

May 10, 2017

Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Energy
Third Report of the Second Session Sixty-fifth General Assembly
Committee Activities

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

Mandate

The Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Energy is charged with matters concerning transportation, infrastructure, energy policy and mineral resources development, telecommunications, internet and broadcasting. In addition, it may, by majority opinion of its membership, meet to examine and inquire into such matters and things as the committee deems appropriate.

Committee Membership

Permanent members of your committee are:

S. Forrest (Bush) Dumville, Chair (District 15, West Royalty-Springvale) (*Chair as of March 16, 2017*)
Peter Bevan-Baker (Leader of the Third Party; District 17, Kellys Cross-Cumberland)
Richard Brown (District 12, Charlottetown-Victoria Park) (*as of February 24, 2017*)
Hon. Doug Currie (Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture; District 12, Charlottetown-Parkdale) (*as of March 10, 2017*)
Hon. Jamie Fox (Leader of the Opposition; District 19, Borden-Kinkora)
Hon. Alan McIsaac (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries; District 5, Vernon River-Stratford) (*as of March 10, 2017*)
Sidney MacEwen (District 7, Morell-Mermaid)
Hal Perry (District 27, Tignish-Palmer Road)

Former permanent members of your committee are:

Hon. Sonny Gallant (Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning; District 24, Evangeline-Miscouche) (*Member and Chair until February 24, 2017*)
Hon. Pat Murphy (Minister of Rural and Regional Development; District 26, Alberton-Roseville) (*until March 10, 2017*)
Chris Palmer (District 21, Summerside-Wilmot) (*until March 10, 2017*)

The following members served as temporary members:

Kathleen Casey (District 14, Charlottetown-Lewis Point).

Committee Activities

Since last reporting to the Legislative Assembly, your committee met **4** times: on January 26, 2017; February 23, 2017; March 16, 2017; and March 30, 2017.

At its meeting of **January 26, 2017**, your committee met to plan its work for the upcoming months. A number of subjects for consideration were raised and discussed, including: the Power Cable Project, the

PEI Energy Strategy, a review of the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission, vacant provincial infrastructure, and the development of multi-use trails.

At its meeting on **February 23, 2017**, your committee received a briefing on the Power Cable project in the Northumberland Strait from Kim Horreht, CEO of the PEI Energy Corporation; Mark Victor, Senior Engineer for the PEI Energy Corporation; and Ron LeBlanc, Manager, Production and Energy Supply, Maritime Electric. The presenters explained the progress of the project to replace the PEI-NB Power Cable, explaining the reasons for the project, the different options that were considered, and what is left to complete.

Your committee met next on **March 16, 2017**. The first order of business was the election of a new Chair and S. Forrest (Bush) Dumville was duly elected as Chair of your committee. Hon. Paula Biggar, Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy; and John MacQuarrie, Deputy Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy met with the committee to discuss two issues relating to Infrastructure and Energy in the province: efficiencyPEI and vacant infrastructure in the province. The committee received an overview of programs to promote energy efficiency from Mike Proud, Manager of efficiencyPEI; the presentation highlights programs that encourage energy efficiency, including the Home Energy Low-income Program (HELP), which is available to clients with household incomes of \$35,000 or less. Next, your committee received a briefing on the policies regarding inactive infrastructure in the province from Alan Maynard, Director of Public Works and Planning, reviewing the process for surplus building and land disposal.

As a result of the conversation regarding vacant infrastructure and the impact of potential school closures in the province, your committee agreed to send a letter to the Executive Council of the Prince Edward Island Government and the Board of Directors for the Public School Branch to consider the operational and/or demolition costs of a closed school when making a final decision with regard to potential school closures in the future. This correspondence was issued by mail on March 20, 2017.

On **March 30, 2017**, your committee met to receive a briefing on the recently released PEI Energy Strategy, from Hon. Paula Biggar, Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy; Kim Horreht, CEO of the PEI Energy Corporation; and Heather MacLeod, Manager of Energy Assets, PEI Energy Corporation. The briefing provided an overview of the Strategy, including the guiding principles of the strategy, the goals, keys focus areas and action items moving forward with the strategy.

Conclusions

Your committee thanks all those individuals and organizations that met with it to provide information and advice in matters of importance to infrastructure and energy in Prince Edward Island.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Forrest (Bush) Dumville, MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Energy