

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts

Published by Order of the Legislature

Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Energy

DATE OF HEARING: 22 FEBRUARY 2018

MEETING STATUS: PUBLIC

LOCATION: LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER, HON. GEORGE COLES BUILDING, CHARLOTTETOWN

SUBJECT: WORK PLAN AND ELECTION OF CHAIR

COMMITTEE:

Allen Roach, MLA Montague-Kilmuir [Chair]
Hannah Bell, MLA Charlottetown-Parkdale
Darlene Compton, MLA Belfast-Murray River [replaces Sidney MacEwen, MLA Morell-Mermaid]
Jamie Fox, MLA Borden-Kinkora
Alan McIsaac, MLA Vernon River-Stratford
Hon. Tina Mundy, Minister of Family and Human Services
Hon. Pat Murphy, Minister of Rural and Regional Development
Hal Perry, MLA Tignish-Palmer Road

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sidney MacEwen, MLA Morell-Mermaid

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Bevan-Baker, Leader of the Third Party

GUESTS:

none

STAFF:

Emily Doiron, Clerk Assistant (Journals, Committees, and House Operations)

Edited by Hansard

The Committee met at 1:30 p.m.

Clerk Assistant: Hi everyone and welcome to the first meeting of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Energy for 2018.

My name is Emily, Doiron; I'm the committee clerk for this committee. I'm starting off this meeting as we have a vacancy in the Chair position.

Before I start, I'd just like to welcome the new members that are on this committee now since the committee last met. They include; the Hon. Tina Mundy, Hannah Bell, Allen Roach and the Hon. Pat Murphy. Welcome. We also have a substitute for today's meeting and Darlene Compton is filling in for Sidney MacEwen.

With that all said, I'm going to open the floor for nominations of Chair position.

Mr. Fox: I'd like to nominate Alan McIsaac.

Mr. McIsaac: I would decline that, but I would like to nominate Allen Roach.

Clerk Assistant: Is there unanimous consent then to withdraw Mr. McIsaac from —

Mr. Fox: I will second that.

Clerk Assistant: So, we have one nomination on the floor and that's Allen Roach.

All those in favour for Allen Roach as Chair of the committee please signify by saying, 'aye.'

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Clerk Assistant: Contrary minded, 'nay.'

Welcome Mr. Roach then to the Chair position.

Mr. McIsaac: I want his seat.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Clerk Assistant: Welcome.

Chair (Roach): Thank you.

Clerk Assistant: I guess we're at number three on the agenda.

Chair: Could we have a motion to adopt the agenda.

Mr. Fox: So moved.

Chair: Secunder?

Clerk Assistant: Don't need a secunder.

Chair: Don't need a secunder? Okay perfect.

I think that everyone has a copy of the committee's work plan. We have some that were referred from the Legislative Assembly and I believe there may be others that are there. I think we should have some discussion around the outstanding previous work plan. I think everybody has a copy of that.

Clerk Assistant: We do, yes.

Chair: Perhaps we could start with the outstanding previous work plan on the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Energy. There were, I believe, five items on there. Do we have any comments on those or any other items that people would like to have on the work plan?

Ms. Bell: Perhaps we could speak to, first of all, whether these are our main priorities.

Chair: Yes.

Ms. Bell: It would be great and then I would like to add something to that list to be considered. So, what the order is for doing that.

Chair: Perhaps then what I'll do is I'll just go through what's currently left on the books.

There was a briefing from the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy for an update on the implementation of the PEI Energy Strategy.

Second, there was a briefing from the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure

and Energy on policy on wood chips for provincially-owned boilers.
Next, outstanding was a briefing from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism for an update on the status of high-speed Internet in the province, including information on new infrastructure and speed tests.

Next, which was referred from the Legislature that Bill No. 101, *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Energy for examination and report on fees associated with passing school buses for fines.

Next, was a briefing from IID regarding an update on the Strait Crossing Fabrication yard and that was from executive Director of IID, Jamie Aiken. I think that was –

Yes, briefing from Maritime Electric regarding plans for environmentally friendly energy initiatives.

Alan McIsaac.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I'd like us to continue to keep that one of Bill 101 on the table and discuss this on the school bus passing. I think it's still a serious issue out there and we need to address it and I think it should be high on our priority list for the committee. Just a suggestion.

Do you want a motion?

Chair: Could we take it that that's a motion?

Mr. McIsaac: I move that, thank you.

Chair: Any discussion around that before I proceed on that one?

Jamie Fox.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Chair.

I believe number 1, 2, 5 and 6, I brought forward. I'm still interested in number 1 especially because of NB Power's announcement that they're projecting rates to go up in New Brunswick. I'm interested on how that's going to affect the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Item 2) the wood chip one I'd like to actually expand and I've said it before in the House about I have a really serious concern about reforestation of the province and we're not doing enough of that.

I'm wondering on 2) what the sustainability of being able to supply these energy efficient boilers on the Island. I think that's a great thing and I approve of that, but we must make sure that we have the infrastructure or the wood chips available or that energy source to feed that and to keep us going in that direction with a clean environment.

5) Strait Crossing Fabrication Yard, there has to be a decision made on that. We're sitting on a resource that we're not doing anything with. It does leave a carbon footprint and I think the province needs to do something with that to clean it up. There was a case back in the fall sitting where debris has been found unearthed on the side and we're now looking at having to have that cleaned up. I think that should be a priority.

6) I think we need to know what Maritime Electric is doing to improve their carbon output and their footprint they have in the province. I'm not in favour of their generating plants and the way that they're being fueled and I think we need to hear from them since they are our key – our provider – what their plan for the future is.

Chair: Thank you.

I think prior to – I will address all of those that you had mentioned, but I think we should have a vote on the school bus one as being priority number one.

Any more discussion from the committee on that one?

Ms. Mundy: I would support that, Chair. I think it would be – anything that involves our children and the safety of our children should be first and foremost on any committee's agenda. I do support all of the other ones that MLA Fox mentioned.

However, I do feel very strongly that Mr. Myer's put a great deal of effort into putting the private member's bill on the floor. It was something that was referred back to the

standing committee so I do feel very strongly that it should be first and foremost on our priority list.

Chair: Any other comments?

All those in favour signify by saying, ‘aye.’

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Chair: All those not in favour signify by saying, ‘nay.’

It’s unanimous.

I was just noticing, Mr. Fox, as you were reading and going through, I think there was four things that you had indicated you had brought forward, with the exception of the Strait Crossing Fabrication Yard. I believe each and every one of those involve energy.

I’m wondering if you could put a motion forward with respect to new energy efficiency programs uptake on current programs and we could include all of those people to come in from an energy perspective.

Mr. Fox: Agreed.

Chair: So you’ll put that motion forward?

Mr. Fox: That motion is forward.

Chair: Okay, thank you.

Any discussion?

All those in favour of the energy efficient programs, the uptake on current programs, that it is second on the priority list, please signify by indicating ‘aye.’

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Chair: Those not in favour please indicate by saying, ‘nay.’

It’s unanimous.

Hannah Bell.

Ms. Bell: If I could follow on from the discussion regarding energy, it may be something we can follow on from that, what sounds like quite a busy meeting.

Chair: Yes.

Ms. Bell: But to suggest that we ask to invite a couple of guests who can speak to us – they’re from the UPEI School of Sustainable Design Engineering who wrote a paper last entitled, *Initial Perspective on 100% Renewable Electricity Supply for PEI*. It’s a paper that looks at options available to PEI in order to overcome the problem of intermittency with renewable energy. It would be quite an interesting fit following on from that other discussion, which is around exiting initiatives and talks about potential future initiatives.

I guess the motion is that we add in a topic around current – published research from UPEI regarding 100% renewable options.

Chair: I think that would fall in under the new energy efficiency programs, things to be considered.

Ms. Bell: An ongoing series, yes.

Chair: I think that that sounds good to me.

Darlene Compton.

Ms. Compton: Just on that note while you’re speaking of that, Sidney MacEwen, who I’m standing in for today, sent a note about renewable energy, and I think there was a presenter in from the sustainable design from previous, is that right?

An hon. Member: Yeah.

Ms. Compton: Yeah, and said that PEI could achieve 100% renewable energy so –

Ms. Bell: It might be the same – it could be the same speaker, perhaps.

Ms. Compton: Yeah.

Chair: They’ve been here already?

Ms. Compton: That’s what I understand. I’m not a regular –

Chair: Okay.

Ms. Compton: – on the committee, so, yeah.

Ms. Bell: (Indistinct) I don't have it in my, in our research that this particular paper had been presented, but perhaps we could check on that?

Chair: Yeah. I believe it was in 2016, but we can have a look at that, yeah.

Ms. Compton: Supposedly when they presented it was said that the Island could be 100% renewable energy and what can we do to advance that and where are we at with that and what roadblocks currently exist, so it's kind of tying in with what you mentioned.

Ms. Bell: (Indistinct) published in November 2017, so it's actually quite recent, but it could be a follow-on from that.

Chair: Well, I think certainly, and we have confirmed that they were in on this particular subject, so it might be something that we can consider and update. Invite them back; have you seen anything different since 2016. It would be added to our list of guests to come forward.

Ms. Bell: So I can provide that, the context for that as a follow-up, Emily.

Clerk Assistant: Thank you.

Ms. Bell: Thank you.

Chair: Pat Murphy.

Mr. Murphy: Should we develop a list for Bill 101, the people that we want to invite in?

Chair: Well, yes, I think we should, and then we can perhaps go back to this one to talk about a list again of (Indistinct) – thank you for that suggestion. Do you have some suggestions?

Mr. Murphy: RCMP possibly, bus drivers; people that are responsible for the bus system in the province.

Chair: Yes.

Ms. Mundy: Department of transportation, maybe? Get –

Chair: TIE?

Ms. Mundy: – yeah, TIE in to talk.

Chair: Any other suggestions on that one?

Mr. Fox: (Indistinct)

Chair: Well, I think that'd –

Mr. Fox: (Indistinct)

Chair: – certainly be a great start and depending on the conversations that we have with those people that may lead us to want to invite someone else as well.

Mr. Murphy: Who would do research on best practices across the country? Is there somebody that could do some research on that, bring us back information on what they're doing in other states or other provinces or other countries as far as that goes?

Chair: We could certainly, I think, contact TIE and ask if they have someone who could bring that information forward, yes.

Mr. Fox: The majority of (Indistinct) I'd say would fall on Kim Horrealt.

Chair: Who?

An hon. Member: Pardon?

Mr. Fox: Kim Horrealt.

Chair: Oh no, we're back to the –

Ms. Compton: We're on the (Indistinct) –

Chair: – passing school buses –

Mr. Fox: Oh. Graham Miner.

Chair: – for best practices across the –

Mr. Fox: Graham Miner.

Chair: Graham Miner, probably, yeah.

Clerk Assistant: Can I just confirm the list that was suggested?

Chair: Okay, it was – maybe a school bus driver or two, to give us their perspective; the RCMP, and somebody from highway safety and the department of transportation.

Clerk Assistant: With the bus drivers, would the committee be interested in reaching out to the union or is there someone specific that –

Chair: I think we'd stick with, maybe contact, perhaps, someone who's kind of in charge of the bus drivers, and perhaps they could come and bring a couple of bus drivers with them who have experience, or have had experience with people passing their buses. I think that'd be the best people to hear from.

Does that kind of narrow it down a little bit for everyone?

Ms. Bell: Chair, can I just ask, was there any jurisdictional scan provided to support this bill? Has there been, is there any other research that's been done in terms of an evidence-based provision to support the suggestion that's put forward in the bill that we can also look at? Or is this, this is the only material that we have?

Mr. Fox: I think we'd have to –

Ms. Mundy: I think that's what Pat Murphy asked for, is for more research to be done as well if there's any research out there.

Ms. Bell: (Indistinct) preparation of the bill already.

An hon. Member: Not that I know of. (Indistinct)

Mr. Fox: I would say that the presenter would have to be asked to come forward first.

Chair: Sure.

Mr. Fox: That would be the – I would ask the presenter to come forward (Indistinct) –

Chair: So maybe we could add Steve Myers to the list –

Mr. Fox: That's right.

Chair: – to come forward. That's good.

Thank you. Good start, good starting point.

And perhaps, Hannah Bell, that would allow us to find out certainly whether or not there

was any, the amount of research that was done by the opposition bringing that bill forward.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Chair.

Chair: To go back to our second priority, do we have any suggestions? PEI Energy Corporation, I believe, is one suggestion? From Jamie Fox, I think, was one suggestion.

Ms. Bell: Chair?

Chair: Yes.

Ms. Bell: I would also like to put into consideration for priority the update on the status of the high-speed Internet infrastructure project.

Chair: Sure, and I think we can – thank you, and we'll consider that, but if we could just get through the list of people we want –

Ms. Bell: Oh, you're still working on the list?

Chair: – on the energy one –

Ms. Bell: Okay.

Chair: – and I think – so do we get Jamie's now? PEI Energy Corporation, department of TIE, Maritime Electric?

Clerk Assistant: For the first – on the committee outstanding work plan – the first two items were sent to the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure –

Chair: Sure, so we have one –

Clerk Assistant: – and Energy.

Chair: – and two –

Clerk Assistant: And then for number six, Maritime Electric, we would invite representatives in –

Chair: So we'll combine those three.

Clerk Assistant: Sure.

Chair: And maybe we can put that under new energy efficiency programs and uptake

on current programs, and hopefully that'll cover –

Mr. Fox: I can't remember the guy's name but they do have a guy in TIE that specifically deals with – he's basically the in-between guy between Kim Horrelt or the PEI Energy Corporation and the department. I can't remember his name and I know I've met with him and – but the minister or the deputy would definitely be able to say who the guy is.

Chair: Is everybody in agreement? We would have the UPEI engineering school, somebody from there to come in, just to give an update of what they might have since the last time they were in. Is everybody okay with that?

Pat Murphy.

Mr. Murphy: I got a suggestion for – I'd be interested in if there's anybody that can speak on where we're at with the technology now as far as storing the power that we generate. I think that's the biggest hurdle to get to complete sustainability. I don't know if that –

Chair: Energy Corp –

Mr. Murphy: – that there's somebody (Indistinct) the province that –

Ms. Bell: (Indistinct) research –

Chair: Yes –

Ms. Bell: – as well.

Chair: – and I think PEI Energy Corporation have done some work on that as well.

Mr. Fox: To go with that, it might be good to reach out to the city of Summerside and have their energy guy in, in relation to the new solar panels that are feeding the wellness centre.

Chair: Sure.

Ms. Mundy: (Indistinct) that's exactly what the project is down there, through Samsung, yeah. It's a storage, right? Yeah. Good idea.

Chair: So Jamie Fox, thank you for that when you were talking about the Summerside energy or their own group that they have and what they've put together up at the centre.

Ms. Mundy: That would probably be, I would think, probably Greg Gaudet would be the contact –

Chair: Tina Mundy.

Ms. Mundy: Sorry, Chair. Sorry.

That would probably be Greg Gaudet would be your contact, yeah. He's the director of the electric corporation there in Summerside.

Chair: Jamie Fox.

Mr. Fox: Then, to do with Maritime Electric, it'd be Angus Orford, more than likely, or Kim Griffin, who'd be able to update us on what they're doing.

Chair: Any other comments?

Thank you.

I think that will be a pretty good start for a priority list. Now I'll go back to Hannah Bell.

Ms. Bell: The list, the making of the list (Indistinct) distracted.

Chair: Yes.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Chair.

Following on within the spaces that may be remaining in the work plan is to ensure that we include that the previous item on the status of the high-speed Internet in the province which is currently, this was item three in that previous work plan, and that was information on infrastructure and speed tests from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, so to bring that forward as a priority place.

Chair: So I can take it, Hannah Bell, that that's a motion –

Ms. Bell: Yes, please.

Chair: – for it to be our third priority?

Ms. Bell: Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Anyone else wishing to speak to the motion?

All those in favour of the motion say, ‘yea.’

Some hon. Members: Aye!

Chair: All those not in favour say, ‘nay.’

Carried, unanimous.

Jamie Fox.

Mr. Fox: Are we in new business?

Chair: Yes, if everyone’s – anyone have any further priorities they’d like to (Indistinct)

Okay, with that, and no comments there, we can –

Pat Murphy?

Mr. Murphy: What we just prepared there, how many meetings is it going to take for us to deal with what we have on that agenda?

Chair: I think we can discuss that once we go through this. We’ll have an open discussion.

Thank you, Mr. Murphy.

New business.

Jamie Fox.

Mr. Fox: Thanks, Chair.

Something I’ve been following for the last year and a half right closely is our infrastructure within TIE and especially where we’re getting – I believe in climate change and I’m seeing the effects of these tide torrential rains we’re getting and I’m sort of questioning what TIE is doing in regards to infrastructure in the ground for culverts and ditching, and that kind of stuff, to ensure, that when we do get these massive amounts of water, that the rain does get carried down to the culvert. The culvert actually can sustain it and move it out into the Strait.

I’m wondering if we shouldn’t have somebody in from TIE to give us a briefing or something on what the department’s vision is for the future with climate change and how it affects the culverts that’s we’re putting in, or our roadways or our bridging, and that kind of stuff.

So, I’d like to ask that that be put on the agenda and have somebody in.

Chair: Mr. Fox, would you be willing – or is everybody willing – if we could kind of back the meeting up out of new business and go back to priorities and make that our fourth priority?

Mr. Fox: Sure.

Chair: Could you put that on as a motion?

Mr. Fox: Yeah, I’ll put that on a motion that we have somebody in from the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy to brief us on what their plan is for the future in regards to climate change as it pertains to roads, culverts, ditching, and infrastructure.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Alan McIsaac.

Mr. McIsaac: Just on that topic. If we could have the gentleman in from UPEI that did the update just lately on the rise of the water table, it might be a good lead into that topic because apparently the waters are rising faster than we think and might get an update on his research.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Chair, that’s Professor Adam Fenech.

Chair: Peter Bevan-Baker.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Professor Adam Fenech, I think it’s a great idea, Alan, to have him in.

Chair: Thank you.

Hal Perry.

Mr. Perry: He did present. I think it was in 2016, also.

Ms. Compton: (Indistinct)

Mr. Perry: Yeah, so he may have an updated one (Indistinct)

Mr. McIsaac: Yeah, he does.

Chair: Thank you.

All those in favour of the motion, signify by saying, 'aye.'

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Chair: All those not in favour signify by saying, 'nay.'

Unanimous.

Jamie Fox.

Mr. Fox: Last and final one.

Back in the fall sitting, it was brought to our attention by MLA Richard Brown about the pilot project that the toll (Indistinct) put on Confederation Bridge. I think I'd like to have a motion on the floor that we invite Strait Crossing to come in and give us a briefing or an update on what the results were of their 30-day pilot on cashless payments at tolls during the overnight hours.

This committee should invite SCI in to talk about the pilot, what they found, and what their future plans may be as they could have wide-ranging implications for transportation, and trade, and tourism in the province.

Chair: Hal Perry.

Mr. Perry: Actually, I like that, but I'm just wondering is this the standing committee that would actually deal with that? Or would it be transportation itself?

Mr. Fox: It's transportation.

Mr. Perry: Okay, so if it falls under this then I'm –

Chair: Infrastructure, it would, yes.

Mr. Perry: I just think – yeah, because as long as it's within our mandate, I'm fine.

Chair: Does anyone else wish to speak to it?

Hannah Bell.

Ms. Bell: Speaking to this motion or a new motion?

Chair: To this motion.

Ms. Bell: Oh, I'm fine.

Thank you.

Chair: And then we'll take a vote on it.

Ms. Bell: Okay, thank you.

Chair: No?

Tina Mundy.

Ms. Mundy: No, I had something new I'd like to add as well.

Chair: Something new; okay.

All those in favour of the motion, signify by saying, 'aye.'

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Chair: All those not in favour signify by saying, 'nay.'

It's unanimous, thank you.

Hannah Bell.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Chair.

The new tourism strategy, the Vision 2021 strategy, identified self-adventure tourism, including cycling as a priority, as a top priority in fact, but it notes that investment is needed in infrastructure to support that development as a priority that will have a significant impact in economic development.

I recognized that that's economic development, but there is an infrastructure requirement that is an essential part of that delivery.

So I'd move that the committee requests a briefing from the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy around current plans for improving active transportation infrastructure, in particular in rural PEI. So, there are gaps in the urban one, but the bigger impact in terms of this strategy is one of the long-term plans to

develop that infrastructure to support active transportation, particularly cycling, in rural Prince Edward Island.

Chair: Anyone else wish to speak to that?

Darlene Compton.

Ms. Compton: Hannah and I must be on the same page today. It's about public transport. It's not just about cycling, but a number of our roads on PEI now are becoming collector roads and what the province is doing to look into public transportation and active transportation and how we're moving forward with that.

I mean, you know yourself coming from Mount Albion to Stratford to the bridge, there's really no – it's always a bottleneck there. There's always a lot of traffic, and what is the province doing to ensure that we look at public transit and having a spot where you can hitch a ride to Charlottetown from different locations. Are they thinking about that?

Ms. Bell: So perhaps, Chair, the motion would be to discuss active transportation as well as the specific piece would be from a rural perspective, which would allow us to call, potentially, witnesses from rural communities to speak to their needs, as well as the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

Chair: Sure.

Anyone else wishing to speak?

Alan McIsaac.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I had some issues come from the gentleman and the people with the four-wheelers who are looking for a companion trail or what may be. I was wondering if transportation has done any work on that lately. They're not allowed on the Confederation Trail, but they certainly want some area to drive their machines.

There was talk at one point about using, perhaps, some Crown land that could be issued to the group in each of the counties so they could make their own trails there or something like that. I'm just wondering if

any work had been done on that and whether we could discuss that with – get someone to come in and give us a report if anybody has moved anymore towards working with the four-wheeler group. We don't want them in the fields and we don't want them on the trail.

Chair: Mr. McIsaac, that would follow in with –

Mr. McIsaac: I thought it was going to follow in with –

Chair: – the motion, just ask somebody come – an additional thing to speak to within that motion?

Mr. McIsaac: Well there is active transportation. I thought it fell in more with Hannah's first part than Darlene's, but we could lump it in.

Chair: Sure.

Thank you, Mr. McIsaac.

Jamie Fox.

Mr. Fox: I can add for Alan there, I met actually, with an ATV group back about two weeks ago. They were actually praising the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy and the department of the environment for working with them on developing of new trail sections across the Island and also, with the farming groups to help lessen crop damage and so on, so I'm just throwing that out there.

Ms. Bell: Chair, if I could just – to clarify.

Chair: Hannah Bell.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Chair.

Sorry. These are also great additional topics. I would suggest that they are two separate conversations. One of them is around the recommendations that are specific in the Vision 2021 piece that's come from the department of tourism and the work they did with some key consultations and stakeholder development, which was specifically around the infrastructure required to support what is a key priority for that aspect of economic development.

In addition, that includes cycling and public (Indistinct) as my colleague mentioned. There is also an additional set of conversations which are identified in that document around things like motorized transportation, including four-wheelers and so on, but they are not identified as the higher priority, nor do they require the same level of investment of infrastructure. So, perhaps that could be a part two, but not necessarily the same conversation.

Chair: Sure.

Ms. Bell: If that provides some context.

Chair: I think we could ensure that the invitation to bring the people in on the priority would be brought in first.

Ms. Bell: Thank you.

Thank you, Chair; I appreciate that.

Chair: Alan McIsaac.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Chair, I don't mind pulling that out and putting it in as a separate item if you want.

Chair: Yeah, I think that may be a better way to do it.

Mr. McIsaac: Okay.

Chair: So if we could, I'd like to – is there anymore conversation on the initial motion?

All those in favour, signify by saying 'aye.'

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Chair: All those not in favour signify by saying, 'nay.'

Unanimous.

Alan McIsaac.

Mr. McIsaac: Chair, I move we have TIE in to talk about the four-wheelers and what advances have been made with regards to satisfying that group's needs for an area to travel. We know we certainly had concerns about them being in farmers' fields, but they have worked with farmers as well. But, I'd like to get an update on where they are, where the department is, in working with the

groups in the three counties to satisfy some of their needs.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Having heard the motion, all those in favour signify by saying 'aye.'

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Chair: All those not in favour signify by saying, 'nay.'

Unanimous.

Tina Mundy.

Ms. Mundy: Yeah, just since we're talking about new business – we continue to see stories in the newspaper, online, on t.v. about the number of impaired driving convictions. I think, actually to paraphrase *The Guardian's* Theresa Wright the other day, that can't believe in this day and age that we're still seeing people being convicted and that people still think it's okay to drink and drive with all the education that is out there.

So, we know that TIE has been saying that the numbers are going down year after year, but I guess I wouldn't mind having someone in from TIE to see exactly what they've been doing to bring that number down and eliminate it totally and what they see in the future that they could be doing. To expand on that, with the new legalization of cannabis, to also see what they are preparing for the future once cannabis is legalized – what do they have planned for laws around, again, education and prevention of drug-impaired driving as well.

I was hoping that that could be part of our work plan as well.

Chair: Jamie Fox.

Mr. Fox: A point with that, I think one thing we have to determine are the hours being put, actually, on the roads with patrols. I think you would agree, Al, that is the numbers down because less people now are drinking and driving? Or are the numbers also down because man hours on the road with patrols are actually down? Enforcement is down. I think there's a

correlation there and we must make sure that we look at both of that.

Ms. Mundy: (Indistinct) good idea to (Indistinct)

Chair: Tina Mundy.

Ms. Mundy: Sorry.

I think it would be a good idea to get someone from even TIE, maybe even RCMP, municipal police and to talk to, maybe, Mothers Against Drunk Driving – get them in to talk about statistics, and are we indeed going down or are we the same? Because it shouldn't be tolerated.

Chair: Thank you.

Hannah Bell.

Ms. Bell: Chair, forgive me for the question, but is that not a justice issue rather than a transportation issue?

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Ms. Bell: My question is: Does that come here in the absence of there being a committee specifically for justice? I would like – I'm seeking clarification for myself.

Chair: I guess just from my sense, I think that it's a matter for both.

Ms. Bell: Right.

Chair: A lot of the impaired driving work that's being put forward, and the initiatives, have certainly come out of transportation.

Ms. Bell: Okay.

Chair: On that side of it, but certainly justice would have a role there as well.

Ms. Bell: So that would be a part of, perhaps, what we –

Chair: That would be a part of it, yes. We could invite them as well, someone from justice.

Ms. Bell: Right, yeah okay.

Thank you for the clarification, Chair. I appreciate it.

Chair: Thank you, Hannah Bell.

Any other conversation?

All those in favour of the motion, signify by saying 'aye.'

Some Hon. Members: Aye!

Chair: All those not in favour signify by saying, 'nay.'

Unanimous.

I guess we can now go back to new business.

Darlene Compton.

Ms. Compton: Thank you.

An issue that comes up regularly in my district is the repair or replacement of bridges and we've got the floating bridge, it's been closed for as long as I've been elected and before that. I would like to see TIE come in and talk about what their plan is for bridges. Is there a plan? Is there a long-term plan? How do they prioritize what bridge gets done?

There are a number of bridges that need work, repair, or replacement, and what the long-term plan is for those bridges.

Chair: I think those are great questions, but I think – just as a suggestion – it may fall within the motion, I believe, that was put forward by Jamie Fox and talking about infrastructure in the future, about building bridges that can withstand a certain amount of water and with greater runoffs, or tidal changes.

I think that may be something that may fit well within that, but I think it would be something to make sure that when that is on the floor here, that the question is raised.

Ms. Compton: Chair, can I just suggest that –

Chair: Darlene Compton.

Ms. Compton: Thank you.

That someone comes in from the department who is in charge of bridges, or the long-term

planning bridges – that it’s not just – well, that’s not – when someone comes in to talk about climate change and infrastructure and how we’re preparing for that, that if they cannot address the long-term plan for bridges and what’s being done, that we have someone that can.

Chair: Any further discussion?

Is everyone in favour of the suggestion made by Darlene Compton that we include that into that earlier motion?

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Chair.

Chair: What we will do then is when we send that letter out asking those different people and organizations to come forward, that we signify in the letter that we’d like to hear from someone who is in charge of bridges and bridge replacement.

Thank you.

Alan McIsaac.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Chair.

Just going back to the last suggestion there I had about the four-wheelers, I think TIE was working with the department of tourism on that as well, so there may be a piece there, so when we’re calling in people to talk about that, we may want to reach out to the other department as well.

Chair: We can include that in the letter that we send out.

Thank you.

Now, we’ll move back onto new business.

Hearing nothing with respect to new business, I think what – in terms of where we go from here, I think we’d like to get the letters out right away, particularly to our number one priority, and see how quickly we can invite those people back and the dates that they would be available.

I would ask the clerk that once we receive those, that we immediately get a meeting together to address it right away. If that works for – any comments on that?

Mr. Perry: Adjournment.

Chair: Meeting adjourned.

Clerk: Oh, I think someone has to move –

Chair: Alan McIsaac moved?

An Hon. Member: Hal Perry.

Chair: Hal Perry moved.

Meeting adjourned.

Thank you all very much.

The Committee adjourned.