

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. Welcome to all Islanders who are following our proceedings via the Internet or by EastLink TV. The two stalwarts who have made it in to the gallery, Wayne MacMillan and Joe Byrne, we were a little concerned that we were going to have to go out and do some recruiting. It's great to have the gallery with us today.

This evening in Summerside, there will be recognition for Jim Bradley, who has served for 36 years with ADL; a vast 13 of them as CEO there, and under Jim's leadership ADL, and in turn the dairy farmers and the dairy sector, in Prince Edward Island have prospered and really become leaders nationally and internationally in the products they have developed and the manufacturing investments and productivity in ADL and in their success as a company. We recognize Jim and his family on his retirement.

Tomorrow in the Charlottetown-Hillsborough Park, at the Hillsborough Community Centre in what is currently your district, there will be a dinner hosted by Karen Lavers, the newly-nominated Liberal candidate in what will be the new district nine.

Sunday will mark the beginning of the 2018 Purple Ribbon Campaign against violence, organized by the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women, and of course, many others who collaborate in this big community effort. This year's campaign will encourage all Islanders to work together to prevent violence against women with the theme 'time to step up'. And of course, there will be a memorial services on December 6th, in both Summerside and Charlottetown, and other activities over the course of the campaign.

Another anniversary coming up – two of them. Tomorrow, the 25th anniversary of a successful business for the Belvedere

Funeral Home; I congratulate Faye Doucette and others who have contributed to that success and join in recognizing their milestone achievement.

On Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00, there will be, at the St. Peter's Community Centre, an open house, and I expect it will be well attended – to recognize Lawrence and Francis MacAulay on the 30th anniversary of their – I say plural – election to the House of Commons on the 21st of November in 1988. I'm sure there will be – whatever the weather is – there will be a lot of people wanting to be there and for good reason.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

It is a pleasure for me to rise today in the Legislative Assembly, and welcome to those joining us in the gallery and also those individuals that are tuning in via EastLink or on the Internet.

I had the privilege to attend a wonderful event last night in the Town of Stratford to recognize four outstanding individuals that have served Stratford very well over the last number of years. It was organized to recognize the outgoing councillors and mayor, in particular Randy Cooper; Keith MacLean; Jody Jackson; and Mayor David Dunphy who – each of these individuals have given a lot to our community and have helped to build our community to what it is now.

So, again, I'd like to just thank those individuals for all of their dedication and hard work and as well, their families, because their families give a lot when people put their name forward for public office.

I'd also like to speak about a very important event that's taking place tomorrow. It's very near and dear to my heart. It's the 35th Annual Curl for Cancer. It's being organized by Lisa Jackson. I encourage anyone that is available to come out. There are straight

activities throughout the day. There's a silent auction. There's a bake sale. There's trivia as well, and it's taking place at the Charlottetown Curling Club. So if you're out and about and you want to join in or participate in any, way shape or form, you're more than welcome to come in and make a donation towards the cancer society.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

It's my pleasure to rise today to recognize a birthday in our office. It's a milestone birthday. I don't think there'd be 60 candles on the cake, but there's more than 40, so that might tell who it is. Bev Brown in our office at education would be the one that we'd be recognizing. So give Bev a shout today and wish her a happy birthday and we'll be doing the same later today, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford.

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

I want to welcome everyone to the House today, and I want to put a big shout-out to those out in my district. Hopefully they got through the snow. It was pretty blustery last night and a little bit again this morning.

A lot of talk of anniversaries and stuff here, too. The Premier mentioned Jim Bradley, and I had served on the board of ADL and I have full value for the great work that Jim has done, especially through the last couple of years when there's so many trials in the dairy industry.

I had a chance to go over to Stratford as well as the Leader of the Opposition there and wish all the best to those who are retiring from the Stratford town council; but on the anniversary front, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to wish a big 41st anniversary to a great lady out in Webster's Corner who shares a spot with me and 41 years of marriage come Monday, so all the best to her.

Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. McIsaac: You got that? You get that? Don't laugh.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to say hello to everybody in district 19, and the media there for being here with us today, but I'd also like to especially welcome Matthew Murphy. Matthew Murphy came to work with me there last week when we had to take a child to work. He was upstairs at the office and he's reached out to me two or three times, and also the hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters, and it's good to see the young people in our schools involved in politics and taking an interest to it.

Matt's got no school today, so where'd he want to go? He wanted to come down here with us guys and girls. So, welcome to Matt.

Mr. R. Brown: Come on down and visit us.

Mr. Fox: See where no work's done.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure to rise again in the House today. It was quite a drive home last night, and again, the drive in as far as Hazelbrook today was not great, but winter is definitely upon us.

On that note, tonight we're going to join some friends for a harvest party. Even though all of the harvest is not in, they're going to have a get-together. It's Ann and Dave MacDonald, really good friends of ours in Orwell, and they're going to have proceeds at the door to Bobby Joe MacDonald who had a double lung transplant in Toronto. He'll be up there for a while, but he's been sending Facebook messages letting us know that he's doing really well and what a great experience it is to go out without oxygen and be out and about. I wish Bobby Joe all the best.

Tomorrow we've got our Belfast Historical Society Christmas in Belfast and there are a number of craft businesses open in the community. On Sunday afternoon, the Uigg-Kinross-Grandview Women's Institute is celebrating their 95th anniversary of that institute. The Women's Institute is such a great member in all the communities, and 95 years is really a milestone, so I'd just like to congratulate them.

Thank you very much, everyone, and have a great day.

Statements by Members

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

Electing Independent Members

Mr. Dumville: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For years, the two major parties in this province have traded terms providing perks and benefits to their respective friends who are connected or loyal to their party, which has excluded the majority of Islanders.

Our political system has disenfranchised Islanders. Party structures, micro-managed by their very nature, and party leaders are more prone to use this method of governance. Islanders have all experienced extra hardship, trying to have their voices heard during PNP, school closings, physical and mental health concerns, emergency service, HST, Plan B and MMP implementation.

It is time to develop a different structure, to return real power to the people, back to this Legislature. This can be accomplished by electing independent members to this assembly, a proven method utilized in Northern Canada and governments across our nation.

True democracy is better achieved by independent candidates free of the party structure, each making policy decisions that would more readily be accepted by all elected members. It is time to give real democracy a chance.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. LaVie: Exactly what Dennis King (Indistinct)

[Laughter]

Mr. Dumville: That's right.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Speaker: The hon. Member from Souris-Elmira.

Jack Campbell/Hockey PEI Canada Games

Mr. LaVie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's a pleasure of mine to rise today and recognize Jack Campbell of Souris for earning a spot on the Hockey PEI Canada Games men's hockey team. Jack is the son of Terry and Krista Campbell, and was one of 20 players who received an exciting phone call Monday night with the news he had earned a spot on the team.

The games will take place in Red Deer from February 15th to March 3rd with the boys' hockey competition taking place in week one from February 16th to 22nd. They will play in a pool with Newfoundland and Labrador, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon.

Jack currently plays with the Kensington Wild major midget team and he is proving to be a fast and skilled forward and currently has 13 points in the New Brunswick major midget league.

The selection of the team began in 2016, through a variety of camps and events. The team used a recent pre-Canada game event in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in late September and further player scouting to make their final team selection.

The roster also includes a number of players who are part of the Dunn-coached Kensington Monaghan Farms Wild or the Central Attack that won the major midget and major bantam divisions, respectively at the Monctonian this past Sunday.

I want to congratulate Jack on his well-earned accomplishments. His hard work paid off and I know he will continue with

the work ethic when he gets to Red Deer in February.

It's a pleasure. Every morning, Jack's father drops off his skates at my place at 6:00 a.m. in the morning to be sharpened, and it's a pleasure to sharpen the young fellow's skates that is heading into the Canada Games. It's a pleasure and I want to wish Jack into his future hockey career.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Myers: He must leave the door unlocked.

Mr. LaVie: Yep.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. R. Brown: Pretty sharp.

Island Dairy

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today I'd like to stand in support of our Island dairy farmers, who are an integral part of PEI's economy, culture and a principal component within the provincial agricultural sector.

There are approximately 165 dairy farms on PEI with milk cow herds ranging in numbers from 20 to more than 300 cows. Annual milk production exceeds 110 million liters. Fifteen percent of this production is used to supply the fresh market and the balance is manufactured into butter, cheese, ice cream and other dairy products. Breeding stock is sold to dairy farms across Canada and internationally.

Dairy production itself has become a highly specialized and mechanized system. Quality standards are high, and rigid inspection programs cover every phase of production from the health of the cow through to the finished product that we and others across North America enjoy.

Back in September, the protectionist policies surrounding the dairy trade were threatened during NAFTA negotiations with US and Mexico, highlighting the real issue of American over-production.

Removal of our tariffs on dairy would have been detrimental to the industry and the livelihoods of our farmers.

Today, I would like to reaffirm the Island's commitment to supporting the dairy industry and farmers and to recognize the necessity of the dairy production to our economy and Island culture. We will continue supporting our dairy sector and supply management system, and our successful, competitive, and hard-working farmers.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Responses to Questions Taken as Notice

Questions by Members

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Yesterday in Question Period the minister of education responded to one of my questions and he stated, essentially, that the commute, the drive from Stratford to Birchwood Junior High School is but a mere four-minute drive.

Travel time from Stratford to Birchwood school

My question would be to the minister of justice: Minister, how is this possible without breaking laws?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

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

Well, as I said yesterday, I grew up in Stratford. I went to school at Birchwood every day. We got in the car. We left home. We went in by Glen Stewart school and the Stratford Esso. We left Stratford as we went onto the bridge. We went across. We turned right at about Holland College and we drove up the road there, and Birchwood, I think, is about five blocks up the street and there we were four minutes later.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Laughter]

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: You got lost.

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

Well, it sounds like the minister of justice probably drives through every red light and speeds everywhere he goes.

In last week's capital budget, it was announced that and I quote: Government will commence a comprehensive school infrastructure review to determine which of our schools will require renovation or replacement over the next few years.

School infrastructure review

Question to the education minister: When will that school infrastructure review go to public tender?

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

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

As I've said here previously in this Chamber, we are currently setting the funds up to do that work. At that point in time, the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy would usually work with our department to determine the parameters of that work and he might be able to do it, and from there it would go through a process where the award of the work would be authorized in one way or another pursuant to Treasury Board policy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

Well, 18 months ago government went through a very divisive and ultimately unsuccessful exercise to close a number of Island schools, the second such exercise in less than 10 years.

School infrastructure review re: closures

Question to the education minister: Shouldn't a comprehensive school infrastructure review have been done before government embarked on these divisive school closure exercises?

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

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

I just want to ensure that the member understands what it is that we're setting out to do. What I've indicated previously is that we will be taking a look at the schools that are past a certain age and we will be looking at the structure of those schools from an engineering or an architectural perspective, and we'll be looking at what may be required to keep those schools up as we go forward.

We're all aware that that is required on an ongoing basis and probably needs to be done from time to time, and has not been done in this sort of way previously, and has led to an ad hoc planning process in terms of renovations and school capital planning.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

According to government, 70% of Island schools are now 30 years of age or older. It would seem to me that a school infrastructure review like this should have happened long ago.

As an example, we had the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid that had to advocate for his own school because of the leaking roofs and buckets being placed all over the school. So, it took an opposition member to get action on this.

School infrastructure review (further)

Question to the education minister: Why is government only looking at doing a review like this now, 12 years into your mandate?

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

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

I can't speak too much for what might or might not have happened before my time in the department, but let me say this, and this is not to take anything away from the hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid, the Public Schools Branch has staff – devoted staff, I should say, that do this kind of work every day, day in and day out.

They know the schools that are there. But, on an ongoing basis we would look at different schools and the shape that they're in from a structural perspective and we would like to determine, with this project and the needs with our growing population, how we best serve those students.

The hon. member mentioned the review process; we now know where our population is growing, what our capacity is and we're working to serve those students.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Us out in Mount Stewart, we're getting sick and tired of sitting and looking and assessing so we took action and made sure that was fixed.

Mr. Myers: Good job, good MLA right there. Good MLA, that's how (Indistinct)

Mr. MacEwen: Mr. Speaker, yesterday we were talking about the scope of practice with the health minister and we were talking about the pharmacy association, and I have no doubt that the minister has probably set that up already and I hope it's happening soon.

One group – that I have to give credit to the minister he did meet with was the physio association and we hope to see some good things happening there.

Filling physiotherapist positions in Souris

The minister mentioned yesterday about 10.5 full-time equivalent positions being unfilled right now when the good Member from Souris-Elmira talked about it.

What's he doing to fill those positions, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

Back in November of 2017 we created a program, the PEI Physiotherapy Sponsorship Program. Physiotherapists are much sought after in the medical health field all across Canada.

We created a sponsorship program that was a return-to-service program for physiotherapists that were in training. It was a three-year return to service up-front funding, and that's worked well. Since that time – since that creation and implementation in the spring of 2018, it has recruited three physiotherapists to PEI; two that have been here already, one that will be coming in the New Year.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. LaVie: Fake news.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We're still severely understaffed and I understand at the QEH, this understaffing with physio is causing the length of stay in the medical and orthopedic units to be longer. If we don't have the physio resources that we need there, the patients aren't going to get better and out the door quicker.

Length of stay for patients at QEH

What is the minister doing to help these units at the QEH reduce these lengths of stays by adding physio resources?

Mr. LaVie: He's working hard – working hard.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I believe currently there are 18.5 full-time physiotherapist positions at the QEH, but the hon. member is correct. There are vacancies there. We continue to recruit through the sponsorship program, but at the present time that is for dedicated service in rural Prince Edward Island.

As I had mentioned yesterday in questioning earlier, that we do quite often partner with private physiotherapists to come in and fill gaps and vacancies from time to time and that practice does continue, but we are out recruiting and trying to bring new physiotherapists to PEI.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct) Charlottetown.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm glad the minister mentioned about the rural areas because we don't run any programs in the communities for Islanders waiting for consultation or orthopedic surgeons.

Private physiotherapy programs

Why don't we have our public physiotherapists running programs out in the community for these people waiting?

Mr. LaVie: Exactly.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We work very closely on any vacancies within any of the medical health professionals. The development of this program has proved to be very successful. We will continue to work on that program.

Obviously, there are vacancies across Prince Edward Island as we speak, but some of them, as well, are maternity leaves and we know the physiotherapists that are off on maternity will be back in their year from their leave.

Mr. LaVie: Two years now.

An Hon. Member: Maybe they're against maternity leave over there.

Mr. Mitchell: Partnering with the private physiotherapists has also been very successful on PEI. We continue to do that when we have opportunities.

Mr. LaVie: You didn't do anything when you were health minister.

Mr. Henderson: (Indistinct) the contract. Contracted out.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We continue to talk about scope of practice, and physiotherapists are another health professional that could use the full extent of their scope of practice. All physiotherapists in PEI are experts in exercise prescription and postoperative rehabilitation. Some have additional postgraduate training in specialty areas like neurology, women's health, oncology, pediatrics, and sports physiotherapy.

Utilization of training of physiotherapists

Question to the health minister: How are we utilizing the training and expertise of physiotherapists in these specialty areas?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly as health minister of Prince Edward Island, I absolutely value to qualifications of physiotherapists. It is essential to the health system of Prince Edward Island to have Islanders that need their services so that they can get on with their life, they can get out of hospital if they're in there, or go and visit from home. It's absolutely an essential service that these physiotherapists provide.

We will continue to support them in their training. We will continue to support them with resources and supports when needed. If that is partnering with private physiotherapists, if that is continuing on

with the program and going out – if the program is something that can be enhanced and made better, we'll look at that too. It's very important that these physiotherapists with a very, very particular training, is very essential to PEI.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Home care is vital service for patients who lack the mobility to travel to medical appointments, and it's an area where physiotherapists can play a very, very valuable role.

Health accord dollars re: physio to home care services

I have another question to the health minister: How are we using the federal health accord dollars to expand the reach of physiotherapy to patients who use home care services?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

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

Home Care on Prince Edward Island is so valuable. I've met with Home Care workers, you know RNs, LPNs, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and that is what's allowing a lot of our seniors to be home, to support families of older Islanders –

Mr. LaVie: You reading a paragraph –

Mr. Mitchell: – that need this service. Physiotherapists are part of that system and with a new federal funding agreement, our focus is on enhancing our Home Care system and things are moving forward there as well.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Many repetitive strain injuries and chronic conditions can be successfully managed without surgery when patients have timely access to physiotherapy services. Ideally,

that timely access should happen through our primary care network.

Incorporating physio into primary care

Another question to health minister: What's being done to incorporate physiotherapy even more into our primary care network?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. LaVie: Like to hear this one.

Mr. Mitchell: As I said, physiotherapists provide a valuable service on PEI. They're much sought after.

As far as primary care, I know often if people go to their family physician or their family provider – may be a nurse practitioner – they often get referred for physiotherapy at some of our private clinics around the region. In some cases that works fine, but in other cases they need to be referred to in the medical system care at the QEH or other hospital facilities.

We do know there are vacancies there, we are working with others to try to fill the vacancies, but the physiotherapists – we've had great meetings on their needs, and we'll look at working with them further.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Construction delays and early winter weather have disrupted the timelines for a project to update a water pipe infrastructure in Parkdale.

Discussions re: water pipe infrastructure in Parkdale

Question to the Minister of Communities, Land and Environment: What discussions have you, or your department had with the City of Charlottetown about this project?

Speaker: The Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

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

That's a great question. Particularly, there was a public meeting the other night and there was a lot of concern brought up about this project and some of the delays that are occurring. Winter arrived early. Construction has gone along pretty good over the last couple of months, but winter has arrived early.

I can assure the residents that the department, my department, and the analytical lab are working closely with the City of Charlottetown in order to monitor this program and to monitor the testing of water.

We are working closely with the City of Charlottetown to make sure that this project continues to keep going, and we will continue to work with the City of Charlottetown to ensure that water quality is good.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think there are 124 affected residents in the area who've now been asked to leave their taps running if the temperature goes below freezing, which is pretty much all the time right now. This project could go on until Christmas or even longer with the worsening winter weather, it probably will.

Discussions with watershed group re: water pipe infrastructure

Question to the environment minister: Has your department discussed this project with the Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed group?

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

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

It's another great question.

We do work with the Winter River group. I know there are concerns from the Winter River group that running the water all the time is going to affect the water levels. We're just lucky that this year has been a substantial amount of rainfall. I can assure the people that water levels in the Winter

River are good, but we are monitoring this system.

The reason we're allowed to do that and work with the City of Charlottetown, because in 2010, the first ever permit was issued under the water extraction permits. I was proud to be a part of that.

So we are working with the city, we're making sure that the water levels are there, we're making sure that the water quality is there. Richard MacEwen, at the City of Charlottetown, I know they're working around the clock in order to get this project under control and in on time. There was a delay.

I must also thank the City of Charlottetown, because they are using the technology here instead of ripping up millions of dollars worth of infrastructure. They are using a new system, which is relining the pipes and saving the city residents a lot of money.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We know the Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed supplies most of the water, much of the water for the capital city. The area watershed group estimates that over seven million litres a week could be used in the affected area. If this project lasts another month, that number could rise to 30 million litres or more.

Concern for water conservation

Question to the environment minister: Does this approach give you any concern for water conservation?

Speaker: The Minister of Communities, Land and Environment.

Mr. R. Brown: Under the great leadership of Eddie Rice that was the water commissioner there for a number of years, the City of Charlottetown has reduced its water use to 1990 levels. That's a substantial amount of reduction in water levels.

I know the water department at the City of Charlottetown, because I was chairman of the water and sewer committee at one time. They are a great staff, they're working hard. I know the contractor is working extremely hard.

Mr. Myers: Eddie Rice had to clean up your mess.

Mr. R. Brown: As we get each house hooked up, and each section done, that will require less demand of the Winter River system.

We are in constant monitoring if it. We feel for the residents, but we're there with them.

Thank you.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well, 30 million litres of water is enough to serve the entire City of Charlottetown for an entire week. That's a lot of water.

Question to the environment minister: Is a municipality required to advise your department when water volume losses of that scale are involved with a project?

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

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

As a result of the permit that was issued in 2010, the first ever in the province of Prince Edward Island for a municipality in terms of the City of Charlottetown, there is constant water monitoring going on.

We do have some concerns, but the levels are high. They continue to be high. We all know over the last two months, it seemed that it never stopped raining. So the levels are good.

We will work with the Winter River watershed area. They are a good organization. We did listen to their concerns, and we will meet with them. I know the City of Charlottetown has met with the residents. I understand that the residents have a concern. We're working with them.

We have a great, brand new analytical lab that has been built that is at full disposal of the City of Charlottetown and its system.

Mr. Roach: Great job, great work.

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

Ms. Compton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well, this area has residential has residential home owners, businesses, a church, and an early years center with 54 students, who are among the 124 effected users. Low water pressure, frozen pipes, frozen waterlines and difficulty with snow removal are among the concerns raised by the residents at that public meeting.

Many also said project information was difficult to obtain from the municipality –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct) MLA (Indistinct)

Legislative requirements re: water conservation

Ms. Compton: Question to the environment minister: What legislative requirements exist for a municipality to notify the province and effected residents when a project has drastic impact on water conservation?

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

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

Another great question; I can assure the member, and I can assure everybody in this House that the department of environment, the analytical lab out in the industrial park works with each and every municipality in order to ensure the best quality water for our residents of Prince Edward Island. The people at the analytical lab will go the extra mile to ensure that water quality is good.

I must congratulate the members at the analytical lab and the department environment staff, because they are constantly working with the City of Charlottetown staff; and the City of Charlottetown staff, I know them personally a lot of them. It is hard, hard work. Many of

us would not want to be in a frozen dug out hole during this time of year –

An Hon. Member: You are right now.

Mr. R. Brown: – and they work extremely good. They are working hard; they are working 12 to 13 hours a day –

Mr. LaVie: Been there, done that.

Mr. R. Brown: – and I know they will get this project done.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale and Third Party House Leader.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier this fall, our office heard from a young Islander concerned about his family's ability to qualify for the Down Payment Assistance Program.

Although the young man and his wife have a gross household income that is marginally above the program's income threshold, their take-home income is much less, and that his before they factor in the high cost of rent and childcare for their two children.

Unfortunately, this family would not qualify for the program, even though they determined is would substantially lower their monthly housing costs.

Down Payment Assistance Program accessibility

A question to the Minister of Finance: What is your government doing to make the program more accessible to middle-class Islanders who are struggling to get by?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I think the initiative of that program was well thought out.

On the day I announced it at the Credit Union, along with mortgage companies and financial situations that were there on that day, we talked about reevaluating that program. But I do want to ask the hon. member to ensure that those people have

applied for free child care if so be it. Because there may be an option there for them to obtain free child care, based on what you are saying.

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

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In provinces like Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia, governments have introduced down payment assistance programs with different assistance amounts for different geographical areas; recognizing that housing in urban areas is typically more expensive than rural.

Geographical components to down payment program

Question to the Minister of Finance: Why did the PEI government forgo this measure?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Like I said before and I said it today, I said it in the media publically – I said: If we are going to review this program as we move forward, we set out a fund of \$2 million.

We've had many people – actually I think there are over 20 people now that have registered or are inquiring about this program. We have had some successes already. We are willing to work with anyone that comes forward; we had some special circumstances and those people approached us. I wish the hon. member would forward me the name, or at least have them reach out to me.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale, your second supplementary.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I should qualify that this family have reached out and applied and have been denied –

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Ms. Bell: – along with their down payment assistance program, Newfoundland and Labrador introduced a program to support residents who wanted to build their own home.

Assistance programs for building own homes

Why did our government decide against doing a similar program?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: Again, this program, we think it's working very well. I have already stated publically that if there are changes required to this program to advance this program, then we are willing to sit down and look at that. We've only been in the program for approximately a month and a half to two months and we will continue.

But, we feel it is extremely important to give first-time home buyers an opportunity. Not everybody has the option to have a loan from a parent or from a relative, so I think this initiative is extremely important and the atmosphere we are in right now in the housing issues, I think this government is doing the right thing by assisting those that want to own a home, because we know how important homes are to people.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Question from the hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road.

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As an MLA for Tignish-Palmer Road, I represent a large number of members of the Acadian community; that's a fact that I am very proud of. As an elected official, I recognize and respect the importance of Acadian Islanders and believe that we must respect and support Acadian and the Francophone community. An important element of this is providing government services in French.

Bilingual positions at Access PEI

Can the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy, who is responsible for Access PEI and from this

House why bilingual position in Tignish has been moved to Alberton?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Access PEI offices are in strategic locations across our province to provide Islanders easy and efficient access to services they need. In Western Prince, there are four locations – Alberton, O'Leary, Tignish, and Wellington. We work diligently to ensure that we have appropriate staff and appropriate locations to ensure operations run smoothly.

The Alberton location is centrally located for West Prince. The bilingual position in Alberton makes French services more accessible for Acadian and Francophone's in the area as a whole.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am disappointed with that decision.

Tignish is an Acadian community since it was founded in 1799. However, I'm going to move on.

As elected officials, the greatest privilege we have to serve Islanders, and we must do so in a respectful and positive manner. The department of transportation must communicate important public safety information.

Access to translation services for government departments

Can the minister tell the House whether she has access to translation services, and what her department is doing to ensure that our Island, Acadian and Francophone community is able to access services in French?

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Translation services are available to all of our government departments. We have a highly qualified and efficient team. All government institutions also have French language services coordinator that works with senior staff and deputy ministers to do the planning of programs and services.

There are currently nine designated services, and one of the most recent ones is within my department at Access PEI –

Mr. Myers: Obviously.

Ms. Biggar: – in Wellington. All services offered at that location are available in both French and English.

Premier MacLauchlan: Great.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker: The hon. Member from Tignish-Palmer Road, your second supplementary.

Mr. Myers: (Indistinct)

Mr. Perry: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I know in my constituency, I have heard from some people who are upset with the response from an email that minister recently received in her position as minister responsible for infrastructure. After realizing her mistake, I saw that the minister posted an apology and I believe she was sincere with that apology. However, I believe that a more formal is warranted.

Mr. LaVie: There's pavement going.

Transportation minister apology to French community

Mr. Perry: Will the minister apologize again today, formally on the floor of this Chamber?

Thank you.

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

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And yes, I did apologize for my hasty response. My family has ties as well to the Acadian community, and it is undeniable

that the Acadian and Francophone communities across our province continue and have played an important role in the fabric of our Island culture.

Mr. Fox: (Indistinct)

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: I want to extend my apology to Ms. Gallant, and the Francophone community for my hasty response. I offer for the opportunity to meet with her or representatives of the Francophone community.

Again, I say I am sorry, *Je m'excuse*.

Speaker: Thank you, minister.

Next question, the hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to start by thanking the Member from Borden-Kinkora for a great segue into my questions today for the Premier.

The dairy industry, as everyone knows and we have talked about it lots of times in this House, the value of the dairy industry and all our supply management commodities to this province and to the culture of the Island as well.

We've got 165 dairy farmers which is a lot more people than 165 involved in this industry to produce what is considered as the most perfect food, well as close to perfect food available.

We have the ADL plant there in Summerside as well that employs over 250 people. Just an awesome benefit for our whole industry for the provincial economy.

It's a very serious issue after we signed the CETA agreement, the TPP agreement now the USMCA agreement

Dairy industry on PEI

I want to ask the Premier if he's fully aware of what this means to the whole province and to our dairy industry.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank the hon. member for the question.

Dairy industry, as has been indicated in earlier comments today, is a very big part of our communities throughout the province of our economy, farm gate on the order of \$80 million annually, another 120 or upwards of that in the processing. So, a very big economic impact with the access that has been factored in to the USMCA this undoubtedly has raised concerns for the producers and for the dairy community and it's something that we're well aware of.

It's something that we respect those concerns and the challenges that the dairy sector faces. It was a difficult, if I may, it was a difficult negotiation. The Americans have organized mismanagement or organized, subsidized overproduction and Canada has a very good system and it's one that we did our best, I believe the federal government did its best to protect, but there's a challenge in this.

Speaker: Member from Vernon River-Stratford, your first supplementary.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The premier is right, if you talk to dairy farmers around the world, they would love to have the supply managed commodity system that we have here.

Talked to people in the US, it's the same thing.

Meeting with dairy processors and producers

It was a tough negotiation, but in the end between the CETA, the TTP and the USMCA, we lost about 10% of our production to the world market. I know we're a trading nation that's good, I'm just wondering if the Premier has actually met with the processors and producers of this province.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Mr. Speaker, at their request about having to respond, the representatives of the dairy farmers of PEI

met with Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and myself and it was a very good full discussion –

Mr. Myers: I hear a dairy farmer's going to run against you.

Premier MacLauchlan: – and to hear their concerns, we've had regular meetings and indeed investments in significant investments in capital projects on the processing side. We had ADL this evening –

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Premier MacLauchlan: – but the thing that is very clear from the farmers is that they've been productive, they've been investing and they've been under a lot of stress from a decline in their per litre price in any case, so I think Islanders need to support our dairy sector, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford, your second supplementary.

Mr. McIsaac: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm going to raise something I never thought I would when I was dairy farming myself when I was 30 years and that's a piece on compensation.

We took great pride when we were in the dairy industry, and when we were in all the supply manage commodities, be it chicken, turkey or poultry – the laying hens or the dairy that we didn't want compensation.

We were in an industry that the farmers ran the industry themselves, we weren't looking for compensation, we wanted to get our dollars back from the marketplace from the consumer directly and it worked very very well.

There was a compensation package offered to offset the loss of production that was taken out of our hands.

Compensation package re: dairy farmers

I know the premiers are meeting I think in Montreal on December 6th. I'm wondering if the Premier could take the concerns with regards to the compensation package, have it

delivered ASAP and let's get back to growing our industry and ensuring that the dairy industry and the other supply managed commodities are the best run organizations in the province.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Premier.

Premier MacLauchlan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I take that suggestion well and indeed we've had discussions already with the federal government, notably with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food with a view to the Prince Edward Island sector, Prince Edward Island farmers and processors being there first when these programs are unveiled. We're very keen to do that and we've been working together through the ministry of agriculture and agriculture foods, through economic development and tourism and indeed at the level of intergovernmental affairs. Indeed, we will look for every opportunity December 6th and before that when we can advance that cause and work together with our Prince Edward Island sector to ensure that they continue to prosper because they're some of the most industrious and hard working people we have on our province.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Over the last year, we've seen an increase in the number of violent home invasions happening on Prince Edward Island.

One of more recent incidents, two teenage girls hid upstairs in their home in the City of Summerside while an armed assailant broke in during the middle of the day – broad daylight.

Violent crimes and home invasions in PEI

Question to the Attorney General: What steps is your government taking in response to the growing number and growing problem of violent home invasions within this province?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

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

This is an issue that is complex, as I've mentioned before in this house. We do have the number one justice system in the country, we do have the highest level of confidence in our policing and in our safety and we do have the lowest level of these complex crimes in our province but that's not to say that we can't always do better.

It's also not to say that as we see threats such as outlaw motorcycle gangs and increased incidences of drugs coming to our Island, that we can't do more and we are working with our policing partners to do more.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to say something. I remember about a year and a half ago the Premier made an announcement that he was going to get tough on organized crime and motorcycle gangs in this province at a conference over there.

From my understanding, nothings been done yet. These home invasions have happened in communities all across the Island.

Earlier this year at a sentencing for a case in Borden-Carleton, the presiding judge noted that far too many drug-related home invasions happening on PEI, and particularly, in Prince County.

Drugs and violent crimes in PEI

Question to the Attorney General: Do you agree with the judge's observation that drugs are fuelling the increased trend in violent crimes across this province?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

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

There's a couple of things I want to pick up on in that question.

I would say one home invasion is too many on Prince Edward Island. As I indicated, we are fortunate enough that we do have fewer here than most other provinces in Canada – (Indistinct) in fact, every other province in Canada would.

Mr. Myers: Tell someone who's had one.

Mr. J. Brown: But we are working on this issue, we are also fortunate not to have had a great incidence of an influx of drugs yet on Prince Edward Island but we are always vigilant –

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. J. Brown: – we are working on combating outlaw motorcycle gangs, the legalization of marijuana –

Mr. Myers: You can't be serious.

Mr. J. Brown: – we are hopeful will reduce the incidence of illegal sources –

Mr. Myers: Do you leave your house at night?

Mr. J. Brown: – of distribution of marijuana –

Mr. Myers: See the zombies walking around here?

Mr. J. Brown: – in the province and that hopefully will also have an impact.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Many have pointed to the increased availability of drugs like methamphetamine as contributing to the rise in violent crime.

Violent crimes and home invasions in PEI (further)

Question to the Attorney General: what discussions have you had with the RCMP and local law enforcement agencies about this disturbing trend of violent crimes and home invasions?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

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

Off the top of my head, I believe I've met with the policing partners that would come to bear on drugs and outlaw motorcycle gangs in this province, on at least two official occasions to talk about this issue and in a larger way I think on five occasions in the last year.

Mr. Myers: You know the drug dealers; you used to represent them –

Mr. J. Brown: It is an issue for sure; we have had great success as an example with our methadone program. I believe the last number I heard was over 600 people enrolled in it and it has reduced significantly.

I can tell you in my district, the amount of petty theft, the amount of home invasions all those –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. J. Brown: – different things, we're working everyday to keep Islanders safe.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Well, Mr. Speaker, we've heard previously at legislative committees, from the local law enforcement, concerned about the rise in use of drugs like methamphetamine could eventually contribute to the rise in violent crimes. This is also – we now have the legalization of marijuana so there's the threat of people going to more serious drugs.

Assistance from law enforcement

Has government received any requests from the law enforcement community or public safety to help in this challenge?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

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

Yes, as I've indicated, we have met with our policing partners who, by the way, we are very proud of here on Prince Edward Island. We have, as I've indicated, the best justice system in the country. We have the most confidence in our police system in the country – in the country, and this member should be well aware of that.

We certainly work with them hand in hand as part of the policing review and on a day-in-day-out basis to ensure the best safety for Prince Edward Islanders. That's not to say we don't have issues, and that's in fact why we do have great officers like Officer Fields who is here today. We will do our best to ensure that we work hand in hand with our policing partners to ensure Prince Edward Islanders' safety.

Thank you.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, this government reduced funding to the RCMP which caused them to have to cut the highway traffic unit that was on the highway that they've been asking to get back.

With the legalization of cannabis, a revenue stream for criminal groups has been reduced.

Illicit drug trades and cannabis legalization

Question to the Attorney General: Does government feel that criminal organizations are moving into other illicit drug trades to offset the revenue losses from the cannabis legalization?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

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

The first thing I'd like to say is that we have not cut any policing agency on Prince Edward Island. Let's just get that right out and on the table.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. LaVie: Yes you did.

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct) facts straight.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. J. Brown: The second thing – and I will say: No.

In fact, we have increased payments to policing agencies, but this is a common theme here. The opposition is not worried at all about facts –

Mr. LaVie: Fake news. Fake facts.

Mr. J. Brown: – and I will say that I've not heard that drug dealers are moving into other drugs –

Mr. LaVie: You've got to get out of your office.

Mr. J. Brown: – but I hope they are struggling because that's a sign that the plan is working, that we're taking away those illicit forms of drug dealing and hopefully they'll move right out of our community and right off of Prince Edward Island.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: Get your facts straight.

Mr. LaVie: You'll hear the facts.

Get out of your offices over there and talk to the frontline workers.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Mr. LaVie: I'm serious on this one (Indistinct) RCMP.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora, your final question.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If you guys hadn't cut funding to the RCMP in some of their units, then we as MLAs wouldn't be receiving phone calls from municipalities saying they never see a police car in rural PEI.

Can you imagine being one of those two girls home in the safety of their house and all of a sudden, somebody breaks in and they have to go hide, fearing for their life in their own personal space?

A home invasion is a violation of that person's personal space and safety. What's disturbing about this trend is the physical and sexual violence that puts individuals at even more risk. It's only by good fortune that somebody was not hurt and possibly killed.

Supports for victims of violent crimes

Question to the Attorney General: What resources and supports are available for people who have been victims of these traumatic, violent crimes in Prince Edward Island?

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Public Safety.

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

This is a great question. There are a number of different things in there. We had an announcement here, I believe, in the last week about the rape and sexual assault centre that hits directly on the question that the member asked.

We have had a great increase in our alcohol and addictions programming, both in-patient and out-patient in this province. We have done work at the youth centre, and overall we have focused on Prince Edward Islanders. We are focusing on doing our best, whether it be through mental health and building up our capacity there, whether it be through student well-being teams in our schools and starting to get at disaffected youth in the school system before they turn down a wrong path, whether it be having police officers and youth service workers in schools where they can get to the root of the problems.

We are doing what we can do –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: You won't put them up in Souris.

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct) failure.

Mr. J. Brown: – in this province and we will continue to do more in this province.

But I will call on the opposition to stop trying to spread fear. We have the lowest crime severity index in this province –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Mr. J. Brown: – and all of Canada and we will continue to try and make that lower, but we have to –

Mr. Myers: Leave Brighton for a day.

Mr. J. Brown: – work together to do it, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Myers: Leave Brighton, even for the afternoon.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct) frontline workers (Indistinct)

Mr. MacKay: (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: (Indistinct) up and down the street on your street. Don't see one on mine.

Leader of the Opposition: We don't even have enough police to catch you speeding in Stratford.

Mr. Myers: On his way to Birchwood in his rocket-powered car.

Statements by Ministers

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Stewart Memorial Home

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to rise in House today and invite all members of the Legislative Assembly to Tyne Valley tomorrow, where we will be hosting the official opening of the new Stewart Memorial Home.

[Applause]

This \$8.4 million dollar facility has 22 long-term care beds and two respite care beds. The building is designed using a home-like approach, where residents live in small

households that include a common living area, a dining area, as well as 12 private rooms.

In addition, the new Stewart Memorial Home provides space for our new senior's day program and space for families who are supporting residents in palliative care.

Our government is pleased to be providing the residents of the Tyne Valley area with this modern facility which has been designed to provide the highest-quality of care and service for its residents.

Residents and staff will begin transitioning to the new facility next week, with moving expected to be complete during the first week of December.

The new Stewart Memorial Home is part of the multi-year investment which was first announced in the 2009 Healthy Aging Strategy. Since then, manors have been replaced in Souris, Alberton, Summerside, Charlottetown and now Tyne Valley.

A new Riverview Manor is under construction in Montague and will open in early 2019.

Seniors are the foundation of our communities and we are thrilled to be providing this new, modern home in West Prince.

I hope that all members of this House will be able to join me in Tyne Valley tomorrow afternoon at 2:00 p.m., to tour the new residence and to see firsthand the positive impact this investment will have on Island seniors.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When I first heard about this in 2006, well I wasn't barely out of university. The previous PC government of course had in that election promised to build it and they were going to build it.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: Don't make me laugh.

Mr. MacEwen: If you Google and listen to the (Indistinct) –

Mr. Myers: Your sister was involved with the (Indistinct)

Mr. MacEwen: – the MLA for the area since 2007, and it's 2018 and we're finally getting it.

If you Google –

Mr. LaVie: It's an election year.

Mr. MacEwen: – Stewart Memorial – that manor, the Tyne Valley manor, it would come up over and over and over again; the long-promised manor.

I'm extremely happy for the residents up there. It sounds like a wonderful facility. They are so deserving of this. I wish the minister well and his tour up there, I hope he gets lots of pictures and spreads it around – no doubt. I'm guessing the local MLA will be there.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct) tomorrow.

Ms. Biggar: Come on up.

Mr. MacEwen: I'm hoping they invite the next MLA there as well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Myers: He'll be there.

Ms. Biggar: He can't find his way out of Port Hill.

Mr. Myers: He'll be there.

Mr. MacEwen: Mr. Speaker, I keep fielding calls from the locals up there wondering –

Mr. Myers: I heard you're done, though.

Mr. MacEwen: – what they're doing with the old Stewart Memorial hospital – a wonderful piece of infrastructure that people still want something done with. I hope that the minister and the local MLA for the area help out that facility, as well.

I do wish all the people that –you know there is a lot of hard work by the residents

that are there and by the local committees. I wish them well. I've heard about different cuts to the project along the ways, I hope that didn't happen.

It's good news that this manor has finally, finally, finally came to fruition.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

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

Thank for this announcement, minister. I know this has been a long time coming, I understand that.

You mentioned in your comments that seniors are the foundation of our community, and I absolutely agree with you. For most people, of course, the vast majority of people they want to age in place. They want to age in their homes, and they want to stay with their families and their extended families and have that intergenerational contact that is the foundation of a community – a true foundation of a community, that intergenerational mixing.

Of course, not everybody can do that. That's why we need these homes. I'm glad it's here.

Like the hon. member who just spoke, I'm wondering what's going to happen with the old Stewart Memorial. I think there's been tenders for over – well, it was December last year, and that was extended because no nonprofits came forward. I understand it's now open to for profits, as well.

I really hope that that facility, which is still a very much a useable building – it's in the community; it's something that can be utilized really, really, really well.

One of the things that are happening in some other jurisdictions is attaching, or in close proximity, putting daycare centres in senior's home with benefits for everybody. Again, it's that intermixing of generations, and I know that's not part of the plan for the Stewart Memorial home that will be open tomorrow, but there's possibilities of doing that in the future and I hope the province will look at doing that.

We've lost some precious things as we've sort of separated generations into their independent spaces. I think there's a lot that we could gain from bringing people and reconnecting the generations together.

Thanks for the announcement, minister. It's about time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Economic and Fiscal Update

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to do the economic and fiscal update of the Province of Prince Edward Island.

It my pleasure to present the Second Quarter Forecast for 2018 and 2019, which indicates we will achieve our second consecutive surplus budget projected to be \$4.4 million.

An Hon. Member: Great.

Mr. R. Brown: Good government.

An Hon. Member: Should be about 80 million (Indistinct)

Mr. MacDonald: Revenues are forecast to increase by \$30.3 million over budget, primarily as a result of projected increases to corporate income tax, personal income tax, and sales tax.

The increase in revenues is partially offset by the increases to expenditures for Health PEI of \$12.9 million, family and human services of \$3.1 million, and a projected loss of \$13 million from the Agriculture Insurance Corporation. This surplus is attained even though we increased the basic personal amount for all taxpayers by \$1,000 in 2018, reducing our revenue by \$8.2 million.

Decrease the small business corporate income tax rate in both 2018 and 2019; increase contributions to social programs by \$9.2 million; are projecting health care expenditures to be \$35.5 million higher than last year; and an increase the budget for education by \$10.3 million.

PEI's economy has seen solid economic growth over the last number of years. It has expanded every year since 2008, the only jurisdiction in Canada to do so. In 2017, the economy grew by 3.5%, the fastest pace of expansion since 2005.

Mr. LaVie: Call the hour.

Mr. MacDonald: Economic growth on the Island has not been limited to only certain parts of the economy.

In 2017, 19 of 20 industries recorded growth. This trend is continuing into 2018.

Our population is growing, up 1.8% from 2017 through immigration, interprovincial migration, and natural growth.

Employment growth on the Island is leading all provinces, up 3.1% while total labour income has grown 4.1%.

Mr. LaVie: Show them the fine print.

Mr. MacDonald: More people on PEI are employed now than any time in our history.

Manufacturing shipments are up 6.6% through September. The growth in retail sales and residential housing investment, sectors largely impacted by population growth, are also the fastest amongst the provinces, while housing starts are up 3.6%, exceeding the national average.

Though some industries have experienced losses, the healthy nature of our Island's economy should allow for growth in spite of these challenges now and into the future.

More details of the economic situation to date and outlook can be found in the 2018 Economic Update tabled today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. LaVie: Here's the truth. Here's your truth.

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again today, responding to a statement I feel I have so much to say and so little time to say it.

Mr. LaVie: You've got all kinds of time.

Mr. Myers: The truth of the matter is that we do have economic times, and this government is so unpopular it appears to me that Islanders want a government that they feel can govern during good times. I don't feel like a Premier who's stuck on a loop talking the GDP is the type of premier who can deliver that type of governing.

You're coming in with a surplus of \$4.4 million again this year, and if you look at what you were saying this time last year, you end up with \$75 million in a matter of three months. I think that you need to start looking at poverty reduction.

We've heard a lot about poverty recently, and everyone knows that the price of having an apartment in Downtown Charlottetown has gotten quite high, and it's driving people out of the downtown core, out into the further reaches. Now those rents are going up higher. Government needs to do more to help people so they can live where they work and not drive them out of their area, especially the people in poverty.

The Kings County Memorial Hospital, whose roof leaks every time it rains or snows and even on sunny days it leaks now, needs to be replaced. This government knows it needs to be replaced. I was born there. I was one of the first groups of children born there, and as you can probably tell, it wasn't yesterday. It certainly wasn't yesterday.

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: It's one of our oldest facilities in the province now, and government needs to do something about it.

I heard the member from Souris talk about how important the North Lake Bridge is, you guys won't fix it. Fishing is one of our major industries here on Prince Edward Island and North Lake is one of the top ports on Prince Edward Island – has a lot of boats, brings in a lot to the economy, brings some tourism dollars in there as well because it's

the tuna capital of the world. The North Lake Bridge needs to be fixed.

I know that the government thumbs their nose at the parents group who wanted help in the Montague Consolidated School that was overcrowded. The minister made a comment on the floor here the other day that their problems aren't any worse than anybody else's problems, yet they have no – they're not making any movement at all to help the people in Montague.

Found out also the other day that the Stratford High School isn't open until 2023, and the Sherwood Elementary School that's been talked about – that's been announced here about four times now isn't opening until 2022. If you have extra money, get those buildings built now. They need them now. They need the infrastructure now.

You guys have an opportunity to – it goes back to what I said originally. Maybe we just need a government who knows how to govern during good times.

Mr. LaVie: Don't make it all about the election.

Mr. Myers: Clearly you guys don't know.

The capital of Kings County is Georgetown. When you get to Brudenell, which is the last thing that you fellows own, Brudenell, the road is in complete disrepair. It's a mess. There are tire ruts in the roads that the plows can't get out. When it rains, the water rises in the road and it's embarrassing that you would allow the road into the capital of Kings County to deteriorate the way that you have.

Mr. LaVie: That's not what the minister said.

Mr. Myers: It is a highway, and it is the responsibility of this government –

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct) pave.

Mr. Myers: – to put a capital investment into Georgetown, and show that you actually care about Kings County and its capital.

Mr. LaVie: Won't pave that one, because you can't win that seat.

Mr. Myers: If you've ever driven in from Morell, during rush hour –

Mr. J. Brown: (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: – there are no passing lanes at all between Morell and well, it's pretty near past Scotchfort before you hit your first chance to get – and I know the rich lawyer from Brighton has a cottage down there on the North Shore right on the sand and he would know what it's like to travel in the morning and how –

Mr. J. Brown: (Indistinct) Morell-Mermaid (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: – the traffic deserves to move the same way it does between Charlottetown and Summerside. That is Route 2, that is the main link between the east end of the Island and Charlottetown that goes right past Souris – that Route 2. And they deserve to have passing lanes that are safe so that they can get into Charlottetown just like everyone else.

Mr. LaVie: Can't win the in the east though, they won't pave that.

Mr. Myers: Healthcare is in a mess. We heard earlier today when the member from Borden that this government had continually cut the RCMP. There is no traffic unit left on Prince Edward Island – it came as a surprise to the justice minister. That needs to be –

Mr. LaVie: No drug unit.

Mr. Myers: – we need that back.

Mr. LaVie: No drug unit.

Mr. Myers: We need the drug unit back, we need the traffic unit back, and we need Islanders to feel safe in our homes. If you have extra money – spend it to help Islanders.

Mr. LaVie: Not for the election.

Mr. Myers: It goes back to what I said originally. Maybe we need a government who knows how to govern in good times because clearly this government isn't it.

I hear about the housing starts. We have a skill shortage here on Prince Edward Island, this government won't even admit or address the fact that we have a huge skills gap here in Prince Edward Island. We need help. The skills shortage needs to be addressed, it can't be ignored –

Mr. J. Brown: (Indistinct)

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: – if you have extra money, help address the skills shortage. Why – why can't this government see? I know why. Because the Premier is stuck in his feedback loop of the GDP, with his highfalutin friends that they think that that's important –

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: – while all of Prince Edward Island want help –

Mr. LaVie: I told you the truth was coming.

Mr. Myers: – when all of Prince Edward Island wants help at the ground level, the Premier is talking about GDP. This Island deserves a government who knows how to govern during the good times, and it's not them.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Mr. Roach: All that from the guy who wants to tax fuel.

Mr. LaVie: I told you the truth was coming, and you don't like it.

Mr. Roach: (Indistinct)

Mr. LaVie: You don't like the truth.

Chair: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to begin by commending the finance minister for openness and transparency in providing us with an update in this, the end of the second quarter –

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Ms. Bell: I would look forward to the tabling of the documentation to support it so we can see some of the further details. We did know that we were going to be seeing a significant expenditure coming in terms of the agricultural losses that have been felt by our farmers this year and recognize that we are lucky to be in a position where there is a surplus so we can manage that loss appropriately.

We have heard during our work with the Auditor General in public accounts about some of the challenges around budgeting, particularly around some of the larger expenditure departments, including Health PEI, Family Human Services, and transport. We're hopeful that the review of the fiscal position in the intern period will also ensure that rather than special warrants being filed, after expenditures have been incurred, then instead, this means that the estimates and associated budgets are being updated during the expenditure period so that we see appropriate fiscal accounting, as required by the *Financial Administration Act*. Perhaps that would mean that revised estimates and forecasting will be available, as well as a fiscal update.

Thank you again to the minister for sharing this update and we look forward to having a boarder conversation on how the expenditures and surplus available will be spent.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, hon. Member.

Presenting and Receiving Petitions

Tabling of Documents

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table written responses to written question No. 139 and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

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

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

Today in Question Period, the hon. Leader of the Opposition asked me about my drive from Stratford into Birchwood School, so I have Google Map here, where I've highlighted the route that I would take –

Mr. Myers: You needed a Google Map; I told you you never left Brighton.

Mr. J. Brown: No, I need to show the hon. Member from Stratford how to get there, I guess, because he doesn't know –

Mr. Myers: (Indistinct) Stratford.

Mr. J. Brown: – the map says from the Stratford Esso, and for some reason it takes a trip out around –

Mr. MacEwen: (Indistinct) know the route like you.

Mr. J. Brown: – the Hopeton Road merge lane, but it says 3.3 km –

Mr. Myers: Google Brown.

Mr. J. Brown: – and it does say six minutes. I think there is probably a minute or two tied up in that little extra bit. My father, I don't think he ever had speeding tickets when we were growing up –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Some Hon. Members: [Laughter]

Mr. J. Brown: – but I can check with him on that, just to make sure that that's the case. And I do know that the hon. Leader of the Opposition did say it took him four minutes to get home last night in the bad weather, so we have Officer Fields here, we can ask with him to check up with him on that and to see how he got there.

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the Google Map and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning, that the

said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. R. Brown: We can all go for a drive at 1:00 p.m. and see.

An Hon. Member: Take the Google Map!

An Hon. Member: We'll get the school bus (Indistinct)

Ms. Casey: That's probably the first Google Maps to be tabled.

Mr. Myers: You don't need Google. Why don't you take him and show him around Stratford.

Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House, I beg leave to table the Economic Update 2018 and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness, that the said document be now received and do lie on the Table.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. R. Brown: Best seller. Best seller.

An Hon. Member: Great thing. Best thing in the world.

Reports by Committees

Introduction of Government Bills

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

Mr. R. Brown: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a bill to be intituled *An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act* and I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, that the same be now received and read a first time.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: *Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act*, Bill No. 60, read a first time.

Speaker: An explanation, if you don't mind hon. minister.

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

This will allow the department to make regulations in terms of environmental assessments. Right now, they're done by policy and we believe in order for open and transparency that we put it in regulation that everyone knows the process and that more interaction between the public and the department takes place during the environmental assessment. We all want to protect the environment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Government Motions

Orders of the Day Government

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

Mr. Gallant: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford, that the 1st order of the day be now read.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

Clerk: Order No. 1, consideration of the Capital Estimates in Committee.

Speaker: Hon. Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

Mr. Gallant: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Vernon River-Stratford, 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 call on the hon. Member from Charlottetown-Lewis Point to come and share the bill.

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

Hon. members, we are on page 11, it has been read. We are under the Capital Expenditure for the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture.

Permission to bring a stranger to the floor?

Some Hon. Members: Granted.

Chair: We'll allow him to come to the floor and set up before we proceed.

Good morning, could you introduce yourself and your title for the record?

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

Chair: Welcome to the table

Minister do you have anything to say?

Mr. MacDonald: Just continue on.

Chair: Hon. members we are discussing the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture budget.

Any questions?

Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Chair.

It's my understanding that Neil and Helen Green have been talking to the department in regards to a vacant lot that's owned by the province next to Englewood School. They are requesting or wanting the department to consider turning that land over to them – or possibly maybe a lease, where they could establish their new daycare centre.

To me that makes sense, because it would alleviate parents having to make two stops, they would make one stop at the daycare and the school at the same time, it would also alleviate bus traffic having to pick students up from programs and taking them up to another location for the daycare.

I'm wondering: is this being considered, if the land is not being used could we look at this, turning it over or selling it to them?

Chair: Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture.

Mr. J. Brown: Thank you Madam Chair.

So yes, I have met with the Green's on a number of different occasions and a number of different options have been considered or are under consideration – in fact we've gone back and forth between the same option a few different times.

The answer to that question is fairly straight forward. Yes, we would consider giving land to them; we've already indicated that – the bigger issue probably for them is the capital cost of a new build.

Perhaps somewhat ironically, they have worked with the town to try to secure space there and have run into problems – would be perhaps the best way that I would put it in terms of trying to secure space within some space that I gather, may or may not be, owned by the town.

They are currently in a church location at least temporarily and they're trying to secure a further location or look at doing renovations to an existing location and are basically trying to make their operation viable into the future.

We have indicated to them a willingness to work with them to do our best to help them to make that happen. Obviously we want to make it as convenient for families, for children and for the community as possible and we would certainly appreciate the town out there coming to the table to help in that as well and to help the Green's in their operation.

Chair: Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thank you.

Chair: Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

There was some questions the other day raised by the hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford, he walk talking about a parcel land and how many acres would be required and I know the town of Stratford has talked about it extensively. The reason the parcel of land – or the parcels of land that they're looking for – haven't actually been identified publically, it's for a very

good reason, because they haven't entered into a negotiation process yet with those land owners.

Therefore, they don't want to give the upper hand to those land owners until there's a period of time when they'll get into those negotiations.

I just wanted to put that on record on behalf of the Town of Stratford.

I've been asking now for several years in the Legislative Assembly because we've all known that Stratford has been growing at the rate that it has, that eventually we were going to require a school, so capital budget after capital budget after capital budget, I've been asking if there was any resources being put towards the purchase of land.

My question today would be: the agreement with the Town of Stratford, is the province actually going to buy the land and own the land that the school sits on or is it the parcel land that the town plans on purchasing to have all of its sporting facilities?

Is the school going to be on the land that the town owns?

Chair: Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture.

Mr. J. Brown: Thank you Madam Chair.

The hon. member has indicated he's repeatedly advocated for a new school out there, I'm not sure that was his stance in the last election, but I'm not going to ask him to commit one way or another to that, or certainly the party had that stance necessarily.

In any event, the Town of Stratford came to us and offered to purchase land to do this project.

Obviously, we have indicated a willingness to work with them to do that. That wouldn't normally be the model, but in a situation where as they have put forward in a proposal, they're looking to do a true community complex – it makes sense.

As I indicated, it's been something that myself as minister and working with the department and the Public Schools Branch

and the CSLF, we would like to integrate more into our communities and I think our government's been a lot about the strength of community and working together for community and surrounding areas.

It makes sense that the school be integrated with the sports facilities and other community facilities in one spot, that creates a vibrant hub and the community can then build out around that.

Chair: Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: So that's confirmed then that the town will own the land that the school sits on and that the province isn't going to pay for the land?

Mr. J. Brown: It's not confirmed at this stage, what I indicated was the town made a commitment to us to acquire land and have us build the school on it. So exactly what that will look like is difficult to determine at this point in time.

I understand the town has engaged somebody to begin to look at different land possibilities – at a given point in time we'll have to make a decision independently as to whether we move forward with the school, regardless of whether they're able to acquire the land that they wish to acquire. We'll also have to make sure that the land makes sense to put a school on – independently of whatever the town thinks.

There's a lot of water still to go under the bridge but ideally, we would work hand in hand with the town, to ensure as I said, that the infrastructure that we build makes sense in the larger communities perspective and that we do what we can to ensure that taxpayers, including the Town of Stratford and its residents, get the best value for the dollars that we are putting in over there.

Chair: Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

In August at the public presentation of the Public Schools Branch which took place at Stonepark Intermediate School, the recommendation was for option number 3, the grade 10-12 and at that time they announced there would be a \$34 million

price tag, including the land, is what they actually quoted.

The government is now, in the capital budget (Indistinct) their announcement for this new school is at \$38 million. So I guess I'm still wondering what the right number is. Is it 34? Is it 38? Is the province actually going to pay for the land the school sits on? We have a \$4 million difference here. And it could be considerably more of a difference, depending upon who actually owns or the purchased of the land.

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

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

I'm just looking quickly here to see if I have the actual resolution. I will say I don't recall there having been a number specifically stated in the resolution. But in any event, even if there was, the way the process works is that the Public Schools Branch would ballpark a number and then after there's a resolution to move forward with that project in mind, as I've indicated previously in this House, the typical process would be to work with – or the typical process, I should say, has been – it's not a requirement of them – but certainly we make available whatever help we can provide through transportation, infrastructure, and energy to appropriately cost that project based on the school construction manual that we have.

And so a typical costing would include land buildings and all those things that go along with an appropriate high school. And as I've indicated, the projection currently is that the high school in that budget would be suited to 800 students for the Stratford area, and that a space plan would be set out from there and that a further refinement of the budget will be developed when that's done and we determine what the space plan will actually look like.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

So capacity at approximately 800 for this new school in Stratford, so between Charlottetown Rural, Colonel Gray, and the new Stratford school, essentially all three of

those schools would be the three largest in Prince Edward Island from the numbers that I have.

The government continues to talk about quality education. I talked the other day about the IB program and a vocational component, as well. When we talk about quality education, why don't we also include in quality education equal access to programs in all of our schools, focused on particular grade levels?

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

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

That's a good question and I thank you for it.

I will say, again. I'm a little dismayed in the way that it was brought up because it indicates a lack of education, for a better term. But let me just say this: Educationally when you set out to put on a program, you need to have a core group of students in order to make a viable program work. There are all sorts of different programs, IB being one of them, that requires that core group.

And then you move out – band is another great example. You can have different iterations of band, of a band, of music programs. But depending on what you want to do, you obviously can't have a full band if you only had 20 students. So you need raw numbers for many programs that would be offered at the high school level, and we've seen that time and time again.

We've also seen, I should say, some very creative work to be done, as an example, in the French Language School Board, to make programs work where you don't have that raw number in an individual school, but it often becomes much more difficult than if you do have those raw numbers. And so you need to have those very realistic conversations to determine how best to put our resources to work when it comes to programming in schools, to curriculum, and to what we're going to be able to offer by way of teaching resources and physical resources in those schools.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

The other day when we started this discussion on new construction for the Stratford school, the minister of education commented that there would be a committee that would be struck to look at the requirements of the school, what the school needs would be for the community, and education component, and so on and so forth.

I wonder if the minister could enlighten me as to what this committee or who this committee would be comprised of. So question being: If we have a very engaged parent from the Stratford area that would like to have some input, can that person put their name forward to be on this committee?

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

Mr. J. Brown: Madam Chair, the simple answer to that is – I guess there's a few answers.

But, yes. Parents can put their names forward. We do not have the committee constituted yet. Obviously we haven't passed constitutional budget. But we will have to do that very quickly.

Typically there will be representatives from our department, both from a finance perspective and from a programming perspective; there would be a representative at least or maybe more, from the actual school itself. There would be a representative from the home and school; a representative from the parent community; a representative or more from TIE, and they actually, between our representatives and the representative from TIE, provide a lot of very practical, we'll call it, interface with the schools manual, in terms of – everybody would like to – if I can use the analogy, everybody would like to go to school in the Taj Mahal of schools, but we don't have the resources for that. We have a very practical-space program that's set out in a school construction manual.

We have folks at TIE that are really good to work with in terms of setting out those space allocations and determining what the cost will look like. And we, I think, had some

pretty good success lately and some pretty accurate numbers coming forward out of that and some good space programs being developed to suit the communities, and the addition on Stratford school being a very good example of that right now.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

When the capital budget was read, included in the speech with the capital budget it talked about the comprehensive review with regards to the review of schools. I guess I'm just curious as to why that review would be included in the capital budget when a review of a study is not actually a capital expenditure.

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

Mr. J. Brown: I think the important thing is that we understand that with our capital – maybe I'll take it back a layer, Madam Chair.

The capital budgeting process is set out in the education act for education. We're probably unique in that – I don't know that for a fact, but we're probably unique in that, in terms of government departments, because we have two education authorities in the province that determine their educational priority then where they wish to have resources placed.

And so the reason that it's referenced is because there's a requirement in that to determine where your priorities lie, and then we have work to do to determine whether that meets with the overall upkeep of the institutions that we own and are operated by our educational authorities; whether it meets with the work that's being done in terms of zoning, and in terms of growth in the communities overall.

We've gone through a great deal of discussion both in here and in the public in terms of a population growth strategy and how that's unfolding on Prince Edward Island, and we need to ensure that there's a linkage independent of the Public Schools Branch or the French Language School Board back to the rest of government to

ensure that we have some idea of what's going on and how growth and development in the province is unfolding.

The reason it was mentioned in here is to indicate a rationalization of where we're going to spend those capital dollars and that there is something more fundamental than we're building the school here, building the school there. And part of that I will say, may be a highlight on the process, and the questions that I think have been unfairly asked in here, in terms of inappropriate pressures or reasons being put on certain capital expenditures.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

Thanks for that, minister. But, again, it's not truly a capital expense, so I don't know why it would be included in the speech for the capital budget.

Chair, I'm curious with regards to the handout that was provided to us with regards to breakdown for the 2019-2020 capital budget for education, learning, and culture. We see here that there's \$3,552,000 allocated for West Royalty additional classroom space. And when you go through the numbers from the Public Schools Branch with regards to forecasted enrolment at the various schools, the West Royalty schools simply doesn't show that they'll be anywhere near or over capacity in years to come.

However, we have Queen Charlotte, which is forecast to be over capacity and to be an issue as early as the beginning of the school year in 2019. I'm just looking for some rationale on why we would be spending over \$3.5 million on a school, a relatively new school, that's nowhere being at its full capacity currently or into the future, and ignoring another severe problem of overcapacity that's upon us next year.

Could the minister sort of enlighten me on that?

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

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

I guess I'd first start, in response to that, by indicating to the minister that – or to the member, sorry, that he may wish to broaden his look.

The West Royalty school addition was recommended by the Public Schools Branch, I believe it was in April of last year, and the logic behind that – and I think it's sound – is that there are a number of students right now that are going to Spring Park, as an example, that would probably more naturally fall in the catchment area related to West Royalty, and we well know that Spring Park is currently over capacity, to a significant extent. In fact, it's probably one of our greatest problem areas in terms of capacity on Prince Edward Island right now. And so we've actually moved that addition up to attempt to deal with that.

In terms of the Queen Charlotte piece, we do have, as I've indicated, I think it was the other day in here, there is additional capacity in – at the intermediate level in the Charlottetown area currently, and depending on how that move, as an example from Spring Park, might take place – and the Public Schools Branch indicated they were looking further at this – that may well alleviate some of the issues that we would see at Queen Charlotte as we move forward.

So they are looking at that. I can assure you of that. They will have further recommendations as to how we move forward and I'm sure we will receive those in due course.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you, Chair.

So West Royalty is a K-6, correct?

Mr. J. Brown: Yes, it is.

Leader of the Opposition: Spring Park is a K-6; West Royalty, without a \$3.5-plus million expansion, is nowhere near capacity. So it could probably handle overflow-plus from Spring Park to West Royalty.

Queen Charlotte is an intermediate junior high, correct?

Mr. J. Brown: Correct.

Leader of the Opposition: So, the minister is saying that, if I understand him correctly, that as you move the pieces around, you're going to move, potentially, you're going to move or rezone students from the Spring Park catchment area to West Royalty, which makes sense, but then in the same light you're saying that with the overcrowding coming as early as – well, they're there now, but they're going to be overcapacity in the start of fall 2019, so you're going to fix the problem at Queen Charlotte by utilizing classrooms in a K-6 at Spring Park?

So are you now going to blend junior high students from Queen Charlotte with elementary students at Spring Park? I don't get your rationale there, minister.

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

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

No, that is not what I'm indicating.

What I'm indicating is there are possibilities to move students from – basically looking at catchment areas for intermediate schools and determine by school, where if elementary students from one school are going to an intermediate school after they finish the elementary school, then you may be able to relieve pressures by moving the children when they are in elementary school so that they go to a different intermediate school when they're done.

I'm not trying to predict here on the floor what the Public Schools Branch is going to recommend. But the reality is that they're looking at different possibilities. They spent the summer doing consultations on it; they indicated that they wanted some more time to look at that particular hotspot at Spring Park School and I suspect that they will make recommendations that will have an impact on that overall.

Chair: Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Not really any other questions, Chair. But I mean, just with regards to what's been asked already, and what's been answered, it's very obvious to me that there's still a lot of uncertainties out there and this government really don't know what direction they're going in.

Mr. LaVie: No.

Leader of the Opposition: While I'm very happy to see new infrastructure coming to Stratford –

Mr. LaVie: No.

Leader of the Opposition: – because an additional school is needed. The overall picture – the pieces of the puzzle are not falling into place. I think that the government and the Public Schools Branch really need to sit down and figure out this whole mapping structure because it's just – it's piecemeal currently as it is.

Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture.

Mr. J. Brown: Madam Chair.

I thank the hon. member for that soliloquy. I'm happy that he has taken the opportunity to begin to engage in this process and a process that has been ongoing throughout the summer. I would offer that at any point in time, he can come in and we can have a chat and we can further explain the process to the hon. member.

I will say, and this is not new, this process really is the first time in a significant period of time – I'm going to say going back to the early '90s, so a whole government intervened and then there was nothing done for a long period of time. We built schools based on political will and we're moving on now to take a logical look at things and to try and sort out the problems that built up over decades.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Speaker: Thank you.

Shall the Early Education, Early Learning and Culture budget carry?

Carried.

Hon. members, we are going to move on to page 13.

Capital Expenditure Family and Human Services 2019-2020 Budget Estimate

Equipment: "Appropriations provided for a decision-making model." Child Protection Technology: 831,800. Total Equipment: 831,800.

Capital Improvements: "Appropriations provided for Capital improvements for infrastructure." Housing Unit Renovations: 746,000. Residential Services Renovations: 54,000. Housing Construction: 10,871,000

Mr. Fox: Question.

Mr. Roach: Question.

Chair: Total Capital Improvements: 11,671,000.

Total Capital Expenditure - Family and Human Services: 12,502,800.

I have a question from the hon. Member from Borden-Kinkora.

Mr. Fox: Thanks, Chair.

Back about two years ago, I started talking to the seniors in buildings A, B, and C in Borden-Carleton. I spoke to the minister about getting their little common room expanded. And from what I understand, there was a question whether that was warranted – or wanted, I should say – by the residents. And they have come back to me again and said: yes, they do want this. I think they did sign a petition or request and that was passed in.

Can we look at this year, getting that common room expanded? Because right now, they are having to rent space, they are having to rent a storage locker to keep their senior's activity stuff in so – basically, there is room there on the corner. We're only talking about basically two walls and a ceiling and a slab floor. Can we look at that this year and get that done?

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Chair: Just before I go to you, minister. Hon. members, I am having a hard time hearing the question –

An Hon. Member: Me too.

Chair: – and answers, so if you could help me out, I'd really appreciate it.

Minister of Family and Human Services.

Ms. Mundy: Thank you for that question, hon. member.

I know that is something that you have been advocating for for your constituents for quite some time now. I'll have to refresh and see if I actually did get the letter because I know that there was a little bit of confusion there. I'll loop back with my team and see if we did get it. But by all means, if it's something that the seniors are looking for and they feel that it's something that's going to enhance their social inclusion, then by all means; we'll look at taking care of that for you.

Mr. Fox: Thank you, Chair.

Chair: Thank you.

The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Chair.

With respect to the line item Child Protection Technology, could you give us an indication of what kind of technology is there under – I think its \$831,000?

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

Ms. Mundy: Thank you for that question, also hon. member.

We are making an investment in technology called Supported Decision-Making. That is going to enhance child protection worker's ability to keep the children safe. Through it, they can better manage risks, conduct assessments and a safety plan and identify intervention points to enhance the protection of the child.

Chair: Thank you.

Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Roach: Yes, thank you for that.

Under Housing Unit Renovations, are those renovations, are they renovations that have previously been identified by your staff that does the inspections?

Chair: The Minister of Family and Human Services.

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

Yes, every year our housing team go out and they have a look at the senior and family housing units that we do own and we do make a list of those that are in need of renovation and those are put into the budget.

Chair: Thank you.

Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Roach: Just a couple more questions, Chair, thank you.

And under Housing Construction, you have a line number there for 2019-2020 of almost \$11 million. Will that be new housing construction right across Prince Edward Island from tip to tip?

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

Ms. Mundy: Sorry, hon. member, I missed the first half of your question.

Mr. Roach: Sure, that's okay.

Chair: No problem, hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir, would you mind repeating your question?

Mr. Roach: Not at all, Chair, thank you.

Under the line item Housing Construction, it's almost \$11 million for the budget year 2019-2020. I'm wondering if you can tell me how those dollars are going to be spent across the Island, like what you expect might be spent in each county, for example.

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

Ms. Mundy: Right, and that could be a question, actually, that both the hon. – yeah – member – or, Minister of Finance.

Chair: You'd like to refer that to the finance minister?

Ms. Mundy: Yes.

Chair: Minister.

Mr. MacDonald: Yeah, basically –

Mr. LaVie: Pass the buck.

Mr. MacDonald: – that relates to approximately 175 units. Almost half of those units will be dispersed across the Island with non-for profits and municipalities, and half will be centrally located where the higher demand of is required for housing.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Chair.

This will be my last question for now.

Minister, I know that I have spoken to you a number of times about this, but I'm just wondering when we will be able to I guess – or when we'll get to the point of either no one has expressed an interest in the old Riverview Manor – when we will get to the point, if there's no expression of interest there, when we will perhaps go out and do an RFP to see what we might be able to do with that particular facility.

I understand that a large portion of that facility is probably in the need of being torn down. It's just not – it's an old site. But, the newer front section, I'm told, that we may be able to do something with? So, I'm wondering if there is kind of a time frame there.

I'd like to kind of see us get that out before we actually move into the new manor, so we could move quickly on that.

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

Ms. Mundy: (Indistinct) I guess a portion of that, and also, I'm not sure if the minister of transportation would have – no? Okay.

We released three EOI's a couple of months back, and we received up to 50 expressions of interest from developer's right across Prince Edward Island. If I'm not mistaken, there was one from the Montague area that included a proposal with the manor. However, all of the proposals right now are with our housing hub, and they are going through the proposals and determining the best ones – the ones that can reach the most

amounts of Islanders in the quickest amount of time.

I can say that it is one that we are looking at.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, minister.

Thank you, Chair.

Chair: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Chair.

Following up from the member from Montague's question, with the 175 units that are being built. So obviously 175 units is a great start, but it's not enough yet.

There used to be a program, and I don't know if it still exists – I'm just wondering if it's still available, and if not why government got rid of it. There was a program where provincial, federal, and the developer all went a third, a third, a third, and buildings were built – whether it was for low-income, senior citizens, people with disabilities – and there was a set rent put on it so that way it was affordable. The developer had to honour the rent for 10 years or whatever the timeline was.

It seemed to be a good program and worked, and there were a lot of units built. Is that still available, and if not how come?

Chair: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: It's a good question.

You're exactly right. There was a program and when we sent out the RFPs or our expression of interest, sorry, to the developers, some of those respondents actually came in in that regard, a similar way. We're actually looking at that.

In fact, I don't want to be premature, but we're waiting for a three level government response from one in Summerside right now. We're waiting on the federal government to respond positively, hopefully. It'll be three levels of government – so three levels: municipalities, communities, whatever. It is something that we're definitely looking at. In fact, those additional 95 is actually looking right at that with being able to put a cap on the rents.

Chair: The hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Chair.

Thank you, minister.

Just to follow-up on that then; so I have had developers reach out that have asked for that program. So even though it's not approved as of yet, can they still sit down and possibly make something work or do we have to wait for that program – can it be done on an individual basis?

Mr. MacDonald: Most certainly. Have them contact our office; we'd sit down with them.

Mr. MacKay: Okay, thank you very much.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Chair.

So if I look back at the capital budget from 2015 or project forward the numbers that were allotted for renovations and while there was nothing allotted for any construction, but it was never – it didn't even come close to \$1 million each year. Through that period, this government has embarked on a very vigorous population strategy, which I think it's fair to say you could have anticipated that there would have been issues that we face today – but generally accepted to be a housing crisis across the Island, particularly here in Charlottetown.

I'm wondering whether a few years ago there was any approach made to the federal government for joint funding so that we could have started the construction part of dealing with that crisis before the problem became what it is today.

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

Ms. Mundy: In 2016, we entered into an agreement with the federal government for some social infrastructure funding, and out of that came the 44 units that we are now constructing here in Charlottetown and the 32 seniors units that we will be putting up in Summerside, in addition to 10 transitional units for – which we have matched. We will be investing another 10 – a total of 20

transitional units for children who are aging out of child protection, as well as families who are victims of family violence so that they can – once they move on from places like Anderson House, they have a safe place that they can go.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Chair.

So I see that the funding, the \$16.8 million, is for the next two years, and I'm wondering whether future years are dependent on bilateral funding or agreements with the federal government or whether you have no plans to build beyond those two?

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

Ms. Mundy: I think in our budget last year we made a commitment of 1,000 new units over the next four years, if I'm not mistaken. Then my colleague announced an additional 175 units that we will be looking at immediately. So there is – we've committed to, I think it was \$17 million in two years, and \$30 million – the Minister of Finance can correct me here as well. So we have committed to upwards of \$47 million that we will be investing in housing over the next few years.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thanks, Chair.

So I don't see that \$30 million in the capital budget, maybe the finance minister can have an intervention here.

Mr. MacDonald: \$30 million is for the actual housing, but some of that's going to come from operational budgets because it will be – such as the hon. Member from Kensington-Malpeque – if there's a partnership with municipalities or not-for-profits or that sort of thing, a lot of that – and Jim correct me if I'm wrong – but a lot of that funding will come out of operating budgets.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Good.

So, as I understand it, the \$17 million will create 175 new units. Some of them spread

across the Island and some in the capital region.

Jim Miles: No, it'll create 80 new units and then the other 95 will be partnerships that will come out of the operating budget/.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Chair.

So the minister talks about 1,000 new units. Just to clarify, we're not talking about 1,000 units as new builds, right? We're talking about 1,000 units in total with new builds and then renovations and upgrades. Is that correct?

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

Ms. Mundy: That 1,000 new builds, yes we're looking at rent supplements would be included in that, as well as renovations to existing units that we lose keeping up with our current stock. Because we don't want to lose the current stock that we have, because those are people's homes in their communities, and they're happy living there.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I'm not sure if I heard you right then, but I think you describe them as a 1,000 new builds. But out of those 1,000 units, how many of them will actually be new builds?

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

Ms. Mundy: I might revert that to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: So I'll do the list, and it might be easier, too.

At the present time, we have 193 rent subs completed and 98 are in progress for a total of 291.

We have a 32-unit senior housing in Summerside, in the capital budget of 2019-2020. Site work is tendered this month.

Twenty units of housing for vulnerable Islanders in Beach Grove Road, which I believe the demolition of the building that's

there now has started maybe this week – completion of fall; 44 new units on the Norwood Road, which were announced previously; 10 units from Canadian Mental Health Association, they identified land and they're working with government on financing. They hopefully start next month.

Then we have our 260-bed residence, over 20 years with the university, which you're aware of; 100 long-term care beds; nine private developer affordable units in Summerside – and that's a similar situation to what you're talking about – 72-units, private developer in Summerside, 30 are going to be turned back over to the government for social housing.

That's our list of housing, so far.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Can I ask that you table that, minister?

Mr. MacDonald: I don't want to table that – I'll get you a clean copy for you.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thanks.

So with all of this new construction being done – great, I'm really happy to see this because I think it's a wonderful investment of funds for Islanders.

What sort of impact do you imagine that's going to have on the vacancy rate on rental levels here on PEI?

Chair: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: I think the housing file is a complicated file, and there are a lot of variables in it. We're seeing we have an aging demographic, and baby boomers who have indisposible incomes that want to move to more urban centres. We have millennials now want to move to more urban centres.

We have gentrification of homes, if you drive some of the streets even in Charlottetown or Summerside, there's streets that you would likely looked at 10 years ago and never thought that they'd be the streets they are today.

We have a growth at our university and then we have a growing tourism market where Airbnb is playing an effect in this.

If I was sitting here and we had an 18% vacancy rate we wouldn't be having this discussion, it's a good discussion to have, there are issues with it obviously, but I think we're trying to move quickly in the right direction.

We're trying to work with as many developers as possible and funding sources to mitigate some of these issues that we're having in the housing market and I think we've finally got some traction and we're moving forward.

I don't know if that answers your question but there's a lot of variables in this at play in the housing world, believe me, and but we're working diligently to try to get to some point.

The other thing I must say and we've been doing some work on this – the new builds across the province by private developers is – I think last year was over 850 and this year we're close to 1000.

Over time, this will filter out some of our issues, but in the meantime we need to do stuff immediately and that's why we're turning sods on the Beach Grove Road and whatever else we can do ASAP.

I think over time this will mitigate itself out, but right now we need to do stuff quickly.

Chair: Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Thank you, Chair.

I understand minister, it's impossible to predict the future especially when you have such a volatile file and complex file as the housing situation on PEI and I appreciate that.

CHMC though, they're sort of, I would imagine, they would be considered to be the experts in this field, they're not seeing any easing in the housing crisis before 2020, that's what the report says.

Would you disagree with that or do you feel that that's probably a reasonable expectation

that we're not going to work our way out of this for a couple of years?

Mr. MacDonald: I totally agree with you and again, I come back to if you look at Atlantic provincial economic – they've done a project inventory for Prince Edward Island and major projects right across Island and it's a good read for anybody that's dealing in housing.

I'll just give you one example, well all know where it is, Sherwood Greens residential development on the Mt. Edward Road include 32 unit apartment buildings, some of them are there now, one 60 apartment building, one community care building, one maximum 90 rooms at 8,000 sq feet commercial space, a 48 unit apartment building, one 24 apartment building, 37 town housing units and 14 semi-detached. That's over the next two years. So no, it's not going to slow down but hopefully with the addition of those types of projects we'll be able to mitigate some of our problems.

Developers are in business to make money, so it has to be – most people say: government shouldn't get involved in the private sector; I think this is one instance where government has to get involved and that's what we're doing.

Chair: Leader of the Third Party.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: I agree with your last statement minister and in particular areas of this field anyway and related to that: could you tell us how much of that – and I know you just went through a list of projects there and maybe you said it and I apologize if I missed it but, how much of the \$17 million will be going to housing that will be government-owned and how much will be supports for privately owned housing?

Jim Miles: All of the \$17 million will be government-owned.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: 100%?

Jim Miles: Yeah.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: So this is not partnerships?

Jim Miles: No, any partnerships will be in the operating budget.

Dr. Bevan-Baker: Okay. I'm good, thank you Chair.

Chair: Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, Chair.

My question was I wanted a breakdown tabled of that housing construction, as well, so thank you Leader of the Third Party.

The child protection technology, can we also get a breakdown of that tabled?

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

Ms. Mundy: Certainly. There isn't really breakdown because it is the purchase of the technology, there's only one company in Canada that has the technology, they are specialists in it.

It's a type of technology that our child protection case workers can use to better collect data and to better assess cases and provide better protection for children.

Chair: Member from Morell-Mermaid.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you, minister.

Do we have any reassurances that we know that health technology can spiral out of control, we've seen it before within our government.

Do we have any assurances that this type of program that we're investing in won't be something that costs us a lot more in the long-term?

Maybe a briefing note on the background of this technology and what it is and its capabilities would be suffice.

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

Ms. Mundy: Yes certainly, we consulted many other jurisdictions in Canada who are using it and very successfully using it, but I can certainly get you some background information on the technology.

Mr. MacEwen: Thank you.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Chair.

Recently, I had spent a couple days in Kitchener Waterloo in Ontario.

I don't know if you're aware, but the size of the university and university campus there is just absolutely astronomical and I note that in Ontario, as well, they're going through the same issues we are here with housing.

While I was there, I noticed that even going up small streets that were near the university, houses were disappearing and local contractors were building large apartment buildings.

Have we had any of our contractors or companies here that have approached government to build facilities similar to that to look at housing for our university students where the growth is similar to Kitchener Waterloo here, but in a smaller scale of course.

Chair: Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: We had approximately EOI's that we sent out relevant to partnering with developers and actually the staff is actually going through those right now and some of those are in relation to what you're talking about.

So we're looking forward to seeing what they come – but again, construction is at a high right now. Labour is at a high right now, so the cost of this, it's going to cost – but I mean we're in a position where we're going to have to do something.

Chair: The hon. Member from Montague-Kilmuir.

Mr. Roach: Thank you, Chair.

Certainly, they were experiencing the same when I was visiting friends there.

My final question and it goes back to the first question that was asked by the Leader of the Third Party when we were talking about the number of units that have been built since 2015 budget – can we confirm that those were all units that were still being

built although there was not a large dollar that was in the budget for those two years 2015-2016, 2016-2017.

Chair: Minister of Finance.

Mr. MacDonald: We'd have to bring that back because those units would not have been built by government.

Mr. Roach: Okay.

Mr. Miles: There was no units built then, but there was some that were built by the private sector that we contributed to.

Mr. Roach: Thank you and I don't need anything to be brought back.

Chair, I move that we carry the section.

Chair: I have others on the list, thank you.

Mr. Roach: Oh sorry, Chair.

Thank you.

Chair: The hon. from Charlottetown-Parkdale.

Ms. Bell: Thank you, Chair.

I think it follows on somewhat from the previous question from the minister.

There are a number of different funds available though CMHC and the new national housing strategy and I know that the innovative affordable housing fund is not one that we see as being directly applicable to government or where government could be a partner for that. So, is that part of the (Indistinct) process that you've just mentioned?

Mr. MacDonald: Yeah, the most recent ones though I think the 95 units we said, if we we're approached by municipalities and we're doing actually just that in the Summerside area and hopefully that works out.

We'd be more than open to be approached by any organization. We're working with Canadian Mental Health Association and there's some other very interested parties right in around the city here that have approached us, non-for-profits.

Chair: Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale.

Ms. Bell: That's definitely the piece there it is non-profits and cooperatives, in particular, that can access that fund.

Are there any other ways, minister, that government could provide assistance? For instance with allocation of land or waving of taxes, are there any other considerations that you're open to in your department?

Mr. MacDonald: Every consideration you just spoke of we're actually in conversation with people about and we've also put together a development in lending arm through Finance PEI, so we're utilizing that.

So if a non-for-profit we'd go to the developmental lending arm of Finance PEI, access the funding, provide the build basically and guarantee government would put social housing into that.

So, yes. Your easy answer is a yes.

Chair: The hon. Member from Charlottetown-Parkdale.

Ms. Bell: That's the kind of answer that we like, Minister.

So if there are inquiries that come through to us of the people sort of who are interested in that, you'd be comfortable with us referring those –

Mr. MacDonald: Yes.

Ms. Bell: – through to that arm –

Mr. MacDonald: Yeah.

Ms. Bell: – if they have not already done so.

Thank you. That's really encouraging because that is also the sectors that are most looking to provide very specific needs. The areas I'm thinking particularly are people with disabilities and vulnerable populations that require specific accommodations.

When we have private development, unfortunately, it's not as cost effective always to consider those kind of applications and so those are often met only through social organizations with social funding. Is

there any opportunity for your government to consider or the department to consider allocating funding specifically for projects for vulnerable populations?

Mr. MacDonald: Definitely, I think that's some of our –

Jim Miles: That's what this is.

Mr. MacDonald: That's basically what this is, and some of our transitional housing that we're talking about will likely have units that are fully accessible beyond the Canadian building code.

Ms. Bell: Okay. That's it, Chair.

Thank you, Chair.

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

Mr. R. Brown: Thank you.

One of the best things, I think – one of the things I like to remember when I (Indistinct) my days at city council of Charlottetown was there was a housing need back then too, and one of the things that mayor Lee, which was an alderman at the time, and myself, we went out and identified all the city property lots that were available and we offered it to the housing corporation to build housing on those units.

You'll see a lot of duplexes throughout the city. You'll see even the Zakem place on the waterfront was the ex-government or the ex-city garage site which, you know, a lot of the cost of these projects, too, is in land. I know the federal government has committed to allowing federal government land to be used for housing in the last budget, which I commend the federal government for that. I understand also that we have 60 acres of land out in the Hillsborough development area for development.

You take Bill Campbell trying to do a project out on the Sherwood Road there, and it was \$1.4 million for the land. Just think how many units we could build if they didn't have to buy the land. For every free piece of land we're getting, we're getting more units for subsidized housing, which is great.

I'm just wondering, you know, have we completed our inventory of the federal lands that are available and the provincial lands that are available for these developments and have we reached out to other municipalities across Prince Edward Island to say: What land do you have available to put towards housing projects?

I think if we can come up with a land bank available for housing projects, I think it'll go to save a tremendous amount of money and that money can be used to build more units instead of just paying someone for their land. Because I think there's a lot of land available, and I think the more we can use free land – and I believe the municipalities across Prince Edward Island should step up to the plate here also, that if they have property in their districts –

Mr. LaVie: We did. We tried.

Mr. R. Brown: Souris has tried it, which is great. I think we should be reaching out and to them and saying: Here's the land, here's what we got.

We also should reaching out to the private sector in terms of some big corporations that are here on Prince Edward Island that have land holdings that are willing to – they'll get a tax credit on the donation of that property.

Have we completed – we need land before we start building and I don't want to get tied up in trying to buy a bunch of land that's already available. So that's a crucial part.

Mr. MacDonald: Everything you said, we're in the process of doing, with the exception of – I'm not sure on the last statement you made, as far as the corporation side. I'm not sure if that's been looked at, but I can assure you that the land in and around right across PEI has been mapped out.

Mr. R. Brown: Oh, good.

Mr. MacDonald: The navigator basically has visited many of the municipalities.

Mr. R. Brown: Oh, good.

Mr. MacDonald: The situation that we're in with Summerside is actually incentive-

based on behalf of the province and the town, so that's part of it.

Mr. R. Brown: I hope the town's donating the land.

Mr. MacDonald: So I think –

Mr. R. Brown: City.

Mr. MacDonald: – we're on the right path. It does take some time but it's something we're definitely – we're open to pretty much anything, to be quite honest with you.

Mr. R. Brown: So have we –

Mr. MacDonald: And I commend you for your statement, too. Your brother's the mayor, but I think municipalities do have a major role to play in this situation. This can't be all –

Mr. R. Brown: No, I agree.

Mr. MacDonald: – blamed on government. I think there's bylaws and regulations that need to be immediately aligned with some of the issues that we're facing so we can expedite some of these processes.

Mr. R. Brown: And I want to commend Stratford. I guess they changed some of their zoning bylaws –

Mr. MacDonald: Yeah.

Mr. R. Brown: – over the last week in order to make more property available to this, so yeah, you're right, municipalities have to stand up for this.

We will be meeting with the municipalities once they're sworn in on December 5th and making sure that policies and planning allows for –

Mr. MacDonald: Exactly.

Mr. R. Brown: And you know one thing we also got to do, too, is inclusion housing. I know when we were doing it in the city, there was – and we just didn't mind. We didn't care about it when somebody started complaining not in my backyard. Anytime I encounter a person that says not in my backyard, I turn away from them because we all owe, each and every member of society

owes it to the social good, providing affordable housing to each and every. We're all in this world together, so we have to work together and we cannot exclude people just because they're of a different economic standard.

Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

The hon. Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy.

Ms. Biggar: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Just to concur with what the minister of Communities, Land and Environment said, it does bother me when we have a plan that somebody wants to put forward and then, you know, the general population doesn't want it in maybe their backyard. That bothers me as well.

But, Madam Chair and minister, I, if you don't mind, would like to share the thought that there are a lot of people putting a lot of thought into this situation across PEI. I want to share the fact that I received in the mail from one of my constituents in her 80s, Nan Ferrier from Tyne Valley took the time to write a two page handwritten letter; took the time to scope out a design of what a little house could look like and related the fact that back after the war there were little houses that were built by government and then sold back to those that were less capable of funding their own house at the time.

I guess it falls not so much around what we envision small home concept, but it's kind of in relation to that. We're not talking about \$200,000 homes. We're talking about a very economical type of home. I think we need to look at all options and all suggestions that are being put out there for those that maybe can't get the loan at the bank, and I'm very pleased, minister, with what you have put forward for the down payment program.

I'm very pleased about that, but I think we should keep our options open to everything. In terms of land we have a big land base at Slemon Park. I think we need to – like, we do have homes there, but they're totally rented. And I do know – congratulations to the minister for working with the Slemon

Park corporation to designate some of those to seniors residences. Senior-friendly homes, I believe, minister, if I'm correct.

But I think we need to look at that option when we're talking about land. We have land out in that area. It's not right in the Downtown Summerside, but I would like to see us keep that as an option as well.

Thank you, minister, for the work that you're doing.

Some Hon. Members: Carry.

Chair: Leader of the Opposition has a question.

Do you want (Indistinct)

Leader of the Opposition: Sorry, guys.

Some Hon. Members: [Laughter]

Ms. Biggar: (Indistinct)

Mr. R. Brown: It's a coup.

Leader of the Opposition: I tell you.

Mr. LaVie: (Indistinct)

Leader of the Opposition: Chair, first I'd just like to thank the transportation minister for that intervention and sharing the letter that her constituent gave. The minister has it in her hand there now. I think that would be a great initiative – direction to go.

It brings me to another organization. I know we've talked about Kings Square Housing, the great work that Bill Campbell does or endeavors to do. I had a terrific, close to one-hour meeting with him there not too long ago and we had a great discussion and there might be some potential to do some work over in Stratford.

Mr. R. Brown: Good.

Leader of the Opposition: We've talked about CHMC and the 3-P partnering program – federal, provincial and developer – as an aspect; but there's another great organization out there that does tremendous work, and that's Habitat for Humanity.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Leader of the Opposition: I know, if I'm not mistaken, Habitat right now is taking a short hiatus because what they're looking at doing is not just concentrating on single-family dwelling homes, but they're actually starting to look at getting into multiple-family dwellings now as a possibility down the road.

But I'm just wondering, does the government have any agreements or is there any funding available for Habitat for Humanity? Because again, I've known many individuals – I've driven to Summerside many time to help with builds in Summerside. I've been out in West Royalty-Springvale's district helping out as well. It's something that I like to do in my spare time and I just really, really support the organization and the work that they do.

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

Ms. Mundy: It's great to see government members appreciate the wonderful work that that Habitat for Humanity does. They've been around for many, many years and they were one of the first out there to work with lower income individuals to help them actually obtain and own a home.

My department's been very proud to partner with them, and last year we signed a three-year agreement with them. We have helped over the years to build upwards of 24 homes through funding with Habitat for Humanity, so it's a relationship that we treasure and will continue.

Chair: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: I know the Minister of Communities, Land and Environment has talked a lot about the property that's owned or land that's owned by government municipalities and things like that. I always go back to or think about the property that's out behind the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There are acres upon acres upon acres of land out there and it's very valuable land as well.

But I come back to some advice that a gentleman used to give young people all the time when he'd sit and chat with them. His name was Harry MacLauchlan and his advice always was: If I can give you one

piece of advice, young man, buy land; they're not making any more of it.

We do have lots of land or we think we have lots of land here on PEI, we do – like, I look at Stratford, right, and the rate that Stratford's growing and we're already questioning where potentially you could put 110 acres for a school and a sports facility; but while we think we have an infinite amount of land, there's only so much land and we really need to plan properly for it.

I come back to Bill Campbell. He was trying to – as the minister of CLE said, he was trying to develop affordable housing out on the Mount Edward Road which is basically in an industrial park, and it wouldn't work for many reasons. It's not a proper place for affordable housing, to be in an industrial park. Currently the transit doesn't go out there, but that could be changed; but what we need to do is work with these organizations and ensure that we're using our land properly. That's it.

Thank you.

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

Ms. Biggar: Just wanted to follow up, Madam Chair, thank you, on the fact that my department has met with Habitat to discuss their evolving structure that they're going through and any kind of expertise that we could offer them in terms of going forward.

But I want to also note that in my district in St. Eleanor's on the old former Holland College site on South Drive there is a Habitat community there now that have done great things. Actually, the hon. Minister of Family and Human Services and myself were in, and I believe the minister of agriculture, were in Lennox Island and that's going to be a new build, the first time with Habitat on Lennox Island. There is a lot of great things happening with that group, and I just want to commend them for the work they do as well. I look forward to all of those groups that are doing great work with builds and them as well.

So, thank you.

Chair: Shall the total capital expenditure for Family and Human Services carry? Carried.

Hon. members, I'll direct you to capital expenditure for finance on page 15 and permission to bring another stranger to the floor?

Some Hon. Members: Granted.

Chair: We'll allow him to come to the floor and introduce himself.

Can we have another chair as well?

Good afternoon, welcome to the table. Could you introduce yourself and your title for the record?

Scott Cudmore: I'm Scott Cudmore; I'm the Director of Enterprise Architecture with IT Shared Service under the Department of Finance.

Chair: Welcome.

Hon. members, the 2019-2020 budget estimate for Finance.

Equipment

“Appropriations provided for information technology optimization and system upgrades.” Technology Asset Management: 1,300,000. Corporate System Upgrades: 10,784,400. Capital Installations: 150,000. Total Equipment: 12,234,400.

Capital Improvements

“Appropriations provided for Capital improvements.” Facility Improvements: 200,000. Total Capital Improvements: 200,000.

Total Capital Expenditure – Finance: 12,434,400.

We have a question from the hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Chair.

My question is about, first the technology asset management line item. I'm assuming it's similar to what we saw in education where that's a breakdown of a replacement of technology on a regular basis.

Is that correct?

Scott Cudmore: That's correct, yeah.

Mr. Trivers: What's the breakdown of that \$1.3 million?

Scott Cudmore: In terms of what it's being used for, it's primarily the replacement of desktop computers within a number of our networks. This would exclude desktops that are in education. They're covered under a different capital fund.

Mr. Trivers: So it's primarily the desktops, probably some laptops in there.

Scott Cudmore: Laptops and tablets, as well.

Chair: Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: You make the point, and this was the question I was going to ask as well, how come when you have finance that really is responsible for IT shared services, and would you split out and have education do their own program. You'd think that you would have that expertise all in one area.

I mean, IT already has shared services and they look after a portion of education so why wouldn't they also look after the asset management?

Mr. R. Brown: Smartest guy over there.

Mr. MacDonald: Personally, I think it's working fine the way it is. So I'm not sure what your opinion is on why we would break it out?

Chair: Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: So for example, when you're negotiating an agreement for example to buy replacement desktops, replacement laptops, replacement Chromebooks, et cetera, tablets, you would keep that all under one umbrella. That way when they're doing that replacement, they would be that single department that would go and negotiate and find those replacements.

Plus, of course, I would assume that IT shared services would be responsible for the repair maintenance of them, and maybe I'm wrong on that. Maybe in education they just do their own repair and maintenance as well.

So it would make sense that they would manage the procurement of them as well.

Scott Cudmore: My understanding is that, again, some of their business requirements are a little bit different than core or even health. They do use some specialized equipment, as well, including the Chromebooks, as you mentioned.

Chair: Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Again, and maybe I'm wrong with this, but it seems like there might be benefits to having that sort of service centralized and perhaps –

Is that something you've looked into in the past and decided it's not a benefit?

Scott Cudmore: Well, in many cases vendors will provide preferential pricing for educational use. So it's useful to sort of segregate the funds in that fashion so they are considered educational laptops.

Chair: Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thanks, Chair.

I mean perhaps the suggestion – with me sitting on the outside looking in – something you might want to take a look at. I know you guys look at those sort of things all the time.

My next question is about the corporate system upgrades. I'm curious which corporate systems are getting upgraded in 2019-2020?

Scott Cudmore: There are number of different actual initiatives or projects within that umbrella, and we are – or IT shared services are responsible for maintaining and upgrading roughly 600 information systems that range from reasonably small – probably less than a dozen client users – to very large corporate systems. For example, ISM which is used in family and human services or others. There's a broad range of those systems.

Are you looking for the specifics in this in terms of the names of the individual systems?

Chair: Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Yes, thank you.

That'd be great. I don't expect you to read them, all 600 off here today or if there are only 50 of the 600, but if that was a list that you could table – I mean, I think it's useful to know the sort of systems that the government's using and it's important.

Is that something you can do?

Scott Cudmore: We can bring that back, sure.

I just want to make a clarification. The corporate system upgrades would not be applied against the totality of the 600 information systems.

Mr. Trivers: Could be 50 of them, could be –

Scott Cudmore: Right. An information system, kind of like a car, needs to be either upgraded or traded in after five years, six years. Information systems last a little longer than that. So we would be picking the ones that have the highest priority based on a methodology that we use.

Chair: Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Chair.

There are a couple of systems I'm particularly interested in – a few really. The one I'll start with is the GroupWise email system. I had broken down the numbers before, and I think you're probably aware of that from the past.

So I wanted to find out if you're planning on replacing it or if you've been able to negotiate a better deal, and perhaps maybe you can comment on the number of unused licenses that are sitting there idle that we're paying for.

Scott Cudmore: Yes, we do have an initiative called the Email Modernization that is designed to replace that GroupWise system. We're looking at a variety of options to do that. I actually don't have the number of unused email systems here – again – email licenses I should say – but again that's another piece of information that we could probably bring back.

Chair: Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Thank you, Chair.

I think the last time I had asked the question at standing committee, I think it was around maybe as high as 4,000. Hopefully it's reduced from that so I look forward to you bringing that number back. I think it's important information to note.

The other area was, just in that core office productivity suite software that of course pretty much every government employee uses and what we're seeing in the marketplace – at least what I'm seeing in the marketplace – is in general the licensing for email is packaged with that whole productivity suite. For example, if you're looking at a product like Office 365 for Microsoft or if you're looking like at a product like G Suite from Google, you get your email, your presentation software, your spreadsheet software, your word processing software, et cetera all bundled in together.

So I was wondering when you're looking at the email replacement, are you looking at purchasing a bundle like that in order to save money?

Scott Cudmore: Yes, we are. Yeah.

Mr. Trivers: Okay, great.

I have another, one about corporate system upgrades.

Chair: Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: The other issue that I'd raised prior in the House here was one of the locally developed systems called Skip the Waiting Room – that I think there's only one clinic using right now on the Island – but they had received funding from the government – I think it was an Ignition Fund grant to develop the system.

However, I believe the response from the minister at the time was that Cerner that produces our health care systems has similar functionality within their system. In fact, that functionality was possibly going to be the ploy, and that was one reason why the government wasn't looking at skipping the waiting room because they said: oh well, we've already purchased the functionality

from Cerner and it's going to be set up. And maybe it was the health minister who answered that question but – I what I would like to know is: are you planning to implement that functionally that if I remember correctly was part of that Cerner sweep? Because I think that it is a really key functionality that would go a long ways to literally stop people having to wait out in the cold in the middle of the winter.

Mr. R. Brown: Great.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

An Hon. Member: You going to take it?

An Hon. Member: Yeah.

Chair: Who was your question directed to?

Mr. Trivers: I was directing the Minister of Finance, but he can direct it to the minister of health is he wants, whatever.

Mr. MacDonald: (Indistinct) first time.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: So Chair, the Skip the Line, it's a private company, it's a program that they designed and they are trying to market, and they do have a market for that.

On Prince Edward Island, it was the pharmacy down the street, here, that utilized that and they utilized it as if a trial period of time. Once that trial period of time ended, then it became a \$5 charge for that. It is entirely up to the physicians whether they utilize that for their patients' use or not. And I believe there is not too many, except for the few that are at that pharmacy that are using it today.

Having said all of that though, we are stilling working within the health system to find one unified system for all of the health employees across the province. So, that work is ongoing and we will hopefully be doing some pilot programs on that over the next year or so.

Mr. R. Brown: Great Job.

Chair: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Of course, in the meantime while you're looking to find this one unified health system that is going to do everything, people are literally waiting out in the cold. So I just wanted to stress that, and this is a solution.

My question is: How much do you pay on a yearly basis for system upgrades, and if you want to answer this – I would like to know licensing for the Center product, that is going to be the base of your one unified system, the way that I understand it.

That should go to the Minister of Finance, sorry. I wouldn't expect the minister of health to know that number.

Some Hon. Members: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: You never know.

Mr. Mitchell: Madam Chair, could I (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: Oh look, he's got the answer.

Chair: The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: So, currently within the health system, there are several systems – the CIS system, the Cerner system – there are various systems. And in other jurisdictions, they can be running 30 or 40 systems – it's about tying it all together, which is, we say one system, it doesn't necessarily mean a full replacement of Cerner or anything else. But, it's about flow and a hub that it can all come into.

The overall goal is that every physician or nurse, or pharmacists or whoever the healthcare professional is, can actually go in, look at the name of the patient, and see all of the interactions. To say it's one system – it may be one system – but in a lot areas, it's a hub system that brings a lot of systems together.

Chair: Minister of Finance has an intervention.

Mr. MacDonald: And that is more on the operational side, as opposed to what we are dealing with here.

Chair: You good?

Mr. Trivers: No, I have (Indistinct)

Chair: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: So under corporate system upgrades, that 10 million dollar capital budget – 10.8 million, almost – are you doing any upgrades to that Cerner sweep of products that you are trying to get as that unified system?

Scott Cudmore: It wouldn't be covered in this capital cycle (Indistinct)

Chair: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: Is it, indeed, the ministry of finance that does handle the capital upgrades for that system? Or is that done through Health PEI?

Jim Miles: Asking the tough questions, here.

Mr. MacDonald: So, we will get to it. It's under health under millennial upgrade.

Chair: The hon. Member from Rustico-Emerald.

Mr. Trivers: And once again – and maybe you can speak to your strategies, here – but I know that once of the problems that you sometimes face in government is the side load approach across multiple ministries, and that's one of the reasons you have an IT shared serviced area.

Can you talk a little bit about why like with education, you wouldn't also be looking after health in the same way out of the department of finance?

Scott Cudmore: Again, there are different sources of funding for information systems that are available to health that the government part-take in. I'm thinking specifically of funding under Canada Health Infoway for example, that is better suited to be in health. That is necessarily within finance, under IT shared services.

Mr. Mitchell: If I might point to that too.

Chair: Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: So to that point – Canada Health Infoway has indicated \$70 million funds for the Atlantic Canada region; Prince Edward Island would be part of that.

So right now, the two primary sources of that would be e-prescribe it and tele-mental health situation. Both of those would be driven through Infoway and whatever system that they would choose to use for whenever they get your funding and parts and pieces together. Some of that would be driven by whatever the program is as well.

Chair: Shall the total Capital Expenditure for Finance –

Mr. Myers: Question.

Chair: Do you have a question?

Mr. Myers: Yeah.

Chair: Thank you, I'll add you to the list.

The hon. Member from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. Myers: Well, I didn't know you were going to rush away from this section, so.

Chair: Well there was nobody left on my receiving order, so –

Mr. Myers: Okay.

Chair: – I followed my procedure.

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Chair.

The corporate systems upgrade – I know the member talked about them, but we didn't really get into detail. \$10 million is a big bump from the other years, so you're about \$3 million plus higher. What major upgrade does that entail?

Scott Cudmore: Sorry, major system or systems?

Mr. Myers: It is – well, I don't know – is it a major system upgrade?

Scott Cudmore: So there is a number of what we're calling critical legacy system upgrades that amounts to about 2.8 roughly of the 10. Those would be larger enterprise-based systems that are mission critical in

their own areas. So for example, ISM, which is now roughly 15 years old, written in a technology that is getting older and is becoming much more hard to support –

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Scott Cudmore: – not necessarily (Indistinct) so there's that that I think we're going to bring back a list of specific systems that are covered under the 10 million, and it would be kind of covered under that.

Mr. Myers: Okay.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Chair.

The ISM system, I know that when it was developed, EDS developed it, and I think the federal government had put some money into it, but was that only because Veteran's Affairs was going to use it, or was there a federal – the short way to my question is: Is the federal government coming on board to pay for that because I know they did the first time?

Scott Cudmore: For the upgrade itself?

Mr. Myers: Yeah.

Scott Cudmore: No.

Mr. Myers: So it's all us?

Scott Cudmore: It's all provincial.

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

Ms. Biggar: Call the hour.

Chair: We still have a few more minutes.

Thanks, we still have a question.

The hon. from Georgetown-St. Peters.

Mr. Myers: Thank you.

The pizza must be in upstairs.

An Hon. Member: (Indistinct)

Ms. Biggar: No, just trying to (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: So, I guess for me, I wouldn't mind being on this section when those details come back to see if there is any questions. I don't have any particular question outside – so my question of ISM was answered and I do believe that the partner at the time with the federal government. But I think it was because Veteran's Affairs was going to use it, but I can't really remember that now.

So, my last question is, in any of these, is there any federal money – remember they used to have the Health Infoway and those different was that we could access money to help lessen the burden on a provincial level – do we have any partnership funds in any of these deals?

Scott Cudmore: No.

Mr. Myers: No?

Scott Cudmore: These are provincial (Indistinct)

Mr. Myers: Okay.

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

Mr. Myers: Thank you, Chair.

The Oracle's financial system, what is the contract cycle on it? When does it come up for renewal?

Some Hon. Members: Call the hour.

Ms. Casey: Hon. members, the hour has been called.

Mr. Myers: No one wants that one answered.

Mr. MacEwen: That was a better time to call it.

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

Chair: Shall it carry? Carried.

Mr. Speaker, as Chair of a Committee of the Whole House having under consideration the Grant of Capital Supply to Her Majesty, I beg leave to report that the committee has

made some progress and begs leave to sit again. I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

Speaker: Shall it carry? Carried.

The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

Mr. Mitchell: I move, seconded by the hon. Member from Vernon River-Stratford, that this House adjourn until Tuesday, November 27th, at 2:00 p.m.

Shall it carry? Carried.

Have a wonderful weekend!

The Legislature adjourned