

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Speaker: Hon. Francis (Buck) Watts

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The Legislature sat at 10:00 a.m.

Matters of Privilege and Recognition of
Guests

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Good morning everyone and welcome to the floor, colleagues, in our Friday the last day of our sixth week of this sitting. I want to welcome our loyal attendees in the gallery. The most loyal: Eddie Lund. We had a couple of wet, windy days this week. It's pretty clear that Eddie is not a fair weather attendee in the gallery and Wayne MacMillan is here. It's not your first trip either, Wayne. Welcome to those of you and, of course, to the folks who are watching at home or on the Internet and a special greeting to those in the district of York-Oyster Bed.

It was mentioned yesterday, but worth a further mention that tomorrow will be the annual Women's Institute's Roadside Clean Up – started in 1973, continues to be a great tradition in building community and looking after our communities throughout the province. A lot of people contribute to that, in fact, in my area it looks like a lot of neighbors are got out and most of it's done.

Tonight – or today, Mr. Speaker, will be the occasion for Netflix to go to the world – 190 countries with the *Anne with an E* production – seven installments and more than 100 million subscribers. It's quite a thing when you think about the scale of what that means to have our province on the map to that extent and, indeed, there have already been pieces in the *New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, BBC, national networks and so on, about this.

This will also be the weekend when the Canadian Arts Summit comes to Prince Edward Island and they'll start their meetings here today at the Confederation Centre of the Arts.

I, and I expect I won't be the last one to do this, but I don't want to be the one that misses the opportunity to recognize that this is Mother's Day weekend and my own

mother is a loyal watcher of the events here in the House and offers occasional advice, but she's always been pretty circumspect – or exercise some discretion about how often she thinks she needs to bother advising. It probably has something to do with how often it's taken, but I take it when I get it.

I was thinking last night, as we had the progress that we did on the number of bills that were on the floor and then through the session of the role that our public service plays in the work that we do in this House. The good people and the very professional people who come to the floor and assist us directly with the work and to recognize the amount of effort and time and discernment and back-and-forth that's involved in things getting to the point where they are bills. The Office of Legislative Counsel come to mind and we can certainly appreciate the part that they play.

I know they did, as recently as yesterday into the afternoon, Legislative Counsel – the office – my own office of department of justice and the public records people worked on that amendment that we were pleased to all support here last night and that's one example of many. I think we all recognize that it's one thing to make the law; it's another thing to have that great supporting team that helps us to do it to our best.

On that note, to recognize the team right here in the Legislature. The Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, the people who look after Hansard, the Pages, yourself – the people on the several floors here who support our caucuses, and certainly to recognize the security team that looks after us and, in particular, to recognize that this will be –

Ms. Casey: Pages.

Premier MacLauchlan: I mentioned the pages. If I didn't, I should.

Ms. Casey: Oh, sorry.

Premier MacLauchlan: They were great. I was one myself, as we noted yesterday.

But, I want to say about the security team who are here when we arrive, who are here when we leave, who ensure, as they've done again, that we get to conduct our business peaceably, and in particular to recognize

Sergeant-at-Arms Al McDonald whose – this is Al's last day in that seat. He's been – as of tomorrow – 22 years with this Legislature, starting out with security –

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Applause]

Premier MacLauchlan: For the record, I'm sure we all could do it, but the 22 years security, 2006, chief of security since 2007, Sergeant-at-Arms and chief of security, and there we are. You've seen a lot, Al, over those 22 years, and before that had a distinguished career as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces where he rose to the rank of warrant officer, and has also served with the – and then serving with the Royal Canadian Regiment infantry.

So Al, all the best to you, and you can see from the applause and the fondness of the members here that your work has been well appreciated, as has been your friendship, and we know that you may even join some of these folks in the gallery from time to time, so all the best. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

I'd like to say welcome to everybody in Borden-Kinkora tonight and everybody in the gallery, and I want to give a special welcome to actually Joey Blacquiere who's here; his first time in the Legislative Assembly. He's got his news accreditation now, and good to see you hear. I know you've asking this for quite a long while, so welcome very much to the House.

I want to take a couple of moments to acknowledge a very important member of this legislative team. Today marks our Sergeant-at-Arms, Warrant Officer Al McDonald's last sitting day. Al has been faithfully serving this House since April 21st, 1995; interestingly, the day after the bombing incident out front. He was a commissioner at Province House from

1995 until 2010 when the commissionaires became the legislative security. He rose through our ranks, being appointed deputy director of security in 2006 and became Sergeant-at-Arms in 2007.

Al carried the responsibility of implementing and enforcing the security policies of the Legislative Assembly to provide safe and secure environments for all MLAs and Assembly staff to help them perform their duties.

On behalf of our entire PC caucus, I want to thank Al for his dedicated military service and his over 22 years of service to this House. You have been a most faithful and loyal servant and a noble custodian of our legislative mace.

All the best to you and your entire family in the next chapter of your life.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you hon. (Indistinct).

The hon. – oh, go ahead.

Leader of the Opposition: On another note, Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite sure what's going to happen in the next two or three hours and what this day could bring, but I want to thank all members of the House. This possibly, actually, could be my last day sitting at this desk as Leader of the Opposition as the House sits, and I want to thank everybody very truthfully, and I appreciate the help you've provided me and the, I'll say, the guidance in the past.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

I, too, would like to welcome Eddie and Wayne on what could be the last day of our sitting, and I want to pass on my personal gratitude and appreciation to Al McDonald for his many years of really wonderful, excellent service to this Legislature and

many other institutions in this country. Thank you, Al. I think everybody in this House considers you a friend and we're very thankful for what you've done.

I also want to make mention of Kinley Dowling who, last evening, won the SOCAN songwriter of the year award in the PEI music prize for her song, *Microphone*, and Kinley is – I've known Kinley since she was very small, daughter of Al, of course, and a wonderful songwriter, singer, and musician.

I was absent from the House a year ago today because it was the day my mother died, and the Premier mentioned Mother's Day coming up, and I look back at that, and of course I'm full of sadness, but also gratitude for what my mother did for me; but also for the kindness that every single member of this House showed me last year at this time. So I haven't forgotten that, and I thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure for me to welcome all of those who are visiting in the gallery today, and I would like to add my voice of congratulations to Sergeant-at-Arms Warrant Officer Al McDonald. He and I were – well, we still are – great friends, and I had – he's my friend and he's the protector of all members, but I had the privilege of being the Speaker of the House in 2007-2011, and he was the protector of the Speaker in every sense of the way. He takes his job seriously, and he's very good at what he does. I know he's going to be retiring in September. I know it'll be a relaxing and – you know, he doesn't really – he won't be putting his feet up. There'll be lots of people looking for his assistance as they do now, but I would just like to wish him a relaxing and enjoyable retirement, and don't be a stranger. Come back as see us again often.

I'd also like to wish all the mothers in Charlottetown-Lewis Point a Happy Mother's Day.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Gallant: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise and welcome everyone to the gallery. I, too, would be remiss if I didn't think Al and wish him all the best in retirement, and a long, healthy retirement, Al. Thank you for everything you've done for this Legislature and for me as a member.

Also, I'd like to say a big shout-out to everyone back in Evangeline-Miscouche and wish all the mothers a happy Mother's Day, especially my lovely wife Linda, my daughter-in-law Shannon, and my daughter-in-law April.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

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

It certainly is a pleasure to rise and welcome all to the gallery. As mentioned, Eddie Lund is back today, and my good friend, Wayne McMillan, is here as well.

To all viewers that may be viewing in, I hope they enjoy the proceedings today.

But too, I'd also like to pass along my congratulations to Al McDonald. This is his last day in the chair as Sergeant-at-Arms, and in the conversation last night, I understand there's a lot of travel will be in Al's future, and I wish him all the best as he ventures out all across the world to see many lands.

I, too, would like to wish a very happy Mother's Day to mothers in my life, I guess: My wife, Bonnie, Happy Mother's Day. Sunday evening at my house will be full of laughter and my family will be there, my two granddaughters who always make every weekend very special for us. But Happy

Mother's Day to Bonnie; as well, my mom, Agnes Mitchell, who I know is viewing in today from the mount community care facility, and I certainly want to wish her all the best on Mother's Day; and my mother-in-law, Pauline Garnhum, a Happy Mother's Day to her, as well.

With that, to all mothers that may be viewing in and listening in today, happy Mother's Day to all Island mothers, and I hope they all enjoy their weekend.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My sentiments to Al McDonald; it's been a slice. And Al's been actually a real good ambassador for the department of tourism here on PEI. He keeps bringing conventions back to Charlottetown, so it's good, and we don't mind that at all.

Mom of the year award went to Elaine Barnes. Elaine's a constituent of mine, a councillor of Cornwall, and her son, Liam, nominated her, and I just want to give her a shout out. She's active in our community, and also all the people that donate to this event, like Leary Independent Grocer – Don Leary; and Ideal Tiles; and there's many more businesses, also.

Music PEI is still on all weekend. If you have the opportunity to stop by any of the events, make sure you do. It's in great support of our musicians here on Prince Edward Island.

Also, Mother's Day, of course, my mother, I wish her all the best. I'm sure she's watching right now, and it's not only for what you do for me, mother, it's for what you do for my kids and pets and just about everything, so Happy Mother's Day to everyone.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Henderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to welcome those to the gallery and those watching back home in the riding of O'Leary-Inverness, and I want to give a great congratulations for the acknowledgment of Mother's Day that's for all the mothers of O'Leary-Inverness, and especially my own mother Brenda Henderson who's in long term care at Stewart Memorial manor in Tyne Valley.

I know my wife, Sandra Henderson, I've always been pretty proud of her and her accomplishments of bringing up my two daughters, and I think she's today babysitting our granddaughter, so with that I also have to acknowledge my daughter, who's now a mother for her first Mother's Day, Chantel Noye. I certainly appreciate all the work that they do.

I have to also reminisce a little bit about Sergeant-at-Arms, Al McDonald. Al, as many know, originated from the West Prince region, and I must say that I've always enjoyed our conversations as an MLA in the House of Assembly here in the Legislature. There's a saying up west: I always felt as safe as in the arms of the Lord with Al at the helm here.

Also, I want to acknowledge all our colleagues here and their great interest in the healthcare in the province of PEI, so I didn't get too scarred too much by that five-hour issue over the budget estimates so I'm good to go.

Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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 as well as all the good people at home watching on the TV or the computer from Alberton-Roseville.

I, too, want to pass on my congratulations to Al. It certainly did make us feel safe, having a Tignisher in here looking after us all those

years. I'm going to miss the chats that we had out in the hallway during the sessions. He's a great guy and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

I'd also like to extend my Mother's Day greetings out to my mum, who – it couldn't have been a very easy job raising ten little angels like us – and my mother-in-law Arlene, and my sisters Sheila, Pauline and Kelly, I wish them all the best; and of course, the mother of my children, my beautiful wife Karen. Happy Mother's Day to them and to all mothers right across the province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to recognize Al also. He's just an absolute joy to have every day you come to work here, and I concur with everybody that's – and I wish him well in his retirement.

I'd also like to say hello to all mothers out there. This is the first Mother's Day that I'll be without my mother, but I have many fond memories and I'd like to wish my wife Sylvia a Happy Mother's Day. I have two wonderful girls because of her; and also I'd like to wish Tara, my daughter, who's graduating tomorrow at UPEI again. She's raised two wonderful daughters, my grandchildren, and I'd like to wish all the mothers out there and all of West Royalty-Springvale and all of the Island a happy Mother's Day, and also mothers-to-be. There's probably some that are soon to be mothers, and I wish them all the best in their motherhood.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all I'd like to send greetings out to my constituents in Tyne Valley-Linkletter

and my new constituents of the Sherbrooke area.

I would like to welcome certainly our visitors in the gallery. Eddie Lund walked me to work this morning. I always appreciate our chats that I have with him.

To our Sergeant-at-Arms, I served as Deputy Speaker from 2007 to 2015 and I know how seriously he's taken his role representing our Legislature, not just here in PEI but in Canada and around the world, internationally. He has served us with honour and has honoured us in his role as Sergeant-at-Arms, and I always appreciated the chats that we had as well and what he has done for us here in the Legislature.

I also would like to send greetings out to my mother, Pauline Dymont, who is a resident in Stewart Memorial manor, and later on as Minister of the Status of Women I'll be greeting other mothers across the Island.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

I want to welcome everyone to the gallery: Eddie and Wayne and even the media here, and I see one of our media here, definitely a mother; I want to wish her all the best and congratulate her on that. I want to wish all the moms inside the rail and in District 5 as well.

I had a great mom myself who left us a little while ago, but my own wife, Joanne, actually mothered two children on May 13th which is tomorrow, four years apart, and I want to wish a Happy Birthday to Josh and Mike on their birthday tomorrow, and I should say that three months ago today Josh's wife, Faith, became a mother and made me a grandfather so I want to wish all the best to Faith on her Mother's Day.

I want to wish a happy birthday tomorrow to the hon. Minister of Communities, Land and

Environment. I'm not saying what the age is, but it's a big event on there; and if you're listening to the leaders of the parties here it sounds like this House may close today.

I want to wish, one more time, to the farmers and fishers in this country that drive our economy and keep this little province known as Canada's Food Island going a safe and prosperous year in the months to come.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

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 viewing at home in Summerside, District 22, Summerside-St. Eleanors.

I'd also like to congratulate Al on his retirement and thank him for, as everybody had already said in the House, all that he does for us each and every day; but there's one special thing that he does for me each and every day, and that's turn up the heat in here when we come in here because it's always so cold. So thank you personally from me Al for that.

I'd also like to welcome Joey Blacquiere to the gallery. Joey, you worked hard and long to get your media credentials. I want to welcome you here and I also want to thank JoAnne Holden for helping me help you get your media credentials. So welcome Joey, and I look forward to what you're going to report today.

I'd also like to wish all those who mother a happy Mother's Day. In my case it would be my father, who was both father and mother to me, and who taught me many things; but one thing he did teach me was that it's not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. It's our job to raise our children who will make the world a little bit less cruel and heartless. I want to thank him for that.

The hon. leader, I want to thank him for his time as leader sitting across the floor. You stepped into a position when your party needed you, and I admire you and commend you for that. You said it was your last day in the seat? It could be your last day in the seat? So did that mean you were coming over here or are you staying there?

Anyway, congratulations Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Myers: After the next election he is.

Ms. Mundy: And –

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Biggar: Walked into that one.

Ms. Mundy: – let's have a great day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

Mr. Myers: He's looking forward to the sun over there.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First off, as I rise today, I just want to salute Al McDonald, Sergeant-at-Arms. He made not only a safe place to be, but also a welcoming and friendly place, so thank you for that, always with a smile and a greeting.

I, of course, also want to wish Mother's Day to all the mothers out there, and especially in District 18, Rustico-Emerald. There are a lot of businesses that are opening up on Mother's Day, so I want to wish them best of luck.

Of course, I do want to wish the mothers in my life a happy Mother's Day, starting with my own mother Lynda Trivers, who of course lives over in Ontario; and my mother-in-law, Anna Turner, who you may know. She and Myron Turner ran the Queen Street Meat Market for around 40 years and she still moonlights there.

I wanted to wish happy Mother's Day to my grandmother, who's 94 years old – Pat Baker, she lives out in Edmonton. I'm

thinking also of my paternal grandmother, who at one point was president of the national Women's Institute, and that reminded me that tomorrow is Women's Institute roadside cleanup day, so another thing to mark on the calendar.

The other thing I wanted to mention was that I'm really excited as well about *Anne* being out on Netflix, because right now the kids come and watch it – we have a king size bed, the wife and I, and they snuggle in, but they're always up too late on Sunday nights to watch *Anne*. Now we can watch it on Netflix on demand so it's going to be great, and I've got lots of –

Mr. R. Brown: You must have high-speed Internet.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. Trivers: We do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Roach: (Indistinct)

Mr. Trivers: I've got lots of friends outside of PEI and outside of Canada who are really looking forward to being able to watch *Anne* as well.

Lastly, a few weeks ago, there was an avid watcher of the Legislative Assembly, Thelma Smallwood, who passed away. I didn't acknowledge her then, but I wanted to acknowledge her – a great lady. She's the mother of Reverend Barb Wagner at Central Queens United Church where I go to church. I just wanted to mention her name here in the Legislative Assembly because she was such an avid follower and, also just formally pass on my condolences to her family.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

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

I'd like to send out birthday greetings today to Mr. Ray Martin – a proprietor of Ray's Place on Kent Street. He is celebrating his

birthday today and I know there's many messages on Facebook currently, but if you're in the area and you're on Kent Street, I encourage you to pop in. If you're not looking for a haircut, just at least pop in and say hello to Ray and wish him a happy birthday.

I'd also like to congratulate the Gray family as this evening is the grand opening of the newly renovated Fox Den Bar & Grill at Fox Meadows Golf Course. I've been through, seen some great pictures as well. It's a beautiful location and it's open to everyone. I just want to remind people, it's open to everyone and not just golfers, so I'd encourage everyone to come across the bridge and enjoy a wonderful dining experience at Fox Meadows.

I'd also like to send out special Mother's Day greetings to my mother Elizabeth at Beach Grove Home and, of course, to my lovely wife Cece who is without a doubt one of the best mothers in the world to our wonderful son, Connor.

Also I'd like to congratulate our Sergeant-at-Arms, Al MacDonald on his retirement. I wish you many happy years in our retirement and this being your last day, I want to officially apologize to you for the number of times I've tried to break into your truck. We have matching trucks, and I couldn't tell you how many times I've gone over and: What's wrong with that door handle? It won't open. Anyway, life might be a little easier for me now and, no doubt, for you as well as you enjoy your retirement.

Just in closing, I'd like to send out my deepest condolences to some very good friends of mine, Joe and Heather Driscoll on the passing of their son, Jason. I know this is a very rough time for the entire Driscoll and Campbell families and I just want them to know that they are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everybody home in Kensington-Malpeque that's viewed in over the last six weeks as faithful viewers. I'd also like to thank all the staff of the Legislative Assembly – the pages and all my great staff and colleagues upstairs. They have done a tremendous job this House sitting and thanks to all the members of the Legislative Assembly for having some good debate of this last six weeks.

Also, I guess the next time I'm back in this House, I'll be the proud new father of a couple babies. My wife is doing a tremendous job home and we're probably three-four weeks away from having a couple little ones around, so I want to say Happy Mother's Day to my beautiful wife Alisha, home today, and also Happy Mother's Day to my mother and my mother-in-law, Donna, who's done a tremendous job helping Alisha out at home.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome – say hello to everybody at home in Summerside-Wilmot watching and say hello to the media this morning and especially welcome Joey Blacquiere, reporter from Summerside with the *Eye Opening Views*. This is his first time in the Legislature and I really look forward to reading his stories.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Brighton.

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

It's my pleasure to rise today and to add my voice to the chorus congratulating Al MacDonald on a great career. We're very fortunate to have a fellow like Al here with us every day, keeping an eye on us.

I'd like to as well welcome Joey to the gallery. Joey and I have been in touch a number of times and I'm happy to see him be here. We kept things over at least an extra day for Joey and I think he was happy to see that.

I would like to recognize the mothers in my life – my own mother Dr. Linda MacDonald who has been, obviously, great to me. I might be biased in saying that, but throughout the 36 years that I've been around, but particularly in the last four years as we've had children and her participation in our lives, as well as my mother-in-law – a constituent of yours, Joyce Boswell, who's actually watching the kids today, as she does every Friday. We're very lucky to have two great mothers in our lives and it makes what we do possible.

And we will be in – I'm surprised nobody's mentioned it yet – but we'll be loving our lobster on Sunday evening in celebration of Mother's Day. We have a big feed ordered in, and we'll probably have a little bit of Island beef and maybe even some swine with that as well, so we'll be loving our lobster and a few other Island staples.

I'd like to also wish a happy Mother's Day to my wife, Amy Boswall, and for all that she's done, particularly in the last six weeks, to allow me and to be patient enough to allow me to do all that I do; and the mothers in Charlottetown-Brighton, and that does include one of the members of our media gallery as well.

With that, thank you very much and everybody have a great summer if indeed the prognostications are true.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise in the House today. I welcome everyone here in the gallery or in watching home in District 4.

I'd like to congratulate Al on his retirement, and all the best to you in the future.

I'd like to congratulate Kinley Dowling. I've known her since she was a little girl, and I'm sure Alan and Estelle are very proud of her achievements and her SOCAN award.

The roadside cleanup is tomorrow, and it's – I think bags are still available at the Island Waste Management depots, so I encourage everyone to pick up bags on the way home if you don't already have them, and get out in the ditches tomorrow and –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Ms. Compton: Already done. That's great.

Also, the Pinette Raceway is having a cleanup on Sunday morning, so before our Mother's Day celebrations, we'll be going down there to ensure that the track is ready for the first race, which will be Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. on the 17th, so I encourage everyone at some point this summer to come out to Pinette Raceway and see some great matinee racing.

I'd like to also wish everyone inside the rail a happy Mother's Day; all the mothers in District 4 and all mothers across PEI.

I hope – if the predictions are true – that we all here in the House and also outside the House have a great summer. It's time to get back in our districts and do the work that we need to do, and I look forward to that, and I hope everyone has a great day, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It sounds like I'm going last. I didn't want to miss out on the opportunity. It seemed like everybody else was jumping in, so I, too, wanted to congratulate Al on his retirement, and all the best. Al's a wonderful gentleman, and I'm sure you'll enjoy your retirement.

I'd like to give a shout-out to my mom for Mother's Day. As most of you all already know, she's probably my biggest fan, though I had a feeling that it was coming close to the time that the House probably

should close when she told me last night she hasn't watched Question Period in two days, so if my mom's losing interest they probably all are losing interest. Anyways, that said, Happy Mother's Day to my mom.

I want to thank all the staff here in the Legislature, and of course the staff that's up in our office, and I want to congratulate all my colleagues on this side of the House on a great job that they've done defending rural schools, bringing forward the mental health issues on Prince Edward Island, and helping to protect the public purse and many other things, so I want to wish everyone a good rest of your spring, and I hope you get out and eat some lobster now this weekend and help our local industry to survive.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Members

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

Mary Boyd – Bread and Roses Award

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

First of all, I wanted to thank Al for his many years of service to the Legislative Assembly here. I've known for most of your 22 years here, also. Thank you very much.

I am pleased to rise in the House today to recognize Mary Boyd, who was recently honoured with the Bread and Roses Award from the Canadian Federation of Nurses Union.

Mary was awarded this national honour for her work with the Canadian Health Coalition and for leading the PEI Health Coalition for many decades. Mary is well known on Prince Edward Island for her unwavering commitment to issues of social justice.

She is knowledgeable, passionate, an outspoken voice on local issues, such as poverty and homelessness, and on the national issues of protecting our health care system and the need for a national drug program.

For 22 years, Mary has worked as the Director of Social Action with the Diocese of Charlottetown. In 2013, Mary was presented with the Order of Canada for her contributions for the social justice movement.

I ask all members of the House to join me in congratulating Mary Boyd for her national award in recognition of her strong commitment to social justice for all of us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Summerside-Wilmot.

Inspire Learning Centre

Mr. Palmer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to rise in the House today to boast about the new Summerside Rotary Library, which opened its doors this past December.

The previous library was located in the former Summerside train station for over 20 years before moving to the city's old post office. Our community saw a way to repurpose the aged post office. Now, it has been transformed into a building known as the Inspire Learning Centre, which holds the library and extra community rooms that can be used by various groups.

The new Inspire Learning Centre is double the size of the previous building and really is a terrific addition to Summerside. We are very fortunate in Summerside to have such a modern facility to encourage literacy and community building in our area.

This three-story building is approximately 20,000 square feet and is open and bright. Some of the new features include: special study area with comfy benches; extra public seating; a gaming centre for kids; public computers, and large play areas. This is a place to discover more than just books and reading for everyone in the community.

In the first three months of being open there were 30,000 visits, 260 new library cards issued and 93 free programs held. There have been programs on; bird watching; handling depression; diabetes information

sessions; organic gardening, and even money management seminars.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage everyone to add Summerside Rotary Library to your list of places to visit and experience the Inspire Learning Centre.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Women's Institute Road Side Cleanup

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Once again, thousands of Prince Edward Islanders will be taking to the highways and byways of our province for the annual roadside cleanup this Saturday. The Women's Institutes of PEI have been organizing this sure sign of spring event for the past 43 years.

The first cleanup saw approximately 6,500 Islanders of all ages rallying to the cause and filling more than 5,000 garbage bags. They gathered up everything from old refrigerators to rusted truck boxes. This annual effort to keep our Island beautiful relies on the continuing support of the 80 Women's Institute branches and their 1,000 members, as well as the many individuals, groups, organizations and government departments who participate every year. This rather unique Island event sees volunteers collect litter along highways, in our parks and basically anywhere there is litter. They fill large plastic bags and leave them by the roadside where the department of transportation or city Public Works collects the bags.

Many families look forward to the annual cleanup as a time for fun and activity as they work together with their friends and neighbours ensuring that our province remains as attractive and beautiful, and is a home and a vacation location for everyone.

Islanders driving our highways Saturday will see people of all ages taking part. I understand this year that the Women's Institute has sent our special invitations to our schools, Girl Guides and 4-H Clubs.

I wish all those who will be participating a safe and happy day and I urge all motorists to be extra careful as they travel around the province this weekend keeping a close eye out for these helping volunteers.

Keeping our province clean is everyone's responsibility and I would urge everyone here today to take some time and keep our province beautiful.

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.

Inside information and resignation of minister (further)

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

Question to the Premier: Given the true facts that have been exposed over the last number of days, why have you not asked for the Minister of Finance's resignation for passing insider information with connected Liberal friends?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I have said it in the House earlier in the week, and I'll say it again: I asked the Minister of Finance to take on his role on May 20th, of 2015. He has brought three budgets forward. He has led the government and the public service and, indeed, this House, in the consideration and effective delivery of the financial plan that's put forward in those budgets, including the one that was presented in April starting out this session, with a balanced Budget, a modest surplus. He is exercising great financial leadership and he has my confidence.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Financial services companies and Canadian tax laws

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

In the fall of 2015 our caucus uncovered government's sales pitch brochure for four financial services companies, which instruct them to avoid and how to avoid Canadian tax laws.

The Premier's office blamed a civil servant and said management would never have sanctioned such a brochure.

Question to the Premier: Do you stand by your explanation given by your own office that day?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, we are in the business of promoting the economy of this province. Indeed, you can see the results of that.

Our view, and it's one that is shared, I'm sure, by all sides of this House, is that, that economy functions well and most effectively when everybody performs by the rules, above board and pays their taxes. We are all for that, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Hiring of CEO

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

Promoting economical growth to your friends is not the right way.

Premier: Can you explain why this person was hired directly from his government's point position on financial services as the

new CEO of a company you own a significant stake in?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I have to confess, I'm not sure what the hon. member is referring to. Whatever business dealings I have are within a trust arrangement as required by our conflict of interest legislation.

He, may, indeed, be referring to something that I'm not aware of.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

This person was government's investment officer for four financial services and gaming. This is a fact. It is also a fact that the Premier's company hired him directly from this role to become their new CEO.

Question to the Premier: Why is it that you know much more, and have much more direct ties to the file than you have let on to?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I have to confess I don't know what it is that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to, but if he can shed some light on it, I may be able to make some inquiries. But if it's something that is being done by a firm, in which I may have an involvement, I am in no position to comment since I don't know what he's referring to.

I don't take part in any business dealings, which is, in fact, the arrangements that anyone who has a Cabinet role has under the conflict of interest legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Gov. senior director attendance at Sibos Conference

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In 2012-2013, Innovation PEI paid \$43,000 for consulting services in the financial services industry. The same year, the government's senior director was secretly contacted by CMT clients promoting his attendance at the 2012 Sibos Conference, a major financial services tradeshow.

Government was poaching clients five days after the exclusive MOU, which the finance minister breach ran out.

Question to the Minister of Finance: How is it with all this mounting evidence is the exact opposite to your own version of the same events?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Roach: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I find myself standing again today, as I have for the past three days, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Trivers: Hard to remember what you said.

Mr. Roach: No difficulty remembering what I said or what I did, or my involvement in any of this. I was advised by a staff member in July of 2012 that staff is entering into an MOU to have discussions with individuals about a financial platform on PEI and that's fine. That was the end of it. I was advised again via – I was copied on an email indicating that there was going to be another meeting at some point in time and I did not give any direction to anyone at any time with respect to those two particular dates.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

E-gaming file still active

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chris LeClair and the now finance minister took all this confidential intellectual property and they sucked up all the industry contacts and ran. No wonder these guys are suing them. Now the finance minister also sent his senior director to Sibos in the fall of 2013 and the fall of 2014.

Question to the minister of economic development: Will you admit, despite what the finance minister and the Premier are telling us, that this file is still active?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I believe in referencing the information that I read from the Auditor General's report, that file was being led by the former finance minister. I can tell you from my position in my seat, as the Minister of Finance, that there's nothing going on and there hasn't been to my knowledge.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Government actions

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Of course Sergeant Schultz knows nothing. That's the Sergeant Schultz routine. That's why I didn't ask him the question. I asked the minister of economic development because it's in his shop.

Yesterday the Premier said he wanted to talk about the present, so let's talk about the present. This minister and his government are still chasing these schemes. After the 2015 election, the economic development minister sent the same senior director to Europe to attend a summit. Despite the minister mislabeling the budget handout, we all know the senior director attended an

international transfer agency summit in Dublin.

Question to the minister of economic development: Why are government's actions the direct opposite of what this finance minister and this Premier are telling this House?

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

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I think everyone in the province knows how aggressive this government is to attract new business to Prince Edward Island and we're going to continue to do that.

The province is doing very well economically and we're going to keep pushing that envelope and we're going to go around the world and we're going to look for new business to come here. We've seen some transactions the last couple of days that obviously Prince Edward Island is a good place to do business and we're going to keep promoting that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Response to Innovation PEI and British consultants

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So this economic development minister spent big money hiring a large British consulting firm to target the keynote speakers of this event. This is an example of the response Innovation PEI and their British consultants received: Given that my company fulfills a similar role to Simplex and being aware of that on-going issue, I'm sure that the timing of a meeting would be great.

Question to the minister of economic development: Why are government's actions the opposite of what the finance minister and the Premier keep telling this House?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, since I've been elected in May, 2015, I have no recollection of any innuendo that the hon. member is talking about here today. To that degree, it would be remiss for me to even discuss any issues relevant to that or get into a debate with the hon. member.

What we're doing on the side – we've been accountable and transparent. We've exposed contracts that they've asked for. We've dealt with the Auditor General's report. We've put a real pressure on our bureaucratic process to ensure accountability and transparency and we're going to continue to do that. That's what good government does and we're having good success.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Finance minister funnelling information

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm not sure how government operates. There doesn't seem to be any minister over there knows anything that's going on in their own department. It's funny that the company that I'm talking about has a quote from Brad Mix on it and I'll table these documents today and maybe you should talk to Brad Mix and get up-to-speed on the files that are inside the department.

Government is running these files even though the industry is aware the finance minister funnelled inside information and Liberal insiders get preferential access here on Prince Edward Island. The minister's senior directive states in his endorsement to the British consultant's website that innovation has been paying them for four years.

Minister: Why does mounting evidence run opposite to what this tired Liberal government is telling this House?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know that several times the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters has made accusations on this floor about me funnelling inside information. I've looked all through this. I've looked at the information that was supplied to me as a person receiving the email. It simply goes through five things that took place. There was a meeting, there was another subsequent meeting to discuss next steps, they're talking to the development folks, they're meeting later that week and they talk about the nature of the hub and any perspective work that may come out of that.

Mr. Speaker, if the Member from Georgetown-St. Peters wants to step outside the rail –

Mr. Myers: And I will.

Mr. Roach: – and accuse me of funnelling insider information.

Mr. Myers: Let's go.

Mr. Roach: I'll look forward to that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Government actions (further)

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The reason I'm not asking the finance minister questions today is I think he should resign, as does our whole caucus and as do Islanders. I'm sick of it. I'm sick of it. He needs to resign. He needs to put at least some respectability back into this profession called politics. He needs to resign today. The Premier knows it. Every face over there knows it. Look at them. They know it. I'm not asking you question because you need to resign.

Economic development minister: We know what you guys are up to. We know you're still running this scheme. You have Brad

Mix making comments on this large British company's website. I have all the emails and I'm going to table them today. It's time to come clean. Islanders are sick of your secret deals – of your backroom Liberal deals that only your friends seem to get in on. We have learned this government has a top-secret financial services strategic plan – one endorsed by this Premier and Cabinet.

Minister of economic development: Why are the facts and your secret strategic plan on finances opposite to absolutely everything that we have been told by this Premier and by this finance minister in this House?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You know, having the opportunity to rise to my feet and talk about the good things this government is doing right across – starting in West Prince and right to East Isle and stopping right in the middle of the hon. member's district. For what we've done with many capital projects and investments, it's been unbelievable for the Province of Prince Edward Island and how we're growing the economy in less than two years.

I don't foresee any issues and relevance to my staff. I think they do a tremendous job in prospecting companies around the world. They're talking to many individuals and many governments and trying to persuade companies to come here to invest on Prince Edward Island.

You can go to TroutRiver, there's a US company involved in that – Frontier Power Systems Inc, East Isle fabrications, Aspin Kemp, the Humpty Dumpty plant now that has New Leaf Essentials in there. In Slemon Park we're working closely with the town of Borden and SCI. We saw what we did with McCain Foods and the list goes on. We'll continue to do that and we'll continue to prospect companies in other provinces, territories, and around the globe.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Delayed construction of Riverview Manor replacement

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, for far too long, we've debated this tired Liberal government's excuses for delaying construction of the badly-needed Riverview Manor replacement.

To the finance minister: What's this year's excuse shaping up to be for not replacing the Riverview Manor?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Myers: Good question.

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This government has made a commitment to replace both the Riverview Manor and the Tyne Valley Manor. In the capital budget at 2016, we finalized the envelope of money that was going to be required to build both those facilities. We have had planning going on by staff and community members and I want to thank them for all the work that they've done.

We have recently received back seven tender packages related specifically to Riverview Manor. We're in the process of reviewing those.

I want to thank – and the Premier has sent letters out to the staff and residents of Riverview area and Tyne Valley area – commitment, and our commitment, and the patience that they've had, too, during this planning stage, and we will be proceeding with those in the very near future, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Great.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well, I believe there's nine tenders out for the Riverview Manor, and –

Ms. Biggar: Just got seven back.

Expired permit for manor

Ms. Compton: They were put out last winter and in the spring, but none have been awarded. A \$20,000 building permit was acquired last year and expired before being used.

A question to the transportation minister: What's the delay in awarding these tenders and getting the shovels in the ground?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Myers: Good question.

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As you noted, there were a total of nine packages related to Riverview Manor. Seven of those were the ones that have just closed, and when we finish reviewing those, we will be proceeding with starting construction on both the manors in Montague and Tyne Valley.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Treasury Board funding approval for manor

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A question to the finance minister: Has Treasury Board approved funding for the manor replacement yet?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As the hon. minister of transportation just stated, those tenders have come back in. Once tenders come back in, they review them and they go through a process, and

those packages then come to Treasury Board. When those packages come to Treasury Board, we'll deal with them, and it'll just continue on until the work gets done after that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Federal funding for Riverview Manor

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Over the last eight years, we've heard a lot of excuses for why this commitment hasn't been met. Just in the last two years alone, we've heard it depended on federal cost sharing, either through infrastructure funding or the new health deal.

A question to the Minister of Finance: Has federal funding been secured to cost-share replacement of the Riverview Manor this year?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I noted, and if the member would like to go back and look at the capital budget of 2016 in the fall, November, that was approved.

Mr. Myers: And 2015, 2014, 2013 –

Ms. Biggar: The full amount of funding for –

Mr. Myers: Have to go right back to (Indistinct) 2007.

Ms. Biggar: – for the costs related to both those manors are in our capital budget. As noted, we've just received back seven of those tenders. Those will be put together in a package and will be taken to Treasury Board, and then we can proceed on with starting construction.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

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

We've heard about the tenders before. We've heard about the promises.

The manor is 50-years-old and showing its age. The roof leaks. Ceiling tiles are falling to floor. The staff have to move beds to place buckets to catch leaking water from the roof.

These problems have been known about for months. Why are seniors faced to endure these living conditions?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As you know, we have identified where the new manors are being built. We've purchased the land. We have made – during this period, as was noted, there had been some issues – those have been repaired so that during this period of finalizing our plans, we want to go out and show those plans to the community when we're ready and we have our packages put together, and then go through Treasury Board, then we're very excited to take those plans out to show them to the community, what the new manors will actually look like –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct).

Ms. Biggar: And we will look very forward to starting that construction.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We've heard this story before. The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters and myself saw the drawings on the walls for Riverview Manor. They've been there.

They're going to be outdated before we ever get a build.

Delayed construction of Riverview Manor replacement

A question to the finance minister – this is your chance, minister, to bring a good news announcement for the Premier.

A question to the finance minister: After eight years of excuses and broken promises, when will shovels be in the ground, working on the Riverview Manor replacement?

Mr. Myers: Good question.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Myers: The end of spring. The spring's almost over.

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I noted, those seven tenders just closed. We're compiling all our package together to take it to Treasury Board, and when we get it through Treasury Board, the funding is in place through capital budget, and we will be proceeding.

We are working with the community and the final planning of those areas to start construction, and we're looking very forward.

I can tell you, I hear it every day when I go to visit my mother as well, because she lives in Stewart Memorial Manor, as does the minister of health's mother, so we are very conscious of the excitement around having these new facilities in the communities. It's going to be great; a whole new concept for these residents, the way that they're living areas will be laid out.

It's going to be great for the community. I thank the community for all their input. And we look very forward to starting this project.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

Yesterday, in this House, the Premier made light of an embarrassing incident when a mistakenly tabled document revealed that his government is clearly intent on manipulating public opinion.

These sorts of political games are just the latest example of how partisanship poisons our political process and damages public trust in government.

Openness and transparency of government

A question to the Premier: How many Islanders do you actually think believed your bizarre claim that this was simply an example of your promised openness and transparency?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, our government is proud of what we're doing for Prince Edward Islanders, what we've brought forward to this House during this sitting, what we've brought forward in terms of our Budget, what we're bringing forward in terms of growth, and what we're bringing forward in terms of programs to serve Prince Edward Islanders in their priority needs.

That is part of the role of government is to be sure – and frankly, it should be part of all of our roles as MLAs – is to be sure that Islanders and our constituents are aware of the good things that we're doing, of the programs that are available to them, and how they can benefit.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Regaining trust of Islanders

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

Two years ago, there was an air of optimism regarding the Premier's arrival. He spoke eloquently about openness and transparency and on calling on our better natures. And I actually believed that he was committed to practicing politics differently.

But, in light of his refusal to honour the plebiscite, the mishandling of the school review, and his unwillingness to work collaboratively with the opposition parties, I think I speak for many Islanders: I say this optimism has largely gone.

A question to the Premier: How do you plan to regain the trust of Islanders?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I've still got my good nature. Others can speak for themselves.

But let me be sure that we are at the halfway mark in our mandate. We're doing what we said we were going to do. The province is doing well. You can go out and talk to your constituents, and I know we're all going to do that, and we're doing it all the time.

Islanders know what's happening in this province. They're positive. They can see that they're benefiting. We're proud, as a government, to be putting in place the programs, the initiatives, the fiscal leadership, and to see that the economy is doing well so that people are benefiting.

I would add that in other areas, one of them being the environment, we are continuing to offer Islanders the priority attention and the initiatives that are going to make sure that this province continues to do well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

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

Our standing committees are generally regarded as the place where valuable

political work gets done, because partisanship generally stays out of it.

But with the blatant blocking of witnesses to the committee that was looking into egaming, and the more recent events with the Special Committee on Democratic Renewal –

Mr. J. Brown: (Indistinct)

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Even this place, where political interference is traditionally absent has been tainted.

Mr. J. Brown: Non-political politician.

Partisanship in government

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Premier, when will you start living up to the rhetoric that you used to get elected and take steps to reduce the influence of partisanship?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, I have to say up until this series of questions we weren't doing too badly this morning, which is to remind ourselves that the obligation is on all sides of this House and all three parties, and as we work beyond this House to work together, to be positive, to make sure that people understand that we do good work here and you don't have to go back any further than last night.

In fact, to a bill that we'll bring to the floor shortly this morning – we are working together. We are getting things done, and it's historic the achievements that we are putting forward through the work, together, in this House.

I urge all members of this House, including the Leader of the Third Party, to use our good nature to work together and plan on doing the best we can for the people of this province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Refusal of egg donation to food bank

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question this morning is for the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. Minister, we've had many conversations about farmers and food banks and I know we're working together to bring fresh food to our food banks. Minister, there was a story yesterday of a farmer who was unable to donate her eggs to the food bank.

Why were those eggs refused?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

I did see that story. It's interesting. In agriculture, we spend so much time working and working on public trust that we talked about yesterday and food safety for our consumers. The lady that spoke yesterday, she is recognized as one of the outstanding young farmers in Atlantic Canada. She is also the agriculture critic for the Green Party and she is a fine lady, but there are rules and regulations in place.

The ag board and the department – if you want to produce eggs outside of our supply management system, you're allowed to have up to 299 laying hens on your farm. Those eggs can be sold or given away to the public if at the farmgate, or to the extension of the farmgate we include farmers' markets. In those cases, that's allowed. If they're being sold to the general public or given away to the general public, they have to be inspected.

We have federally and provincially-inspected grading places that look after so that when our eggs reach the general public they have to be inspected. If you want to go to your neighbours and buy some eggs from them or receive them free of charge, uninspected – keep in mind they are uninspected – you go right ahead. But, the general public wants eggs that are graded under regulation. They have to be inspected and that's so important. That's what

happened in this case. The food bank cannot accept them for the general public if they are not inspected.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point, your first supplementary.

Egg grading re: selling locally

Ms. Casey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Minister: What is your department doing to address the issue so our farmers have the opportunity to sell their products locally?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

We have offered in the past to individuals or a group of individuals, such as the lady mentioned there, if they want – the dollars are available if they want to set up a small egg grading station, that's fine. But, it is so key that you understand the idea of inspection.

Every egg that is inspected and sold to the general public – so if you go into the Super Store or Sobeys, or whatever it might be, and you'll see you can buy small, medium, large, extra large, jumbo or whatever it is – those eggs have been weighed and put in boxes and priced according to their size.

Prior to that, they are candeled to check each individual egg to see if there might be a crack, if there might be a trauma mark or called a blood spot, if there might be a fertilization taking place. Those are important, because when you crack that egg open you want it to be perfect and that's what our general egg producers do, and most of our farmers – I would say, perhaps, all of them do that as well.

In the general population, you're not going to see any roosters running around in the big farms. You may on the little ones, but our farmers overall do a super job. But, keep in mind when you buy your eggs at the grocery

store they are fully inspected, but if you want to buy them from your local farm or your neighbour, you go right ahead but just understand they are not inspected.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Animal Welfare Act and animal protection

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is also to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Recently, there have been a couple of tragic stories in the newspaper giving an account of animal neglect and abuse. Minister, the new *Animal Welfare Act* came into effect on April the 15th. Can you tell us how this act will improve animal protection for animals?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

This is a very important move that was made. It took five and a half to six years to put in place, but we work with the veterinary association and the James Dunn group, as well as the veterinary college with our department looking at the rules and regulations with regards to animal welfare.

We looked across Canada and in some ways into the states to see: What do we need to do to change and make it the best possible legislation going forward.

Previously, an animal had to be in distress before we could intervene. We've changed that now so that we can move earlier and it is so important that we had this new legislation out and we're very pleased that it is now in place on PEI and recognized as one of the best acts with regards to animal welfare in Canada.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from West Royalty-Springvale, your first supplementary.

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If Islanders suspect abuse or neglect or they have a complaint, who should they contact?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well if it's a small animal or companion animal, the group they should contact, of course, is the Humane Society. If it's a larger animal, then you can contact our department and we will work together to make sure that animal – or that issue – is looked into. It is very important. That's what the legislation is for. We increased the fines. We increased it even to the point where there may be imprisonment, but we increased it so we can work with the owners of the animals – that they're looked after in the best way possible.

If we find real neglect, they may be banned from owning an animal for a certain length of time, but this act is there for the animals, for the people looking after animals.

Again as I say, one of the best – recognized as one of the best acts with regards to animal welfare across our country.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Dumville: Minister: Is this a long process for the offenders to be dealt with?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I think it's really improved now. If someone sees an issue, feels there is an issue, they no longer have to wait and we do not – ourselves and the Humane Society – do not wait until the animal is in distress. So I think it speeded it up abundantly, really, so that now we can move and reach those animals if they need

to be reached – to rescue them if they need to be rescued and I think the process has certainly speeded up. We have all our partners working side-by-side to make this whole process much, much better.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Good.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Action plan of Mental Health and Addiction Strategy release time

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

Last fall this tired Liberal government released its long-awaited Mental Health and Addiction Strategy. That day government committed to releasing a 2016-2018 action plan to support this strategy.

Question to the minister of health: It's been six long months now since the mental health strategy was released and still no action plan. Will this action plan be released during this polling period?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the issues of mental health, yes the hon. member is correct in saying that we did release a strategy for mental health and addictions back in November. Since that time, we've started to implement a number of things regarding that particular strategy.

We've got some great work that's going on for adolescents with our INSIGHT Program, our behavioural support teams are up and operational, we have our community mental health locations across the province – have now implemented some open appointment times where people can have walk-ins where they can access services. So we will continue to commence working on that particular plan and we will be evolving more details as we move forward, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Development of a provincial suicide strategy

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

Motion No. 33 that was brought forward by the opposition and was passed unanimously by this House and it calls upon government to take the necessary steps to develop a provincial suicide prevention strategy.

Again, question to the minister of health: What steps is your department taking to advance the development of a provincial suicide strategy?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, once again issues around suicide and the suicide prevention is something that affects many Island families. We have done numerous – situations where we have implemented – situation where we have a psychiatrist that is on-call especially on weekends for our emergency room at the QEH.

We've also have made sure all of our RNs that are in emergency rooms are trained to standards to identify suicide prevention and implement proper protocols as the Canadian suicide prevention association has recommended.

We have also got to make sure people are aware that there are services like The Island Helpline and other mental health services that are out there to help individuals that are at risk of doing harm to themselves, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Implementing mobile health crisis unit

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

We've talked, this session, a great deal about the potential benefit to better target services and reduce emergency room bottlenecks through a mobile mental health crisis unit.

Again, a question to the minister of health: What work is being done to implement a mobile mental health crisis unit, and when can Islanders expect to see results?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Henderson: I really appreciate that question Mr. Speaker, as obviously, the hon. member has read our mental health and addictions strategy. In that strategy we've talked about investigating the process of a mobile mental health crisis team.

I think it has been noted that we have a new psychiatrist that's coming here to the province in July. I think it's Dr. Nachnani. He's a specialist when it comes to suicide prevention and mobile crisis teams. We are looking forward to him arriving, and starting to put some framework around how that mobile crisis team would operate and what it would look like, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Funding for 12-bed youth mental health facility

Mr. Aylward: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker.

I'll certainly be keeping a close eye on that false promise.

We have talked about families struggling to help at-risk youth who are having a mental health crisis, and can't access care through the inpatient youth mental health facility your government promised, but never delivered on.

Again, question to the minister of health: What are you doing to secure funding to make the 12-bed youth mental health facility your government promised a reality?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Henderson: Once again, all of our facilities are available for anybody that is possibly struggling with mental health. We have a number of facilities out there.

One of the things I would say, with the Strength Program, and the services that we have at Mount Herbert, we are not seeing extensive wait times for people with addictions as it pertains. Addictions can sometimes be a derivative of a mental health issue. We're always taking these issues very seriously. We are working forward to try to make sure we can provide the best possible services for Islanders when it comes to mental health and addictions, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Disability Support Program

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

I'm going to move onto another minister because obviously this minister doesn't know what is happening with regards to mental health and addictions here on PEI because he completely ignores the issue that the ERs here are backed up. The beds in Unit 9 are inaccessible because there are no more beds available.

It's simply a fact that there are many Islanders here on PEI that are suffering because –

Ms. Biggar: Question (Indistinct)

Mr. Aylward: – that are suffering because of the lack of services and resources here –

Speaker: Hon. member, he's got lots of time.

Ms. Biggar: Oh, thank you, Speaker.

Speaker: Go ahead.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We've talked about the importance of having a good support system for Islanders living with mental health challenges. Question to the Minister of Family and Human Services: When will Islanders living with a mental health illness be able to get help through the Disability Support Program?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Mundy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Currently, any Islander, those who are suffering from mental health illness, or those suffering from any other kind of an illness, can access many supports through my program.

We have programs that help connect people to the workforce. We have a great relationship with our partners in workforce and advanced learning.

We have many programs that also help our Islanders who are suffering from mental health illness with their basic needs.

We have many programs that are there currently. Actually, the Disability Support Program, the changes that we are making. I was very proud, a few months ago, to stand and say that we will be making changes.

We are, actually, right now compiling an accessibility advisory council that are going to help us with the changes that are going to be to that program.

Over the next year, we are going to be developing that program. Hopefully, next year we will have the program up and going. We will be expanding that program to all Islanders and we won't be excluding anyone.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock, your final question.

Island's mental health crisis

Mr. Aylward: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker.

The minister has just indicated to anyone that's out there that's waiting for and requiring these supports, wait until next year. We are going to try and have it there.

All across our province families are struggling to cope with mental health challenges and get the help they need to lead healthy productive lives. Those Islanders, their loved ones need our help.

Question to the Premier: Premier, when will your government square up to the challenges of the Island's mental health crisis and finally deliver real positive change?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the question. We are alert to the need. We are aware that Islanders are dealing with issues of mental health and addictions. We have brought forward the strategy. We have brought forward a Budget with \$35 million additional dollars for health care, including a priority for mental health care. We have put that forward in the estimates, as the Minister of Health and Wellness made clear. We have indicated that the Disability Support Program, the other programs through family and human services are being opened up and made available.

We are working. The education minister indicated that there would be these collaborative teams working in and around the schools. We are constantly looking to give better service, further service, and to work together to meet the priority needs of Islanders. We do understand that these are needs that need to be addressed and we are doing that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Statements by Ministers

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

Mother's Day

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As all of us mentioned earlier during greetings, the Sunday May 14th is Mother's Day. I know those of us here will be setting aside some time to honour the mothers in our lives and to remember those who have passed on.

I think it is fitting to set aside a day, in tribute, to the women who have given all of us so much. As a mother and a grandmother myself I appreciate the recognition I get from my own family. I'd like to take a few moments to recognize the work of mothers in our Island communities.

A mother's face is the first one most people see in their lives, and her voice is the first one they recognize. Our mother's example is one many of us follow. All of us in this chamber have chosen to serve the public and to make contributions to our communities. I think we can point to our own mothers as demonstrating that kind of selfless service.

Motherhood comes in many forms. A mother may be a birth mother, a stepmother, an adoptive mother, a grandmother, a special aunt, a foster parent, or a special caregiver.

In our society there are often challenges and obstacles that come with motherhood. Mothers may struggle to get child support; to find work that accommodates the demands of motherhood; or to find childcare spaces.

This weekend, some of us may celebrate Mother's Day by spending time with our own mothers, while others will take a moment, again, to remember those that live far away, or who have passed on.

Let's all us take some time this weekend to say thank you to our own mothers and to mothers everywhere. I send that greeting out to all mothers across Prince Edward Island, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: Responding to the minister's statement the hon. Member from Belfast-Murray River.

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the minister for her statement regarding all mothers across this province.

I think we'll all take some time this weekend to remember our mothers whether they are still with us or not. And of all the work they do to keep families together. They tend to be the tie that binds. They're the go-to person to organize the family dinners and all of the events, really, in our lives.

I would also like to reach out and for every one of us to extend recognition to women in our lives, regardless of whether they're your mother or not. We all play mothering roles to different people in our lives. I think that that's really important. Especially, to women who do not have their mothers with them anymore. They tend to have mentors are peers. I know, for the women, inside this rail, we can look to women who we look at as peers and mentors.

Lastly, I would encourage all of us to spend time with our mothers. There was a post on Facebook on what mothers really want for Mother's Day. It's usually to spend time with their families. I encourage each and every one of us to take the time this weekend to spend it with our mothers, or with all of those females who play a mothering role in our lives.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

I had an opportunity to speak during opening remarks about my mother. A couple of weeks ago, I also – I looked back to the strong women who part of my family tree; my grandmother and great-grandmothers.

I also would like to mention that on Sunday, my daughter Kate will be celebrating her

first Mother's Day. She and her husband, Jim, in Montreal had a little baby boy on February 6th, George Stewart. Lovely little thing, as you might imagine. They will be visiting us on the Island here later this month. I'm so much looking forward that.

I would like to make special mention of my daughter Kate, and wish her a very happy first Mother's Day.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Expansion of Out-of-province Travel Support Program

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce a tremendous new partnership to support struggling Islanders, who require out-of-province health care services.

Given PEI's small population, and our desire to be good stewards of our finances, we regularly rely on specialized health care provided by other jurisdictions, such as acute cardiac and neonatal care. When someone in your family is ill, it can be challenging both emotionally and financially. Worrying about travel arrangements can be an added stress.

Today, I'm pleased to announce that starting immediately, Hope Air, in collaboration with Health PEI will pay for a Northumberland Ferry pass for those eligible Islanders who are travelling to Nova Scotia for a health care appointment.

The Government of Prince Edward Island has had a longstanding collaboration with Hope Air since 1988. We partner with them to provide Islanders with out-of-province travel supports through and air travel program, a bridge pass program and now a new ferry pass program.

Our province's balanced 2017-2018 Budget includes \$45,000 for out-of-province travel assistance, which will be leveraged by partnership with Hope Air.

We recognize that providing transportation supports to Islanders in need, and we are

helping to reduce barriers and ensure families can concentrate on what matters most: the health of their loved one.

Last year, most Islanders, who used our out-of-province travel supports reported that they would not have been able to meet their appointments from the support of Health PEI and Hope Air. By expanding the out-of-province travel program to include ferry passes, we will ensure even more Islanders are getting the health care supports they need and deserve.

In closing, I would like to recognize our program coordinator for the out-of-province travel of Health PEI, Arlene Powers. Arlene does an outstanding job coordinating this program and assisting Islanders through their application process. Islanders can apply, to the program, online or through Health PEI's website, or by calling Hope Air's toll-free number.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

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

I'd like to personally thank Hope Air for stepping forward and to helping out with this. But, at the same time, I find it extremely ironic that we would have an announcement in the last session with regards to travel assistance through Hope Air. Yet, rather than encompassing all of the available travel programs, all in one announcement, that this minister would hold back one, until we're, once again, in a polling period.

If that's the best good news announcement that this minister can make during a polling period –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) announcement.

Mr. Aylward: – then I'm afraid we're in fairly bad hands.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Myers: Recycled announcement.

Mr. Aylward: Recycled announcement. Same binder, turn the page.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions
Tabling of Documents

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table a news article in *The Guardian* titled: Province launches employee training fund. It's three pages and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Kensington-Malpeque, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

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

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table two questions to the Minister of Family and Human Services, with regards to supports around mental health and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Kensington-Malpeque, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

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

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table three written questions directed to the Minister of Justice and Public Safety, pertaining to supports available to inmates in our correctional facilities and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Kensington-Malpeque, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

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

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table eight written questions for the minister of health. These questions pertain to in-patient mental health services and other related topics and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Kensington-Malpeque, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you.

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

Ms. Compton: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table 76 written questions for the Ministers of Finance, economic development, family and human services, transportation and the Premier's Office related to Crown corporations; the HST; supports of victims of sexual and physical violence; the Mill River golf course; Carta Worldwide, and the Wood Islands ferry and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. Myers: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the documents and several emails that I referred to today in Question Period and I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Belfast-Murray River, 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 Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that the 20th order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 20, *An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Act (No. 2)*, Bill No. 78, ordered for second reading.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Act (No. 2)*, Bill No. 78, read a second time.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

I will ask the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point to please come and chair this bill.

Chair (Casey): The House is now in a Committee of the Whole House to take into consideration a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Act (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the bill be now read clause by clause?

Mr. MacKay: No, that's all right, Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

Permission to bring a stranger to the floor.

Some Hon. Members: Granted.

Leader of the Opposition: What was the number, Chair?

Chair: Seventy-eight.

Good morning.

Stephanie Roberts Deputy: Good morning.

Chair: Could you please introduce yourself and your title for the record.

Stephanie Roberts Deputy: My name is Stephanie Roberts. I'm the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer for the province.

Chair: Welcome, Stephanie.

The hon. Premier, opening statement?

Premier MacLauchlan: Madam Chair, may I first welcome Stephanie in her newly appointed role, and I hope that things go well, Stephanie.

The explanation is that we received, the first of this week, the report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission that conducted its work under the *Electoral Boundaries Act*, and brought back a report that was tabled by the Speaker that was adopted unanimously by the hon. members here, that acts on the requirement of the *Electoral Boundaries Act* to have a redistribution or a reconsideration of the boundaries every three elections.

They've produced a report that is reflected in this legislation. In effect, in the schedule, in section 1 and then in 2, the provision for the commencement of the act. In addition to the commission and the staff of Elections PEI, I want to recognize the work of Legislative Counsel, who acted very expeditiously to prepare this bill for our consideration.

May I, in that vein, recognize the good work of Dan MacDonald, who is the mapper, cartologist, or whatever his precise title is, he's the province's mapmaker with the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy. He worked closely with the commission in their work and then in preparing the maps that we see in this bill.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I'm making sure I'm clear: The report that was adopted is exactly what is in this? Carry the bill.

Chair: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: I was just wondering, in the report, at list, I didn't see where it listed the average number of voters, or the expected number of voters, pardon me, per district.

I know that's one of the main reasons that you do the electoral boundary adjustments. Is that information available?

Premier MacLauchlan: I believe, you'll find, on page 21 – make sure. No. What page is it?

Mr. Trivers: Is it—

Premier MacLauchlan: Yeah, I'm looking at it.

Mr. Trivers: Is it there?
It's just not in the bill.

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Premier MacLauchlan: No, it's not in the bill, but it's in the preface to the report. It's all laid out on page 8. Am I right? Page 8 or page 21? Yes, 21. Twenty-one is the – indicates the number of electors, as well as the variance by electoral district.

Chair: Thank you.

Ms. Biggar: Carry.

Chair: Shall the bill carry? Carried.

Premier MacLauchlan: I move the title.

Chair: *An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Act (No. 2).*

Shall it carry? Carried.

Premier MacLauchlan: I move the enacting clause.

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

Shall it carry? Carried.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Premier MacLauchlan: Great.

Chair: Well done, Stephanie. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House, having had under consideration a bill to be intitled *An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Act (No. 2)*, I beg leave to report that the committee has gone through the said bill and has agreed to same without amendment. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that orders No. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

[The following bills were ordered for third reading]

Clerk: Order No. 5, *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 3)* (Bill No. 67);

Order No. 6, *An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act* (Bill No. 61);

Order No. 7, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act (No. 2)* (Bill No. 64);

Order No. 8, *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2017* (Bill No. 68);

Order No. 9, *An Act to Amend the Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act* (Bill No. 62);

Order No. 10, *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act* (Bill No. 63);

Order No. 11, *An Act to Amend the Judicature Act* (Bill No. 65);

Order No. 12, *Building Codes Act* (Bill No. 69);

Order No. 13, *An Act to Amend the Maintenance Enforcement Act* (Bill No. 70);

Order No. 14, *An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act* (Bill No. 71);

Order No. 15, *Registered Health Professions Act* (Bill No. 72);

Order No. 16, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act* (Bill No. 73);

Order No. 17, *Supplementary Appropriation Act 2017* (Bill No. 75);

Order No. 19, *An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act* (Bill No. 77); and

Order No. 20, *An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Act (No. 2)* (Bill No. 78).

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Premier, that the said bills be now read a third time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Unanimous consent is required, Mr. Speaker, for Bill No. 78.

Speaker: Do we have the unanimous consent for Bill No. 78 to be read a third time?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Speaker: Okay, thank you.

We do have unanimous consent.

[The following bills were read a third time]

Clerk: *An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 3)* (Bill No. 67);

An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act (Bill No. 61);

An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 64);

Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2017 (Bill No. 68);

An Act to Amend the Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (Bill No. 62);

An Act to Amend the Family Law Act (Bill No. 63);

An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Bill No. 65);

Building Codes Act (Bill No. 69);

An Act to Amend the Maintenance Enforcement Act (Bill No. 70);

An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act (Bill No. 71);

Registered Health Professions Act (Bill No. 72);

An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Bill No. 73);
Supplementary Appropriation Act 2017 (Bill No. 75);

An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act (Bill No. 77); and

An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 78).

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

All those in favour, signify by saying “yea”.

Some Hon. Members: Yea!

Speaker: Contrary, say “nay”. Carried.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: Mr. Speaker, this concludes government’s business for this session.

Speaker: Thank you.

An Hon. Member: Great.

Speaker: So just the – okay.

Hon. members, we will have a brief recess while we await the arrival of His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor.

The hon. Member from Stratford-Kinlock.

Mr. Aylward: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just, if I could indulge you just for a quick moment, and I apologize, I meant to do this earlier and it slipped my mind during my greetings.

But, I’d just like to take the opportunity to thank the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora for the role that he’s taken as the official Leader of the Opposition over the last year and a half, and I think you’ve done an admirable job, and we’ll see where we’re at in the fall, but again, I’d like to personally thank you for your leadership.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Recess]

Speaker: (Indistinct) get in their places.

Hon. members, I am advised that His Honour, the Honourable Lieutenant Governor, has arrived at the Coles Building to consider the grant of Royal Assent to additional bills passed to date during this, the 2nd Session of the 65th General Assembly.

I now propose to leave the Chair in anticipation of His Honour’s arrival.

His Honour Lieutenant Governor H. Frank Lewis: One time when it’s good to see me, right?

An Hon. Member: Always good to see you.

Clerk: Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has passed certain additional bills during this, the 2nd Session of the 65th General Assembly, and now begs Your Honour’s consideration of the grant of Royal Assent for the following bills:

An Act to Amend the Archives and Records Act (Bill No. 61);

An Act to Amend the Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (Bill No. 62);

An Act to Amend the Family Law Act (Bill No. 63);

An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 64);

An Act to Amend the Judicature Act (Bill No. 65);

An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 3) (Bill No. 67);

Building Codes Act (Bill No. 69);

An Act to Amend the Maintenance Enforcement Act (Bill No. 70);

An Act to Amend the Regulated Health Professions Act (Bill No. 71);

Registered Health Professions Act (Bill No. 72);

An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Bill No. 73);

Supplementary Appropriation Act 2017 (Bill No. 75);

An Act to Amend the Provincial Court Act (Bill No. 77);

An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Act (No. 2) (Bill No. 78) and

Private Member's Bill, An Act to Amend the Highway Traffic Act (No. 4) (Bill No. 104).

His Honour Lieutenant Governor H.

Frank Lewis: In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

Some Hon. Members: Great.

Speaker: May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island in session assembled, approach Your Honour at the close of our labours with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government. We do humbly beg for Your

Honour's acceptance of a bill to be intituled *Appropriation Act (Current Expenditures) 2017*, thus placing at the disposal of the Crown, the means by which government can be made efficient for the service and welfare of the province.

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

His Honour Lieutenant Governor H.

Frank Lewis: I wish to commend all hon. members for the conscientious manner in which you have conducted your deliberations at this point of the 2nd Session of the 65th General Assembly of Prince Edward Island. At this time, I pray that until the Legislative Assembly again meets, each of you enjoy good health and prosperity and the peace and freedom for all people shall be more clearly achieved.

Thank you.

Enjoy your summer.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Mr. McIsaac: I move, seconded by the hon. Premier, that this House adjourn and stand until the call of the Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. members, before I put the question, I just want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all hon. members of this House and the way you have conducted business over the six weeks. Mind you, there were times where there was some heated moments and some pretty vigorous exchanges. But, that's all part of this process and the beauty of it is, is that when you go outside of those rails everybody is on the same wavelength. It's the way you do business.

At the end of the day. At the end of the six weeks, this has been a very successful session. I want to thank you for that. That's the way you work together. You share your differences. You express your differences. You come together for the common good for the people of Prince Edward Island.

I also want to thank the clerks, who I'd be lost without; Charlie, Marian and their assistants, too, Emily and Ryan, who filled in admirably.

I want to thank the group of young professionals who are here; the Pages. What a great job you guys have done. You and the rest of your colleagues. I certainly appreciate all you have done.

I want to thank the Deputy Speaker for the role she had played with her duties doing the estimates, and I would estimate that you're as good as anybody at that.

I want to thank the people who work for Hansard. They've done a splendid job. You certainly are important and an important cog that makes this wheel turn.

Also, the media. I want to thank you because if I happened to miss something that happened in this House, or happened anywhere, all I have to do is – I'll read it in *The Guardian* the next day.

I also want to thank security. Without security we're really not safe here. And certainly our mainstay of the security. Everybody has had their chance to talk about Al and I have known Al since I got into politics. Al is a constituent of mine, in fact. He lives in my district. I have known Al since then, since I got elected. I, of course, got to know him much better in the last two years when I had to work shoulder to shoulder with Al.

A lot of the good stuff about Al has been said already. I did make some notes here. One of them was that Al kind of exploded onto the scene here 22 years ago. I think everyone knows what I'm talking about. He arrived the day of the bombing here.

Al, I certainly want to thank you. You have been here for 22 years. You have been Sergeant-at-Arms for 10 years. Al, you are a true professional. There is nobody more professional than you. I'll miss you, buddy.

All the best.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Have a good summer.

Some Hon. Members: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Legislature adjourned until the call of the Speaker.