years, I believe, for laptops and two years for tablet services. We would follow the industry standard there and what we hope this capital project will address, and it will address for sure, is the scheduled replacement of all of those items on a yearly basis that are required to be replaced as per the schedule, and it'll certainly go a long way to reduce our people who are out there using those devices, and reduce sending people out for repairs, check this and check that.

One of the good things is that we can, through this, realize good savings through the bulk purchasing of assets.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** When it comes to corporate system upgrades, what are you talking about there? You basically addressed the technology asset management side of things so far in your response.

**Mr. Roach:** When we're looking at that, we're talking about business applications refresh; server optimization; virtualization; enterprise licensing; any small finance projects; service desk automation; governmentofpei.ca web strategy; education

link; provincial libraries; network quality service; migration server; print management; business intelligence; enterprise data storage; records information management; critical legacy systems; email modernization; Windows operating systems upgrade; PeopleSoft installation; Word Perfect conversion; power builder legacy system; Oracle Inventory system; warehouse facility; enterprise unified communications; wireless infrastructure; and PeopleSoft module.

That's, in essence, the entire list that you were talking about.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, minister.

This is really good information to know and in particular, I'm really interested in your business applications and your customer ticketing application. I'm not sure the exact term you used to call it there, but it sounds like you're doing an upgrade of it. I think there's a huge opportunity – and I know talking with the Member from Summerside-Wilmot as well, I believe we were on the same page that there's a huge opportunity for tracking requests that come into the government, and information about them including status and then being able to monitor them and close them, and then you can track all kinds of metrics as well; how many people had to work on it; how long it was in the queue; how long it took to solve.

If you categorize and tag those requests, then you can find out where the problem areas are in government as well and you can make evidence-based decisions to improve. I'm very curious as to what sort of upgrades you're doing with your business applications and, in particular, your customer service.

**Mr. Roach:** And certainly –

**Mr. Trivers:** (Indistinct)

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Going right to your point, I think it was about the third or fourth item in where I talked about service desk automation, and that would fall directly within that particular category, exactly those

things that you're talking about. We would have a service desk that would look after all of those items; the service calls that are coming in, the requests.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Are you planning to use that model, then, where you have a centralized area where all government requests come in, because it's a huge problem right now?

I remember in the last election when I was talking to seniors, they wanted to know who to contact about various things and there was a 170-plus page PDF to download from the web, which a lot of them didn't have access to, and then within it I think I picked out 15 different phone numbers to call for various items and that's just for seniors. I think anybody who wants to use government services on the housing front is crazy, especially with the different entities that look after different things in family and human services.

It's really hard to navigate and that's where I think a centralized, single point of entry to government with a really good-quality service desk tracking system would be really helpful. Are you considering that?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** I think that we have identified that the current CA, which is the company helpdesk toolset, is out of support will cost about \$81,000 to upgrade the application to support the new version.

ITSS is using funding in 2017-2018 to pilot the functionality of solar-wind suit as a service centre tool, and if successful, in 2018-2019 this would be the system chosen for the full integration for the service centre.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you, minister.

You didn't really give a great answer to my question about whether you're going to have a single point of entry across all departments for people to access government. It sounds like you've got a system in there that could

probably handle it, but I'll move onto my next question. I won't make you try to answer that one again, unless you want to.

**Mr. Roach:** I think when you look at our government website, the work that's been done through our staff there and I know that the director of the enterprise architecture of that does a tremendous amount of work and we do believe that this will address a number of the sites that we're beyond the scope of the original web renewal project, and will include such things as the Legislative Assembly as well as the courts in bringing all that. So, we do hope that we're going to see some efficiencies and standards, and I'll think we will when we get through this pilot.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Chair.

Just to be clear, I would like to see a customer service representative that acts that single point of entry and is the one who actually navigates within government on behalf of the client. I'll just –

**Mr. Roach:** I'll take that under consideration.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you.

Now, my question is, it was a good long list of corporate system upgrades, which you would expect for \$7.6 million, \$7.7 million. I'm still processing that because, of course, I don't have a hard copy of it, which you're going to provide, which is great.

I don't think I heard any reference to upgrading our email systems to cloud-based email. Maybe I just missed that.

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** Yes. We are looking at an email modernization project over the – projected over the next five years. A total cost of that, over five years, is just under \$7 million.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Are you prepared to share any more details about that \$7 million project at this point?

**Mr. Roach:** That's over the next five years and I don't have all of the details on that.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Do you have any details, at all?

**Mr. Roach:** Sure. Right now, it is anticipated that GroupWise will become unsupported and government needs to have a planned process for migration before GroupWise reaches the end of its life.

ITSS will continue to look at this. We will be spending, on that study, to figure out exactly where it is we're going, we will spend \$75,000 doing a study to ensure that when we are spending our money we're putting it in exactly the correct place.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, and I look forward to receiving more details about that.

I think it's really important, given the level of expertise from Prince Edward Islanders in the information systems sector that, you know, you get that information out there so you can receive input and comments from the public.

My next question really has to do with breaking down the facility improvements on the \$200,000.

**Mr. Roach:** Just to back up on that previous question; I think it's important to know that this isn't necessarily going to be done internally. We're going to, and it may have even gone out to an RFP process to help to determine where we're going to go on the replacement of that GroupWise that we just talked about earlier.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay.

**Mr. Roach:** On that \$75,000.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** That's really fantastic. I think again, the idea of open data and openness and transparency, is, if you could share what projects you're considering and some of the details proactively with the public. I think it's better. Then, you can have people – you'd be amazed at the amount of expertise and the valid suggestions and opinions out there. Through a public RFP process, of course, that is a good way to do it.

I assume that you don't need any special access to get access to these RFPs, is that correct?

**Mr. Roach:** Yes.

**Mr. Trivers:** Anyone has access to the RFP?

**Mr. Roach:** Yeah. It'll go out and anybody can tender on it. It'll be public.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** I understand you've issued an RFP for the broadband backbone, Internet backbone for the province, is that correct?

**Mr. Roach:** No.

**Mr. Trivers:** So, just to clarify –

**Mr. Roach:** That doesn't come out of my shop.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** So, I believe there is –

**Mr. Roach:** It's not within my Capital Budget.

**Mr. Trivers:** Where would that RFP lie? Who's budget?

**Mr. Roach:** I think what we had talked about with respect to the backbone that that was going to be similar to the cable process. There will be an RFP process come out, probably through a Crown corporate, as we had discussed for, I think, a couple of days here in the Legislature.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** I've seen an RFP that has been issued.

**Mr. Roach:** Okay, so it has been issued, that's great.

**Mr. Trivers:** But I'm trying figure out where it's accounted for in the government plans. You're the Minister of Finance so I'd expect – I'm surprised you wouldn't be –

**Mr. Roach:** I think –

**Mr. Trivers:** – aware of an RFP –

**Mr. Roach:** – yeah, I think –

**Mr. Trivers:** – that's issued –

**Mr. Roach:** – I've answered probably, at least, three or four times already in the Legislature with respect to that exact question: it's not in the Capital Budget. This is being set-up similar to the system that we have with the cable that's coming across with respect to our electricity. Similar to the PEI Energy Corporation –

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** It would be similar to waste management, as well.

**Mr. Roach:** It'd be similar to waste management, as well. Within that Crown corporation the funding will be in there, but it will not be funding that will coming out of this Capital Budget.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** All right. We'll try and figure out where that money is going to come from on our end.

In the meantime, can you break down the facility improvements under your capital improvements? Capital Budget here, the \$200,000?

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** That's used for air conditioners, generators, all over the Island to support the closets that we have. So, it's just a bunch of smaller ones in the installations we have around the province.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Just to be clear: you're talking about the data centre and networking facilities?

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** Yes.

**Mr. Trivers:** Yes, okay. You said –

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** – thank you.

You said you have a number of those across the Island. Are they mostly located at schools across the Island? Is that the case?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** There's approximately 350 sites across the province so they'd be in all of the schools, as well as regional service centres, those sorts of things.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** Hospitals.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you.

I know you've announced through the Speech From the Throne that there's going to be this broadband Internet backbone project. One of the problems that small Internet service providers have is accessing the high-speed Internet backbone. That's one of the reasons, indeed, for doing the project.

These 350 locations, these closets, I would think that most of them would give access to that, the existing high-speed Internet that – and I was wondering: how many of them do and whether you provide access to Internet service providers through those locations?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** I'd have to bring that back to you. I don't know the answer to that.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you.

While you're checking on the answers just keep in mind, if the prime reason of creating a government-owned Internet backbone is to give Internet service providers access so that then they can complete the connection for users, and we already have 350 locations that potentially Internet service providers could connect into. Then, perhaps, on the short-term you might want to consider giving access to Internet service providers through those locations.

I know some have asked in the past to use schools as locations to provide Internet access, wireless points, and they've been denied. I just want to throw that out there. That's why I'm asking the question. It might be good to know the context when you're getting the information.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** Okay, thanks.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** Thanks, Chair.

Minister, can you explain to me where we borrow the money from to run the finances of PEI?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** For our long-term debt, we issue long-term debt every two or three years. The amounts that we can borrow are approved in the Legislature.

**Mr. Fox:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** So, where do you get the money from? Do you go to a bank or do you go to a public body, or where actually does the money come from?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** People buy our long-term debt, like pension funds, or whatever. They buy our long-term debt and they give us the money for them.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** Do you go out on tender for that? How do you do that?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** It's a public issue. We have a number of groups that we will issue it publicly and then pension funds or whoever, can offer to buy it at whatever interest rate we're offering to give it out at.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** How do you come up with the interest rate?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** That's kind of associated with our bond rating and everything else, so we'll have an interest rate that we based on prime, whatever. So it would be prime plus whatever interest rate equal – kind of goes along with our bond rating.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** My understanding is the blue books had just come out, have to do with over a year ago's financial status, right?

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** They're 2016-2017, correct?

**Mr. Fox:** Right.

So, this year, you've met with the bond raters on what the state is of the province, right?

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** Correct.

**Mr. Fox:** So, what information are they given to that we're not privy to until we see the blue books for this year until next year?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** The information that we provide to them is exactly the same as we provide to the Legislature. We provide the forecast for the current year and will provide the budget for the next year and that's what they base their numbers on. Normally, they'll issue their opinions before the Public Accounts come out.

**Mr. Fox:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** So, can you explain to me: How does it work for the energy corp. borrowing money to do with projects? How do they get that money?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** The PEI Energy Corporation can either borrow it from government or they can borrow it from a bank if they can actually get a better rate. That has to be approved by government, so when they borrow money for a windmill farm, or a cable, or whatever, then they'll access that money at the best rate that they can get it.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** Government's rates, that you could loan that money to the energy corp. under, would that – I guess I'm trying to say is: Shouldn't the government be able to lend money to the energy corp. cheaper than the bank?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** Not always.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** Can you explain to me how Maritime Electric pays back to the energy corp. a rate of whatever. So, how does Maritime Electric calculate their amount of money – or how they determine what the rate of return is on their shareholders of the company?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** Right. So, those rates are approved through IRAC, so they go to IRAC to set their rates every couple of years, or every two years, whenever they're changing them.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** What is to stop Maritime Electric from loading their liabilities or their assets to ensure they're getting a higher rate on the return to their shareholders than on what they're actually making on their base rate?

Do you follow that?

**Chair:** Jim Miles?

The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

**Ms. Biggar:** The rate of return that Maritime Electric gets to their shareholders is set under the act.

**An Hon. Member:** That's right, based on (Indistinct) –

**Ms. Biggar:** I'm not sure what else you're going at there.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** All Maritime Electric have to do is go before IRAC and just say that they want a rate of return of 9% or 8% or where the number is, right?

My question is: What are they basing that on?

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

**Ms. Biggar:** They have to put their business case forward, hon. member, to IRAC in order to prove that there's a necessity for any change in whatever rate it is, or whatever rate of return.

**Mr. Fox:** Yes.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** So is it considered, Chair, when they –

**Chair:** Chair?

**Mr. Fox:** Yeah. You are the Chair.

**An Hon. Member:** You're supposed to speak through the Chair.

**Mr. Fox:** What's to stop them from loading their assets or their liabilities to get a higher rate of return than what is actually – can be justified?

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

**Ms. Biggar:** Hon. Member, if you want to put together some detailed questions, we'll certainly take those back to you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** So, you can't explain to me how they come upon that shareholder's rate?

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

**Ms. Biggar:** The PEI Development Corporation, hon. member, are the ones who have – and will have, actually – that's the purpose of our change in the electric act, is so that – right now we don't have complete standing in regards, specifically, to demand-side management, the PEI Development Corporation are the ones that go in and negotiate. I'm not involved. I'm not going to admit and pretend that I know everything there is about rate-structure on PEI or how they go in and meet and do their rate increases. That's why we have very expert people that run the energy corp. and are in daily contact with a number of utilities and on top of what is going on around electricity needs for PEI. So, if you have some very specific questions, I know we can get those answers, but I'm not going to pretend as minister of energy, and I don't think you would expect that I would know that answer. So, no, I don't know the answer. You asked me if I know the answer – no, I don't.

**Mr. Fox:** I thought you might.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

**Mr. Fox:** That's it for now.

**Chair:** That's it for now? Good.

The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thank you, Chair.

The corporate system upgrades – you budgeted \$27,428,500 over five years. I was wondering, in that big list that you did read out earlier, what are going to be the top three expenditures over those five years?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** The top three would be email modernization, critical legacy systems, and the migration network quality of service.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** What are the dollar amounts associated with those top three?

**Mr. Roach:** Network quality service is 3 million, critical legacy systems is 4.7 million, and email modernization is 6.9 million.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Can you tell me a little bit more about what the critical legacy system upgrades are going to target?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** The major systems that we're going to be looking at to upgrade are the courthouse system in justice – they call it the (Indistinct) system; the ISM system that's used for family and human services as well as health; the one service model in Workforce and Advanced Learning; and the Single Window Access Technology system that's with transportation.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** So, do you have existing contracts in place to do these upgrades, or are you going to be issuing RFPs and/or tenders for this work? Not just for the critical legacy systems, but for all of the work in the corporate systems upgrades.

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** Currently, we've hired a company called Thinking Big Digital Services to develop a strategy to upgrade these systems. That contract was tendered.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** How much is that contract worth?

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** I don't know. I can get you that.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay, thanks.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Thinking Big is a local Island company, is that correct?

**Mr. Roach:** Yes.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Do you expect that they will just come up with the strategy, or will they be responsible for subcontracting out the work to make it happen, as well?

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** I think, at this point in time, we've just hired them to develop a strategy.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Do you have any direction that will favour on-Island companies to do the work when the time –

**Mr. Roach:** We can't –

**Mr. Trivers:** – comes?

**Mr. Roach:** – (Indistinct)

**Mr. Trivers:** Is that a policy of yours or is it wide open just based on lowest bid?

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** As far as I know it's wide open based on open bid.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** You've committed to bringing back a breakdown, not just in this area of, pardon me, corporate systems upgrades, but across technology asset management, corporate system upgrades, capital installations and facility improvements.

I was wondering what information are you going to bring. Because I would like to see; the name of the project, the amount of money that is going to be spent over each of the five years and then, as well, a breakdown of the detailed asset systems, installations or improvements within, if you can.

**Mr. Roach:** (Indistinct)

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** This is the only number, this column here –

**Mr. Roach:** (Indistinct)

**Chair:** Jim Miles.

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** In this Capital Budget the only amounts that we're really approving are for 2018-2019 so that's the number that we'll give you the summary of the detail for. Other than that, you know, it's just a plan rather than what you're actually voting on.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

**Mr. Trivers:** Do you have any of that detail in front of you right now that you could just copy and table?

**Mr. Roach:** No.

It's all covered with our notes.

**Mr. Trivers:** Okay.

Thank you, Chair.

**Chair:** Shall the finance budget carry?

**Ms. Biggar:** Carry the section.

**Chair:** Carried.

Hon. members, we'll move onto page 17, Capital Expenditure Health PEI. Again, I will read the budget estimate and then I'll open the floor for discussion.

Capital Expenditure - Health PEI

2018-2019 Budget Estimate

Equipment: "Appropriations provided for the purchase of hospital equipment."

Hospital Equipment: 15,983,700.

Total Equipment: 15,983,700.

Capital Improvements: "Appropriations provided for Capital Improvements, planning and redesign of Health infrastructure."

Health Facilities: 7,615,900. Long-Term Care Facilities: 12,359,600. Capital Repairs: 2,500,000.

Total Capital Improvements: 22,475,500.

Total Capital Expenditure - Health PEI: 38,459,200.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Chair:** Before I move onto the questions, I'm going to ask the hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot to come down and chair this section.

**Mr. Roach:** Okay.

**Chair (Palmer):** The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

I was trying to correspond the five-year capital plan on page 3 with this here, and I think what's done, maybe you can confirm

this, maybe the minister can confirm this, that the hospital equipment and the health facilities are put together, is that correct? Is that how you get your \$23 million?

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** That's correct.

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** That they're on separate lines here, but combined –

**Jim Miles Executive Director:** (Indistinct)

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** I do have other questions, Chair, but if you want to go on, I'll come back –

**Chair:** I can come back to you.

**Dr. Bevan-Baker:** Thank you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

I'm just curious which line the seniors housing, the 7.2 approximately, which line does is that under?

**Mr. Henderson:** (Indistinct) health? Seniors housing is not our department.

**Mr. MacKay:** Chair?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** It wasn't under family and human services' budget, where is it in the book, then?

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

**Mr. Henderson:** The only responsibility we have in our department for seniors is the long-term care facilities. Community care facilities would be different department, seniors housing, apartments, and independent living and those things, that would be family and human services.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

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

**Mr. MacKay:** My question is, and maybe I misunderstood it: Was there not 7.2 allocated for future seniors housing?

**Ms. Biggar:** We have already had that discussion.

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

**Mr. Henderson:** It wouldn't be allocated to the Department of Health and Wellness or Health PEI.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** My question is: Where is at in the Capital Budget?

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

**Mr. Henderson:** You're going to have to refer to the Minister of Finance on where it's at, like I said, not to my knowledge it's in ours.

**Mr. Roach:** What \$7.2 million is he talking about?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Nobody can tell me where the funding is coming from?

**Mr. Roach:** What's he talking about?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** I'm sorry, hon. member, but I'm not sure of the question. I'm not sure what you're asking.

If you can clarify a little bit more, I can try and answer it, and if not I can get you information back.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Last week, your government announced \$7.2 million for future seniors housing to be built. I'm wondering where the money's at in the Capital Budget and nobody knows?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** The Capital Budget, if I'm not mistaken and I could be reading this wrong, if for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Correct? The \$7.2 million was committed in the 2016 budget, if I'm correct. And if not, I will get the information and get back to you.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** I think the finance minister might have some information for me.

**Chair:** Minister of Finance do you have –

**Mr. Roach:** No.

**Chair:** Okay.

**Leader of the Opposition:** Maybe it's in the –

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Leader of the Opposition:** – energy corp. the same as the Internet, \$30 million.

**Mr. MacKay:** Yeah, I'm still not understanding, so let's backtrack a bit.

When will these new seniors housing units be built?

**Ms. Mundy:** (Indistinct)

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Within the next coming weeks, we will be putting out RFPs for the \$5.2 million to be spent.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

Next week you're going to put an RFP out, but nobody can tell us where the money is coming from?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Let me get back to on that.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Chair, we continue hearing we're going to have information brought back and it never comes back. We're not going to leave this page until we get some answers here.

**Ms. Biggar:** That's not (Indistinct) business.

**Mr. MacKay:** It's under capital. Okay, next question –

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

We'll keep going: What year will the senior housing units be built?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** I can tell you that we will be putting out RFPs within the next coming weeks, and that will determine when the units will be built.

I'm trying to get some information here from staff right now.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** So the minister just mentioned that that allocation was in last year's budget, 2016-2017. Can you confirm that?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** The funding was through the social infrastructure funding. It was funding through the federal government.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

So, when was that funding approved from the federal government?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** It came through in the federal 2016-2017 budget.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

And it's already been approved?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Yes, that money was in last year's budget. We made the announcement at Park Royal in May – I think it was of 2016. So, it was last year's budget.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** It was in last year's budget? So, was the 7.2 that was announced in last year's budget spent on seniors' housing?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** A portion of that has gone towards renovating and upgrading seniors' units, but the 5.2 will be, once we get the RFPs back, will be spent, but the money has already been approved and committed and we are waiting for the RFPs. It was in last year's budget.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you, Chair.

My questions is: When can we expect to see the shovels in the ground for the new seniors – after the RFP is approved and tendered out – when can we expect construction?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** I guess we'll see it when –or whoever is awarded the tender is ready to go.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

**Mr. MacKay:** Also, minister, can you tell me where the new units will be built in the province, where about?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** Thank you, Chair.

The new units will be built where the greatest need has been identified.

**Mr. MacKay:** Thank you.

**Chair:** You're finished, Member from Kensington-Malpeque?

**Mr. MacKay:** Yes, for now.

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Chair.

The \$7 million that was announced on May 26<sup>th</sup>, is that just because the announcement came much later than the budget?

**Chair:** Minister, can we get some clarity on that?

**Mr. Roach:** Are we talking about –

**Ms. Casey:** (Indistinct) question (Indistinct) the Chair.

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

**Mr. Roach:** We're Capital health.

**Mr. MacEwen:** I did go through the Chair.

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** I think there's an explanation coming.

**Ms. Mundy:** Sorry?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Family and Human Services.

**Ms. Mundy:** You'll have to ask the question again, I'm sorry.

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid, is this a capital health question?

**Mr. MacEwen:** Yes.

**Ms. Biggar:** No.

**Mr. Fox:** It certainly is.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Sorry, who said 'no?'

**Chair:** Okay.

**Ms. Biggar:** We're in health.

**Mr. Myers:** No one seems to know.

**Chair:** Morell –

**Mr. MacEwen:** Who said 'no.'

**Ms. Biggar:** We're in health.

**Mr. MacEwen:** No, I just wonder who said 'no.'

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid, do you have a question?

**Ms. Biggar:** (Indistinct) question.

**Mr. MacEwen:** I do have a question.

**Ms. Biggar:** Good.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Do I have the floor?

**Chair:** The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid, you have the floor.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Chair.

This announcement on May 26<sup>th</sup> it says: the governments of Canada, Prince Edward Island will invest a total of \$7.2 million in transitional housing for victims of violence and affordable and social housing for families and seniors. Is this money, what budget is it under and will any of it come under the Capital Budget?

**Chair:** The hon. Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Roach:** I think that the, all due credit to the Minister of Family and Human Services, I think she just identified that that was last year's budget, and that the RFPs have gone

out on that and it's a family and human services question. That section has already been carried, but I think she has fully explained that. We're on page 17, I think: capital expenditure for Health PEI.

That doesn't fall within Health PEI.

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

**Mr. MacEwen:** Thank you, Chair.

No, I appreciate that you guys had to spend a week clarifying and answering questions that aren't necessarily, exactly under Capital Budget, but all have to do with the department, so I appreciate the ministers answering the questions.

Now, is that 2016-2017 or 2017-2018?

**Mr. Murphy:** Call the hour.

**Chair:** The hour has been called.

**Mr. Myers:** Saved by the hour, eh, Pat?

**Mr. Roach:** Okay.

Mr. Chair, I move that 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 under consideration the grant of supply to Her Majesty, 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 Workforce and Advanced Learning.

**Mr. Gallant:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, that this House adjourn until Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.

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

The Legislature adjourned until Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m.